Enhance Your Receiver or Transponders Performance

With more and more yachts fitting AIS receivers and transponders, it makes sense to use a VHF antenna that’s up to the job. AIS systems actually utilise a frequency of around 162 MHz whereas traditional VHF operates at 156 MHz. The difference does not sound significant, but the use of a dedicated, tuned AIS antenna will significantly enhance performance of both receivers and transponders.

Digital Yacht has just launched the AA10 antenna which is specifically designed to operate with AIS systems. It is a white quarter wave whip antenna which measures just 47cm. It is designed to fit a standard, one inch GPS antenna style mounting, so it can be fitted on to the pushpit rail, mast top or wheel house roof allowing for all possible installations. It comes complete with a 10 metre cable which is fitted with a neat solder-less connector, so that you do not have to drill a great big hole through bulk heads in the boat when running the cable.

The AA10 antenna costs £34 plus VAT and is available from Digital Yacht. For further information please call +44 (0)117 955 4474 or email sales@digitalyacht.co.uk or log on to www.digitalyacht.co.uk

- ENDS –
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 the 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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