

## Tsunami early warning buoy system completed

by Rich Bowden - Mar 14 2008, 06:01



Officials from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) announced this week that the final two of the 39 buoys which will act as a tsunami early warning system for US coastal communities, have been installed.

The Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) system is designed to improve on the previous six-buoy system and with sophisticated instruments, including seismometers, will transmit [data](#) from earthquake zones all around the Pacific Ocean, as well as in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

The devastating 2004 tsunami which killed more than 225,000 people in eleven countries circling the Indian Ocean was the impetus which loosened funding in Washington for the DART project said NOAA officials.

The project was a "...25-year overnight success," said Eddie Bernard, director of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle to reporters adding that he and his colleagues had been trying to convince lawmakers to fund such a early warning system for years.

He said the system had already been proven successful.

"We've had six measurable tsunamis since (the Indian Ocean event)," said Bernard adding that the tsunamis had been accurately predicted by DART predictions.

The buoys are placed 400 to 600 miles (700 to 1,000 km) apart to enhance the chance of picking up an early warning of a similar tsunami. "Those buoys were placed in a scientific way to maximize benefit to the U.S. public," agreed John McNulty, director of the National Weather Service's Office of Operations Systems.

For further details on the NOAA's DART buoy system, please go [here](#).