

New aspirating smoke detectors made available

SCHALK BURGER | FEATURES WRITER

Aspirating smoke detectors (ASDs), which continuously sample the air in a building for smoke, have been developed for industrial application, says early warning safety company Xtralis regional sales manager **Lauren Sher**.

Developed and manufactured by Xtralis, the Vesda ASD is one of a few smoke detection systems that can be installed in hazard-

ous and dirty environments, such as coal conveyors or warehouses, she states.

An aspirator draws air into 25 mm conduits (air sampling pipes) that are distributed throughout a facility covering an area of up to 2000 m². The sampled air is drawn into the laser detection chamber where a laser analyses the presence of smoke particles using a light-scattering principle.

If an alert is sounded, the Vesda system can then relay smoke alarm information to the control rooms, or to central monitoring facilities for companies with multiple sites, using a software management tool.

“The Vesda ASD detects smoke in the smouldering stage and enables rapid assessment and

control of a possible fire event, effectively reducing damage to stock and eliminating downtime for a business,” explains Sher.

For example, on coal conveyors, coal dust sometimes falls onto bearing housings and, if the bearing heats up owing to friction, it may start to combust, creating a fire risk. The Vesda system will alert operators before a fire escalates, enabling them to clean and repair the bearing.

“There is an increase in the use of the Vesda system in warehousing and cold storage businesses and it is also perfect for libraries and monuments. We can run the piping alongside electrical cabling in light fittings or in cornices to hide the pipes from sight for aesthetic purposes while pro-

viding reliable fire protection for the building,” she notes.

The system was recently installed for a record storage company, in Johannesburg, to prevent fire damage to sensitive and valuable documents. The system has also been in use in data centres across South Africa for a number of years, and in heritage sites, adds Sher.

Further, Xtralis has launched an in-line Vesda ECO gas detector that can be fitted to its Vesda ASD system, enabling a business to monitor fire and gas threats.

The Vesda ECO gas module can be placed on a sampling pipe to detect gas in a specific area of a building or can be placed on the exhaust system of the Vesda detector to detect gas over the entire area of detection.

The Vesda ECO system continuously monitors the air for the presence of flammable or toxic gases, including methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide and oxygen, besides others, she concludes.

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— LAUREN SHER