

TOP 10 MUST-HAVES FOR MANUFACTURERS WHEN CHOOSING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Sonetics®

Wireless headsets make communication more effective on the production floor. But high noise is just one of many challenges manufacturers face when trying to keep supervisors and production teams connected and working together.

Here are the top ten “must-haves” you need to consider when comparing wireless communication solutions for your operation.



1 CONNECTIVITY

These wireless technologies form the backbone of a wireless communication system. Look for a system that can utilize more than one to maximize your integration options.

TWO-WAY RADIOS



Pros: Reliable. Simple to operate. Longer range.

Cons: Requires a free hand to push-to-talk. Only one person can speak at a time. Poor audio quality.

Must-Haves: Noise cancellation to reduce background sound; hands-free operation to keep conversations going while you work the problem; and natural conversation so you're able to interrupt or warn a colleague when needed.

BLUETOOTH



Pros: Quick connections. Low power consumption. Relatively inexpensive.

Cons: Limited range. Connection issues. Interference.

Must-Haves: Rugged design to handle your daily grind; adequate range for your team's needs, and integrated hearing protection for improved safety.

DECT



Pros: “Natural” communication lets everyone

hear and talk at the same time. Superior audio quality. Range of up to a quarter mile.

Cons: Push-to-talk users may take time to adapt to open microphones. Network expansion may be limited in some cases.

Must-Haves: Look for systems with a longer maximum range (300+ yards), secure and encrypted communications, and a rugged and durable design.

2

HEARING PROTECTION

Dangerous noise levels can be anywhere in manufacturing environments. Most facilities have one or more areas where hearing protection devices are required. Wireless headsets with integrated hearing protection reduce environmental sound to safe levels, protecting hearing and restoring natural conversation.

Must-Have: A comfortable, adjustable fit will help ensure compliance over long shifts.

4

MICROPHONE SENSITIVITY

Microphone sensitivity sets a 'noise gate' that prevents sounds at or above the gate from being heard.

Must-Have: An adjustable noise gate will let you be heard clearly when moving between high and low-noise environments.

5

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Wearing wireless headsets doesn't have to mean trading communication and hearing protection for awareness and safety. Look for features that are sometimes called 'Listen-Through' that blend headset audio with environmental sound on demand.

Must-Have: Easy toggle controls for quick access.

3

NOISE CANCELLATION

Noise canceling microphones filter out equipment and background noise as you speak, letting voices be heard clearly.

Must-Have: Wind socks or 'mic muffs' that fit over the microphone to reduce wind and breath sounds.



Wearing wireless headsets doesn't have to mean trading communication and hearing protection for awareness and safety.

6

RANGE

Have an idea of your requirements so you don't have team members or supervisors in another area dropping out of conversations in the middle of a critical situation.

Must-Have: Your maximum range requirement should be well within the system's specs.

7

MOBILITY

For jobs that include a lot of relocation throughout a shift, make sure the headsets allow for freedom of movement that let you communicate normally from anywhere in the facility.

Must-Have: Look for headsets without dangling cords or protruding antennae that might snag on tools or machinery.

8

RUGGEDNESS AND DURABILITY

Equipment can take some hard knocks. Make sure the headsets you choose are designed to withstand the slings and arrows of shift work.

Must-Have: Look for third-party certifications like the International Protection Marking (IP) code.

Dangerous noise levels can be anywhere in manufacturing environments.

9

POWER AND CHARGING

Lithium-ion batteries last longer, but that won't help if your system isn't easy to recharge overnight or even if you need a quick top-off before the next shift.

Must-Haves: Look for full-day battery life and convenient multi-device charging options.

10

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Downtime is the enemy. When your equipment needs service, does the vendor provide responsive and robust support? Is the website easy to navigate and up to date with the latest manuals and contact information?

Must-Have: Support techs that are available during your working hours.

YOU'RE READY TO MAKE A SELECTION

Keep these Top-10 Must-Haves in mind when you're evaluating wireless communication solutions to ensure your teams have the tools they need to stay connected and protected.

Find out more about
Sonetics Wireless Communication Solutions
800-833-4558 | sales@soneticscorp.com | soneticscorp.com

Sonetics[®]