

# TECHNICAL NOTE

February 22, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Using Two Interfaces For MPIII and Non-MPIII Tracers With DTW

**PROBLEM:** With the introduction of the Micropack III (MPIII) family of Tracers, the Tracer PC Interface has changed. This document tells customers who have existing non-MPIII Tracers and wish to use newer MPIII Tracers how to configure their computer and use DTW 3.40 or higher to transparently have both Interfaces connected to their computer.

**CURE:** Use of a serial port switch is possible where the MPIII Interface is connected to one side of the switch and the non-MPIII Interface is connected to the other, but this method is not discussed further in this document. However, it is important to keep the switch set to the MPIII Interface unless using non-MPIII Tracers. When completed with the communication to the non-MPIII Tracers, return to the MPIII setting. This will maintain the charge in the MPIII Interface.

For computers with two Serial Port connections, it is important that the following procedure be used. The serial port powers the MPIII PC Interface. If it is not continuously powered, it will not have enough energy to communicate with Tracers.

## PROCEDURE:

Attach the non-MPIII Interface to the COM1 port on the computer. Attach the MPIII Interface to COM2.

Enter DTW setup screen and check the box labeled "Auto Find Comm Port".

To read a non-MPIII Tracer, place the Tracer in the Interface and select the "Read Tracer" button from the DATATRACE control panel.

To read a MPIII Tracer, ensure that no Tracer is present in the non-MPIII Interface unit. Place the MPIII Tracer into the MPIII Interface and select "Read Tracer".

Programming Tracers works in the same manner. To use the non-MPIII Interface, place a Tracer in the Interface. To use the MPIII Interface, ensure no Tracer is present in the non-MPIII Interface and place the Tracer in the MPIII Interface.