



## Marine Products Case Study Navigating Forth Ports, Serving Scotland

Trelleborg Marine Systems has been chosen to supply a further four navigation buoys to Forth Ports in Scotland following the successful deployment of 12 navigation buoys over the last three years as part of a project undertaken by Forth Ports to replace fibreglass buoys with modern elastomer alternatives.

The twelve two metre diameter navigation buoys currently sit in the approach to Grangemouth, Scotland's largest container terminal, and in Mortimer's Deep, the channel to Braefoot Gas terminal.

Grangemouth, which serves both Edinburgh and Glasgow Metropolitan regions, handles approximately 9 million tonnes of cargo each year, of which 2.5 million tonnes is dry cargo, representing incoming raw materials for

Scottish Industry and outgoing finished products.

A deep channel close to the northern shore of the Firth of Forth, Mortimer's Deep lies between Braefoot Bay and Inchcolm island. The tanker terminal at Braefoot is a base for the export of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Peter Crawley, dredging and conservancy superintendent at Forth Ports, said: "We chose Trelleborg Elastomer buoys as they represent a highly stable and abrasion resistant alternative to the fibreglass buoys we previously used. The buoys we already have in place from Trelleborg include port and starboard marker buoys and a west cardinal buoy."

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"As part of an on-going scheme to replace and upgrade our current navigation and marker system, we wanted state of the art materials to ensure our new products would last. We were pleased with the performance of the buoys we've already bought from Trelleborg, so they were our natural choice in selecting the next batch."

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Trelleborg's Elastomer range utilises a polyethylene core, which ensures that even if the skin of the buoy is punctured, it won't absorb water and sink, reducing maintenance costs and extending the lifespan of the buoys.

It is durable, flexible and resistant to abrasion and ultra violet degradation. The high impact absorption capacity of this material also makes the buoys self-fendering. Polyurethane elastomer is self-coloured and will not attract marine growth. All buoys supplied are compliant with IALA standards.

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