

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mount Thorley Warkworth Wins Safety Innovation Award

'Eye Spy', a remote-controlled technology system designed to remove miners from the dangers of suspended loads, has been awarded the prestigious NSW Minerals Council Mine Safety Innovation of the Year.

The technology was developed by employees at Coal & Allied's Mount Thorley Warkworth coal mine in the Hunter Valley.

Under the Eye Spy system, wireless magnetic base cameras linked to a remote monitor are used to replace people in the line of fire, such as when positioning 35 tonne truck dump bodies onto vehicles.

The winner was announced at a gala dinner at Leura in the Blue Mountains as part of "A Shared Vision", the 2006 NSW Minerals Industry Occupational Health and Safety Conference, hosted by the NSW Minerals Council.

NSWMC Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the innovation awards recognise the world-leading talents of the NSW mining industry in finding solutions to OHS challenges.

"I congratulate the team from Mount Thorley Warkworth on another brilliant innovation, having also won the top award in 2005."

The winner was selected from a field of 11 finalists, which had been short-listed from more than 40 entries from throughout the NSW minerals industry.

"This year we received the largest number of entries in the history of the awards. The quality of the 11 finalists was simply outstanding and reflects the ability of the people within our industry to bend their minds to overcome hazards in the workplace," Dr Williams said.

"The most important objective in the mining industry is to make sure that our miners go home healthy to their loved ones at the end of each and every shift. These awards are a tribute to the work and commitment which goes into achieving that aim."

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