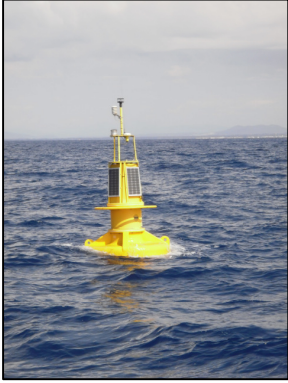


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WFS Technologies integrates wireless capability with AXYS buoy  
for U\$2.5 million NOAA contract**



**(Washington D.C & Livingston, UK, August 5, 2010)** WFS Technologies, world leading supplier of through-water wireless radio frequency (RF) technology for communication, navigation and power transfer, has successfully delivered wireless communication capability into a WatchKeeper™ buoy from AXYS Technologies Inc. (AXYS). The WatchKeeper™ buoy is part of a 4 year, \$2.5 million contract with the US National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the ongoing monitoring of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) program ([www.buoybay.org/site/public](http://www.buoybay.org/site/public)), operated by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, MD ([www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov](http://www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov)), has a network of WatchKeeper™ buoys from AXYS Technologies Inc. ([www.axystechnologies.com](http://www.axystechnologies.com)) to continuously monitor oceanographic and meteorological conditions in the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States.

Real-time environmental monitoring data is transmitted wirelessly between seabed sensors and the AXYS surface buoy using the Seatext® modem from WFS. Data from the buoys, such as wind speed, temperature, and wave height, is used to inform and educate local users, who include mariners, kayakers and schools who can use the data to get a better understanding of their local marine environment and also provide long term trend data the about changes in the bay.

Seatext® is the world's first commercial through-water and through-ground radio communication system, designed to interface with sensors and control units. Seatext® is designed to provide 2- way wireless RF communications through seawater at data rates up to 100 bps. Seatext® will also communicate across the air-to-water boundary and through underwater obstacles that are normally considered impenetrable to conventional techniques. The modem is not affected by reverberations or biofouling, performs well in very shallow water (5m-50m in the Chesapeake), and is unaffected by high turbidity conditions.

The first subsurface transmitting buoy will be placed over Dominion Gooses Reef, one of twenty artificial reef sites in the Chesapeake Bay area. Construction materials from a local project have been relocated to the bay, to create a new habitat for the area's oyster population that has been devastated by decades of overharvest. Since the late 19th century, the eastern oyster has contributed millions of dollars to the region's economy as well as contributing to the health of the bay itself (an adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day).



Both the reef itself and the buoy system have been sponsored by the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative and the Dominion Foundation in a project to repopulate the oyster for which the Chesapeake area has been famous for generations. The oysters are relocated to the new reef; they attach and hopefully create a new and self-sustaining population. Bottom water quality data delivered to the buoy via WFS wireless communications links are transmitted to the internet by a CDMA link on the buoy, ensuring optimum conditions are maintained. To see the latest information visit <http://www.buoybay.org/site/public/explore/> and select Gooses Reef.

CEO of WFS Technologies, Mark Volanthen comments; *"Our collaboration with AXYS Technologies shows how WFS's wireless technology can enhance monitoring systems by delivering real-time data from subsea sensors. It's use here at the Chesapeake Bay shows how the information can be used to inform and educate local communities, however the technology can also be used to support wider initiatives seeking early warning systems to protect the environment, such as for the prevention of water pollution, for use in aquaculture or for tidal or flood monitoring"*.

CBIBS project manager Doug Wilson, an oceanographer at the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, said *"This is the first CBIBS buoy to provide real-time subsurface water quality data to scientists and the public. The WFS Seatext system has been easy to integrate and provides us with an efficient, robust solution for delivering this important information."*

END



## **About WFS**

WFS Technologies is the world's leader in commercial application of through-water and through-ground wireless radio frequency (RF) technology for communication, navigation and power transfer.

WFS's disruptive communications and sensing products extend the reach of conventional communications, telemetry, control systems and sensor networks providing cost savings, improvements in operational performance and flexibility for the Energy & Environment, Homeland Security & Defense industries. Headquartered near Edinburgh in the UK, WFS has a project office in Aberdeen, research facilities in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and U.S. offices in Washington and Houston.

For more information about WFS and its products, visit the company's website at: [www.wfs-tech.com](http://www.wfs-tech.com)

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## **About AXYS Technologies**



***Environmental monitoring solutions that deliver quality data for accurate decision-making and peace of mind.*** AXYS Technologies Inc. (AXYS) is an ISO 9001-2008 registered Canadian company with over 30 years experience in the design, manufacture and installation of remote environmental monitoring systems worldwide.

AXYS applies its extensive knowledge and experience to marine, freshwater, land-based monitoring stations, and offshore wind resource assessment systems that measure aquatic, oceanic and atmospheric parameters. Offered in addition are technical field services to train and support customers in the operation and maintenance of all products. AXYS systems and turnkey solutions utilize proven cost-effective technology related to a wide range of applications. [www.axystechnologies.com](http://www.axystechnologies.com)

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## **About NOAA (National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration)**

From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

NOAA's roots date back to 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. Since then, NOAA has evolved to meet the needs of a changing country. NOAA maintains a presence in every state and has emerged as an international leader on scientific and environmental matters.

NOAA's mission touches the lives of every American and we are proud of our role in protecting life and property and conserving and protecting natural resources.

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

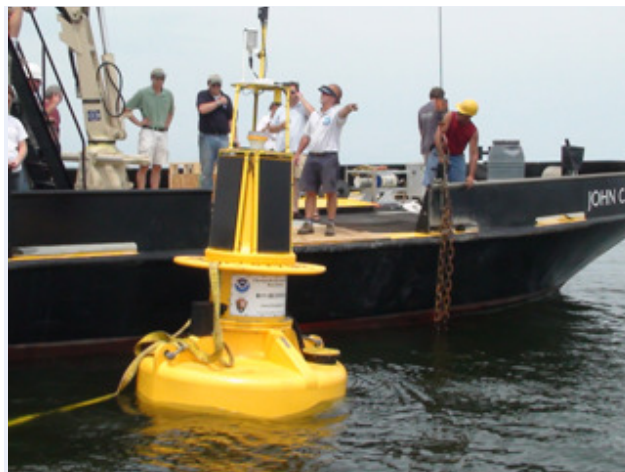
IMAGES



*The smart buoy awaiting deployment*



*THE WFS wireless sensor unit*



*The smart buoy deployed*