

MP/1086NT RELEASE NOTES

Effective 06 June 2001

1.0 General:

Thank you for choosing this EPC 1086 product for your recording needs. These release notes detail known conditions and limitations that effect the MP1086 and the 1086NT. This information is supplemental to the Operator's Manual and should be read completely before operating the equipment.

2.0 Boot Process:

The latest installment of the 1086 product has two different configurations: The MP1086, for *Multi Purpose*, and the 1086NT for *Network Interface*. Both systems differ from their predecessors in that there is a new, common architecture. The older ISA based 486 processor has been replaced with a 32 bit Pentium class board which runs Windows NT Embedded on a PCISA type bus. The robust nature of the operating system requires a larger non-volatile memory to store the system code and takes considerably longer to boot up. After initial power-on, the 1086 will appear to be unresponsive for a period of 50-60 seconds. This is normal. As with older 1086s, system readiness will be evident when the LCD displays show the system menus and the Take-up spool stops spinning.

3.0 Shutdown:

As stated in the previous paragraph, the MP/1086NT uses a sophisticated operating system. Prior to turning the machine off, the operator should allow a minute for any disk activity to conclude. The system settings or data sets may not be properly saved if power is removed immediately after saving the configuration or disabling data acquisition. EPC recommends waiting 30-60 seconds with the machine in idle mode prior to removing power.

4.0 Device Drivers:

The Embedded NT operating system loads several device drivers on startup. The device configuration has been set at the factory to provide services for only those peripherals that are critical to the operation of the unit. When the system loads, com ports, keyboard, and other basic services start. At the end of this process, the 1086 program executes and begins an endless loop. If there is a keyboard and monitor connected to the system, the operator can exit the 1086 program by typing EXIT<ENTER> at the console. The keyboard can then be used to navigate the OS in traditional fashion. The OS is a paired down version of Windows NT and may look slightly different from the full OS. Many fonts, services, and application are not installed. One such service is the Mouse Class.

To enable mouse support, the operator must use the keyboard to browse to the Control Panel and then the Device folder (Device Manager). From this dialog, the Mouse Class can be changed from 'Disabled' to 'System'. When the system boots the next time, any attached mouse should be supported. If no mouse is attached, a non-critical error message will be displayed and the system should still function normally. System administrators may want to connect a mouse to make configuring the Network settings easier (TCP/IP addresses, etc.). Only those individuals who are very comfortable with the NT operating system should be attempting this type of procedure.

5.0 Third Party Software:

EPC does not recommend installing third party software onto the flash file system. Space on the solid-state disk is very limited, and using all available space may cause system problems. Still, if the need arises to load third party software, like Laplink or other utilities, use caution. It is a good idea to contact EPC Labs first.

6.0 New Features:

The MP1086 differs from the 1086NT only in the Towfish interface and the removable mass storage. Otherwise, the units are identical and both offer significant enhancements over previous products. Some of these enhancements are as follows:

- Ethernet Interface for logging data to XTF files on a network drive
- Improved GSP interface for annotating formatted nav strings
- Speed correction feature based on GPS speed info
- Auto-annotation for recording settings changes (scale, time-base etc.)
- On-line help facility for printing keyboard map
- Improved control panel performance

7.0 Known Issues:

At the time of release, EPC is aware of some minor operational conditions that adversely affect the use of the equipment:

- a. Analog printing may be disabled if a PC is connected to the Parallel input. The work-around is to simply disconnect the parallel cable during analog data collection.
- b. When printing only two shades of gray (black and white), some hesitation may be seen at fast print speeds. Synchronization may also be lost when printing two shades with fast chart speeds (80-120 LPI). There is no work-around but EPC is looking into the condition.

- c. If a keyboard is connected to the system, it may occasionally appear to be unresponsive immediately following power-up. This condition is generally cleared by pressing the <enter> key a couple of times. EPC is not sure yet why this happens, but is looking into the issue.
- d. When logging data across a network (LAN) to a disk file on a remote PC, analog print may hesitate (one or two line loss of data) when processor intensive actions are taken on the remote machine. This is especially true when the directory and/or the file that the 1086 is writing is simultaneously accessed. EPC views this as an expected side effect in an asynchronous multi-tasking system. More customer feedback is required before EPC can adequately assess this issue as an operational defect.
- e. When viewing XTF data on some popular processing systems, data may appear in reverse orientation or level-shifted. These types of issues are easily resolved with software utilities that will be provided on an as-need basis.
- f. The Image Width command is not currently implemented.

8.0 Reporting Defects and Enhancement Requests:

Please e-mail sales@epclabs.com or call 1-978-777-1996 to report defects or request product enhancements. Beyond all else, EPC Labs values customer satisfaction. Timely feedback will allow EPC to not only meet, but exceed the goals of the customer's programs.