



MARINE INSTITUTE School of Ocean Technology

January 4th, 2010

To whom this may concern,

The School of Ocean Technology of the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland currently leads the Placentia Bay 'SmartBay' Ocean Observation initiative. SmartBay (www.SmartBay.ca) plays an important role in support of industrial operations in Placentia Bay. In addition it has captured significant attention on both the Newfoundland as well as Canadian R&D scene. The vision of SmartBay is "to provide simple access by all stakeholders to data and information in support of effective management and sustainable development of coastal ocean areas and the safety and security of life at sea". Accordingly, SmartBay has been implemented as a user-driven ocean observing system, serving the information needs of the users of Placentia Bay in support of better decision-making. The applications of SmartBay are varied, ranging from safety, marine efficiency, and vessel operations management to industrial development and environmental protection.

SmartBay went 'live' in September 2006 with deployment of its first meteorological/ oceanographic buoy, an AXYS 3-metre discus. With the exception of regular maintenance the unit has performed reliably since that time despite being located in one of the world's harshest operating environments. The 3M buoy collects a suite of meteorological and oceanographic data including wind speed and direction, temperature, RH, barometric pressure, water temperature, wave parameters and surface currents. The processed data is transmitted via Iridium satellite every half hour and displayed in near-real time on the SmartBay portal. The data is used routinely to support custom weather forecasting and as well serves as an important tool for management of Placentia Bay as an oil transshipment port.

With over three years of operational experience, I can confidently say that we are impressed with the performance of the 3-metre buoy and have no hesitation recommending it for either short or long term deployment application. The level of support and assistance provided by AXYS Environmental Systems has been excellent and in some instances 'beyond the call'. Our confidence in AXYS is further demonstrated by the fact that we currently have two new AXYS buoys on order, another 3-Metre and a 1.7 metre Watchkeeper.

Please feel free to contact me should there be requirement for additional information.

Sincerely,

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