Is J1939 similar to NMEA 2000 in that the J1939 network requires terminators?

Yes, J1939 and NMEA 2000 both use CAN technology where network topology requires terminators on both ends of the trunk or backbone. Please refer to the application note entitled, "Interfacing J1939 Engines and/or Gensets to an NMEA 2000® Network Using Maretron's J1939 to NMEA 2000® Gateway (J2K100)".

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