



**P•Xchange™**

**User Manual**



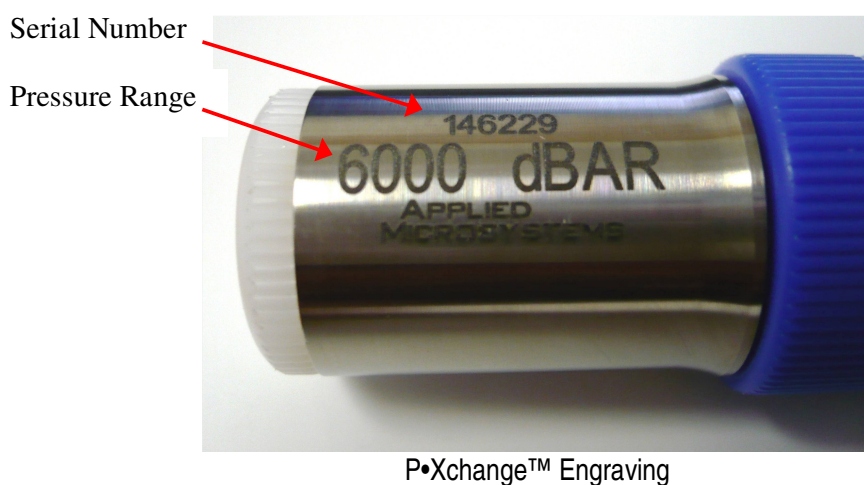
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## General Description of the Sensor

The AML Oceanographic's P•Xchange™ sensor is the industry's only field swappable pressure sensor.

The P•Xchange™ sensors store all pertinent sensor manufacturing and calibration data within the sensor. This allows the sensor to be swapped between any P•Xchange™ enabled instruments without having to manually update the calibration coefficients. Calibration sheets can be printed on demand by any instrument connected to the SeaCast software. Re-calibrations only require the sensor, not the instrument, to be shipped to the service centre. P•Xchange™ sensors are engraved at the factory with a unique serial number and the pressure range of the sensor as shown in the image below.



## Which Manual do I Start With?

AML Oceanographic's sensors and instruments may be shipped with several manuals:

- An instrument manual (ie. SV Plus v2, Minos SVP) which provides an overview on how to use and maintain the instrument;
- A software manual (ie. SeaCast) which provides instructions on how to use the software to configure the instrument and review instrument data; and
- An Xchange™ manual (for instruments equipped with Xchange™ sensors) which provides an overview on how to install and maintain Xchange™ sensors.

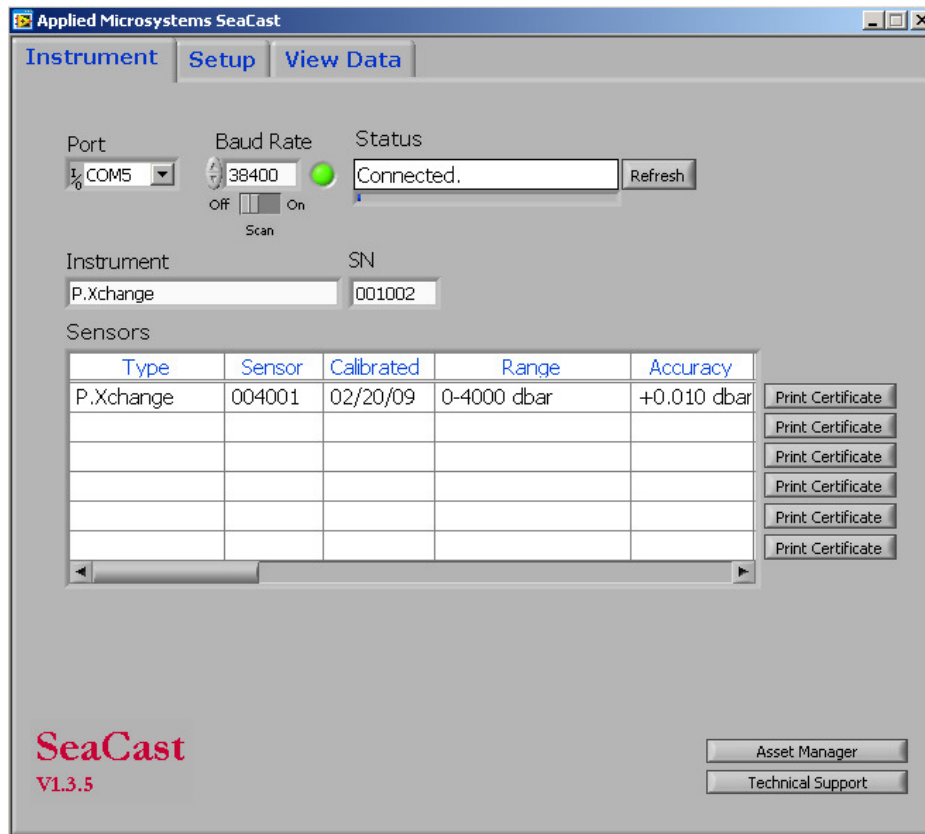
If you are configuring an instrument for field use or lab test, we recommend that you begin with the SeaCast manual. If you are focussed on instrument maintenance, we recommend that you begin with the instrument manual. If you are wishing to swap a P•Xchange™ sensor, we recommend that you read this manual.

