



AutoRead® Hand-Held Device/Programmer

System Requirements

1. System will collect and store meter readings either manually via a keypad, automatically by utilizing a "touch" device for remote reading, or by wireless connection to a reading gun. All meter readings will be captured in the meter reading device for later analysis, including multiple data entries and bad readings.
2. The system will be fully programmable route information, meter reader prompts and questions. "High/Low" checking must be provided for on both "touch" and manually entered readings.
3. The system must provide for bi-directional communications between the utility's mainframe computer and the personal computer by utilizing a communications/charging stand. The vendor shall describe all personal computer hardware, software and peripheral devices which are necessary for the operation of the proposed system. The technical specifications, model numbers, etc. of the personal computer equipment proposed shall be provided. The utility reserves the right to substitute an equivalent personal computer and peripheral devices which it may presently own or may purchase from a vendor of the utility's choosing.
4. The software which is proposed for use on the personal computer must be suitable for use by a non-technical operator. And, the software will have enough user-friendly features to free the operator from having to be overly familiar with the programs, other than the basic operational procedures. The software must also provide for customer-select management reports related to the data of the meter route read.
5. The proposed equipment shall be suitable to withstand a rugged field meter reading environment. Such features shall include, but may not be limited to the following:
 - Alphanumeric keypad
 - Durable weatherproof housing
 - 3.0" wide x 2.3" high or larger display (3.8" diagonal or greater)
 - Backlit displays
 - Field adjustable contrast displays
 - Tactile response keypad
 - Weigh less than three pounds (48 oz.)
 - Field adjustable audible tone
 - 256 megabyte of memory
 - Durable carrying belt with hand straps
 - Watertight gun connectors
 - Compatible to read Sensus TouchRead Meters
 - Function Keys
6. All meter reading equipment shall include memory sufficient to store at least 3000 readings before data downloading is required. Internal hardware and software data must have the ability to verify the integrity of the collected data.
7. The meter reading device must include a full-function alphanumeric keypad, which will be utilized by the non-technical meter reading personnel for manual entry of readings from conventional meters as well as the entry of special notes.

The reading device must also have the capability to manually enter and record readings from meters not on the pre-defined routes.
8. Each meter reading device must be powered by a longlife, lightweight, field-replaceable, nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) battery pack. The battery pack must be capable of supporting multiple days' readings without the need to recharge. The field units must be recharged while resting in the communication/charging stand. A meter reading device which is placed in the stand at the end of the working day must be fully charged prior to the beginning of the next working day. The field devices must provide for protection of the stored data should the NiMH battery pack fail to provide power. Each meter reading device must be equipped with its own charging stand and not require any special pin connections.
9. Successful meter readings must be confirmed by a loud, audible tone, which will simultaneously alert the operator in the event of a faulty or missed reading.
10. The meter reading device must be equipped with a date and time-of-day clock, which automatically records the date and time of reading into each "touch" or manual reading.
11. The software will provide, at the user's option, forward or reverse movement through the route.
12. The successful bidder shall provide full and complete hardware and software documentation, which shall include but not be limited to operator manuals which are designed for use by non-technical users, as well as detailed technical manuals which are designed for use by technical support and programing personnel.
13. The vendor shall provide a complete list of all standard features which are included with each meter reading device and all other equipment and/or system proposed. In addition, the vendor shall provide a full listing, description and unit pricing of all optional features which may be available to the utility.

SPECIFICATIONS

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Warranties and Service

1. The vendor shall be required to state its warranty and/or guarantee policy with respect to each item of proposed equipment. The procedures for submitting warranty claims must also be provided.
2. The full cost of service, if required, for each item of proposed equipment must be stated. The cost of service agreements or contracts, if available, must be stated. The vendor must agree to guarantee the cost of service for a period of one (1) year following the expiration of the warranty period.
3. The location of the nearest service center, hours of operation and average repair time for each item proposed must be stated. All hardware service policies must be clearly stated. The availability of on-site hardware support and service must be explained.
4. Due to the utility's need to process water consumption data on a continuing basis, and the utility's determination not to stock "reserve" equipment, the vendor must agree to provide "loaner" replacement equipment should any service be required.
5. A sample form of any proposed service agreements shall be provided.
6. The vendor's policy regarding software warranties shall be clearly stated.
7. The policies and costs associated with software modifications and technical support shall be stated. The procedures and names, addresses and telephone numbers of software support personnel shall be provided and updated by the vendor on a continuing basis.

User Training and Education

It shall be the responsibility of the vendor to provide a complete on-site training program for the utility's staff. This program is intended to fully familiarize staff with the operation of all aspects of the hardware and software which is to be provided. The bidder shall state the proposed format of such a training program, the number of hours of initial on-site support to be provided as well as the recommended schedule of follow-up visits. The vendor shall also state its hourly rate for on-site and/or remote support which may be required by the utility. The location and procedures for obtaining such support shall be stated.

AUTHORIZED SENSUS DISTRIBUTOR



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