SonarBell[®] Clearwater Hydroacoustics Ltd.



About Clearwater Hydroacoustics Ltd. (CHA)

- Acquired exclusive license for SonarBell[®] technology in 2018.
- Core patent owned by UK Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Minority share owned by Ploughshare Innovations Ltd., a company established by the UK government to commercialise technologies developed by the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).
- CEO and Ultimate Majority Shareholder: Nigel Hill



SonarBell[®] – Advantages

- Fully passive sonar reflector
- Omnidirectional
- No battery or electronics
- Highly efficient sonar target
- "Tuneable" to provide specific echo level response
- Easy to handle
- Minimal maintenance





SonarBell[®] - Technology

- SonarBell[®] consists of a shell and a core.
- By changing parameters such as shell material, shell thickness and core material SonarBell[®] can be "tuned" to provide specific echo level responses.
- Two echoes emanate from SonarBell[®]:
 - A (Front Echo)
 - B (Focused Return)









SonarBell – Diameter Discrimination

- Distinguishing between different SonarBells acoustically is made easier by changing the overall diameter of the SonarBell[®].
- The acoustic diameter can be found by measuring the time difference between the front and back echo.
- The acoustic diameter is larger than the SonarBell's physical diameter due to the speed of sound in the core being slower than the speed of sound in water.







Some Examples of SonarBell[®] Response Curves



600mm A600-00630





450mm A450-00150





205mm Z205-0088





Defence Applications

- Sonar Testing
 - To test sonar sensitivity levels a SonarBell[®] with an echo level response sightly higher than the sonar's detection threshold is used to verify the sonar's detection capability.
 - E.g.: A sonar is supposed to detect objects with a TS as low as -30dB. A SonarBell[®] with a response of -30dB is used to verify the sonar's sensitivity.
- Operator Training
 - Imitate the echo signature of mines or submarines to train sonar operators.
 - E.g.: Use a realistic SonarBell[®] mimic to train sonar operators in target identification.



Advantages of Using SonarBell[®] for Sonar Testing and Training

- Realistic test and training targets.
- No batteries or electronics.
- Minimal maintenance.
- Strong echo returns can be achieved with relatively small reflectors, making handling of test and training targets easier.
- Pressure-equalising, free-flooding design enables deep water deployment.



SonarBell[®] on different Sonar Systems



Sonar	Tritech SeaKing
Frequency	325kHz
SonarBell [®] Configuration	200mm SB200-0085





Sonar	Furuno
Frequency	50, 75, 130 and 200kHz
Range	35 fathoms (64m)
SonarBell [®] Configuration	275mm A275-0085





Sonar	Humminbird
Frequency	200kHz
Range	Up to 18m
SonarBell [®] Configuration	200mm Z200-00109





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