



Tideland Signs Archbeacon World Exclusivity after installation of two more units at the Port of Algeciras

Last September, two Archbeacon's were installed at the port of Algeciras, one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean Sea and connection point to the Atlantic ocean. The Port of Algeciras, following the experience of the port of Barcelona, installed a green Archbeacon at the south entrance and also a red one at the north entrance. The Archbeacon is a device pointer in the shape of an arch, which main aim is to improve the identification of the AtoN light. Since installation, user feedback has been collected and the opinion of users is highly positive.

In a recent guideline, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) recognizes that "with the proliferation of built up shorelines and consequent increase in light pollution, the mariner often has difficulty in detecting and identifying AtoN lights against background scene of general lighting and individual bright light sources". The Archbeacon is an arc of light that is installed on the shore next to an existing AtoN light. The arc-pointer displays a circular sequence of lights that gives the user the impression of a moving pointer. This is used to 'point' to the position of an AtoN light. The arc-pointer is not itself an AtoN but can be used as such by the mariner until the actual AtoN light is identified.



The Archbeacon aside an AtoN light in the Port of Barcelona.

This arc-pointer is more conspicuous than any other background light because of its shape, colour and the apparent movement caused by the sequenced flashing. Moreover,

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since the arc is oriented perpendicular to the direction of approach to the port, the observed shape of the arc can also give an indication of position. If the mariner is taking a direct approach to the port entrance, a circular shaped arc will be seen. Whereas, if an oblique approach is taken, the mariner will see an elliptical shaped arc.

The first Archbeacon at the Port of Barcelona was made of steel, but cost, transport, and resistance issues led to a change for glass reinforced plastic. The Archbeacon is composed by two modulated pieces of glass reinforced plastic connected by a juncture on the top, and then hooked to the dock floor by base flanges. The design of the Archbeacon has a 6 metre radius and 12 meter diameter including methacrylate plaques to cover the LED semiconductors that provide the intermittent lighting, red or green. Archbeacon can be supplied with a variety of flashing sequences and can be seen at distances of up to 5Nm. Smaller version of the Archbeacon are being designed in order to cover the necessities of marinas and fishing ports. Currently, Tideland technicians are working together with Archbeacon to improve the design and make the installation process easier, so that it may be assembled by ordinary port workers around the world.



View of the Archbeacon in the Port of Barcelona at night.

Founded in 1954, Tideland Signal Corporation is committed to meeting and exceeding the requirements for marine aids to navigation to the maritime industry.

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