TIDELAND RACONS FOR IRELAND

Tideland Signal has supplied the Commissioners of Irish Lights with three SeaBeacon 2 System 6 dual-band racons for applications around the coast of Ireland. Two of the new racons will mark lighthouses and the third will be fitted to a Type 1 buoy which replaces a LANBY (Large Automated Navigation Buoy) at the Codling station, which is in the Irish Sea. This completes CIL’s programme to withdraw all MFAs (Major Floating Aids - both lightships and LANBYs) from Irish waters. LANBYs were introduced in the 1960s to replace lightships.

The Codling LANBY was removed from station on 24th July last year and was scrapped to be replaced by a Type 1 East Cardinal buoy, with a focal plane of more than five metres above the water. This buoy has also been fitted with Tideland’s advanced SeaBeacon 2 racon, an AIS system and solar-powered light with a range of nine nautical miles.

Another SeaBeacon 2 solar-powered racon has been installed at Inishtrahull Lighthouse, Ireland’s most northerly lighthouse, which stands on an island six nautical miles north of Malin Head, off the north coast of Ireland. Inishtrahull and nearby Tory Island lighthouse are the two main landfall lights guiding shipping from the Atlantic.

The same Tideland SeaBeacon 2 solar-powered racon system will also be used at Bull Rock, an offshore station on the South West coast. All Irish stations have been automated since 1997 and the majority are now monitored from Dun Laoaghaire.

Tideland has supplied nearly 800 System 6 racons to customers worldwide. Tideland’s SeaBeacon 2 System 6 dual-band racon can respond simultaneously and with a unique level of frequency accuracy to both ‘X’ and ‘S’ band radars, even those with very narrow receiver bandwidths. The design gives operators an exceptionally clear indication of its identity and location and proportional scaling ensures that the racon trace remains clearly visible on radar displays regardless of the range scale selected. Approved to ISO 9001:2008, Tideland Signal Limited is a British-based member of the Tideland group of companies, which specialises in aids to marine navigation. The Tideland group is independently owned and has its headquarters in Houston, Texas.