



Tideland racons for Conoco Phillips' decommissioning in Greater Ekofisk

Tideland Signal has supplied four SeaBeacon 2 System 6 racons to Conoco Phillips to mark redundant platforms in the Greater Ekofisk Area of the Norwegian North Sea under the company's cessation project that will allow platforms to be decommissioned in a way acceptable to both the licensee and the Norwegian state.

The first of the platforms to be marked in this way will be Albuskjell Alpha. Under new regulations, operators are allowed to mark redundant platforms with racons rather than fog signals. The change offers numerous advantages as Tideland's SeaBeacon 2 System 6 racon has much longer range (up to ten times greater) than a fog signal and automatically displays an exact position on the bridge unlike fog signals, which can only indicate a general direction to crew stationed outside the bridge.

Tideland's racon is inherently more reliable than the best fog signal, being less affected by weather and containing no moving parts. It is also compact, easy to handle and requires significantly less power. Energy efficiency is a key feature of SeaBeacon 2 System 6, which has less than half the published power consumption of any competitive device and is suitable for solar power operation. In addition, the Tideland racon offers improved dynamic range, sensitivity and output with enhanced sidelobe suppression at short range.

The racon's intelligent power management system is particularly valuable on unmanned platforms as it allows remote users to programme precise quiescent and active periods as required to match performance with power consumption. Moreover, it automatically returns to quiescent mode after a four-second active period, if there is no local radar activity.

SeaBeacon 2 System 6 also provides automatic and reliable warning to all radar-equipped vessels as it can respond simultaneously and with a unique level of frequency accuracy to any number of radars within line-of-sight range, even those with very narrow receiver bandwidths. The design gives operators an exceptionally clear indication of its identity and location and proportional scaling ensures that the racon trace remains clearly visible on radar displays regardless of the range scale selected.

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SeaBeacon 2 System 6 is available in two versions: GMU for general marine use and EX for use in Zone 1 hazardous applications. It is compatible with an input power range of 9 to 36 VDC and services both X and S-band radars. Both versions are sealed by positive inert gas pressurisation, providing complete protection for internal components against moisture ingress. The racons for Conoco Phillips are supplied via Tideland's agent in Norway, Tranberg A.S. of Stavanger.

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

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