

**IOT-BASED SMART HELMET WITH INTEGRATED WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FOR HAZARD DETECTION AND WORKER SAFETY**

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Abstract

In hazardous places like mining, building stuff, and getting oil out of the ground, workers often deal with gases that aren't good for them. This idea is for a cool helmet that's super smart and can tell if there are any of those bad gases around. It uses some techy IoT stuff. This helmet isn't just about keeping your head safe from bumps; it's got some clever features too. Like, it knows when you put it on and starts working without you having to do anything. It tells your boss where you are and if there's smoke nearby. It's got buttons to let them know when you're done with a job. So, when you wear it, it's like having a little buddy that keeps an eye on things for you. Leveraging IoT and GPS technologies, the system continuously transmits real-time environmental and location data to a centralized monitoring platform, enabling remote supervision and rapid emergency response. The primary objective of this design is to improve workplace safety by ensuring immediate communication of critical incidents and precise worker tracking. In emergencies, this cool helmet lets workers send their exact location to the big boss on site. It's like having a homing beacon for when things go haywire! This little experiment shows that fancy gadgets you wear can really up the safety game in jobs where it's super risky.

Keywords: Smart Helmet, IoT Gas, Detection, Real-Time Monitoring, Toxic Gas Sensors.

Introduction

The safety of workers in high-risk environments—particularly in mining, construction, and oil extraction and refining industries—has garnered significant attention in recent years. These workers are frequently exposed to hazards such as carbon monoxide, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. Although personal protective equipment (PPE) is widely used, it does not fully support real-time environmental monitoring to alert workers of imminent threats.[1] To address this gap, the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technology has been introduced to enhance worker protection. Smart devices now serve as protective systems by combining data analysis with real-time alert mechanisms. Among these innovations, the development of smart helmets has emerged as a key focus.

IoT-enabled smart helmets come with a bunch of sensors that keep an eye on the surroundings for stuff like air quality, temperature, and what's going on in the soil. These helmets have got some cool alarm systems that tell the big bosses when something's off, so they can jump into action



quick in case there's trouble [2]. This is super important in places like mines and oil rigs, where you can run into nasty gases like CO and methane. The old school safety gear, like the manual gas detectors or static electricity checkers, just aren't cutting it for keeping an eye on things all the time and everywhere you go.. In contrast, smart helmets offer real-time, uninterrupted environmental surveillance, thus significantly reducing the likelihood of accidents [3]. They can also monitor other critical factors like temperature, humidity, and atmospheric pressure—particularly vital in confined environments such as underground mines.

Research has actually proven that using smart helmets is like having an extra pair of eyes on the job. They totally help keep workers safe by noticing dangerous situations as they happen. Plus, if someone takes a spill or gets hurt, these helmets are cool because they can sense it and immediately send out a signal for help. It's like your helmet has a little superhero buddy built-in. During the design part, they played out a bunch of different smack-down scenarios on the computer to figure out how it'd hold up. They used some fancy tech called FEM, which is like a 3D crash test without the actual crashing, to measure how much energy the helmet can handle and where it might crack [5]. This way, they get a better look at what happens than with the old school smack-it-and-see method [6].

They've also been playing around with some cool extras, like giving your helmet a breath of fresh air with some sweet ventilation [7], and swapping out the usual stuff for some high-tech metal foam that's like the helmet's secret armor [8]. And let's not forget about trying to stop your noggin from doing the tango when you're sliding across the pavement [10].

