



## QUÉBEC INTERNATIONAL

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**"Video Game" Technology to Fill Growing Need**

The Arc+<sup>®</sup> welding simulator in action  
Wisconsin.

A star attraction at Wisconsin's Chippewa Valley Technical College March 6 was the "ARC+" welding simulator demonstrated by its inventor, Claude Choquet of Montreal. Scores of professional welders, instructors, and people considering a welding career tried their hand at the simulator and got immediate feedback on their performance and aptitude. The occasion was the CVTC Weld Show open house, held on the school's Clairemont campus in Eau Claire,

Many areas of North America are experiencing persistent shortages of qualified welders, even in a state like Wisconsin with a well-established network of technical colleges. Mr. Choquet and his company, 123Certification, have helped bolster the Quebec technical workforce with this invention and now offer it for export. The Wisconsin event highlighted welding career opportunities in industry, construction, and maintenance.

The simulator, which fits into its own suitcase for portability, uses advanced motion tracking technology and hi-resolution 3D rendering software for a virtual welding experience. Realistic simulated sounds, smoke, and sparks add to the experience. It's not all fun and games, however. When students have completed virtual welds, they can view instant replays of their work and get advice from instructors who receive detailed reports on students' practice sessions. The simulator can also be used to train and qualify skill levels of advanced welders.

"The associated reduction in the use of raw materials not only provides cost saving benefits, but also reduces the impact on the environment", according to the inventor.

Mr. Choquet, a welding engineer and expert in applying virtual reality technologies, has had an almost life-long interest in welding. His father, Professor Joseph-André Choquet, was an expert on weld fatigue at Polytechnique Montreal, a leading school of engineering.

For more information, visit the website.  
<http://www.123arc.com/>

