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## Tideland buoys and lanterns chosen for River Dee

Polyethylene buoys and solar-powered LED lanterns from Tideland Signal have been chosen by the Environment Agency to mark the approach channels through the estuary of the River Dee.

Tideland has supplied twelve SB-138P buoys equipped with its advanced, self-contained MLED-120SC diode-based lanterns to replace the unlit spherical marker buoys previously installed. The move has been prompted by increasing vessel traffic in the channel, including steel carriers operating on behalf of Corus and a large quantity of tourist and leisure craft in the area.

Tideland's MLED-120SC lantern is a solar powered unit, which minimizes maintenance and uses LED technology to provide a high intensity light with low power consumption. It incorporates DA-65 diode arrays each consisting of 30 precision, high-intensity light emitting diodes mounted in a Tideland parabolic mirrored reflector and providing an even, 360° light source. The lantern's power can be adjusted from 1 to 5.5 watts to satisfy range requirements. Two switches control 256 flash characters.

In addition, the inherent properties of light emitting diodes (LEDs) ensure that the effective intensity of flashing lights is maximised, while the mean time to failure for an individual LED is measured in hundreds of thousands of hours, compared to a thousand or so for incandescent lamps.

Tideland's SB-138P buoys are rotationally molded in UV-stabilized polyethylene and the float section is filled with void-free expanded polystyrene foam and reinforced concrete ballast to ensure reliability and exceptional stability. This robust, low-maintenance design has proved extremely successful since its introduction in 1994, with more than 1,000 installations around the world.

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

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