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Buzz-generating prototypes at METS show in development

Actisense, the market leading marine electronics brand from Active Research Limited, based in Poole, UK, have developed two new prototypes, both of which generated a buzz at the recent METS show. The NMEA devices are improved versions of popular existing product line, each with significant new features.

The first new prototype is that of the NBF-3, the company's latest NMEA buffer. The device opto-isolates and buffers NMEA 0183 data to drive multiple NMEA devices, such as chart plotters and radars, which makes it ideal for safely interfacing an on-board PC to NMEA 0183 equipment on a vessel. The NBF-3 has improved usability by offering pluggable connectors for quick and easy installation, as well as a diagnostic LED on the input to confirm correct connection. Most crucially, the installer will now be able to directly power the NMEA Talker that is supplying the NBF-3 with data, removing the need for the installer to run an additional power cable to the NMEA Talker. The NBF-3 is presented in an Actisense designed case with a DIN rail option.

Actisense have also released the prototype of the OPTO-4, the company's opto-isolator cable. This bi-directional NMEA 0183 (RS422) to RS232 (9-pin serial) interface cable is particularly suited to 'noisy' and/or commercial environments as it provides a complete solution for system builders who require all components to be shielded. The OPTO-4 features as standard, a fully shielded case and cable, making it completely reliable. The galvanic opto-isolation protects the connected device (PC, etc), offering complete peace of mind, whilst the over-moulded case improves water resistance.

Phil Whitehurst, Managing Director of Active Research Limited said, *"With the feedback we received at METS we know that these products will enhance what we offer our customers. We are always looking for ways to improve our NMEA product range and the NBF-3 and OPTO-4 lead the way with their design and performance."*

Both devices are scheduled for official launch in 2013.

For more information about Actisense, visit www.actisense.com and follow them on Twitter and Facebook.

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If you would like to find out more or would like to interview Phil Whitehurst, please contact Darren Northeast of Darren Northeast PR (working on behalf of Active Research Ltd) on 01202 676762 or pr@darrennortheast.co.uk.