

Opti Monitoring Hardware Operations & Maintenance Manual

Prepared by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Safety Information	4
Contact Information	4
Necessary Tools	4
Introduction	5
Hardware Information	6
Opti Monitoring Panel	6
OptiThunder Cellular Gateway	7
OptiThunder Status Indicator Light	7
Genasun Charge Controller Indicator Light	8
Wiring Ports and Terminals (Solar and Sensor)	8
Battery and Power Switch	8
Cellular Antenna	8
Serial Number	8
Maintenance Procedures	9
Routine Maintenance	9
Monitoring Panel De-Energizing Procedure	9
Water Level Sensor Calibration	10
Winterization and Dewinterization	10
Winterization	10
Dewinterization	11
Troubleshooting	11
Dependency Flow Diagram	11
Triggers for Maintenance	12
Opti Dashboard Troubleshooting Examples	12
Water Level Sensor Electrical Failure	12
Water Quality Sensor Biofouling	13
Soil Moisture Sensor Placement	13
Soil Moisture Sensor Failure	14
Connectivity Failure	14
Rain Gage Obstruction	15
TSS Sensor Obstruction	15
Appendix A: Inspection/Maintenance Log	17

Appendix A: Inspection/Maintenance Log

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Opti Monitoring Hardware O&M Manual | 2 **Confidential Information**



Appendix B: Sensor Installation Guide

18

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Opti Monitoring Installation
- Figure 2 Opti Monitoring Control Panel
- Figure 3 Opti Monitoring Panel annotated with major components
- Figure 4 Dependency flow diagram
- Figure 5 Faulty water level sensor readings
- Figure 6 Biofouled conductivity readings
- Figure 7 Periodic soil moisture sensor readings
- Figure 8 Soil moisture sensor failure readings
- Figure 9 Faulty connectivity readings
- Figure 10 Rain gage obstruction readings
- Figure 11 TSS sensor obstruction readings

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1Common status indicator light signals
- Table 2Sensor components and common maintenance procedures
- Table 3Hardware tests for panel components

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix AInspection/Maintenance LogAppendix BSensor Installation Guide

LIST OF ACRONYMS

NFPANational Fire Protection AgencyOSHAOccupational Safety and Health AdministrationTSSTotal Suspended Solids



Safety Information

- Power must be turned off before servicing, modifying, or maintaining any equipment. Refer to the De-Energizing Procedure for instructions to turn power off.
- OptiRTC does not warranty hardware beyond that of the vendor or manufacturer, and it is the Owner's responsibility to verify hardware integrity prior to any on-site work.
- Only Qualified Personnel (according to OSHA 1910.332) should conduct electrical work on-site, and all work should conform to national and local electric codes (e.g. NFPA 70).
- Proper confined space entry procedures should be followed at all times when entering confined space outlet structures.

Contact Information

Contact Opti for online dashboard operation, site management, system operation questions, Opti services, and other support questions.

Email: <u>support@optirtc.com</u> Phone: (844) 678-4782, Ext. 2

Necessary Tools

This is a list of tools routinely used for maintenance on Opti Monitoring hardware.

- Phillips Head screwdriver for opening panels.
- Small slotted 2.5mm screwdriver for changing screw terminal connections.
- Wire strippers and wire clips for installing sensors.
- Multimeter for checking connectivity and voltage. Be sure to understand multimeter use by using online tutorials from electronics websites such as <u>iFixit</u> and <u>SparkFun</u>.
- Soft cloth for cleaning solar panels.
- Bucket for calibrating water level sensors.
- Water depth gage for calibrating water level sensors.



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Introduction

This manual provides guidance for operating and maintaining the hardware for your Opti monitoring installation. Environmental sensors associated with the Opti monitoring installation may include: water level sensors, soil moisture sensors, rain gages, total suspended solids (TSS) sensors, and other multiparameter water quality sensors in custom configurations based on site needs.

Each Opti monitoring installation is unique and may include hardware not described in this manual. Contact Opti Support for questions about custom hardware maintenance.



Figure 1: Opti Monitoring Installation



Hardware Information

The basic Opti monitoring configuration includes a monitoring panel, a solar panel, and up to seven sensors in its digital, analog, and pulse sensor wiring terminals. Refer to site drawings for information on your hardware installation and component locations.

