

# A reassuring conversation

Bryce Clark speaks to *Oil and Gas Agenda* about how his company **David Clark's** radio-direct, intrinsically safe headsets provide benefits for communication and safety in potentially hazardous environments.

## How does a 'radio-direct' headset differ from a conventional two-way radio headset?

**Bryce Clark:** The term 'radio-direct' means that the headset has a cord that plugs right into the radio. Legacy products featured adapter boxes to convert the headset to the specific radio electronics and connectors. This new radio-direct style cuts the cost of the product in half because there is no need for an adapter.

## There are hundreds of two-way radio models; are David Clark radio-direct headsets compatible?

Yes. David Clark offers compatibility with more than 430 individual radio models including portable and mobile radios. This is partly because of the radio-direct design and also because of the ability to remove the cord in order to use the same headset with different radios. Another useful feature of the modular headsets is that they include a VOX/PTT switch.

## What does 'intrinsically safe' mean?

Intrinsically safe describes the precautions taken in the design of the headset so that no sparks can be created in an explosive atmosphere. Events in recent times have proved just how dangerous it can be when safety guidelines such as these are ignored. Many people are now defining 'intrinsically safe' as 'safe for use in Class 1 Division 1 environments'.

## What are the industry standards that IS equipment has to meet?

There are ratings for zones, classes and divisions. There are different approvals for different parts of the world including ATEX for Europe and IECEx for Asia. The Series 6700 has been tested and approved to meet each of these as well as North American IS and CSA approval standards.

## Will these headsets hold up during rugged use?

David Clark headsets use only the best materials, including stainless steel hardware and marine-grade components. These headsets are the end result of decades of field use and customer feedback. There are no extra bells and whistles in the design because fewer buttons means there is less that can break when communication is critical.

## Could you cite some specific examples of applications for these headsets?

Over the 75 years that David Clark has been around, it has accumulated an extraordinary list of high-profile customers in just about every loud-noise environment. The headsets are currently used in many industrial and manufacturing environments, such as petrochemical plants, refineries, mills, offshore oil rigs and installations, manufacturing facilities and mines.

## Clear communication in these high-noise environments is critical. How do headsets help?

DC headsets include lots of helpful features for this. The microphone is noise-cancelling and the earphones offer a new wider-spectrum response. In addition to clear communication electronics, the headsets are built on a solid, third-party-certified hearing protection frame.

## Are there different headset styles available to meet the needs of specific applications?

The breadth of the radio-direct line is extensive and growing. There are many standard options available in stock including over-the-head, behind-the-head, headgear-attachable and even single-ear models that permit the hearing of ambient sound and communications that may be necessary in some situations.

## Many users have to wear their headsets for long periods of time. What about comfort?

Comfort features include waterproof foam-head pads, undercut, comfort-gel and foam ear seals and adjustable headbands. It's been reported that blocking out low-frequency noise actually reduces fatigue. I've noted that first hand. You actually feel less drained at the end of the day.

## How can customers find the right headset for their specific radios and applications?

We have developed a dynamic selector guide on our website that allows users to find the right headset or headsets, as well as adapters if necessary, with just a couple of clicks. They can also send their headset system solution via email from the website directly to a local dealer, colleague or co-worker.

## With all of the headset choices that users have, what makes David Clark stand out?

David Clark's customers buy not only headsets but also space suits. Everything we build is class-leading in terms of durability and quality necessary when critical life-and-death situations are involved. Our products have decades of proven success with the aviation industry, the US military and many big industrial concerns. When you want the best headset, a headset that will last in a really tough environment, there's just no better choice than David Clark. ■

### Further information

David Clark  
www.davidclark.com

