

For further information, please contact:

Samantha Joubert, Marketing Communications, SKF South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 11 821 3602 / Fax: +27 (0)86 681 4342

Samantha.joubert@skf.com

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SKF at Hannover fair: intrinsically safe tablets and smartphones take mobility into hazardous areas

At the Hannover fair, SKF launched a range of tablets and smartphones that have been developed for use in hazardous areas, to allow mobile working in a host of new industries

SKF launched a suite of tablets and smartphones for use in hazardous areas, in industries such as oil & gas, refining, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Mobile workers will now be able to take this kind of technology, which is often pre-loaded with a host of SKF condition monitoring and productivity apps, into previously inaccessible areas.

SKF, in partnership with ecom, is to launch a whole family of products, peripherals and accessories that are suitable for use in Zone 1/Division 1, Zone 2/Division 2 and harsh environments.

"These tablets offer SKF customers the ability to bring mobility to hazardous areas, using the most modern tools and apps," says Christoffer Malm, Head of Connectivity Room at SKF.

"The products connect to SKF apps, which in turn connect to SKF knowledge and expertise."

The products can be supplied as part of SKF Enlight, a package that includes: Data Collect, a powerful app that turns the tablet or smartphone into a data collection device; and WMCD, a special sensor that measures vibration and temperature data. These work well in conjunction with standard tablets and smartphones, but can now also be used in hazardous areas.

2/...The intrinsically safe tablets and smartphones

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Features of the new hazardous area devices include: intrinsic safety, supporting Zone 1/Division 1 and Zone 2/Division 2; Android 4.4; suitable for use with gloves; connectivity via WWAN, 4G LTE* and WLAN, plus NFC technology for wireless applications; 1.3 Megapixel front camera, 3 Megapixel rear camera with flash, plus barcode scanner; and GPS.

The intrinsically safe tablets and smartphones were among a series of innovations that SKF showcased at Hannover fair in April 13th-17th 2015. www.skfpowerthefuture.com.

SKF is a leading global supplier of bearings, seals, mechatronics, lubrication systems, and services which include technical support, maintenance and reliability services, engineering consulting and training. SKF is represented in more than 130 countries and has around 17,000 distributor locations worldwide. Annual sales in 2015 were SEK 75 997 million and the number of employees was 46 635. www.skf.com

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By: Sonia Laverick
Laverick Media Communications cc
Tel: +27 (0) 11 0400 818/ Fax: +27 (0) 86 671 6836
lavmedia@iafrica.com / www.laverickmedia.co.za