High-Speed Portable Dewpoint Meter

MODEL XPDM

QUICK AND PRECISE SPOT CHECKS OF MOISTURE

(-148°F to +68°F Dewpoint)

www.cosaxentaur.com
OVERVIEW
The portable Dewpoint Meter Model XPDM is a battery operated, hand-held instrument, designed for applications where quick and accurate dewpoint measurements have to be made. With the XPDM, accurate spot-checks of moisture in gases can be made faster and easier than ever, over the range of -148°F to +68°F (-100°C to +20°C) dewpoint.

APPLICATIONS
Important uses of the XPDM include: petrochemical, feedstock gases, instrument air, transformer and switch gear insulating gases, gas cylinders and air separation plants, welding gases, shipboard LNG and aviation oxygen, transfer standard, custody transfer and others.

OPERATING PRINCIPLE
Aluminum oxide sensors adsorb much faster than they desorb water molecules. It is therefore an advantage, if at the beginning of the measurement the sensor is dryer than the sample to be measured. The XPDM keeps the sensor in dry storage until the measurement is taken. The sensor slides directly from the dry storage into the sample cell, without ever coming in contact with ambient air. After the measurement is completed, the sensor slides back into the dry storage, where it is dried down for the next sample.

SAMPLE CELL DESIGN
All surfaces in contact with the sample are made from 316 stainless steel and are electropolished to assure rapid equilibrium with the sample. Sensor and piston slide through spring-loaded PTFE seals protecting the sample cell as well as the desiccant cartridge from intrusion of wet air or gas.

The sample cell can measure gas flows of up to 20 liters per minute. The flow rate has no effect on the measurement. The pressure in the sample cell is near atmospheric and should not exceed 2 bar (29 psi).

The instrument computer gives a read out at sensor pressure as well as at any line pressure the user enters for the particular sample. No correction is needed for different gases.

SAMPLE CONNECTIONS
Sample connections can be made by means of a variety of different fittings, depending on the application. The primary port fittings are 1/4” VCO. The following table shows the recommended fittings for different dewpoint ranges and instrument uses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Adapter</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VCO to barbed hose</td>
<td>Used above -85°F (-65°C)</td>
<td>Make sure sample flow rate is sufficient. Use PTFE hoses only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCO to VCO</td>
<td>All ranges</td>
<td>Where flexible connection is required, use flexible stainless steel hoses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCO to Swagelok</td>
<td>All ranges</td>
<td>Where rigid connections are acceptable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIELD EXCHANGEABLE DESICCANT CARTRIDGE
The desiccant cartridge and its connection to the sample cell have been designed for maximum gas tightness. The sensor movement between desiccant chamber and sample cell occurs with a minimum amount of gas transfer. Thus, the desiccant life is prolonged. The desiccant can be replaced in the field in a matter of minutes, by simply exchanging the cartridge.

SPAN CHECK WITHOUT REFERENCE STANDARDS
Xentaur HTF™ high capacitance sensors have a very low residual capacitance when dry, and saturate at a predesigned level of humidity above +68°F (+20°C). This allows a span check of the sensor by cupping the sensor in the palm of one’s hand for one minute, and adjusting the instrument to its upper range limit. The advantages of this span check system are obvious: Xentaur sensors can be field calibrated anywhere, anytime without using expensive and cumbersome calibration standards. Sensors do not have to be returned to the factory for recalibration, which also eliminates the need for a second stand-by sensor.
The HTF™ aluminum oxide sensor installed in the model XPDM is the product of years of intensive research at the laboratories of Xentaur Corporation. It offers significant performance advantages over all other aluminum oxide moisture sensors.

The operating principle is similar to that of other aluminum oxide sensors: a hygroscopic layer of aluminum oxide adsorbs or releases water molecules within its pores, depending on the water vapor pressure in its environment. Thus, the electrical capacitance of the aluminum oxide layer changes with the surrounding water vapor pressure. The electrical capacitance is measured between the aluminum core of the sensor and a porous conductive gold layer on the outside.