Opti Monitoring Panel

The Opti Monitoring Panel is shown in Figure 2 with major components shown in Figure 3. The serial number is located on the blue cover plate near the top. The OptiThunder cellular gateway is behind the blue cover plate. All electrical components in the monitoring panel are controlled by OptiThunder.



Figure 2: Opti Monitoring Panel cover, interior, and the OptiThunder cellular gateway and Genasun Charge Controller (left to right).



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Figure 3: Opti Monitoring Panel annotated with major components

OptiThunder Cellular Gateway

OptiThunder is Opti's proprietary cellular gateway, which connects the panel to the Opti cloud platform. The OptiThunder cellular gateway receives, processes, and sends commands to and from all sources. It also manages power consumption to its sensors from a 12V lead-acid battery, which is charged with a Genasun GV-5 charge controller and an external solar panel.

OptiThunder Status Indicator Light

The OptiThunder cellular gateway processes all incoming sensor and battery information and connects the panel to the Opti cloud platform. When on site, the status indicator lights will provide the best indication of its behavior. During normal operation, the status indicator light periodically "breathes" cyan by fading in and out softly when it is logging sensor data and sending network data and remains off between these modes, when it is in sleep mode. Cycling power to the control panel will turn the OptiThunder cellular gateway off and on, and its indicator lights will provide information about its status as it changes (Table 1). There may also be a second, smaller LED that blinks red, which can be ignored.



If the OptiThunder cellular gateway is unable to establish a cloud connection after 5 minutes, power cycle the monitoring panel using its circuit breaker to force OptiThunder to reconnect. If the issue persists contact Opti support staff for further assistance.

LED Color/Behavior	Explanation
Flashing Green	Connecting to cellular network
Flashing Cyan	Connecting to cloud
Breathing Cyan	Successfully connected to cloud
Blinking Blue	Check SIM card connection

Table 1: Common status indicator light signals

Genasun Charge Controller Indicator Light

The Genasun GV-5 charge controller maintains battery voltage from the solar panel. Its indicator light will blink various patterns in either green or red depending on its charge state. Any pattern of red blinking indicates that maintenance is required.

Wiring Ports and Terminals (Solar and Sensor)

The solar panel is connected to the Genasun charge controller through the wiring ports and terminals. The sensors will connect directly to the OptiThunder cellular gateway wiring terminals. All wires come through the wiring ports with cord grips which allow for a waterproof seal.

Battery and Power Switch

The 12V absorbed glass mat lead-acid battery is rated for 10 days of autonomous operation if disconnected from solar panels. Be sure to keep the battery connected to the solar panels and charge controller to avoid over-discharging the battery. The power switch will safely disconnect the OptiThunder cellular gateway from the battery, while keeping the battery and charge controller on.

Cellular Antenna

Depending on cellular connection strength, the cellular antenna will either be an internal antenna as shown, or a puck antenna outside the panel with a waterproof seal.

Serial Number

When contacting Opti Support, make sure to know the panel's serial number.



Maintenance Procedures

This section describes hardware operation and maintenance procedures. In addition to corrective maintenance, all components should be inspected for signs of wear or damage during regular site visits or as needed based on site specific conditions. Refer to Appendix A for an inspection and maintenance log with suggested maintenance procedures.

Routine Maintenance

Routine maintenance procedures for the Opti Monitoring Panel and its supported sensors are described in Table 2. Refer to each sensor's user manual for a more complete description of maintenance and calibration procedures.

Component	Maintenance Procedure	Maintenance Frequency
Monitoring and Solar Panels	Clean solar panels with a soft cloth. Winterize and dewinterize if needed.	Annually
Water Level Sensor	Visually inspect for obstructions and fouling. Replace desiccant cartridge if crystals have turned from blue to pink. Calibrate any time the sensor moves.	Annually and during every site visit
Rain Gage	Inspect for debris, obstructions, and corrosion. Clean as needed.	Annually and during every site visit
Soil Moisture Sensor	Check wiring and supply voltage; ensure proper soil contact.	Annually
Water Quality TSS Sensor	Clean obstructions and fouling with cotton cloth.	Annually
Multiparameter Sensor	Clean obstructions and fouling with cotton cloth.	Clean and inspect every 6 months, and send for factory calibration every 6 to 18 months as needed.

