

MARITIME SECURITY

Sentinel passes final acceptance tests in foreign military ports

Our most significant maritime security project to date, encompassing the deployment of Sentinel diver detection sonars at multiple military ports, has been fully installed and recently passed all of the client acceptance tests.

Sentinel detects, tracks, and classifies divers and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) approaching a protected asset from any direction and alerts security personnel to the threat. Deployed from a boat, installed in a port or placed along a coastline, it can reliably identify AUVs at ranges of up to 1,200 metres and divers at 900 metres. These performance levels have led it to be used for military, critical national infrastructure, vessel and VIP protection duties around the world.

From the time when equipment for this complex project began to be delivered, our maritime security team has been working closely with in-country partners to install, commission and gain acceptance of the Sentinel sonars. The ports where Sentinel has been deployed offered difficult

and challenging acoustic environments; each one different to the next and in many cases, involving networking multiple sonars linked together to protect very large areas.

Sentinel has been specifically designed to cope with conditions such as 'brown' water, shallow water and tidal harbours where vessel activity results in a lot of disturbance in the water column. The system's unique detection, classification and tracking software has been proven to operate in all environmental conditions and is capable of reliably tracking multiple targets in real-time.

Speaking of the success of the project, Gary Male, Operations Manager at Sonardyne said, "The last five sonars deployed at the final port passed their Harbour Acceptance Tests at the start of 2017. Sentinel successfully tracked open and closed divers, as well as the end-client's swimmer delivery vehicle – easily meeting the contracted performance requirements set out." He added, "We now look forward to on-going co-operation with our in-country partner with through-life support, engineering and training."