The advantage of the Xentaur sensor is a proprietary manufacturing method in which the aluminum oxide layer is made to be hyper-thin as well as extremely hygroscopic. This results in a very sensitive sensor with fast response.

**USER INTERFACE**

The instrument is operated through a simple user interface consisting of a digital LCD display, and four push buttons.

The user can select from the following engineering units:
- dewpoint in °C or °F
- ppmv
- lbs H2O/ million scf. (Natural Gas)
- grams of H2O/m3 (Natural Gas)

Results are displayed at sensor pressure (atmospheric) or by pushing the Pressure Correct key at a user selectable alternative pressure, such as the line pressure.

**POWER SUPPLY AND SIGNAL OUTPUTS OPTION**

The instrument is powered by a 9V battery which lasts for 100 hours of continuous operation. An automatic shut-off feature makes sure that the battery is not kept in use unnecessarily.

Optionally, the instrument can be equipped with an external power supply jack and signal output board. The instrument can then operate from 15 - 20 V AC or DC, or from a car battery adapter. All signal outputs are isolated from the sensor. The analog output can be current or voltage. The RS-232 output can be easily connected to a PC or a modem.
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

DEWPOINT SENSOR ELEMENT
Type: Hyper-Thin-Film high capacitance Al₂O₃
Dewpoint range: -148°F to +68°F (-100°C to +20°C)
Accuracy: ±5.5°F (± 3°C)
Repeatability: ±0.9°F (±0.5°C)
Response time*: For a step change from -40°C to -60°C: 63% in 90 seconds; 90% in 450 seconds

TEMPERATURE RANGE
Sensor: -22°F to 120°F (-30°C to +50°C)
Electronics: 14°F to 120°F (-10°C to +50°C)
Storage temperature: -4°F to +140°F (-20°C to +60°C)
Sample flow range: Static to 100 m/s (linear velocity @1atm)
Calibration method: This field calibration procedure is fully automated and the user is prompted through a simple one minute procedure, which requires no additional equipment. NIST traceable factory calibration optionally available.

TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE MEASUREMENTS
The sample temperature is measured with a precision integrated circuit temperature sensor. Units may be optionally fitted with a pressure sensor.

MECHANICAL
Enclosure: Anodized Aluminum, Dimensions: 2.5" x 4.25" x 7.5". Regulator and Filter mounting facilities.
Sampling chamber: Electropolished 316 stainless steel
Moving parts seals: Spring energized PTFE seals
Pressure operating range: Standard: 29 PSI (2 bar)
          Absolute max.: 100 PSI (6.8 bar)
Gas sample connections: 1/4" VCO input and output ports
Electrical connections: Optional 2mm DC power jack, 9 pin “D” for analog & RS-232.
Power requirements: 9v battery and optional 15-25V AC or DC wall transformer.

*These response times are not directly comparable to competitors data, because of differences in measurement methodology and data presentation. Please inquire for detailed comparisons between Xentaur and other major sensor manufacturers.

FEATURES
Sensor storage: When not in use the sensor is retracted in a molecular sieve container and kept at an approximate dewpoint of -80°C. The sample gas pressure activates a piston which automatically moves the sensor into the sampling chamber, thus even low dewpoints can be measured extremely quickly.
Area classification: Approved for use in hazardous (classified) areas Class I, Div. 1, Groups A, B, C & D. Available as an option.
Input resolution: 0.1°C dew point.
Indicators: LCD with backlight, 3.5 digits and custom legends for units and mode, audio alert.
Engineering units: °C, °F, PPM, lbs H₂O/mm scf, g H₂O/m³
Controls: 5 push buttons, all settings stored in EEPROM. Manual Sensor Actuator.
Outputs: Optional 4/20mA or 0/24mA and RS-232.
Isolation: Sensor and case are isolated from the power supply, analog output and RS-232.
Battery saver: Auto power off after 6 minutes.
Pressure correct: Programmable pressure correction button.

For more detailed technical comparisons with other technologies visit:
http://www.cosaxentaur.com

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