But wait, there's more! They've got these seven smarty-pants computer models that are like helmet fortune-tellers. These digital wizards can predict how well your helmet will do against head bonks better than those old-school equations [11]. So, in the end, you're looking at a helmet that's been put through the virtual wringer to keep you safe out there

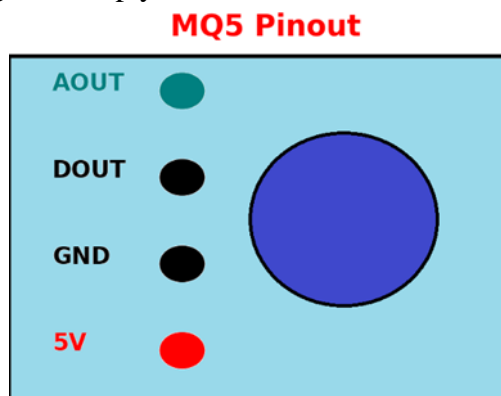


Figure1: Main component of IoT based smart helmet

The primary aim here is to cook up a snazzy helmet that's all linked up to the internet of gizmos and gadgets (IoT) to make sure peeps are safe when they're clocking in at their not-so-safe gigs. This brain bucket's got the tech smarts to sniff around for carbon monoxide and keep an eye on the weather scene too. It'll chat with the workers in real-time, letting them know if there's any bad gas or if things are getting too hot, wet, or stuffy. If you check out the pictures I've got in Figures 1 and 2, you'll see the main bits that make this helmet so smart and handy.

The specific goals of this project include:



1. Development of a Smart Helmet Prototype: The helmet will be equipped with sensors to detect environmental and safety risks.
2. Wireless Monitoring System: Utilizing wireless technologies such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, sensor data will be transmitted to a cloud-based platform for real-time monitoring and analysis. The system will trigger an immediate alert when a threat is detected.
3. Integration of AI and Machine Learning: Historical and real-time data will be analyzed using artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to enhance predictive safety mechanisms.

I. Related Work

Over the past 10 years or so, a bunch of studies have been poking around the idea of making super-smart safety gear for people working in really dangerous spots like mines, building sites, and oil rigs. They started with simple stuff, like slapping some gas detectors onto helmets. You know, like those gizmos that go beep-boop when they sniff out something flammable? That's what Zhang and their buddies were up to in their research [12]. They had these helmets that could tell you if there was gas nearby, which is pretty neat, but they couldn't do much else, like call for help or keep a record of what they found.

Then, some other folks named Kumar and their team took it up a notch [13]. They whipped up a helmet that's like a mini computer network all on its own. It had wireless stuff to let it talk to a big system somewhere else, so that someone not down in the grime could keep an eye on things. It was a cool upgrade, turning those helmets from just gas-sniffers to full-on IoT gadgets that could keep tabs on the whole work area from a distance.

In 2021, some folks named Ali and their buddies [14] came up with this cool helmet that's like your phone's GPS but for workers in danger zones. It keeps tabs on where they are in real-time and lets them chat through these GSM thingamajigs. It's like having a safety buddy on your head! They showed that IoT can really boost safety by keeping an eye on the environment and watching how long the workers are in risky areas. But, you know, it wasn't all perfect. It couldn't do fancy cloud stuff or predict what might happen next.

Then, Lee and their team [15] had this bright idea of using cloud platforms to store all that sensor info. Now, they can whip up live safety info boards and dig into old data to figure out patterns. It's like having a big brain in the sky that helps keep everyone safe and sound..

Fernandez et al. [16] extended this work by implementing basic machine learning (ML) techniques for pattern recognition in gas exposure events, marking a transition towards predictive safety mechanisms.

More recent stuff, like in [17], has been all about making things smarter and more connected. Reddy and their buddies [18] came up with this cool mining helmet that can sniff out bad gases and let workers know if it's time to get outta there with some local beeps and boops. Then George and their team [19] took it up a notch with a system that tells you about gas troubles in the clouds, but it couldn't predict when you might need to duck and cover. But Kawale and their crew [20] really knocked it out of the park with some fancy schmancy smart helmets that not only spot weird stuff happening, but they also have a little AI brain to figure out if it's something dangerous without you even lifting a finger.



