Questions & Answers

About Scott’s new innovation in confined space communications for Scott users
Q. What is the new Scott Con-Space Link?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link is a communica-
tions accessory that provides a link between
the Scott AV-2000® facepiece and a CON-
SPACE COMMUNICATION LTD.®
hardwire communications system. This
combination of communications products
provides continuous full duplex communica-
tions for Scott respirator users working in
confined space applications.

Q. What is full duplex communications?
A. Simply put, full duplex communication means
hands free and open communication – like a
conference call or a party line on a telephone –
where everyone can speak to each other on
the same system at the same time. With full
duplex communications, there is no “push-to-
talk” or “voice activated” (VOX) switch. Users
need only to speak to be heard.

Q. What are the different components of the
Scott Con-Space Link?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link is a one-piece
communications system that has a microphone
built into its hard plastic housing and a user-
adjustable ear boom that is positioned in close
proximity to the user’s ear.

Q. How does the Scott Con-Space Link attach to
the facepiece?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link attaches over the
right voicemitter of the AV-2000 facepiece
using a mounting bracket. The bracket is the
same as the one used for the Scott Voice
Amplifier and Wireless/Talk-Around commu-
ications systems, which makes these systems
interchangeable. As with those systems, the
Scott Con-Space Link is mounted on the
bracket with a quarter turn that locks the
system into place. The ear boom needs only to
be positioned over the user’s ear.

Q. Will it work on all Scott facepieces?
A. No. The Scott Con-Space Link was design to
operate and be integrated with the dual
voicemitters of the AV-2000 facepiece. The
Scott-O-Vista® facepiece does not have these
voicemitters.

Q. How is the Scott Con-Space Link connected to
the CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION LTD. system?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link is connected to the
CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION LTD.
system through the cable supplied with the Con-
Space system. This cable is connected to the
Scott Con-Space Link and is then plugged into
the CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION
module. The attendant headset also attaches
into the module for a complete confined space
communications system. The system is then
turned on at the module so that communication
is possible.

Q. Why do I need Scott Con-Space Link in my
confined space operations?
A. In a confined space, it is important to maintain
continuous communication with an attendant so
that an attendant can monitor the entrant’s
condition at all times. OSHA’s CFR29
1910.146 standard requires that attendants
monitor entrants’ status and alert entrants of
the need to evacuate the space.

Q. Where can I use the new Scott Con-Space Link?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link is used in applica-
tions that require a continuous method of
communication between a safety attendant and
an entrant for work or rescue applications
involving permit required confined space entry.
The link is used in conjunction with Scott
supplied air breathing apparatus (i.e. Ska-Pak®
combination entry/egress respirator or the Air-
Pak® SCBA with extended duration airline and/
or the Scott mobile air cart).

Q. How will the Scott Con-Space Link improve
rescue response time?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link and continuous
communications can help the safety attendant
quickly identify entrant problems early and
notify a rescue team immediately when a
situation arises. Additionally, rescue teams that
have implemented a full duplex communications
system during their operations experience many
time saving benefits that can reduce the time it
takes to extricate a victim from a confined
space.
Q. What practical benefits can I expect from using the Scott Con-Space Link communications in my confined space operations?
A. Users will no longer have to leave their work to crawl out of a space to ask for tools and/or equipment. Many users have experienced dramatic increases in productivity and job quality by providing personnel with communication for confined space work. Personnel subject to the harsh work environments that exist in many confined spaces are more comfortable and less prone to making costly mistakes caused by panic, stress, or misunderstandings.

Q. Why not use a radio?
A. Radios function well during line of sight operations, but aren’t as reliable as hardwired communication equipment in confined space areas that are subject to dead spots or radio frequency interference. Also, radios may not be practical in areas that require hands-free operation due to physically small spaces, such as a pipe where the entrant may not be able to easily access the radio’s “push-to-talk” switch. Additionally, radio equipment is subject to damage caused by use in harsh working conditions, resulting in on-going repair costs.

Q. What is the large red button on the Scott Con-Space Link unit for?
A. The red button is a safety feature that, when pressed, will activate an emergency alarm on the CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION system. For example, the entrant can summon the attendant’s help from outside the confined space by pressing the red button and sounding the alarm on the CON-SPACE module which is located outside the confined space. The red button is not a “push-to-talk” switch.

Q. Do I need to have frequencies assigned for this equipment?
A. Hardwired systems are completely private communication networks and do not require any frequency assignment. Users can have numerous systems in close proximity without any cross talk or interference between systems. In addition hardwire systems are not subject to unwanted outside monitoring.

Q. Can I attach the communications cable to my airline to reduce the number of lines going into the confined space and the possibility of snagging?
A. Yes. Users can reduce the amount of lines going into a confined space by attaching the cable to the respirator’s airline to create a single entrant umbilical line. Users can tape the air and communication lines together using nylon spiral wrap or use two inch tubular webbing or single sheath fire hose to thread the lines through. These umbilical combinations can be color-coded and marked to aid in identifying entrants and their distance from the point of access.

Q. What is the clothing clip attached to the cable used for?
A. The clip is provided so that users can keep the cable close their bodies. This reduces the possibility of the cable getting snagged.

Q. What type of connector is used to attach the Scott Con-Space Link to the CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION cable?
A. It is a military audio connector (MIL-55116) which incorporates sealed stainless steel housing and gold plated self-wiping contacts.
Q. Is the Scott Con-Space Link intrinsically safe? To what level?
A. When the Scott Con-Space Link is used with a compatible CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION system, it is intrinsically safe approved as follows:

- Factory Mutual – Class I, II, III, Div 1&2, Groups A, B, C, D, E, F, G T3C
- CSA-Class I Groups A, B, C, D, Class II Group G & Coal Dust, Class III T3C
- European - LCIE - CENELEC - EEx ia IIC T4

Q. Is the Scott Con-Space Link waterproof?
A. Yes, the Scott Con-Space Link is completely waterproof.

Q. How is the Scott Con-Space Link powered?
A. The Scott Con-Space Link does not have a battery. It is powered by the CON-SPACE COMMUNICATION module that is outside the confined space.

Q. What does the Scott Con-Space Link weigh?
A. The weight of the Scott Con-Space Link is a lightweight 7.0 ounces.

Q. If I lose power to the CON-SPACE system, do I still have the ability to communicate for emergency communication back up?
A. Yes. Because the Con-Space Link is attached to the right voicemitter of the AV-2000® facepiece, the left voicemitter remains open to operate normally in case of a power loss to the Con-Space Link.