Here's The Best Way To Extend MCU004 Cable Runs

December 27, 2018
Tech Tip #2018-04

The MCU004 is supplied with a three-meter cable. This cable is approximately ten feet in length, which is close to the maximum cable length for this type of USB connection, which is fifteen feet. This can be problematic for vessels where the MCU004 needs to be placed further away.

Many off-the-shelf USB cable extenders have not produced reliable results and have caused system problems. Furuno USA has tested and recommends that our dealers consider the following devices to extend the MCU004 cable run, when necessary:

- Onn High-Speed Transmission 4-Port 2.0 Technology USB Hub* available from Walmart.

- HDE USB over Cat5/5e/6 Extension Cable RJ45 Adapter Set* available from Amazon.

It is VERY important that selected devices are NOT powered externally. If an externally powered hub or amp is used, it will prevent the software from being able to properly reset the MCU004 when needed.

The suggested connection would be as follows:

MFD ——— USB Hub v2 ——— USB Extender to RJ45 ——— High Quality Shielded Ethernet Cable ——— RJ45 to USB Adapter ——— MCU004.

The Maximum allowed Ethernet cable run for this example extension is ten meters. Extending the cable beyond this limit will increase the odds of a communications failure and is not recommended.

We look forward to providing you more of these useful technical tips in the future.