

**VALEPORT LIMITED**  
**miniSVP/CTD – Direct Reading**  
**Operating Manual**

Document Ref: 0660839  
Document Version: C  
Date: May 2013

This confidential document was prepared by the staff of Valeport Limited, the Company, and is the property of the Company, which also owns the copyright therein. All rights conferred by the law of the copyright and by virtue of international copyright conventions are reserved to the Company. This document must not be copied, reprinted or reproduced in any material form, either wholly or in part, and the contents of this document, and any method or technique available therefrom, must not be disclosed to any other person whatsoever without the prior written consent of the Company.

Valeport Limited,  
St Peters Quay,  
Totnes,  
Devon, TQ9 5EW,  
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1803 869292  
Fax: +44 (0)1803 869293  
e-mail: [sales@valeport.co.uk](mailto:sales@valeport.co.uk)  
Web: [www.valeport.co.uk](http://www.valeport.co.uk)

As part of our policy of continuous development, we reserve the right to alter, without prior notice, all specifications, designs, prices and conditions of supply for all our equipment.

Copyright ©2013

---

<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1	INTRODUCTION .....	3
2	SPECIFICATIONS .....	4
3	DATA REQUESTS AND OUTPUT FORMATS.....	7
4	WIRING INFORMATION .....	9

## 1 **INTRODUCTION**

This manual covers the basic specifications, deployment and maintenance procedures for the:

- miniCTD-DR                      Direct reading *CTD sensor*
- miniSVP-DR                     Direct reading *SVP sensor*

The instrument can be controlled by sending commands directly, using a suitable terminal emulation program such as HyperTerminal.

The instrument is based on Valeport's existing "mini" sensor range. The product is available in either 500m rated acetal or 6000m rated titanium housing. The housing material has no effect on instrument function or operation. Where illustrations show plastic housing, it may be taken that the instructions apply equally to titanium housing, and vice versa.

The product has been designed to be simple to use and maintain, as well as being small and lightweight for easy handling and deployment.

## 2 SPECIFICATIONS

### Dimensions:

	Housing Ø	Sensor bulkhead Ø	Overall length
<i>miniCTD-DR</i>	48mm	54mm	295mm
<i>miniSVP-DR</i>	48mm	54mm	360mm

### Materials:

Part	Material
Main housing	Titanium (6000m) or acetal (500m)
Sensor bulkhead	Titanium (6000m) or acetal (500m)
Conductivity Sensor (6000m)	Titanium structure, polyurethane coating, ceramic core
Conductivity Sensor (500m)	Acetal structure, ceramic core
Sound Velocity Sensor	Carbon Composite legs, Titanium Body, Ceramic Transducer
Temperature sensor	Titanium
Pressure sensor	Ceramic transducer behind polycarbonate window.

### Power:

<i>External</i>	9 – 28v DC input
<i>miniCTD/SVP-DR</i>	<250mW (20mA @12v)

### Connection:

Standard is Subconn type MCBH10F (MCBH6F prior to 2013)

In titanium on titanium housings, in brass on acetal housings

Alternatives may be supplied on request

Wiring Information is in Section 4

### Output:

Units are fitted with both RS232 and half-duplex RS485 communications as standard, selected by pin choice on the output connector. Protocol is 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, and no flow control.

Baud rate is factory set to 19200. User may choose between 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200. (Note that fast data rates may not be possible with low baud rates). Continuous output at 1, 2, 4 or 8Hz

**Acoustic Frequency (miniSVP):**

Single sound pulse of 2.5MHz frequency.

**Performance:**

Sensor		miniSVP	miniCTD
<b>Sound Velocity</b>	<i>Range</i>	1400 – 1600m/s	
	<i>Accuracy</i>	±0.03m/s	
	<i>Resolution</i>	0.001m/s	
<b>Conductivity</b>	<i>Range</i>		0 – 80mS/cm
	<i>Accuracy</i>		±0.01mS/cm
	<i>Resolution</i>		0.001mS/cm
<b>Pressure</b>	<i>Range</i>	10, 50, 100, 300, 600Bar	10, 50, 100, 300, 600Bar
	<i>Accuracy</i>	±0.05% range	±0.05% range
	<i>Resolution</i>	0.001% range	0.001% range
<b>Temperature</b>	<i>Range</i>	-5 to +35°C	-5 to +35°C
	<i>Accuracy</i>	±0.01°C	±0.01°C
	<i>Resolution</i>	0.001°C	0.001°C

Certain features of the sensors used in the “mini” range are designed specifically to enable high quality data to be delivered:

<b>Sound Velocity (miniSVP)</b>	
<i>Carbon Composite Rods:</i>	<p>The carbon composite material used for the sensor spacer rods has been specifically selected to provide 3 features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Excellent corrosion resistance</li> <li>b) Very high strength</li> <li>c) Virtually zero coefficient of thermal expansion</li> </ul> <p>This last point is particularly important; accurate sound velocity measurement relies on measuring the time taken for a pulse of sound to travel a known distance. The material selected does not measurably expand over the operating temperatures of the instrument, ensuring the highest possible accuracy at all times.</p>
<i>Digital Sampling Technique:</i>	<p>Enables a timing resolution of 1/100th of a nanosecond, equivalent to about 0.5mm/sec speed of sound on a 25mm path sensor, or 0.125mm/sec on a 100mm sensor. In practice, the output is restricted to 1mm/sec resolution.</p> <p>Linear sensor performance allows easy calibration.</p>

<b>Conductivity (miniCTD)</b>	
<i>Construction Materials:</i>	The materials used in the Valeport Conductivity sensor have been specially chosen to resist compression at high pressure; This unique approach ensures that it performs within specification under even the harshest of field conditions.
<i>Digital Sampling Technique:</i>	A new digital sampling technique allows the Valeport conductivity sensor to operate with significantly less noise and greater long term stability than traditional inductive cells.

