# TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB01-2023

1st February 2023

## Tron AIS TR-8000 compatibility (mkI vs mkII) and Firmware versions

As detailed in last year's Bulletin, **TB02-2022**, there are physical differences between the older "mkI" transponder (P/N 85300) and the newer "mkII" as explained in below table:

| Transponder Version | RS232 port | RS422 ports (High speed-Ext Display compatible) | Blue Sign (Hardware-Software compatible) |
|---|---|---|---|
| P/N 85300 (mkI) (2011 to 2021) | ✓ | 2 | ✗ |
| P/N 103650 (mkII) (Sept. 2021 ->) | ✗ | 4 | ✓ |

TB02-2022 stated that you should NOT try to upgrade Firmware on "mkI" to "mkII" due to the physical differences. After extended testing, we can now advise that it is possible to upgrade "mkI" to "mkII" Firmware (01.02.xx), but you will not get the physical changes of cause by upgrading the Firmware. If a"mk1" (P/N 85300) is upgraded to "mkII" Firmware, the following applies:

| Transponder Version | RS232 port | RS422 ports (High speed-Ext Display compatible) | Blue Sign (Hardware-Software compatible) |
|---|---|---|---|
| P/N 85300 (mkI) with "mkII"(01.02.xx) firmware installed | ✓ | 3 | ✗ |

Which means that you now can use "Long Range port" as a standard "External Display port"

It is critical that both Transponder unit and Display unit use same "main" versions of Firmware to be able to communicate

| TR-8000 | Transponder Firmware | Display Firmware | Full Compatibility |
|---|---|---|---|
| mkI | 01.00.x | 01.00.x | ✓ |
| | 01.01.x | 01.01.x | ✓ |
| mkII | 01.02.x | 01.02.x | ✓ |

If either the Transponder or Display is replaced with a new one, or Firmware is only upgraded on one of the units, make sure that both use the same "main" versions of Firmware.

(Same "main" version means that the first 4 digits in the Firmware version are the same)

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## Benefits of upgrading Firmware:

- Correct filtering of AIS-EPIRB testing:
  (will not see pop-ups (below) from nearby vessels testing their AIS-EPIRBS, unless specifically enabled):



- Compatible Alarm handling with New Bridge Alert Management (BAM), see LINK
- Extra "External Display" port available as "Long Range" can be redefined for use as "External Display 3"

Firmware is available for Dealers/Distributors on our web: https://jotron.com in "Download" section under each product.

Larvik, February 2023

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