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SmartPak Troubleshooting

Testing your SmartPak System with SL150 or SL250 Displays.

If you are having problems with your SmartPak System, the best way to analyze it is to start off with the fewest components possible. This means that you only want your SL175 SensePak, with the power feeding into it, one SL150 or SL250 display, and just the speed transducer to begin with.

Once you have set this up, pull up a page with speed and log on it. Remember that if you have pages with functions programmed that are not available to the system, this can create an MRF data failure. This includes pages that you are not displaying. For example, if your display is looking for apparent wind, and the SL225 is not plugged in, you will get an error message. All six functions on each page you are using must be filled in.
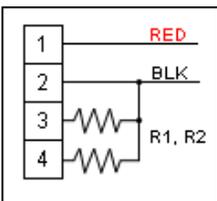
An example for your first page could be:
1. Speed
2. Depth
3. Temp
4. Log
5. Tlog
6. Time

If the above set-up works, next plug in the depth transducer and pull up the above page. If the system goes haywire when you plug this in, you know that the transducer is causing a problem.
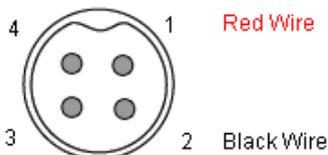
Continue this procedure by programming a page of info that includes some wind functions on it. Next, plug in the 225 and its cables to the mast sensor. Once again, if the system starts acting up when you plug any of these in, you will know the source of the problem.

At this point, checking your connections for corrosion and exchanging bus cables to determine if one is bad is the best course of action. Also in some instances, just rotating the bus/power cable hook-up pattern can solve some "mysterious" problems. For example, instead of having the power go into the SL175 SensePak and then the bus cable connect to your display, try connecting the power to the display first and then run the bus cable to the SensePak.

Very rarely, a defective power cable can be the cause of system malfunction. The cable has resistors incorporated into it and a resistance of approximately 120~130 ohms should be read between pin 4 and 2 (the black wire) and between pin 3 and 2.

Continue building your entire system in the above manner. If you have more than one SL150 or SL250 display, you can exchange the extra one(s) with the display you are using to see if this is causing a problem.

Front view of SmartPak power cable 1-1701.260