N4903B-01A

S E R V I C E N O T E

Supersedes:
N4903B-01

N4903B - Serial Bit Error Ratio Tester

Serial Numbers: **DE49100100 – DE49100250**
MY49100300 - MY49100350

An incorrect setting within the Agilent IO Libraries may lead to programmatic inaccessibility and communication failure of the N4903B when connected via the GPIB bus.

Parts Required:

P/N	Description	Qty.

NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

SERVICE NOTE CLASSIFICATION: **MODIFICATION RECOMMENDED**			
ACTION CATEGORY:	[[]] ON SPECIFIED FAILURE XX AGREEABLE TIME	STANDARDS LABOR: 0.1 Hours	
LOCATION CATEGORY:	XX CUSTOMER INSTALLABLE XX ON-SITE XX SERVICE CENTER XX CHANNEL PARTNER	SERVICE INVENTORY: [[]] RETURN [[]] SCRAP XX SEE TEXT	USED PARTS: [[]] RETURN [[]] SCRAP XX SEE TEXT
AVAILABILITY: PRODUCT'S SUPPORT LIFE		NO CHARGE AVAILABLE UNTIL: 31-Jan-2011	
AUTHOR: HK		PRODUCT LINE: PL24	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:			

June 24, 2010
Rev. 17

Agilent Technologies

Situation:
The N4903B instrument has a GPIB connector on the back which may be used for programmatic control of the unit. On a GPIB bus there are several slaves and one master, which usually would be an external PC connected to the GPIB bus acting as a controller. However, in the noted serial number range of the N4903B there may be the case that the N4903B may act as master, too. This leads to a communication failure of the complete GPIB bus.

It is necessary to change the settings of the built-in GPIB controller card with the help of the Agilent IO Libraries ("Agilent Connection Expert").

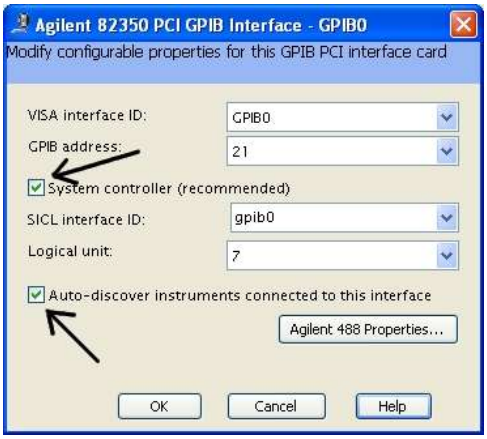
Solution/Action:
Please execute the following steps to correctly configure the N4903B GPIB interface card:

1. Identify the icon of the Agilent IO Libraries in the lower right corner of the N4903B display (), right-click on it, search for the menu entry "Agilent Connection Expert" and start it.

2. You will see the following window:

Identify the GPIB0 interface, select it with the mouse and right-click it to get the menu shown above. In the menu select "Change Properties".

3. You will see the following picture:



You will find the 2 checkboxes checked as shown in the picture above.

4. Please **uncheck** both checkboxes as shown in the next picture:

The **correct** settings shown in the picture above will make sure that the N4903B does not act as GPIB master and does not disturb communication on the GPIB bus.

5. Click **ok** in the window above (step 4) and return to the main screen of the "Agilent Connection Expert".

Identify the GPIB0 interface, select it with the mouse and right-click it to get the menu shown above. In the menu select "**Ignore**".

6. The green  next to the GPIB0 in the list should change to purple  as shown in the picture below. "Ignore" means, that the "Agilent Connection Expert" will ignore devices connected to this interface on future device scans. This will prevent the "Agilent Connection Expert" from reconfiguring devices connected to this interface and the configuration steps described above will persist.