



Case Study

Drifting Container Tracking Solution for Antipollution Agency CEPPOL.

McMurdo Marine offer a solution that allows the detection, position, monitoring and tracking of shipping and sea lane hazards such as adrift shipping containers.



Client Overview

CEPPOL, the Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response, is a branch of the French Ministry of Defense in charge of ensuring pollution control at sea. Under the authority of the commander of the Atlantic maritime area (CELCANT), CEPPOL is commissioned as the interdepartmental authority for pollution response within the Navy. With thirty years of experience, its missions and status have evolved, moving from a consultancy role to that of an expert in pollution response at sea.

Organisational Challenge

Shipping containers account for about 90% of the non-bulk cargo transported in the world, each year, 10,000 to 15,000 shipping containers are lost overboard in European waters and end up drifting at sea, therefore creating both a safety and environmental danger to international sea traffic. CEPPOL was looking for a solution able to detect, position, monitor and track these containers to highlight their location and ultimately recover them.

Adrift shipping containers represent a major safety danger for two main reasons:

- For ship traffic, whether it is commercial shipping or experienced sailors, because of the risk of a collision with a container suspended under the water's surface.
- The contents of shipping containers may be hazardous and thus represent a risk to health and the environment.



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McMurdo Group – The industry's first end-to-end life-saving and tracking solutions provider
Distress Beacons • Satellite Connectivity Infrastructure • Monitoring/Positioning Software • Emergency Response Management



The McMurdo Solution

After researching possible solutions, CEPPOL chose the Oceania tracking buoys solution from McMurdo Marine Solutions. A preliminary test was conducted in 2012 to determine if attaching a tracking buoy to drifting containers under CEPPOL's jurisdiction would be a viable way for CEPPOL to track and recover these floating hazards. The test was successful and CEPPOL placed an initial order for a complete solution of Oceania buoys combined with Ocea shore side tracking software in March 2013. The Ocea software is being used by three operational centers of CEPPOL.

Key Solution benefits

- Low cost solution
- Shore-side monitoring of any drifting object
- Container recovery time decreased by 10-15 hours
- Significant reduction operating costs

What problems were CEPPOL looking to overcome?

The international community is aware that the oceans are both abundantly rich in resources and highly fragile. Their exploitation is essential, but requires solid guarantees in terms of safety and reliability. As part of CEPPOL's mission, we were looking for a solution capable of tracking lost overboard containers in real-time, while simultaneously giving us the ability to inform all maritime traffic position of drifting containers and recover containers as soon as possible in the safest conditions. Thanks to research on the internet, we were able to identify an effective and affordable solution with McMurdo Marine Solutions.

Why did you choose the Oceania Marine Tracking Buoy System

Beyond a simple and reliable solution that met our needs, we also particularly appreciated the possibility to upgrade the product functionality thanks to the MMS R&D team. The solution MMS offered was based on drifter buoys where they have a strong record with over 10,000 buoys floating around the globe. The fact that this was a proven technology, combined with a comprehensive solution with shore-side tracking software, was a real key advantage.

What was the most important factor in CEPPOL decision?

There were two important criteria. The first was to find a solution able to answer our technical constraints which include the capacity to resist up to a 30-meter fall as we need to deploy the tracking buoys from a helicopter. The second criteria was the cost. Implementing a solution with remote monitoring with a cost slightly below 2000 euros for a pack from 1 to 3 buoys was a really good value for the investment.

How has the McMurdo solution improved your business?

The new recovery process enables a faster and more efficient deployment procedure to recover a drifting container. It allows us to track and give a position while controlling the trajectory permanently. With the precise way we can now monitor from shore, we are now able to recover drifting containers as soon as possible in the safest conditions. Today, we can easily say that we are saving from 10 to 15 hours per container recovered and improve safety at sea while significantly reducing operating costs. This helps avoid accidents and saves lives.

McMurdo Marine Solutions Overview

Part of the McMurdo Group which combines proven brands Boatracs, Kannad, McMurdo and Techno-Sciences, Inc. into the industry's first, single-vendor provider of end-to-end life-saving and tracking solutions including distress beacons, satellite connectivity infrastructure, monitoring/positioning software and emergency response management.

McMurdo Marine Solutions offer highly versatile capabilities in the delivery of precise, customised tracking, vessel monitoring solutions, Fleet Management and Aids to Navigation to a broad range of customers, ranging from governmental agencies, fleet owners and via bespoke OEM partnerships.



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