Table 2: Sensor components and common maintenance procedures

Monitoring Panel De-Energizing Procedure

Whenever maintenance is required, the Opti Monitoring Panel must first be de-energized. To de-energize, look for the power switch (Figure 3) and position it to the off position. Note that the solar panel, charge controller, and battery remain powered. If desired, the battery leads can be disconnected entirely; however, the battery will lose charging capacity over



time if not connected to a power source. If the Opti Monitoring Panel is off for extended periods of time, make sure that the battery leads are still connected to the charge controller.

Water Level Sensor Calibration

Water level sensors may need to be calibrated after: installation, dewinterization, re-location of sensors, or when data shown on the dashboard does not match observed values. All calibration is done through Opti software and requires no hardware changes. To take calibration measurements, follow this procedure:

- 1. Place the water level sensor in a bucket of water.
- 2. De-energize the Opti Monitoring Panel using the power switch.
- 3. Measure the depth of the sensing element at the end of the water level sensor.
- 4. Turn the Opti Monitoring Panel back on and wait until the status indicator light breathes cyan. This indicates that a pressure is being recorded and sent to Opti. Record both the time of the measurement and the depth of water.
- 5. Place the water level sensor in its final position in the body of water, and repeat steps 2-4 to record the sensor depth and time. Do not move the sensor afterwards.
- 6. Measure the distance between the water surface elevation and a known elevation such as a valve elevation, and record the time.
- 7. Contact Opti Support and send the three pairs of time and elevation measurements.

Winterization and Dewinterization

Winterization may be necessary if a site encounters freezing temperatures during winter months. Winterization is done to avoid damage to sensors caused by expansion of freezing water. Sites may not need winterization if sensors are installed deep enough where water does not freeze. A typical winterization and dewinterization process follows the steps below.

Winterization

- 1. Remove the sensor from the water and store it at an elevation where it will not be submerged. The sensor(s) may be attached with zip ties, with any extra cable looped neatly. This is recommended for pressure transducers, TSS sensors, and multiparameter sensors, which may be damaged by freezing water.
- 2. Once you have locked the site again, notify Opti support via email or phone that the site has been winterized.



Dewinterization

- 1. Replace all sensors in their original location in the water.
- 2. Follow the procedure described in Water Level Sensor Calibration by recording level sensor depth and time at two different water heights.
- 3. Notify Opti Support that the site is now dewinterized. Include water level sensor calibration measurements.

Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting involves identifying an issue and performing corrective maintenance on an unknown problem. Troubleshooting becomes much easier with a good understanding of dependencies within the Opti monitoring installation and the correct tools to detect where failures may be occurring.

Dependency Flow Diagram

The diagram in Figure 4 is a simplified view of the flow of information and power through various components. An arrow indicates a direct dependency, in which information or power may flow between components. This diagram can be used to help find, diagnose, and repair problems either remotely or on site.



Figure 4: Dependency flow diagram

If a problem is identified using the Opti dashboard, individual components can be tested according to this guide or the equipment's user manual. A general procedure for troubleshooting involves inspecting each part in a dependency line. Start from where the problem is first observed and work back along the arrows, until the source of the problem is found. Table 3 indicates ways to be sure that a part is working properly.



Component	Test
Solar Power and Charge Controller	Check that the power switch is flipped up, to the on position. Use a multimeter to check that voltages are the same across the charge controller.
Battery	Use a multimeter to check that the battery voltage is above 11.4 V.
Sensors	Gently tug wires and terminals to ensure none are loose. Follow common maintenance procedures for sensors (Table 2).
OptiThunder cellular gateway	Make sure status indicator light is breathing cyan. Power cycle the OptiThunder cellular gateway using the power switch.
Cellular Connection	Check the Opti dashboard for cellular connectivity.

Table 3: Hardware tests for panel components

Triggers for Maintenance

By providing real-time data online on the Opti dashboard, indicators of maintenance needs can be observed remotely. Please see below for some examples of unusual data patterns that indicate when maintenance is required.

