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## **Actisense launches the new QNB-1 - Quick Network Block**

Actisense, the leading brand from Active Research, based in Poole, Dorset, has introduced an innovative new product to the expanding marine interface market.

The Actisense Quick Network Block allows backbone networking connections to be made easy and fault-free on National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) buses and networks.

Essentially, the Actisense QNB-1 is two products in one, being compatible with both NMEA 0183 buses and NMEA 2000 networks.

When used on an NMEA 0183 bus, the QNB-1 provides a junction box to connect multiple NMEA 0183 devices together. A talker device is connected to one of the network connection points, while each listener is connected to the remaining connection points.

The QNB-1 is also a multi-drop NMEA 2000 network backbone connection block, adhering to the barrier strip connection type detailed in the NMEA 2000 specification documents.

These advances make the QNB-1 a highly versatile product for both today's market and in the future, as NMEA 2000 progressively becomes the standard serial data communications network to interconnect marine electronic equipment on vessels.

In addition, on an NMEA 2000 CAN (Controller Area Network), each network node is made up of a tee-junction and connectors which are sold at a high cost. The QNB-1 helps to overcome this by providing a low cost solution to connecting additional devices to an existing network, as it removes the need for additional network nodes, this makes the QNB-1 a space saving device as well.

The QNB-1 features eight 5-way connection points, which allows up to six NMEA 2000 network drops and two backbone connections. It is also compatible with all baud rates from 4,800 (NMEA 0183) to 250,000 (CAN /NMEA 2000).

Phil Whitehurst, Managing Director, Active Research said, "We have had requests from customers wanting to have a simple solution to provide the NMEA 'Barrier-Strip' method as outlined in the NMEA 2000 specification. The Actisense QNB-1 meets those needs, and adds some useful additional



# Press Release

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features.”

Further benefits include in-built LED indicators that show power status, detect power reversal, and show whether the fuses are still intact. In addition, detector circuitry is provided to indicate the presence of data on the connected bus or network.

No software is required with the Actisense QNB-1, making it simple and easy to use.

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Words: 385

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## Notes to Editor

Active Research, Dorset, UK, was founded in 1997 to design innovative and reliable marine electronic equipment. We developed the first smart depth sensor, which is now marketed through Airmar Technology Corporation. Active Research has been instrumental in designing products for many marine electronic companies, with many thousands of products on the market showing off the company's design expertise.

The "Actisense" brand name was created in 2001 to help promote the company's growing range of marine interconnection devices and smart sensors. A range of products has now been designed and is being actively marketed with the aim of becoming a leader in the interconnection and sensor market segment.

Active Research has now shipped over 80,000 products, and is fast becoming a well known high quality brand of marine interfacing equipment, Actisense will continue to release a wide range of marine products to the market over the next year, and will be pursuing greater recognition through advertising, press releases and representation at marine trade shows.

Based on the south coast of England in Poole, Active Research Limited employs three full time engineers, giving a very high investment in R & D, with over 40% of revenues being spent on new product development each year.

Active Research is a member of both the BMF and the NMEA.

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