news release

Digital Yacht Release Pint Sized Class B AIS Transponder

Digital Yacht has introduced a new class B AIS Transponder called the AIT2000. Despite being 50% smaller than Digital Yacht's previous AIT1000 model, it manages to cram in more functionality and is one of the world's smallest class B devices.

A class B transponder sends and receives AIS data to other vessels equipped with either class A or class B AIS systems allowing an on-board chart plotter or radar to display these targets on an electronic chart. The closest point of approach (CPA) and time to closest point of approach (TCPA) of a target can easily be displayed which helps with anti collision calculations.   The identity (e.g. name, call sign and MMSI number) of other targets can be established by clicking on a target, so it's a great aid to navigation and communication as well as enhancing safety. All commercial ships over 300 tonnes have to carry a class A AIS transponder and class B transponders, like the AIT2000, have been designed for fitting on non-mandatory vessels such as yachts and fishing boats.

Interfacing AIS data to a chart plotter is very important and the new AIT2000 features dual NMEA 0183 input and output capability (with data multiplexing) to allow for just about every possible installation. Digital Yacht has also added their new proprietary N2NET™ interface which is a certified NMEA 2000 system allowing connection to NMEA 2000 networks. For PC users, there's also a USB connection. It will interface with most leading brands of chart plotter including Standard Horizon, Raymarine, Garmin, Simrad, Lowrance and Furuno to mention a few.

The AIT2000 allows connection to either 12V or 24V systems, consumes around 5W (so ideal for use on sailing vessels) and the unit ships with PC programming software as well as SmarterTrack Lite, which is a powerful viewing program for PCs that allows the display of AIS targets and information.

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Digital Yacht also promise a few optional accessories for the future. With the improved interfacing capabilities of the AIT2000, they will be producing an optional external alarm which activates when an AIS SART or Man Overboard SART message is received. Companies like Kannad and McMurdo are now producing small, life jacket operated AIS SARTs, which will automatically generate an AIS target when a crew member falls overboard and the life jacket inflates. The new AIT2000 will de-code these signals and provide an audio and visual alarm with this additional accessory. There's also an optional WiFi interface if you want to use an iPad or iPhone to display AIS data. The AIT2000 is priced at £450 plus VAT and is available from October.

For further information visit us at stand G093 in Ocean Hall at Southampton Boat Show from Friday 16 – Sunday 25 September, telephone +44 (0)117 955 4474, send an email to sales@digitalyacht.co.uk or visit www.digitalyacht.co.uk

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Notes for editors:

AIS is a system used for vessel tracking, identity and anti-collision purposes. It is a mandatory requirement for all vessels over 300 tonnes to carry an AIS class A transponder. This device sends the vessel's position, course, speed and identity over VHF frequencies to other vessels equipped with either an AIS transponder or receiver. The data can then be displayed graphically on either a dedicated device or on to a chart plotter and alarms can be activated to warn of any potential collision danger.

Smaller commercial vessels and leisure users can take advantage of the benefits of AIS by installing a lower cost, class B transponder, or even just a receiver to pick up the AIS transmissions. There is also an increasing use of AIS on static navigation structures such as buoys and lighthouses (ATONS - aids to navigation) which allow navigators to positively identify a target. One of the benefits of AIS technology is that the target is positively identified with its position, name, call sign, MMSI number, course and speed. Chart plotters can instantly calculate closest point of approach and time to closest point of approach and activate an alarm where necessary. Digital Yacht has published a range of White Papers on the AIS system which are available free-of-charge on its website.

Digital Yacht

Established in 2001, Digital Yacht is a specialist manufacturer of marine navigation and communication equipment. Our range encompasses class A and class B AIS products, marine PCs and software, hi power WiFi access systems, electronic instrumentation, chart plotters and GPS. Whilst head quartered in the UK, we have sales and product development offices in UK, China, USA and Australasia.

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