Opti Dashboard Troubleshooting Examples

Water Level Sensor Electrical Failure

In this example, the water level sensor PT3 (orange) frequently spikes to the high end of its range (Figure 5). Since the sensor outputs an electrical signal, it appears that electrical components may be short-circuited. This sensor shows this behavior intermittently and may be irreparably damaged. To troubleshoot water level sensor issues, follow routine maintenance procedures by checking all connections to the sensor, cleaning dirt and debris, and checking the desiccant. If the problem continues, replace the sensor.





Figure 5: Faulty water level sensor readings

Water Quality Sensor Biofouling

In this example, a conductivity sensor exhibits large periodic fluctuations (Figure 6). After routine maintenance, biofouling was found to disturb site measurements. Biofouling was removed and the sensor behavior returned to normal. Be sure to perform routine maintenance as a first step to troubleshoot sensor failure.



Figure 6: Biofouled conductivity readings

Soil Moisture Sensor Placement

In this example, soil moisture sensor SM1 (green) exhibits large periodic daily fluctuations which indicate a confounding factor, such as a daily timed sprinkler (Figure 7). The sensor appears to have readings within a normal range for the site and reads storm events appropriately. Be sure to check sensor user manuals, provided separately, for information



on sensor placement. Soil moisture and TSS sensors are among the most susceptible to large errors if placed incorrectly.



Figure 7: Periodic soil moisture sensor readings

Soil Moisture Sensor Failure

In this example, soil moisture sensor SM9 (dark green) spikes erratically (Figure 8). Soil moisture sensor failures are typically caused either by poor soil contact, low voltage, or electrical damage. Check the sensor placement and electrical connection, and replace the sensor if it is damaged.



Figure 8: Soil moisture sensor failure readings

Connectivity Failure

In this example, the connectivity chart shows that the antenna needs to be moved or replaced (Figure 9). A site with more than 10% offline behavior indicates a poor connection. After a new antenna was installed, the site's connectivity improved to nearly 100% online.





Figure 9: Faulty connectivity readings

Rain Gage Obstruction

In this example, the rain gage shows a 0.01" increase every 12-14 hours, even during a dry weather period with no rainfall (Figure 10). This indicates an obstruction within the rain gage, where a small amount of debris inside the tipping bucket was causing rainfall readings. After on-site inspection, cleaning, maintenance, and recalibration, the obstruction was removed and readings returned to normal.



Figure 10: Rain gage obstruction readings

TSS Sensor Obstruction

In this example, the TSS sensor continuously displays erroneously high values of 1,000,000 mg/L (Figure 11). The triangular orange warning indicates that there are data with values outside of the graph's scale. Because the TSS sensor emits noise and detects the echo, it will report high values when there is an obstruction in front of the sensor. In this case, the TSS sensor had been buried in sediment following a large storm event. After cleaning and moving the sensor up in the water column, the sensor returned to reading normal particle concentrations.



Water Quality 🛕

12hr | 24hr | 48hr | 1wk | Dashboard's duration (7 days)



Figure 11: TSS sensor obstruction readings



Appendix A: Inspection/Maintenance Log

Personnel:	
Date and Time:	
Weather:	

Please refer to the sections on Maintenance Procedures and Troubleshooting for more detailed descriptions. The Opti Monitoring Panel must be de-energized if maintenance on any part of the system is required.

Task	Completed By (Initial)	Comments (Debris Removed, etc.)
Verify sensor readings and ranges displayed by the Opti dashboard appear to be generally accurate.		
Inspect sensors and hardware for fouling, obstruction, wear, vandalism, or other damage.		
Perform routine maintenance on all components.		

Notes / Comments:		
Completed By:	Signature:	Date:

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Appendix B: Sensor Installation Guide

Modbus Sensors				
In-Situ Sensors		APG Sensors		
V+		V+		
GND		GND		
A		A		
В		В		
Rainwise MK-III-MB		INW Sensors		
V+	-	V+		
GND	GND	GND		
A	B (+)	A		
В	A (-)	В		
	Analog	Sensors		
Decagon 10HS		Sequoia LISST-ABS		
V+		V+		
GND	Bare wire	GND		
SIG		IN		
Pulse Sensors				
Texas Electronics Tipping Bucket Davis Rain Collector II				
1		1		
2		2		