### 3 DATA REQUESTS AND OUTPUT FORMATS

The miniCTD-DR respond to a series of text commands that are detailed here, for those users who wish to interface the products to other systems. Note that this list is not comprehensive, but will allow the standard functions of the instrument to be accessed. For more detailed information, please contact Valeport Ltd.

#### Notes

- All commands must be confirmed using “Carriage Return” or “Enter” on the keyboard, with the exception of the “Stop” command (#).
- All commands are echoed back by the instrument as they are typed

Code	Followed By	Operation
#		Interrupts instrument when running
M	rate<CR>	Performs continuous measurement at set rate. If rate is omitted then instrument performs continuous measurements at previous rate.  1 ,2, 4 or 8 Hz
S	<CR>	Returns a single reading
#001	;address<CR>	Sets the 485 address
#002	<CR>	Returns the address
#004	<CR>	Read header info
#005	;ON<CR> or ;OFF<CR>	Turns ON or OFF address mode
#006	<CR>	Returns ON or OFF for address mode
#015	<CR>	Returns last result
#026	;valeport_separator<CR>	Sets the Valeport output string separator (4 chars)
#027	<CR>	Returns the Valeport output string separator
#028	<CR>	Set the unit into run mode
#029	<CR>	Read run mode
#032	<CR>	Returns the software version number.
#034	<CR>	Returns the units serial number
#039	;ModeValue<CR>	Set mode without putting unit into run mode  Where Mode = M or B Value = 1,2,4 or 8 for Normal mode (M) Value = 1,2,3,4 or 5 for Burst mode(B)
#040	<CR>	Read operating mode.

#059	;baud_rate<CR>	Sets the units baud rate 2400,4800,9600,19200,38400
#082	;ON or OFF or 3 or 2 or CSV	Add decimal point into output string or CSV selects CT (when no pressure selected)
#091	;ON<CR> or ;OFF<CR>	Sets miniCTD startup mode. OFF=No readings at startup, ON=Readings at last rate at startup
#102	;ON or OFF<CR>	Sets 485 mode
#103	<CR>	Sends 485 mode

## Data Formats

Real time data follows the format described below. Use #091 to control whether the instrument starts sampling as soon as power is applied or waits for command.

**miniSVP example**      10.351      21.488      1506.739

**miniCTD example**      10.147      26.519      23.146

- The data separator is a tab (this may be altered if required).
- Data is presented in the order: Pressure, Temperature, SV/Conductivity
- Pressure data format is dependent on sensor range, and may be any of the following. Leading zeroes are included, so it is a fixed length string:
  - PPPP.P (e.g. 0123.4 dBar)
  - PPP.PP (e.g. 012.34 dBar)
  - PP.PPP (e.g. 12.345 dBar)
- The temperature data is given to 3 decimal places. Value is in °C and leading zeroes are included; signed if negative:
  - 21.456
  - 02.769
  - -01.174
- Conductivity (miniCTD) is given in mS/cm, as a fixed length string with 3 decimal places, and leading zeroes if appropriate.
- Sound Velocity (miniSVP) is given in m/s, as a fixed length string with 3 decimal places. In air, the sensor reads 0000.000



#### 4 WIRING INFORMATION

Wiring colours are correct at the time the manual was printed. However, it is advised that continuity checks are performed prior to all terminations.

Systems are supplied with a short (50cm) lead for splicing or testing

For systems fitted with 6 way subconn(pre 2013):

Subconn 6 pin male line (MCIL6M)		Function	9 Way D Type	4mm Banana Plugs	
Pin	Wire Colour (See note 1)		Pin	Pin	Wire colour
1		RS232 GND	5 (Link to 1,6,8,9)		
2		RS232 Tx (Out of sensor) or RS485A	2		
3		RS232 Rx (Into sensor) or RS485B	3		
4		+V		Red Plug	Red, linked to Green inside D type
5		Link to Pin 1 for RS485. N/C for RS232			
6 (Link to pin 1 in sensor)		Power GND		Black Plug	Black, linked to Brown inside D type

1: Due to colour differences in supplied pigtailed, no colours have been stated, therefore it is necessary to check colour to pin number.

For systems fitted with 10 Way subconn(Post 2013)

END 1: 10Way Male SUBCONN			END 2: Free End		FUNCTION
CONNECTOR	WIRE COLOUR	PIN	CONNECTOR	PIN	
SUBCONN MCIL10M+DLSA-M 4Mt	BLACK	1			-V
	WHITE	2			+V
	RED	3			N/C
	GREEN	4			N/C
	ORANGE	5			RS485 Enable
	BLUE	6			N/C
	WHITE/BLACK	7			RS232 Tx (Out of sensor) / RS485A_Inv
	RED/BLACK	8			RS232 Rx (Into sensor) / RS485B_Non-Inv
	GREEN/BLACK	9			RS232 GND
	ORANGE/BLACK	10			N/C

**Note:** For RS232 Communication, leave Pin5 on END 1 connector open.  
For RS485 Communication, link Pin5 to Pin9 on END 1 connector.