



Photo courtesy of SAU

## Case study

# Fighting fires around the world

The State Aircraft Unit (SAU) has over 35 aircraft under contract plus another 160 available on call. These aircraft clock up flight time of around 8,000-9,000 hours each bushfire season.

*“ Traditionally we used voice communication as our primary means of describing what was going on with a fire, but this can be open to interpretation. m-View puts a picture to the words.”*

Adam Damen, SAU

### ► The players

The SAU, a joint initiative between the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), helps coordinate Victoria's bushfire efforts through fire-spotting planes, water bombers and other fire-fighting aircraft.

### ► The problem

With another fire season fast approaching, the SAU was looking for innovative ways to get a more complete picture of a fire to decision-makers and those on the ground. Traditionally the SAU relied on standard voice communications; however descriptions of a fire front are subjective.

### ► The solution

Momentum's m-View technology streams multiple video feeds to the people who need to know what's happening – now. m-View gives them the big picture from a bird's eye point of view and intense footage from the frontlines; all live.

- **Live video is streamed from the air** via fire-spotting aircraft and water bombers. Viewers watch a fire's progress in real time and can also instantly see the effect of fire retardant on an advancing fire-front.
- **Live video is streamed from the ground** via a fleet of m-View enabled mobile phones. This gives viewers live video from anywhere on the ground, from any person's point of view.

This coordinated effort means anyone involved in fighting the fire and/or making decisions is kept up to date in real time. Video feeds can be viewed:

- on laptops on the frontlines or in an office;
- on mobile phones, anywhere (secure connection); and
- at the control centre.

m-View's complete mobility and live functionality mean decision-makers can make quick and informed decisions that can save

lives and money. In addition, key stakeholders such as fire chiefs and government can keep on top of developments by watching video from their mobile phone or laptop. m-View complements traditional voice communications to give a more complete picture of a bushfire.

### ► Why m-View?

m-View is a world-first Australian technology that provides a completely mobile way of getting live video footage from the air and ground to the control centre and to other key stakeholders – they can monitor real-time video from their mobile phone or laptop, no matter where they are. The system allows for multiple feeds, and the cameras in the aircraft have full pan, tilt and zoom functionality – all of which can be controlled remotely. m-View allows fire-fighters and decision-makers to switch from the big picture to the individual hotspots, instantly.

### ► Going global

Through the SAU's ongoing working relationship with Coulson's Airplane in Canada, the SAU and Coulson's have brought m-View to the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. So now, m-View's fighting fires in the US as well as in Australia.

#### About Momentum

Momentum Technologies Solutions delivers live video-streaming technology for a variety of mobile applications.

Momentum has developed a robust architecture that captures, compresses, transmits and delivers the best available video quality over mobile networks enabling users to harness the power of live mobile video.

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