



# AI scanning protecting against COVID on rigs

BY **GEORGE HAZIM.**

THREE months into this year and straight off the back of the most devastating bushfires to have engulfed Australia's east coast, another crisis hit - this time it was of the pandemic kind.

Australia isn't immune to a crisis. As a country, we were born dealing with the devastation of mother nature's fury – bush fires, floods, cyclones and drought, there is nothing generations of Australians haven't endured or risen above.

And while there has been SARS and Swineflu, COVID has proven to be a different enemy of the State – it has held Australian's under siege and fostered a level of panic and hysteria among Australians that raged out of control.

If toilet paper was the scientific tool used to measure panic levels and hysteria - then as a metric of measurement, it is the perfect barometer.

For all its simplicity and importance as a commodity, toilet paper painted a clear picture of our psychological state - never has a

commodity manufactured in Australia become almost impossible to acquire.

And as Australia's state of panic peaked, supermarket shelves accentuated an even more interesting picture.

Dealing with COVID and preventing its spread has meant Australians have had to make drastic changes to their lives and habits – a paradigm shift that has caused us to re-think everything they do, how they do it and interact.

Offices and cities like Melbourne's CBD, became ghost towns. Work from home edicts were issued and telecommuting, the once talked about new work order, but never adopted, was suddenly thrust upon hundreds of thousands of Australian workers.

A new world had arrived and the rule book on how we did things before COVID was thrown out the door.

Change has come with a cost, office workers and professional service providers have been working remotely, but industries like the Oil and Gas sector can't – it's a tale of two halves.

Australia's Oil and Gas industry has a critical place in the development of Australia's economy.

Through the production of liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude oil, and condensate, Australia

makes a small but significant contribution to the world's oil and gas supplies.

In 2019, the gross value added by Australia's oil and gas industry was \$31.4bn – it may not be big compared to the oil power houses of the US and the Middle East, yet it remains a significant contributor to Australia's diverse economy.

How to protect the industry and shield it from the ravages of COVID is now more critical than ever. Close quarter contact according to health experts is when the virus spreads best, and on Oil and Gas rigs, the men and women confined out to sea – a haven perfectly set up for the spread of any virus.

Current existing COVID Safe plans go part of the way to minimising the control and spread of the virus – relying on "People and Process" to form new habits - consistently washing and sanitising hands and the onerous task of cleaning regularly with untrained staff expected to administer new hygienic regimes.

Employing hand-held temperature devices to control community transmission have proven unreliable, ineffective and costly. Add the impracticality issues and problems hand-held devices present for retailers at store entrances

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– the creation of barriers to buying, and the problem presents as a far greater issue than what was envisaged.

Minimising the control of transmission is what is required - and artificial intelligence is now playing a central role in a paradigm shift to control and eliminate any spread.

Chris Coppin, CEO and Founder of T-Scan, says health security and monitoring requires a new norm and an ability to safeguard employees and understand who may or may not be running temperatures or display symptoms that could impact on the health of other employees and the entire operation of Oil and Gas rigs.

“AI Software Scanning Solutions like T-Scan suit a very specific purpose,” Coppin says.

Much has been written about artificial intelligent software but not much is understood about the important role it will play in containing and minimising any future community transmission especially around how it adds a layer of protection to safeguard the men and women working on offshore Oil and Gas rigs.

According to Coppin, artificial intelligent scanning software works to provide a layer of protection for all employees in a new world where COVID has not only redefined where people work but the measures companies are now going to assure the health of their employees are protected.

“It’s the herd immunity you have when you’re not having a herd immunity.”

Technology moves at a rapid pace, and what COVID has taught us, is the application of technology is acutely necessary in the fight against an invisible enemy we will never

physically confront except in the aftermath of the havoc it reeks.

Human scanning technology devices are driven by artificial intelligence software and operate with high degrees of scanning efficiency and accuracy.

Embracing technology and an out of the box solution for one market leader removes any complication associated with setting up a scanning device.

It’s one solution that requires no technical integration and is operational in minutes.

And yet as State and Federal Governments try and remain vigilant about the containment of any further spread and flattening the curve, COVID it appears, is here to stay.

