



Tideland LED lanterns replace rotating beacon in Irish lighthouse

The Commissioners of Irish Lights have chosen two MaxLED-600 lanterns from Tideland Signal to replace a PRB rotating beacon with incandescent lamps in its Straw Island lighthouse due to the MaxLED's compact, low-consumption design, which makes it ideally suited to the limited solar power supply available given the restrictions of the site.

At Straw Island the Tideland lanterns will operate in a bi-form arrangement showing a white light of greater than 15,000 candela, visible over 360° and has a range in excess of 15Nm. This solution offers integral standby capability, as one MaxLED-600 operating alone would still achieve a range greater than 13Nm in the unlikely event of one lantern failing. In this application the lanterns are supplied with a stainless steel control cabinet and, since the system is inherently waterproof, the power requirement can be further reduced by removing the lighthouse glazing.

The MaxLED-600 is one of the MaxLED range of compact, long-range LED lanterns for both offshore structures and land-based installations. MaxLED-200, the smallest of the four provides a range in excess of 10 nautical miles (>16 Nm @ T=0.85) and yet is less than 12 inches high (11.45 in or 290.77mm) and weighs less than 5kg. The lanterns are constructed in rugged, corrosion-resistant marine aluminium designed to withstand the most severe environments, from ice-bound latitudes to the tropics.

The exceptional performance is achieved by a powerful, one-piece lens with a proprietary Tideland optic, which projects light in an even and consistent 360° horizontal beam pattern. Proven high-intensity LED technology, together with power conditioning circuitry provides extremely high reliability and long service life, making the MaxLED range ideally suited for buoy mounting, beacons, offshore and other solar-powered applications.

The MaxLED range features redundant, high-efficiency power supplies, each powering a series string of interleaved LEDs to ensure the light continues to operate even if one power supply or one or more LEDs should fail. In such an event, the range is reduced by less than 15%. The constant current power source ensures maximum life expectancy for the LEDs while the temperature-compensated drive circuits maintain uniform brightness despite varying ambient temperatures.



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Features include full monitor and control access, user-selectable flash characters and power setting for multiple visible range performance. The MaxLED range is available in all standard IALA colours, accepts input voltages from 9 to 36 VDC and has an operating range of -40°C to +60°C. Vertical divergence is variable from 3° to 10°.

Straw Island is in the Aran Islands, off Galway Bay. The lighthouse is located on a small island at the entrance to Killeany Harbour near the southeastern end of Inishmore. Accessible only by boat, the white-painted, 11m tower was inaugurated in 1878 to guide local fishermen into the harbour.

Approved to ISO 9001:2000, Tideland Signal Limited is a British-based member of the Tideland group of companies, which specialises in aids to navigation and solar generation. The Tideland group is independently owned and has its headquarters in Houston, Texas.

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**For additional information regarding Tideland Signal Corporation, Aids to Navigation, and VTS and AIS solutions please contact Ian Burgess at +44 (0)1444 872240.
iburgess@tidelandsignal.ltd.uk
www.tidelandsignal.com**