

What is Testo's role in preserving Australia's maritime treasures?



The National Maritime Museum is Australia's hub for maritime collections, exhibitions and research. Situated in Sydney's vibrant Darling Harbour, the site is home to over 140,000 exhibition items accrued over decades – priceless mementos of Australia's seafaring past. Items usually need to be preserved in controlled atmospheric conditions due to their extreme sensitivity to light and humidity levels.

"Preserving the proper environmental conditions of our collections is vital. These objects are crucial to our cultural heritage, so we need all the resources possible to preserve their history for future generations," says Objects Conservator Jeffrey Fox.

After completing his degree in archaeology, Jeff decided on a career in the conservation field. After completing a Master's Degree through the Melbourne Museum, Jeff eventually made the move to the Maritime Museum around two years ago. It was here that he really learned the challenges that conservation teams face in preserving historical collections.



What are the challenges of preserving museum exhibitions?

“Numerous ambient factors can affect different materials – light and UV exposure deteriorates paper and ink, while humidity has a much greater effect on metal, wood and cloth. The real challenge in preserving these significant objects comes in finding a balance that suits an item made out of a combination of these materials,” Jeff says.

Other issues include pests such as mould and silverfish, which thrive in the conditions required to store these collections. Controlling surroundings here is vital in order to reduce the chances of pests spreading – but maintaining appropriate conditions in the exhibition rooms is another problem. The conservation team are in regular contact with building services about the indoor environment, trying to find a balance between appropriate storage conditions and creating a comfortable environment for museum visitors.

“The building management system can only go so far in maintaining the temperature needed to suit both our collections and our guests. An element of environmental testing is essential too,” says Jeff.

How does Testo help the preservation process?

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material code of ethics offers guidelines for best practice on maintaining valuable cultural collections – but for the most part the Maritime Museum has relied on internal processes to guide better conservation.

“Rolling out the testo 160 was done to test how effective wireless temperature data logging could be. We’ve been able to access daily environmental data, giving us more in-depth information to work with. This has made it easier to plan for long-term conservation projects too,” Jeff says.

“The whole team can pull environmental reports easily and all data is stored centrally and securely on the cloud. It’s so much simpler to ensure all conditions are appropriate.”

More than 40 Testo devices have been used in storage and display locations around the Maritime Museum, giving the conservation team the data to make better decisions in preserving Australia’s maritime treasures.

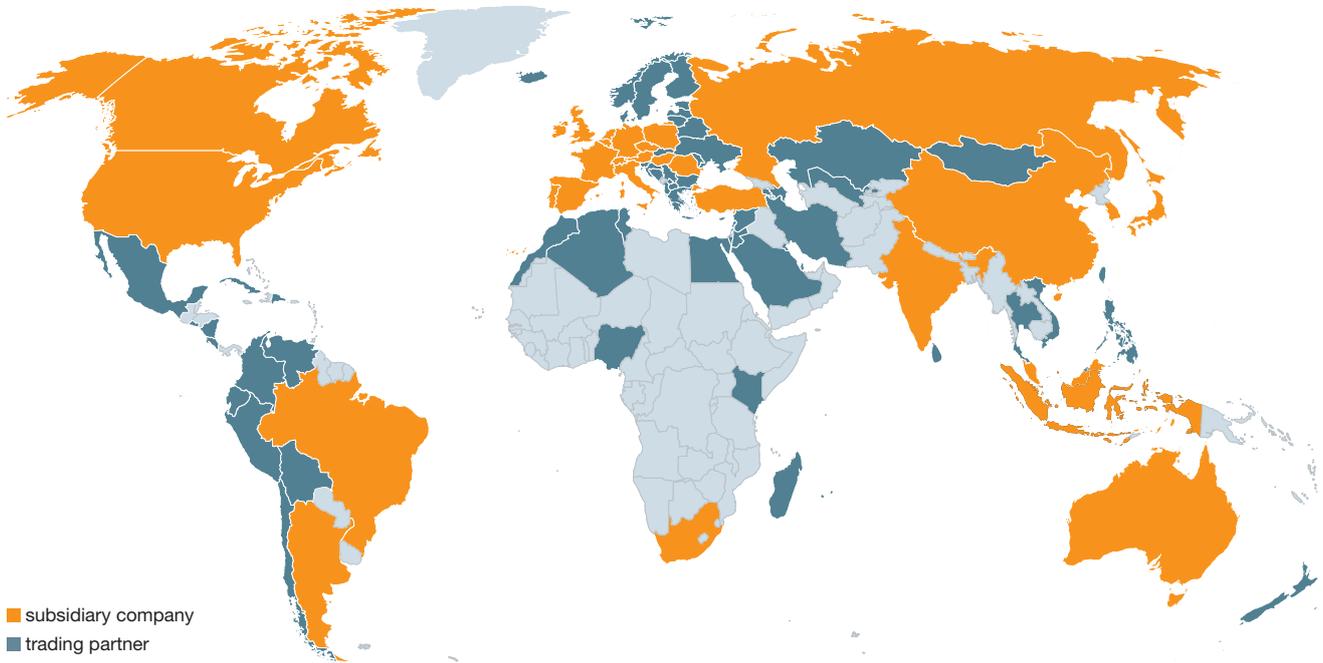


Jeffrey Fox
Objects Conservator
Australian National
Maritime Museum

More information.

To learn more on the testo 160 measurement tool visit www.testo.com

About the company.



Testo, with its headquarters in Lenzkirch in the Black Forest, is a world market leader in the field of portable and stationary measurement solutions. There are 2,800 employees involved in research, development, production and marketing for the high-tech company in 33 subsidiary companies all around the world. Customers all over the world are impressed by the measuring technology expert's high-precision measuring instruments and innovative solutions for the measurement data management of the future. Testo products help save time and resources, protect the environment and human health and improve the quality

of goods and services. An average annual growth of over 10 percent since the company's foundation in 1957 and a current turnover of more than a quarter of a billion euros clearly demonstrate that the Black Forest and high-tech systems are a perfect match. The above-average investments in the future of the company are also a part of Testo's recipe for success. Testo invests about a tenth of annual global turnover in research and development.

More information at www.testo.com.