

Surface Preparation on Deep Sea Navigational Buoys

Canadian Coast Guard cleans aquatic growth and strips three-part marine coating with environmentally friendly Sponge-Jet® Sponge Blasting™ System



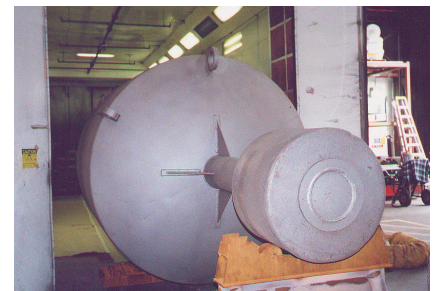
The Canadian Coast Guard searched for a method to strip rust and marine coatings from navigational buoys. Specifications outlined the removal of 15 to 20 mils of high performance epoxy coatings, with near white blast preparation with a 3 to 4-mil [75-100 micron] profile. Although conventional abrasives could be used to complete the project, most could not be expected to minimize waste or to limit impact on surrounding operations and the environment. Silver Sponge Media™ abrasive was chosen based on the following process characteristics:

■ **Low Airborne Dust** - The facility was restricted to outdoor blasting and therefore wanted to limit releasing anti-foulant paint dust in the air. Sponge Media abrasives are porous

and suppress up to 93% of what would normally become airborne dust.

■ **Reusability** - Limitations on the consumption and subsequent disposal of abrasive media and anti-foulant coating residues indicated a reusable process. Sponge Media abrasives are reusable up to ten times and therefore reduce consumption of materials, freight, and disposal costs.

■ **Cost Effective** - The facility required simple containment and good ambient air quality. Pliant Sponge Media abrasives absorb collision energy at the substrate, which minimizes media rebound and dust. Costly containment and air quality systems were not needed with these low dust and low rebound benefits.



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to learn more about the
Sponge Blasting System

Blasting the 350 square foot [116 m²] buoys at 1.5 square feet per minute [30 m²/hr] allowed for cost effective stripping and timely completion of the project without interruption.