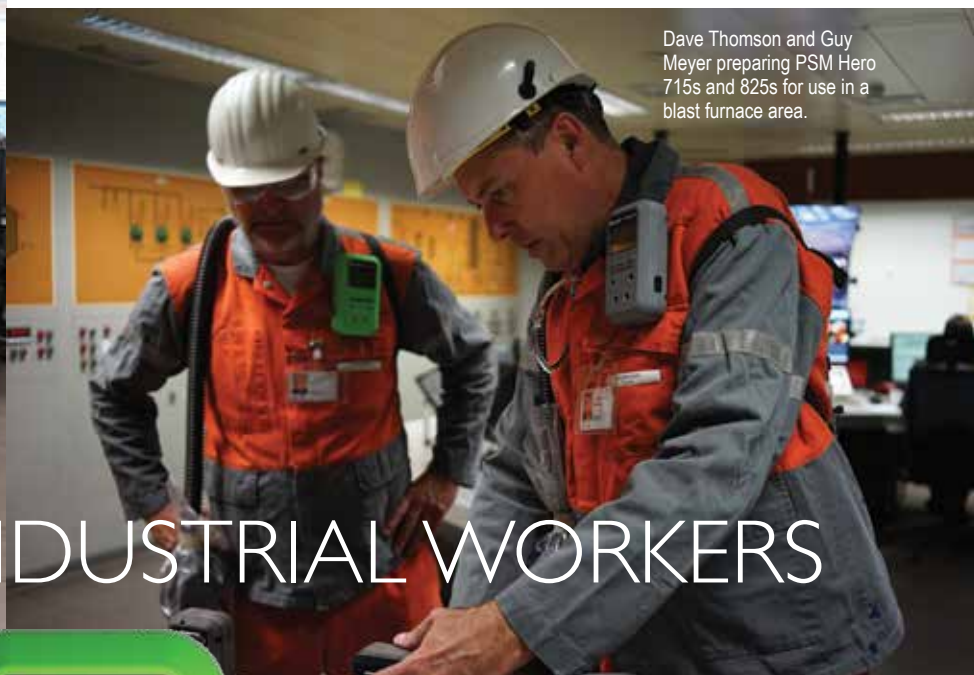


Award-winning Darwin company Universal Site Monitoring (USM) has created something incredible — life-saving equipment for mining and other hazardous industries.



USM EMEA Sales Director Guy Meyer in the control room waiting for permission to enter hazardous area.



Dave Thomson and Guy Meyer preparing PSM Hero 715s and 825s for use in a blast furnace area.

SAVING INDUSTRIAL WORKERS



The PSM Hero 825.



Blast furnace operator testing the PSM Hero 825 paired with heart rate monitor in extreme heat environment.



‘We were recently asked to trial our PSM Hero 825 and Mesh Access Points (MAPs) to solve a problem for blast furnace employees in a European steel refinery as they are often exposed to clouds of carbon monoxide (CO) gas,’ USM Director Dave Thomson said. CO is life-threatening. It binds with red blood cells, effectively suffocating a person as the red blood cells can no longer carry oxygen around the body. The European site’s current system involves personnel logging into the control room before entering the area. They are only searched for if they don’t return after four hours, which is not the perfect or safest solution.

‘They’d tried other devices for location and gas detection, but they were unsuccessful due to difficulties in providing effective communication across the entire area,’ Dave says. ‘Our challenge was to provide a solution allowing control room operators oversight of where their personnel were and their health condition.’ Earlier scoping visits and a short trial demonstration of USM’s systems were undertaken. ‘We’ve now installed MAPs at each furnace level with cabling routed back to a junction box on each floor,’ Dave says. ‘The MAPs allow complete oversight of the employee’s health, safety status and current CO exposure levels across the entire blast furnace back in the control room. In the event of a high gas level or man down, an icon immediately turns red and an alarm sounds to the control room operator. If the field operator accepts the alarm on the PSM, it immediately indicates in the control room. If the field operator does not accept it, immediate emergency response can be initiated.’

It’s no wonder USM’s services were recently recognised at the 2019 Northern Territory Telstra Business Awards, with USM named as the Small and Succeeding Business winner.

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