Despite these advancements, most existing systems suffer from a lack of holistic integration. Typically, environmental sensing, AI-driven analysis, and emergency communication are implemented as separate modules. Few models offer a unified platform that integrates real-time environmental monitoring, on-device AI analytics, and low-latency communication. Furthermore, challenges such as limited battery life, sensor degradation, and unreliable connectivity in remote areas remain under-addressed.

In response to these limitations, the present work proposes a comprehensive IoT-based smart helmet that consolidates multiple sensing capabilities (gas, temperature, humidity, and pressure), cloud-based storage, and real-time AI-driven risk analysis into a single wearable device. By combining energy-efficient hardware with intelligent algorithms and reliable wireless communication, the system aims to deliver a more robust, responsive, and scalable solution for occupational safety.

II. System Architecture

The smart helmet is like, made with three handy buttons, right? And it's got some cool gadgets built-in, like a GPS to know where you are, and it can even tell if there's smoke or gas nearby, which is pretty neat (check it out in Figure 3). So, there's this button on the top of the helmet, and all you gotta do is give it a little press, and boom! It's like hitting a panic button, 'cause it'll set off an emergency alert and let your boss know exactly where you are, which is super helpful if you're in a sticky situation and need some backup, fast.

And then, there are these other two buttons on the sides, one on the right. That righty button is like your "mission accomplished" signal. Just press it when you're done with your task, and it sends a message to the big boss that you're good to go. It keeps everyone on the same page and makes sure you're not waiting around for the next job when you could be chilling or taking a breather, you know? It's all about keeping things smooth and easy.

The proposed model is specifically engineered to support personnel operating in hazardous environments such as mining, construction, oil refineries, and extraction sites. The helmet is equipped with various sensors that continuously monitor environmental conditions and transmit data to a cloud-based server for real-time analysis and decision-making. Figure 3 illustrates the main components of the proposed model. This system can be applied in the following key scenarios:

1) Gas Detection:

The proposed helmet we're talking about has this nifty MQ-5 gas sensor inside, right? It's like a little gizmo that keeps an eye on the air quality around you, making sure you don't breath in anything that could go boom or make you sick. Check out Figure 4, it's got this cool controller unit where all the magic happens. It's like the helmet's brain, and it sends air quality updates to some big computer in the sky, or what we call a cloud server. Now, if this sensor notices that there's more of that bad gas stuff in the air than it's supposed to, it'll set off an alarm faster than you can say "hot potato!" This way, you'll know to get the heck out of there before you're in any serious trouble. It's like having your own personal gas watchdog in your hat, keeping you safe and sound.



2) Environmental Assessment:

The system also provides atmospheric condition monitoring, including humidity and pressure levels, through a high-precision BME280 sensor. This enables continuous environmental assessment, offering valuable insights into workplace conditions. The data helps ensure that workers are not subjected to extreme heat or humidity, thus enhancing occupational safety in high-risk settings.

Table 1 : System Components and Benefits

Item	Component	Function / Benefit
1	Raspberry Pi Pico W	Acts as the main processing unit; includes an integrated Wi-Fi module for cloud communication
2	MQ-5 Gas Sensor	Detects flammable and hazardous gases in the environment.
3	BME280 Sensor	Measures temperature, humidity, and atmospheric pressure for environmental assessment
4	NEO-8M GPS Module	Provides real-time location tracking of the worker.
5	Buzzer / Alert System	Issues audible alarms in case of gas leaks or unsafe environmental conditions.
6	Push Buttons (x3)	Enables user interaction for emergency alerts, task completion, and general signaling.
7	Power Supply Module	Ensures consistent and portable power delivery to all components.

A. Design Framework

The proposed smart helmet is like a cool gizmo with all the important bits packed in, as you can see in Table 1. It's got a Raspberry Pi Pico W, which is basically a tiny brain that handles the Wi-Fi stuff too, so it can talk to the internet without any extra gadgets. That keeps the helmet size down and saves some bucks, which is pretty neat.

