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## Tideland buoys mark West African pipeline

Against strong international competition, Tideland Signal's new SB-2200 polyethylene buoy has been chosen to mark the West African Gas Pipeline which transports natural gas along the coasts of Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

A major factor in WAPco's decision was the inclusion in the package of Tideland's advanced AIS AtoN (automatic identification system) and TSD/Navlink special AIS display with remote monitoring. Tideland AIS AtoN systems are designed specifically for installation on aids to navigation, including buoys, beacons, light ships and lighthouses and are capable of full integration into port or coastal AIS networks.



The TSD (Tideland Smart Display) is a powerful AIS display, which includes not only message 21 and other AIS messages but also such features as record and replay, warning zones and target filtering. The TSD makes use of Tideland's proven Navlink database engine to provide the current status of the nav aids (lights and racon) fitted to the buoy. Historical information is stored within the database and can be used to plot trends, plan maintenance and can be output to Reports in many industry standard formats.



The buoys marking WAPco's pipeline are fitted with Tideland SolaMAX-140 lanterns with a range of 4NM. The compact lightweight design features integral solar panels charging a sealed lead acid battery via a solar regulator. All the internals, including the long-life LEDs and high-integrity electronics, are contained within a tough UV-resistant polycarbonate enclosure and will even withstand being temporarily submerged in salt water. The only time the lantern needs to be opened would be to change out the battery, recommended after 5 years operation. LED service life is calculated to be in excess of 75,000 hours.

Tideland's SB-2200 is designed to perform well in rough seas and to stand upright in strong currents, improving the lantern's range and visibility. Other benefits include low weight and robust, permanently self-coloured construction, which greatly reduces the maintenance required. Like all the buoys in Tideland's SB range, the SB-2200 is manufactured from rotationally moulded polyethylene with a solid core of heat expanded polystyrene foam, making it 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 and exceptional resistance to damage and marine growth, the buoy never needs painting and most of its constituents may be fully recycled at the end of life.

The West African Gas Pipeline is a 678 km onshore and offshore high pressure transnational pipeline transmitting natural gas from Nigeria to customers in Benin, Ghana and Togo. Commissioned in December 2008, the pipeline has a maximum capacity of 470 MMscfd. It was built and is owned and operated by WAPco, whose shareholders are ChevronTexaco West African Gas Pipeline Ltd (38.2%); Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (26.0%); Shell Overseas Holdings Limited (18.8%); Takoradi Power Company Limited (17.0%).

The US\$ 590 million project has had a long pre-development period dating back to 1995 when the Governments of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo entered into an agreement under the auspices of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States. It is designed to make available clean, abundant, stable and cost-effective natural gas supply from Nigeria as fuel for power generation and industrial development in Ghana, Togo and Benin. It is also expected to accelerate regional economic integration of the ECOWAS countries and establish a reliable energy infrastructure to attract further investments into the region.

# NEWS

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Tideland Signal  
Corporation



Approved to ISO 9001:2008, Tideland Signal Limited is a British-based member of the Tideland group of companies, which specializes in the design and manufacture of aids to marine navigation. The Tideland group is independently owned and has its headquarters in Houston, Texas.

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