TIDELAND RACONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSNET

Tideland Signal, an international specialist in aids to navigation and its South African agent, Marine Data Solutions (Pty) Ltd, announced recently that it had won the contract to supply SeaBeacon 2 System 6 radar beacons (racons) to the South African National Ports Authority, part of Transnet SOC Ltd.

The racons will be deployed in various positions around the coast, including in the country’s six largest ports: Richards Bay, Durban, Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London. They will join other Tideland Signal radar beacons already installed in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa.

Tideland Signal has supplied over 1,000 System 6 racons to customers around the world, one of whom has calculated that cost-of-ownership is less than 5% of the initial investment. Tideland Signal racons have proven extremely economical and reliable in operation, particularly compared with competing models, having established an average trouble-free service life to date of over 14 years for the System 6 model.

One of the key features of the SeaBeacon 2 System 6 dual-band racon is its exceptional dynamic range, sensitivity of -50dBm for both X- and S- Band, making it visible from greater distances. Because of its reliability and extremely economical power consumption, it is highly suitable for remote, solar-powered installations as well as offshore and mains-powered installations. SeaBeacon 2 System 6 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.

SeaBeacon 2 System 6 features a power management system that makes it possible to programme precise quiescent and active periods as required to match performance with power consumption. In addition, it will automatically return to quiescent mode after a four-second active period, if there is no local radar activity. The Tideland racon is available in three versions: GMU for general marine use and certified versions for use in Zone 1 or Zone 2 hazardous areas.

Marine Data Solutions is a South African company owned by its staff and the Kongsberg (Group) Norcontrol IT of Norway. With its head office in Cape Town and with the Sub-Saharan African market as its main focus, Marine Data Solutions (MDSol) provides world-class maritime domain awareness solutions.