For keeping an eye on the world around you, there are two main sensors in this gadget. The MQ-5 is like a nosy neighbor that sniffs out dangerous gases that could catch fire or are bad for breathing. Then there's the BME280, which is like a weather station for your head, checking the temperature, how damp it is, and if the air is thick or thin. These little helpers are always on the job, gathering real-time info about what's going on outside.

The acquired data is processed locally on the microcontroller and then transmitted via Wi-Fi to a cloud-based platform for centralized monitoring and storage. This enables supervisors and safety personnel to track environmental conditions in real time, respond to alerts, and access historical data for analysis. The system is particularly suitable for hazardous workplaces such as mining, construction, and oil refineries.

Furthermore, the design is totally chill with growing and moving around. It lets you set it up in a bunch of different places and still keeps all the info on the same page, so everyone's in sync. And if something fishy happens, like a safety issue, it's got your back with loud alarms or quick messages to get everyone's attention. This whole thing is like having an extra pair of eyes that's really good with tech, keeping the workplace safe and sound.

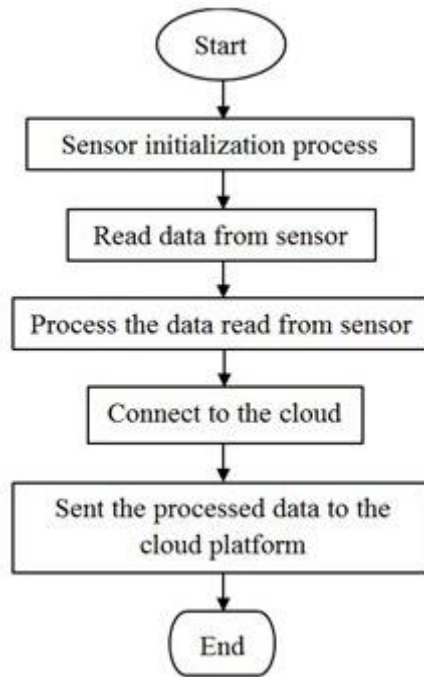


Fig. 2 System Prototype Design



Fig. 3 Smart Helmet

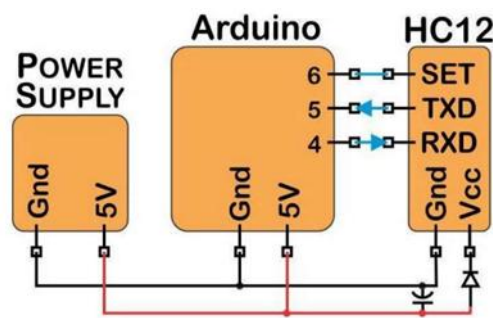


Fig. 4 Smart Helmet

III. System Applications and Results

This section is all about checking out how well this smart helmet system actually works in the real world. We're looking at how good it is at spotting dangerous gases, how quickly it keeps tabs on the surroundings, how smoothly it sends that info to other places, and how long the battery lasts. Basically, we're seeing if this helmet can handle the rough stuff in places where work gets tough and staying safe is super important. The results show that it's totally up for the job in those kinds of environments.



- **Gas Detection Capability**

The smart helmet is like, really cool, right? It's got this little thingamajig called an MQ-5 gas sensor, which is basically a super-powered nose for sniffing out nasties like carbon monoxide (CO), methane (CH₄), and propane (C₄H₄). And it's quick on the draw, too! If it gets a hint of anything gas-related that's not supposed to be there, it'll give you a heads-up in just 2 to 3 seconds after it first catches the scent. It's like having your own personal gas detector buddy on your head! We've been putting it through its paces with all sorts of gas exposures, and every single time, it's been spot on with its warnings. That means it's perfect for wearing in places like factories or tight spots where you've got to keep an eye on the air quality all the time.