## Shipping and Receiving

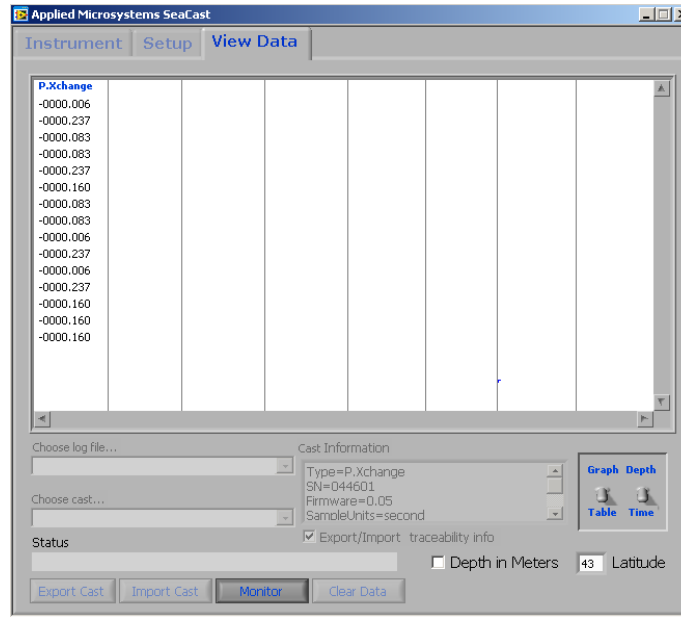
### Receiving the Sensor

When the sensor is received at a new location it is prudent to perform the following steps to ensure the sensor has not been damaged in transit:

- Check the shipping container for signs of damage
- Check for damage on the sensor itself
  - Check the sensor for dents or dirt.
  - Check the connector for corrosion or dirt
- Connect the sensor to an instrument. Connect the instrument to a computer using the data cable. Launch SeaCast, AML Oceanographic's application software. Verify that the instrument tab in SeaCast is displaying accurate P•Xchange™ sensor information. The P•Xchange™ sensor serial number and last calibration date should be displayed.



- On the View Data page select Monitor and allow the instrument to sample some data, as shown below. In air the P•Xchange™ sensor should read approximately zero dbar. P•Xchange™ sensors are calibrated to read zero at 1 standard atmosphere. There will be a slight offset in the pressure displayed due to barometric pressure. There will also be some noise in the data. The magnitude of the noise is proportional to the range of the sensor. For example, the data shown below shows the output from a 4000 dbar sensor. Here the barometric deviation from standard atmosphere is about -0.13 dbar and the noise is 0.09 dbar rms.



The accuracy of the P•Xchange™ sensors is 0.05% of the full scale range of the sensor. For comparison, accuracies for the P•Xchange™ sensors at time of calibration are as follows:

Sensor Range (dbar)	Sensor Accuracy (dbar)
50	0.025
100	0.05
200	0.10
500	0.25
1000	0.50
2000	1.0
4000	2.0
6000	3.0

### ***Shipping the Sensor***

- If shipping for repair or recalibration, obtain an RMA number from the service centre. Please refer to page 10 for contact details.
- Pack the instrument in its original shipping box to prevent damage during shipping.

