AIDS TO NAVIGATION PORT OF MONGLA  BANGLADESH

Mongla Port is situated on the East Bank of the Pussur River near the confluence of the Pussur and Mongla Nulla at a distance of 71 nautical miles from the Fairway Buoy situated (Lat. 21°26.9’ N. long. 89° 34.4 E) in the Bay of Bengal.

Tideland Signal Ltd announced on 18th November that it has supplied and commissioned a wide range of aids to navigation (AtoN) for the Port of Mongla, Bangladesh, where a major development project is currently under way to bring facilities up to current international standards.

Tideland supplied two TRB-400 rotating beacons, complete with solar power packs for existing lighthouses, as well as six SolaMAX self-contained LED lanterns for newly constructed 10 metre GRP navigation towers. In addition, the contract included two MLED-155 lanterns with MaxiHALO LED flashers and sixty MLED-120SC self-contained lanterns for installation on buoys marking the channel into Mongla.

Installation and commissioning was conducted under the supervision of Tideland engineers both in the UK and on site in Bangladesh.

The Tideland beacons and lanterns are equipped with SRM (satellite remote monitoring) modules that use Inmarsat D to provide information such as GPS position, geo-fence warning, light and battery status. The port specially requested this so that they could monitor the buoys and track their course in order to facilitate recovery in the event of exceptionally heavy weather moving them off station.

The Tideland TRB-400 rotating beacons for Mongla are configured with six lenses as required by the flash character and three halogen lamps. Specifically designed for lighthouse applications, upgrades and conversions, the TRB-400 produces a high intensity beam for ranges up to 24 nautical miles. It features an optical system and sealed upper housing that will accommodate either an LED flasher or incandescent lamps, without the need for cooling fans or venting. The drive system is an advanced gearless direct-drive motor with a choice of AC or DC power input and is also suitable for solar-powered operation.

The SolaMAX-155 incorporates a high intensity MaxiHALO-60 LED flasher controller with 256 user selectable light characters and integral solar panels charging a sealed, maintenance-free lead acid battery.
Surrounded and protected by the giant Sundarban mangrove forest, Mongla is the main sea port of south-western Bangladesh. The development project focusses on improving infrastructure links to the main industrial areas around Dhaka, 92 nautical miles away in order to increase traffic through Mongla and reduce congestion at Chittagong. It includes procurement of a cutter dredger and pilot/despatch boat as well as a comprehensive upgrading of the aids to navigation, with 62 new buoys, two new beacons and six light towers. Dredging will provide access for vessels of more than nine metres draft.

**Picture caption**

*As an obsolete buoy is lifted out, buoys fitted with Tideland Signal lanterns and satellite remote monitoring (SRM) wait to be deployed as upgrades in the Port of Mongla, Bangladesh.*