- **Environmental Monitoring Accuracy**

The helmet's got this cool BME280 sensor that keeps tabs on stuff like how hot, muggy, and what the air pressure's like around it. It's always sending that info up to the cloud so folks can keep an eye on it. We tested it out and it totally nailed detecting when things started to heat up or get more damp, and even caught a time when the temperature shot up by 5°C in half an hour. If things get too toasty or anything else gets weird according to what we set, it sends a quick heads-up to the right people so they know to check in and keep everyone safe. It's like having your own personal environmental watchdog on your head.

- **Wireless Data Transmission and Cloud Integration**

Sensor data was transmitted via the onboard Wi-Fi module of the Raspberry Pi Pico W to a cloud-based monitoring system. The transmission was stable, with an average latency of approximately 200 milliseconds. This low latency enabled real-time alerting and immediate visualization of sensor data through the cloud dashboard. In addition to real-time access, the cloud system offered storage of historical data, supporting post-incident analysis, safety audits, and regulatory reporting.

- **System Responsiveness and Power Efficiency**

The smart helmet we're talking about got checked out to see how quick it reacts and how long the battery lasts. We picked the Raspberry Pi Pico W 'cause it's tiny and doesn't eat up a lot of power. When we tested it, the thing worked for around 8 hours straight on one battery charge, which is pretty good for most regular work shifts out there. They made sure to use parts that don't suck up a lot of juice so the helmet isn't too heavy or annoying to wear all day.

The whole setup seems to work like a charm, keeping an eye on the environment in risky jobs. It's like having a buddy that's always watching your back and keeping track of things. It can tell you if there's a problem right away and also remembers stuff for later. So, the helmet is not only handy for everyday use but also good at keeping you safe without needing to charge it too often.

IV. Applications of the Smart Helmet Enhanced by Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence, or AI for short, is like the cool new buddy that's come along to help out with those fancy smart helmets we're seeing more and more of in the IoT world. What it does is makes these helmets smarter than ever by guessing what's gonna happen before it even does, doing important stuff without being told, and finding cool bits of info in the bunch of sensor readings they get every second. It's like going from playing defense in a game where you're just waiting for



the next hit, to playing offense and knowing exactly when the other team's gonna throw the ball so you can catch it. This is a game-changer for staying safe in places where things can go wrong real quick, like industrial sites. And now, let's talk about what's happening around the world with these clever helmets and how they're actually being used in the real world to keep folks safe and sound.

- **Predictive Safety Analysis**

AI models make smart helmets really good at checking out what's going on with gas levels and stuff in the air. So, if they notice that methane (you know, that gas that's like one carbon atom holding hands with four hydrogen atoms, CH₄) is starting to build up and the air pressure is dropping, it might mean there's a gas leak happening. These clever helmets can give folks working there and the bosses who care about safety a heads-up early on. That way, everyone can jump into action and stop things from getting super dangerous before it turns into a big problem.

- **Detection of Environmental Anomalies**

The helmet keeps an eye on stuff like temperature, humidity, and pressure all the time. It's like it has a brain, right? Well, kinda. It uses some fancy machine learning tricks to spot when things get weird, like when it's super hot and muggy at the same time. Then, boom, it sends out a warning so you know something's up before you get too toasty or your gear starts acting funky because it can't handle the heat.

- **Automatic Monitoring of Gas Exposure Levels**

Beyond detecting momentary gas presence, AI tracks exposure duration and accumulative levels. This is especially vital for gases like carbon monoxide (CO), which pose serious health risks over prolonged exposure. AI algorithms calculate cumulative exposure and notify personnel when thresholds are approached, minimizing long-term health hazards and ensuring compliance with occupational safety standards.

- **Intelligent Emergency Response and Decision-Making**

AI plays a super important part in helping us figure out how serious a risk is and what we should do about it. Imagine there's a spike in the amount of flammable gas in the air, right? The AI will check it out, see how dangerous it could be, and then tell us if we need to get everyone out, turn on the fans to blow the gas away, or just stop the machines to prevent anything bad from happening. It's like having a really smart buddy that helps us stay safe and make quick decisions when things get.

