



New Tideland buoy replaces steel in Shannon Estuary

The Shannon and Foynes Port Co. in the Republic of Ireland has chosen Tideland's newly launched SB-2200 polyethylene buoy to replace the "Kilkerrin Buoy", an old, heavy steel buoy in Tabert race on the Shannon Estuary, where the narrowness of the river can generate currents up to six knots on a large spring tide ebb.

The "Kilkerrin Buoy" is one of three which, together with leading lights, mark the narrow passage through the race and guide panamax ships to a facility further up-river. Harbour Master Captain Alan Coghlan commented: "The buoy performs well in this strong current, standing upright with little or no tendency to lean in the current, which is a major benefit, improving the lantern's range and visibility. Other benefits include the unit's low weight and its construction, which greatly reduces the maintenance required. We are very pleased with this new acquisition."

The SB-2200 is the latest and largest addition to Tideland Signal's range of polyethylene buoys. Introduced in 1987, they are designed to provide a suitable focal plane for the lantern as well as a highly visible cross section without the need for extra daymarks, although these are available as an optional extra, if preferred. The buoy in the Shannon Estuary is fitted with a Tideland SolaMAX-140 self-contained LED lantern, which can achieve a range in excess of 5NM, all supplied through F.P.M. Henderson, Tideland distributor for the UK and Ireland.

Entirely manufactured from rotationally moulded polyethylene with a solid core of expanded polystyrene foam, the SB-2200 is virtually unsinkable as the integral foam core will prevent excessive water ingress in the event of a collision. In addition to offering a planned service life of up to 20 years, low maintenance requirements, reduced weight and exceptional resistance to damage and marine growth, most of the buoy constituents may be fully recycled at the end of life.

The rotational moulding process ensures a seamless body, using a mould which provides increased thickness of polyethylene at major stress points in the structure. Before moulding, the polymer is compounded with UV inhibitors and pigment so that the wall thickness is evenly UV-stabilised and colour is permanent and uniform throughout. As a result, painting is never necessary.

Several options are available including buoys fitted with self contained lights (as at Shannon) or with conventional solar panels and batteries which are housed inside the buoy body. The SB-2200 is available in red, green, yellow, white, black, orange and bi-form colours and with a full range of IALA-recommended topmarks rotationally moulded in the same polyethylene material as the hull. Daymark wings may also be supplied for can or conical identification and other options include an access door and ladders.

Shannon Foynes Port Company is the estuarial port authority with responsibility for the entire Shannon Estuary, one of Ireland's greatest national maritime assets. The company governs the safe passage of all marine traffic and port activity in the estuary, accommodating ships of over 185,000 DWT and servicing the requirements of importers and exporters in the wide hinterland surrounding the estuarial system. The estuary's naturally occurring deep and sheltered waters are navigable from an imaginary line drawn between Loop Head (Co. Clare) and Kerry Head (Co. Kerry), to Limerick City - a total distance of 100km, 500 square km of water.

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**For additional information regarding Tideland Signal Corporation, Aids to Navigation, and VTS and AIS solutions please contact our sales department at +1 713 681 6101
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