

METEOROLOGY HYDROLOGY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Hail sensor

Description

The HDI is a very low-power, maintenance -free, totally sealed and mechanically ultrarobust acoustic instrument with no mobile parts.

It is able to detect hailstones between 0.5 and 7.5 cm diameter and will survive the most extreme hail episodes.

The sensing part of the instrument is a three layer polished stainless disc supported by an unbreakable stainless-steel arm. Impacts of hailstones (or any other lithometeors in the same range of kinetic energy) induce a measurable change in internal acoustic pressure.

It features continuous or pulse analog voltage outputs and supports SDI-12 communication, serial RS- 232, and Modbus RTU RS485 (using an optional adapter).

The full configuration of the sensor can be customized at any time with a Plug-and-Play PC connection or remotely, using serial commands.





Technical specifications may be varied without prior notice

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Technical specifications

MEASUREMENT CHARACTERISTICS		
Measuring surface	200mm outer diameter disc	
Precipitation detected by the sensor	Solid only (hail). 15 classes, from 0.5 cm (minimal detectable diameter) to \geq 7.5 cm (possible saturation of the instrument). Counting of the number of hailstone impacts up to 25 impacts per second.	
Measurement accuracy	For a given controlled elastic momentum impact (such as spheres of equal diameter, density, Young modulus, falling speed and incidence angle), the response of the sensor varies typically by \pm 10%, depending on the spatial position of the impact on the disc and on the sensor (\pm 10% variability between two sensors).	
Particle speed	Not measured	
VOLTAGE RANGES AND MEASUREMENT SCALES		
Voltage outputs	Continuous analogue voltage or pulse analog voltage, user selectable $+0$ to $+2.5V$ or $+0$ to $+5V$ are available. Pulse threshold, integrator timeout and duration are also user selectable. The continuous analog voltage persists on the outputs so that output voltages can be read at any time.	
Hail scaling	Sensitivity @voltage range +2.5V: [100mV/hits/s)] i.e. +2.5V corresponds to 25 hits/s Sensitivity @voltage range +5V: [200 mV/(hits/s)] i.e. +5V corresponds to 25 hits/s	
POWER SUPPLY		
Voltage	6 V to 30 V DC (9.6 V and 16 V DC in case of powering through the SDI-12 terminals)	
Current	< 1 mA in stand-by mode and 20 mA max in acquisition mode. For a typical nominal duty-cycle of 10%: 2.1 mA (20 mA for duty-cycle of 100%).	
INTERFACCE		
Analog	Pulse and continuous (and persistent) voltages, 0-2.5V or 0-5V	
SDI-12	Yes, V1.3 (distrometer output via extended SDI-12 commands)	
RS-232	Yes	
Modbus RTU (RS-485)	Yes (Note: requires the Modbus adapter accessory)	
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES		
Material	Stainless steel and aluminium Ematal anodized (breakdown voltage > 40 V/ μ m).	
Weigh	3.2 kg without mounting kit 5.4 kg with mounting kit	
Dimensions	260mm x 450mm x 200mm (con kit di montaggio)	
Installation	Universal mounting kit	
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS		
Temperature range	-40 80°C	
Relative humidity	0 100%	
Protection	IP68, survive to 3m immersion in salt water	
Standards	EN 61326-1: 2013, CE compliant 2014/30/EU, CE compliant	

Ordering codes

Hail sensor	PCTHD000
USB-pen for configuration	PCTHD001
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