APPLICATION NOTE NO. 58   Revised **May 2004**

Sea-Bird DOS-Based Terminal Programs and Microsoft Windows 95/98

This Application Note describes the system settings for running a Sea-Bird, DOS-based Terminal Program (such as Term19 or Term25) on a PC with a Microsoft Windows 95 or 98 operating system.

Some users have experienced difficulties communicating with their instruments via a Sea-Bird, DOS-based Terminal Program, if the Terminal Program is on a PC running Microsoft Windows 95 or 98. Problems are more likely to occur on lap-top computers. These problems include:
- Unreliable communications
- Dropping of characters when uploading data from a CTD with internal memory

If you experience difficulties:
- **Most instruments:** Switch to our Windows-based terminal program, SEATERM.
  SBE 26 or 26*plus* SEAGAUGE: Switch to our Windows-based terminal program SeatermW (part of the SEASOFT for Waves – Win32 suite).
  Note that the Windows-based software is available for free download on our FTP site (go to www.seabird.com and click on *FTP Site* for details),
OR
- Follow the instructions below to modify system settings to run the DOS-based terminal program.

NOTE: Paths given in the directions below are for Windows 98 systems. However, the settings are valid for Windows 95 as well.

1. **MS-DOS properties may need to be changed**.
   Right-click on the MS-DOS icon and click on Properties to set the following:
   - Screen/Usage – Window
   - Misc/Idle Sensitivity – Low
   - Misc/Foreground – turn *Allow Screen Saver* off

2. **COM port settings may need to be changed**.
   Left-click on Start and follow this path: Settings/Control Panel/System/Device Manager/Ports/COM1 or COM2, as appropriate/Port Settings/Advanced. Set the buffers as follows:
   - Receive buffer – near low
   - Transmit buffer - high

3. *For laptop computers*, **power properties may need to be changed**. Left-click on Start and follow this path: Settings/Control Panel/Power.
   - Turn **off** 'Allow Windows to manage power use on this computer'.
   NOTE: Use AC power or a fully charged battery pack when uploading data.

4. If you are using the same COM port to interface with both a Windows-based program and Sea-Bird's DOS-based program, the typical system setup will not allow the release of the COM port from either program until you close the program. **To provide *hot-swapping* capability between the programs:**
   A. Left click on Start and select Run.
   B. In the dialog box, type *sysedit*.
   C. The System Configuration Editor appears. Click on the system.ini window.
   D. Add the following to the [386Enh] section of the system.ini file (create a 386Enh section if it does not exist):
   > ComnAutoAssign=0
   > *where* n is the COM port number (for example, Com1AutoAssign=0)