## Using the P•Xchange™

This section of the manual discusses how to attach and disconnect the P•Xchange™ sensor. This section also identifies pre-deployment and post-deployment procedures, as well as periodic maintenance requirements.

### Pressure Ratings

Pressure ratings are given for both the P•Xchange™ sensor and the entire instrument. **Any deployment should never exceed the lower of these two pressure ratings.** For example, a 500m instrument equipped with a 6000 dBar (0-6000m) P•Xchange™ sensor is limited to deployments of 500m depth or less. Conversely, a 6000m instrument equipped with a 500 dBar (0-500m) P•Xchange™ sensor is also limited to deployments of 500m depth or less.

It is desirable to optimize the accuracy of pressure measurements by selecting the P•Xchange™ pressure range that most closely matches the depth of the deployment.

**Caution: Do not exceed the specified pressure ratings of the P•Xchange™ sensor or the instrument housing. Overpressure can result in damage to the P•Xchange™ sensor and the instrument.**

### Attaching the P•Xchange™ Sensor

- Select a P•Xchange™ pressure range that is compatible with your deployment.
- Ensure that the instrument socket is clean and dry
- Check the sensor's o-ring for cleanliness (see below, Inspecting & Replacing O-Rings)
- Align the sensor to the sensor mount
- Place the sensor into the mount
- Rotate the sensor until it drops down into the mount enough to allow the blue locking sleeve threads to engage the mount threads
- Screw down the blue locking sleeve until it stops. The bottom of the sleeve should be within 1 mm of the instrument end cap



### Removing the P•Xchange™ Sensor

- If the sensor has been used in salt water rinse the sensor in fresh water.
- Dry the sensor before removal to protect the connector.
- Unscrew the blue locking sleeve.
- Lift the sensor out of the mount.
- Ensure that the instrument socket is dry and clean, using compressed air if necessary.
- Immediately insert the blanking plug in the P•Xchange™ socket on the end-cap OR insert a replacement P•Xchange™ sensor

## ***Pre-Deployment Procedures***

- 4 to 6 weeks ahead
  - Ensure that the installed P•Xchange™ sensor has the correct pressure range for the deployment. If necessary, swap with another calibrated P•Xchange™ sensor with the correct range.
  - Use the receiving checklist to verify the sensor is in good working order.
  - Verify the calibration is valid for the duration of the deployment. Have the sensor re-calibrated if required or swap with another calibrated P•Xchange™ sensor.
- Before leaving the jetty
  - Ensure the P•Xchange™ sensor is properly mounted on the instrument. The blue locking sleeve should be fully threaded onto the sensor mount of the instrument.
  - Test the instrument to ensure the P•Xchange™ sensor is functioning properly.

## ***Post-Deployment Procedures***

- Ensure the sensor is clean and dry before storage

## ***Periodic Maintenance***

Periodic maintenance will prolong the life of the sensor. The following is recommended:

- If the sensor is dirty or oily use warm soapy water and allow the instrument to soak before cleaning with a rag or soft brush. Rinse with fresh water.
- Before each deployment
  - Check the sensor is properly seated on the instrument
  - Check the sensor for cleanliness or damage
- After each deployment
  - Clean and rinse the sensor using fresh water
- Before installing on an instrument
  - Check the sensor for cleanliness or damage
  - Check the o-ring under the blue locking sleeve of the sensor for cleanliness and silicon grease
- Removing from an instrument
  - Ensure the sensor is clean and dry before removing
  - Install a new sensor or blanking plug into the instrument to protect the contacts of the sensor mount
  - Safely store the sensor
- Yearly
  - Send the sensor to a service centre for diagnostics and re-calibration

