



U.S. Coast Guard deploys Tideland's SB-285P Buoy as part of their Navigational Ocean Buoy Prototype contract

The USCG is looking to find a suitable replacement for their aging fleet of steel ocean buoys and, as announced last fall, has awarded a contract to Tideland Signal Corporation, the world's number one buoy design and manufacturing company. The new buoys must provide at least equivalent performance to the Coast Guard's current 8x26 buoy but at reduced lifecycle costs.

Onboard the USCG tender Elm, stationed in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, USCG crew deployed Tideland's SB-285P buoy during the last week of April as part of their Navigational Ocean Buoy Prototype contract.

The buoy is initially intended to remain on station for a one year evaluation period, with a buoy servicing visit at the six month mark to allow the Coast Guard to pull the buoy up, examine the body and the mooring and provide comments. The buoy is deployed a few miles offshore enabling the Coast Guard to witness the buoy's performance each time they deploy.

The Coast Guard indicated they are very excited to have the opportunity to work with a buoy that is easier to handle and weighs a third of their traditional steel models. The SB-285P is constructed of UV-Stabilised polyethylene which is rotationally moulded to form a tough, 12.7 mm thick body. The buoy has colour pigment blended into its polyethylene material which eliminates the need for costly sandblasting and continued repainting. The polyethylene material also repels marine growth.

The SB-285P light weight low maintenance design is ideally suited to meet the USCG goal of converting to a buoy that will allow them to use smaller, less expensive buoy tenders, with the added benefit of lower maintenance costs.

Tideland currently has the SB-285P deployed in over 50 countries and is extremely pleased to have their buoy deployed and evaluated in U.S. waters.



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