- **Activity Monitoring and Fall Detection**

AI enhances safety a bunch by using sensors in the worker's helmet to keep an eye on their movements. It's like having a buddy that can tell if someone's acting weird, like taking a sudden spill or looking super tired. If the AI notices anything off, it quickly lets the boss and the medics know, giving them the exact spot and time of the whoopsie-daisy. This way, they can rush over faster and hopefully make everything better.



- **Data-Driven Safety Optimization**

Over time, AI models trained on large volumes of environmental and operational data become more effective at distinguishing between routine variations and actual hazards. This results in fewer false alarms and more accurate threat identification. Consequently, safety protocols can be continuously refined, reducing unnecessary interruptions and enhancing operational efficiency.

Personalized Safety Recommendations

AI enables smart helmets to give safety advice that's custom-made for each worker. It looks at what they're doing, their past health stuff, and their work history to keep them safe. Like, if someone's working in a hot area, the helmet might remind them to drink water. Or, if they've had issues with gas before, it'll let them know sooner if there's a bit of gas around. This makes the helmets way smarter than before—they're not just watching out for you, they're also thinking ahead and helping you stay safe.

These helmets are becoming a big deal in dangerous jobs, like mining, building things, and working with oil and gas. They don't just see what's happening, they can predict problems and help stop them before they get too serious. And as AI gets better, these helmets will basically turn into your own personal safety buddy, always looking out for you and making sure you're okay while you're working hard.

V. Challenges and Limitations

Despite the cool idea of smart helmets using IoT tech to keep folks safe at work in risky places, there are still some kinks that gotta be worked out. These helmets could be a game-changer, but before everyone starts using them all the time, we gotta deal with a bunch of techy, work-related, and real-life problems. It's super important to sort these issues so that the helmets work great for a long time and people actually wanna wear 'em in their day-to-day grind in those tough industrial spots.

- **Power Consumption and Battery Life**

One of the main challenges we face here is getting our gadget to use energy wisely. When we throw in a bunch of sensors like ones for gas, temperature, humidity, pressure, and motion, along with a teeny-tiny computer brain and wireless stuff like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or LoRa, it really wants to gulp down the power. The Raspberry Pi Pico W is a cool little thing that's pretty good at sipping energy, but even then, it might not last the whole day, let alone through the night. That's especially troublesome if it's stuck in a place you can't just plug it in, like somewhere far from home or deep underground. So, we've got to be smart with how it uses power and maybe look into giving it some extra juice from the sun with solar chargers or swapping out batteries when they're dead to keep it going without messing up how well it works.

- **Wireless Communication and Data Transmission**

Stable data transfer is super important when we're talking about keeping tabs on stuff in real-time, especially when it's happening in the cloud. But here's the deal: places like underground tunnels, those far-off oil rigs, or areas with lots of steel buildings, they can really mess with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth signals. It's like trying to get a signal in a metal can, you know? And when these signals



get wonky, it might mean that important warnings about safety don't get to the right folks on time. That's not good.

Now, there's this cool thing called LPWAN, like LoRa, that's way better at sending data over big distances without gobbling up too much power. But the catch is, it's not always available in all the nooks and crannies of the world. So, future gadgets and gizmos really need to think about mixing it up with different ways to talk to each other, kind of like a tech cocktail party. They should have backup plans, too, like redundancy protocols, to keep that data flowing smoothly, no matter what's going on around them. That way, we can all stay safe and informed, without any annoying signal hiccups.

