VIAVI Solutions

Application Note

ALT-8000 Radio Altimeter, Part Number 87340; New Release of ALT-8000 Software Version 1.4.1 and Operations Manual

This information bulletin is to inform current users of the ALT-8000 of a new version of operational software and operations manual that is currently available for download.

Effectivity: Available for all ALT-8000 test set users who want to install this operational software update. Implementation of this version of software will change the currently installed version to 1.4.1. The updated ALT-8000 operations manual will detail some of the touchscreen changes caused by the new software.

Summary of changes:

1. Product improvement.
   Adds support of the GRA55 altimeter which requires RF firmware v1.04.00 or higher. If the ALT-8000 RF module has a lower version, unit will show message stating RF firmware needs updating to support GRA55.

2. Product improvement.
   Added indications when UUT measurements are stale – measurement readings will go grey.

3. Product improvement.
   Delay calibration screen now returns to the calibration screen so results can be seen immediately and a popup bubble will appear stating if calibration was completed successfully or not.

4. Product improvement.
   Adds a self-test routine to help user verify if the ALT-8000 is functioning properly or not.
   Note: Installation of F/W upgrade adds self-test capability to the menu selection. With some test sets we have experienced occasional nuisance failures of the self-test for various tests due to slight variations in system hardware. If you do experience self-test failures with the updated F/W please contact customer service for further assistance. We are working



to resolve these issues as soon as possible and your feedback is valuable in the resolution process.

5. Product improvement.
   Allows the user to switch the power measurement display to either "Loop loss" or "Absolute power" at UUT RX.

6. Product improvement
   Allows altitude fields to be displayed in either feet or meters.

7. Product improvement
   Added an option to show "Start/Stop" frequencies instead of "Center/Span" frequencies on the main simulation screen.

8. Product improvement
   The auto detect routine is improved to show a "Detecting" state in addition to the "Run/Stop" states while it is detecting the CDF signal from the altimeter.

9. Product improvement
   Long boot time is improved by deferring the loading of some screens which are not needed for altimeter testing.

1. Description of problem:
   - Corrected low power readings
   Corrected a defect that was causing RF power to read too low.

2. Description of problem:
   - RCI command "*RST" did not work.
   This command was corrected so unit will be reset to default condition.

3. Description of problem:
   - Unit may stop responding to RCI commands after running a simulation for long periods of time.
   A memory allocation issue was corrected to resolve this problem.

Downloading and Installing New Software:

NOTE: If the current firmware is less than 1.3.XX, you will need to upgrade to 1.3.26 prior to installing 1.4.1. Failure to follow this can make the unit inoperable and would need to be returned to the factory for repair. If unit is already at 1.3.XX, then continue with normal upgrade procedures.

Refer to the ALT-8000 maintenance manual (part number 89022) for the procedure or contact our customer support department for an RMA before sending the ALT-8000 to Viavi. Contact customer service at +1-844 GO VIAVI (+1-844-468-4284) or on the web at Avcomm.service@viavisolutions.com.

The installation of new revision software is outlined in the operator's manual 88035 (section 5.2.2). The latest version of the ALT-8000 software and operations manual can be downloaded when available at the following web link: https://www.viavisolutions.com/en-us/products/alt-8015-fmcw-military-pulse-radio-altimeter-test-set

Revision	Date	Reason	Reference
AA	8/4/2011	New Release	500000002057
AB	9/27/2011	Next Revision	500000002263
AC	3/20/2011	New Revision	500000002803
AD	7/29/2014	Release of version 1.3.2 operating system	500000005769
AE	4/14/2017	Release of version 1.4.1 operating system	500000007839
AF	5/22/2017	Version 1.4.1 Bulletin Update	500000007839

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