

Fanbeam[®] 5



LASER RADAR DYNAMIC POSITIONING SENSOR

New Fanbeam[®]
control system available now!



world leading laser measurement technology





Fanbeam[®] 5 Laser Radar

LASER POSITIONING FOR OFFSHORE VESSELS

MDL's Fanbeam[®] system is a laser-based positioning sensor designed for repetitive, high accuracy range and bearing measurements from offshore support vessels and other marine structures.

The system is primarily used as a dynamic positioning (DP) reference sensor measuring the position of an offshore support vessel (OSV) relative to an offshore structure such as a platform. Using the position data from the Fanbeam and other sensors, the DP system automatically holds the vessel on station allowing operations to take place. The system is regularly used as the primary position reference during critical short-range operations such as cargo container lifts from platform supply vessels.

The system has also been extensively used for seismic source positioning relative to geophysical exploration vessels and for positioning mine detection equipment relative to navy vessels.



The system is in use on all types of OSV's including:

- Crew supply vessels
- Platform supply vessels
- Anchor handling tug supply vessels
- Construction support vessels
- Multi-purpose support vessels
- Dive support vessels
- Dredging & rock dumping vessels
- Well stimulation vessels
- Heavy lift construction semi-sub
- Accommodation flots

The Fanbeam[®] is therefore well known by the thousands of DP operators who already have operational experience with the system.

The System

The system comprises of a laser sensor with a unique vertically 'fanned' output allowing returns to be observed from passive retro-reflective targets despite relative movement experienced on any offshore vessel. The laser is mounted on a motorised base allowing for horizontal rotation in both directions. The laser can also be tilted in the vertical plane using the built in Autotilt mechanism allowing the laser to view targets at a different height to the sensor.





The system has embedded software for both single and multi-target operations. The control software is very user friendly and simple to operate ensuring that minimal interaction is required to obtain optimum performance. In multi-target operation, the system can output a relative heading allowing for operations relative to a moving structure.

System Advantages

- Performs excellently during short range or long-range operations.
- Consistently achieves high accuracy
- Uses inexpensive and intrinsically safe targets that can be permanently installed onto many offshore installations
- Rugged design
- Long product life
- Valuable alternative to augment DGPS and other position sensors
- Simple operation and setup
- Quick and easy to mobilise
- Access to global support network
- Low cost compared to other systems
- Rental systems widely available

The new software allows multiple operator stations to be set up, which caters for situations where control needs to be transferred between bridge personnel. A training package for the software includes a fully featured simulator allowing for realistic simulation.

Benefits

- Automatic target filtering by signal strength using historic data
- Gyro interface
- Intelligent target clutter rejection
- Visual presentation of Fanbeam behaviour
- Reduces potential for spurious targets to compromise reliable positioning
- Less need for operator to manipulate configuration when tracking
- Faster method for changing vertical tilt when tracking
- Simple presentation of tracking confidence
- More flexible interfacing options
- Multiple operator station configuration option

Service and Support

Understanding the need for Rapid-Response to failures of mission critical systems on large offshore DP vessels, MDL has invested significantly in building a global network of Authorised Service Centres (ASC) for the Fanbeam® product. A number of ASCs have already been established in key



New Control System

Control System

MDL have embarked upon a re-write of the control software for the Fanbeam® system in order to implement various enhancements to the functionality of the system. Many improvements have been made to all aspects of the software including many which will further increase the reliability of the single target tracking capability.



regions around the world, all of which have fully fitted workshops and MDL trained personnel. Each ASC carries a full complement of spare parts as well as complete backup Fanbeam® systems for hire or loan. ASCs are maintained to the highest standard through regular training programs and technical audits.

MDL can also offer rental systems directly or via partners.



Technical Specifications

Laser

- Laser type: semiconductor laser diode
- Rep rate: 7.5kHz
- Wavelength: 905nm
- Beam divergence: vertical: 18° / horizontal: 2.5 mrad
- Laser eye safety classification: Class 1*
- Maximum range: 2000m / 6562 ft
- Accuracy: 20cm

Motorised Yoke

- Gearbox: stepper driven worm and wheel
- Scan speed: software selectable up to 50°/s
- Horizontal angle range: 0° to 360°
- Horizontal resolution: 0.01°

Auto Tilt Mechanism

- Gearbox: servo driven worm and wheel
- Range: -15° to +15°

Communication

- Sensor to control system: 20mA current loop @ 9600 baud
- DP Feed: RS232 / RS422 / ethernet
- various telegrams

CLASS 1
LASER PRODUCT

Environmental

- Operating temperature: -25°C to +70°C
- Water / dust resistant: IP66
- Complies with: EN 60945 / EN 60950-1:2001
- Vibration: DNV standard for certification No. 24 April 2001, section 3.6

Mechanical

- Enclosure construction: machined aluminium
- Sensor dimensions: 200 x 300 x 290mm (W x L x H)
- Sensor weight: 12.9kgs / 28lbs

Power Supply Unit

- Universal input: 85V-264V AC / 47-440Hz
- Output: 28V DC 3.5A

Control System

- CPU: 1.1GHz
- Operating system: Windows XP embedded
- Touchscreen option
- Monitor: various options
- Monitor resolution: 1024 x 768 x 16k
- USB data archive: option
- Data output: RS232 / RS422 / ethernet

Targets

- Short range: reflective tube target
- Long range: various prism cluster options

For more information on Fanbeam:

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