Sensor Calibration and Environmental Reliability

The system's trustworthiness totally depends on how well the sensors inside, like the MQ-5 for sniffing out gas and the BME280 for checking the temperature, humidity, and pressure, do their jobs. But if these little guys are out there in the industrial grime, getting all wet or hot and cold, they can start to get a bit wonky after a while. That's why you've gotta keep 'em nice and tidy with regular tune-ups and maybe pop 'em in a protective case like you would for your phone. It's super important that these sensors stay on point because if they start playing tricks on us, the whole system might not be able to give us the heads-up when we really need it. So, keeping them calibrated and tough enough to handle the rough stuff is a big deal.

AI-Based Emergency Decision-Making

Although AI can totally help out in making quick calls during emergencies, like telling people to evacuate or turning off machines, it really needs a ton of good info and some fine-tuning to get it right. If it makes mistakes, we might not take a danger seriously enough, or we could end up with some unnecessary hassles because it overreacted. Plus, getting these AI models to work like a charm in the real world, where stuff is always changing and surprising us, is still a pretty big deal we're working on Worker.

Worker Monitoring and Fall Detection

Monitoring worker stuff with those gizmos that sense movement and bumps is like giving safety an extra hand, you know? But telling the difference between someone just taking a squat break or something serious like a tumble can be tricky. If the tech gets it wrong and flags something that's totally fine, it's like crying wolf, and that's annoying for the folks keeping an eye on things. But if it misses a real fall, oh boy, that's when help might come too late.

So, these clever AI things have to keep learning from all sorts of job situations to get better at knowing what's what. It's like school, but for computers. They've gotta cut down on the times they think something's wrong when it's not, and make sure they don't miss the important bits. And the location tracking? That's gotta be on point, like a GPS that actually gets you to the right burger joint. So if someone does take a spill, the medics can zip over there lickety-split.

Personalized Safety Guidance

Tailoring safety stuff for each worker based on their past experiences and data is like giving them a superpower to stay safe. It's a pretty cool idea, right? But it does come with some hurdles, like



keeping everyone's info private, making sure they're cool with it, and making sure the system can handle lots of people. Plus, the system has to be a chameleon, changing its advice as the workplace changes or folks get health updates. It's like having a safety buddy that learns with you.

Now, this smart helmet is a neat gizmo that wants to keep workers out of trouble. But, like with any cool new toy, it's got some kinks to work out. It needs to handle not running out of battery juice, keeping the chit-chat flowing without any hiccups, having sensors that don't miss a beat, and being a quick thinker. If we want it to stick around and be everyone's go-to, we've got to smooth these out.

VI. Conclusion

This paper's basically about creating a super cool IoT smart helmet to help keep people's heads safe in rough environments, like mining, construction, and oil drilling. We've made this gadget with a bunch of sensors that check for yucky stuff like bad gases, heat, humidity, and air pressure that's tighter than your jeans after Thanksgiving dinner. And the cherry on top? It's got Bluetooth, so it can talk to other devices like they're BFFs, sharing all the juicy details in real-time.

When we put this baby to the test, it totally rocked at spotting dangerous situations, sending out the info with barely any waiting time, and letting everyone know if things are getting hairy. It's like having a personal safety buddy on your head that's always ready to give you a heads-up before things go south. These capabilities totally make the smart helmet a big deal for keeping folks safe in those really dangerous industrial gigs. It's like a buddy that's got your back, helping you dodge workplace dangers and keeping you feeling good while you're on the job.

And it's not just about staying safe; this helmet's got some serious chops for making your workday smoother. It lets the boss keep an eye on things without breathing down your neck, so if anything goes haywire, they can jump in and help out faster than you can say, "Oh crap!" Plus, it's easy on the wallet and doesn't look like something out of a sci-fi flick, so it's something that companies can actually use without breaking the bank.

Looking ahead, we might see even cooler stuff added to this helmet. Maybe some fancy schmancy sensors, smarter AI to keep up with all the job site shenanigans, and some tweaks to make it super comfortable to wear all day. The idea is to have this thing work like a charm no matter what kind of work you're doing. It's like having a Swiss Army knife for your noggin, tailored for whatever crazy industrial adventure you're on.

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