



DUSTWATCH CC

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| P.O. Box 1810 Sun Valley 7985, Republic of South Africa |

| Tel: 021 785 6999 | Fax: 0866 181 421 | Cell: 082 875 0209 |

| info@dustwatch.com | www.dustwatch.com |

The Director,

Cape Town Science Centre

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THE HISTORY OF DUSTWATCH

Our newly invented and to be patented unit DustWatch pollutant monitor device was entered on exhibition in your first “Great South African Inventions” at Canal Walk. We would like to take this opportunity of reporting on the success that DustWatch has had since then and also the sister products that have been created by the development and research programme that emanated from the original design work and research. In many ways we have been encouraged by feed- back and the interest shown during that initial exposure of a newly developed product, and this continues to motivate our development team to this day.

WE OFFER A SHORT HISTORY OF DUSTWATCH

The initial research work which started in 1997 led to the development of the directional monitor unit prototype which almost immediately went into service near Piketberg. With the apparent advantages and successful results the initial production units were available to the market in 1998 and a South African network of monitors quickly built up with units monitoring in the Cape Peninsula, Saldanha, throughout the Swartland and Vredendal. By the end of 1999 there were nearly 200 units in daily use in South Africa and the first units commissioned in Botswana. The next country outside of South Africa to have a DustWatch installed was Namibia followed by Tanzania where monitoring on gold mines started for the first time.

By the year 2000 the number of units in South Africa had reached 250 and a laboratory service handling samples at the rate of 1000 per month was operational in Piketberg. At that stage monitoring of radioactive dusts had also been researched and operating uranium mines throughout Africa started monitoring radioactive dusts with monitors installed in Zambia, Congo, Tanzania, Namibia and South Africa. Soon into the new millennium, units were exported to the Middle East and North Africa, where we installed the first laboratory equipment purpose designed for pollution monitoring and manufactured in the Cape. By this stage the range of DustWatch ancillary laboratory equipment was becoming popular with consumers with increasing exports throughout Africa.

In recent years a second unit monitor has been developed for monitoring single samples and this has also become a South African Landmark which can be seen together with the original DustWatch units from the Cape to Beit Bridge and from Alexander bay to Durban. Unit are operational in most African countries, South America in Chile, Europe and Asia and in many countries the units have become a standardised monitoring standard, and monitoring procedures have been developed for dusts of an environmental nature, for the standardised monitoring of asbestos and other rock and organic fibres, the monitoring of radioactive dusts organic dusts and intercontinental atmospheric dusts.

DustWatch have now developed methodologies for the assessment and analysis of precipitant dusts, organic fine material, the assessment and imaging of sub- micronic fine dusts, fumes and pollens.

It would be a milestone to be able to have an exhibit illustrate this in some way, should you feel that this has some merit. We certainly owe a great deal to the Cape Town Science Centre.

Yours faithfully,



Gerry F Kuhn

Cell 083 308 4764

Land line 022 913 1726

Email addresses:

gerry@dustwatch.com

patgerry@telkomsa.net