

£3 million saving for harbour quays



iicorr can save harbour quay owners up to £3 million by using its cathodic protection system. It has recently been awarded £400,000 worth of contract wins to carry out a corrosion protection service for Scottish ports including Orkney, Wick, Bara and Lochinver.

iicorr's protection system ensures the design life of the quay for 20 years, protecting it against Accelerated Low Water Corrosion (ALWC). The cost of replacing the quay is £3.3 million and results from the growth of bacterial colonies which adhere to the metal service. Wall penetration can occur and the integrity of the structure is then compromised resulting in an extremely costly repair or replacement exercise.

iicorr was contracted by Currie Brothers Ltd on behalf of Orkney Islands Council to provide a turnkey solution to the corrosion problems encountered on the new section of Longhope Pier, Isle of Hoy, Orkney. Although relatively new, the pier was experiencing signs of Accelerated Low Water Corrosion (ALWC) and in order to eradicate this, a Cathodic Protection (CP) system was designed for the pier. The system was installed over a period of seven days, causing no disruption to marine traffic.



Roddy James (Operations Director)

Roddy James, Operations Director, said: "ALWC occurs in 90% of UK ports and it is unlikely that a new quay without a corrosion protection system would last beyond 20 years due to the high corrosion rates that occur. However, the good news is that only certain areas provide the right environment for the bacteria and these areas can be identified and treated by iicorr, keeping the entire asset safe while minimising costs".

"Owners are facing significant unplanned failures and expenditure if radical inspection and maintenance plans are not adopted to identify and treat high risk areas. Action need not be as expensive as it sounds whereas the cost of unexpected failure is unthinkable, not just in monetary terms".