How we deal with it in the future, requires more than just People and Process, changing habits, redefining how we live or hand testing kits to fight what seems to be an unwinnable battle – or at least for now anyway.

Health authorities, business and Government have to deploy even greater and more smarter technology if we are to stay on top of or at least match COVID with a tool or series of technologies which play an important part in our frontline defence along with our health workers.

With no end in sight, or an invisible enemy that is deadly - artificial intelligence and thermal imaging are now vitally important tools in protecting employees and employers against invisible threats.

Artificial intelligent scanning software allows Oil and Gas rig operators to incorporate a “Science & Technology” approach to their COVID Safe plans.

“On Oil and Gas rigs,” Coppin says, “the need to monitor employee’s health would be much greater than most other companies.”

“There would be very few businesses where employees are based on monstrous rigs out in the middle of the sea living and working in close quarters together.

“All it would take is one person to board a rig who may have a fever, then the whole rig could be shut down.”

Artificial intelligent scanning software devices remove the burden so riggers and drillers and other operational staff can focus on doing what they do. It becomes a visual reminder we are still in a pandemic and the world as we knew it pre-COVID is not the world as we will know it in the future.

Walking onto a rig and have 100’s of staff scanned and assessed within the space of a minute and be reminded the health and lives are now more precious than ever, is a battle forged through new technology.

“Australia’s Oil and Gas mining industry,” Coppin says, “although small in comparison to other major global producers, is still a key economic contributor to Australia’s overall GDP, losing one rig to shut down for 14 days, could have a significant impact, but if three or four were closed down because of COVID, then that could spell disaster.”

Artificial intelligent scanning software shall become the warning sign to everybody to one of Australia’s key economic industries to enact and elevate the health and safety of its workers to a new level of paramount importance.

Because when the light turns green, it’s all systems go and staff can work safely knowing they are fit to work, but when it turns red, it’s a reminder that one sick rigger could potentially impact on the operational health of an entire rig. ●

## AVEVA and Shell align in digital transformation vision for frontline workers

AVEVA, a global leader in engineering and industrial software, announced it has signed an agreement to help accelerate Shell Global Solutions International B.V.’s digital transformational strategy by deploying AVEVA’s cloud software solutions.

AVEVA will provide Shell with its Engineering Data Warehouse technology, which is one of the building blocks of the digital twin. This will enable a common digital thread across engineering, operations and maintenance and the ability to securely deliver information in context from a single source to decision makers across these critical functions.

AVEVA’s Engineering Data Warehouse will enable Shell through its Digital Twin to drive asset reliability, enhance efficiency and reduce unplanned downtime. The solution will also support in providing actionable insights right

from the site operator to the Asset Leadership Team.

AVEVA’s solution supports Shell’s ambition to empower staff across Shell’s manufacturing sites and to keep frontline industrial workers safe while ensuring business continuity and operational resilience.

“Empowering workers requires access to all the information as today’s new normal entails remote access to monitor, manage and optimise production facilities,” commented AVEVA’s Head of Pacific, Damien McDade.

“We are already witnessing the benefits of our strategic collaboration with AVEVA through our fully aligned vision for digital transformation. This has enabled us to conduct operations remotely as well as seamlessly access the necessary applications to provide the insight, guidance and tools to ensure safe, effective and consistent work output, specific to each role.”

AVEVA’s Engineering Data Warehouse brings together engineering information

across the lifecycle of the asset, supported by powerful and proven applications that enable visualisation, analysis, prediction and guidance. Its vast experience across multiple industries provides the domain content to address industry specific scenarios and use cases.

“We are delighted that Shell has chosen to extend its long and robust existing strategic partnership with AVEVA to support in enabling the digital twin cloud-based services,” commented AVEVA’s Chief Cloud Officer and Chief Product Officer, Ravi Gopinath.

“This deployment is part of Shell’s recently announced strategy to deploy digital twin technology across its manufacturing sites. Implementing new technologies like IIoT, extended reality, and artificial intelligence has huge advantages with the digital twin of an operating environment and this cutting-edge technology is guaranteed to deliver immediate improvements for Shell’s operations.” ●