

General communications and the reporting of incidents occurring around the coal face has traditionally been hampered by the need for mine employees to physically walk back to the crib room and pick up the phone in order to make requests such as for parts or emergency help. A new combination of powerline modem and Wi-Fi comms technology solves this communication lag that can often come at a critical time, by enabling immediate comms from the face.

This has been achieved by connecting a NLT Wi-Fi access point to the powerline modem in the continuous miner. This creates a wireless comms zone or 'bubble' around the machine. Workers located within the bubble can use phones and messaging systems and cameras to communicate with workers on the surface in real time — either for emergencies or just day to day comms.

The continuous miner driver can communicate directly with the surface control

officer to identify any production delays such as conveyor stoppages or storage bins being full.

Ensham's Electrical Engineering Superintendent Brad Price says the new underground communications system is a world first for underground coal, and since being installed has been faultless.

"People can be seen if cameras are available, or heard at any given point including people around the continuous miner because they have access to the Wi-Fi bubble. Previously this was not possible due to a lack of communications" - Brad Price, Ensham

To discuss a trial of a BPLM-Wi-Fi package at your site, please contact Ervin Hung on 02 9899 6857 or ervin@ntms.com

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/ The First widely adopted methane shutdown system.

/ The First broad band power line modem to take real time data from the face.

/ The First electronic diesel engine packages for hazardous areas

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