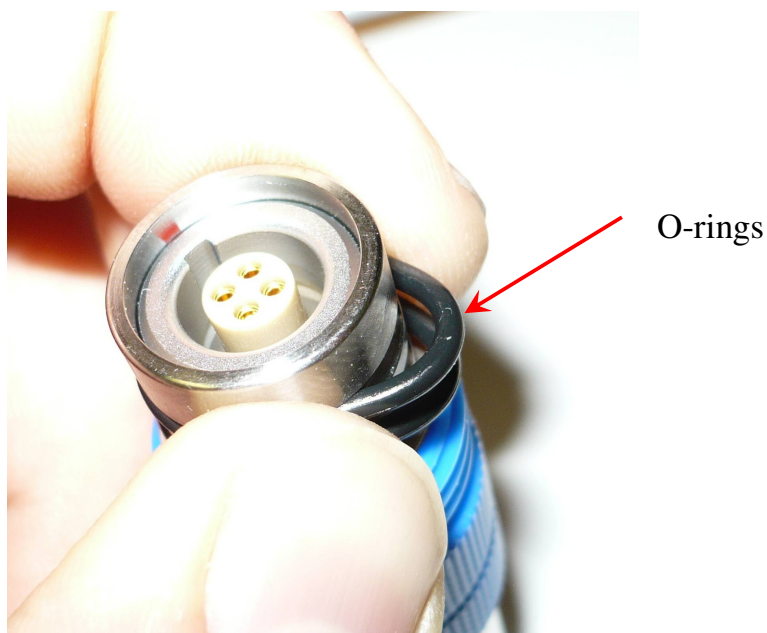
## ***Inspecting & Replacing the O-ring***

It is crucial to keep the P•Xchange™ sensor's o-rings clean and greased. Any fibres or dirt on or around the o-rings and grooves will allow water into the connector and damage both the sensor and the sensor mount. To gain access to the o-rings, perform the following steps:

- Remove the sensor from the instrument
- The o-rings should be slick with grease. If the o-rings are dry, apply silicone grease.
- Inspect the o-rings for dirt. Clean and reapply grease if necessary

- Inspect the o-rings for nicks and cracks. If any are found the o-rings must be replaced. Use 2-015-N70D Buna Nitrile o-rings. Apply silicone grease to the o-rings before replacing.

**Caution:** Do not use a sharp instrument to remove the o-rings. If the o-ring grooves are scratched, the o-rings will not provide a waterproof seal. The o-rings can be removed easily with bare hands as shown below.



O-ring Removal

## P•Xchange™ Commands

When using AML OCEANOGRAPHIC's SeaCast application software, knowledge of the instrument command set is not usually necessary. However, the operator can issue text commands to the instrument as well as to specific sensors on an instrument. This can be done from SeaCast or any terminal emulation program such as HyperTerminal.

There is additional functionality on P•Xchange™ equipped instruments with respect to the command set. To use these commands, the user must first establish direct communication with the P•Xchange™ sensor.

### ***Talking to the P•Xchange™ Sensor***

There are two ways to accomplish direct communication with the P•Xchange™ sensor. They are:

1. On a Micro P instrument with the P•Xchange™ option, the P•Xchange™ commands can be given directly to the instrument. Simply type the commands into the terminal emulation program.



2. On a Minos SVP or any Micro instrument with multiple sensors that have the P•Xchange™ option, the "TALK" command is used to direct communications to the P•Xchange™ sensor. Use the following procedure to accomplish this:

**Entering Talk Mode**

- Establish communications with the instrument
- Send a "DETECT" command to the instrument. The instrument will return a list of sensors detected on each slot of the instrument. Note the slot number for the P•Xchange™ sensor.
- Send a "TALK 1" command to the instrument. Replace the 1 with the appropriate slot number if required. This command directs subsequent communications directly to the sensor board.

**Exiting Talk Mode**

- To exit talk mode simultaneously press the CTRL and C keys

***Specific Commands of Interest***

- DIS OPTIONS                      Displays the current settings for the P•Xchange™
- DIS SV CAL                      Displays the calibration sheet for the sensor
- SET FORMAT 43                 Sets the SV format to 4 digits ahead of the decimal place and 3 digits after the decimal place
- SET FORMAT 42                 Sets the SV format to 4 digits ahead of the decimal place and 2 digits after the decimal place
- SET FORMAT 41                 Sets the SV format to 4 digits ahead of the decimal place and 1 digits after the decimal place
- SET FORMAT 40                 Sets the SV format to 4 digits with no decimal

## Customer Support

### *Troubleshooting*

Instrument fails to detect the sensor

- Is the sensor properly mounted on the instrument?
  - Is the sensor fully screwed down?
  - Check the connector on both the sensor and the instrument for corrosion or damaged contacts.
  - Cycle the instrument power.
- Call the nearest service center for support

Pressure sensor is noisy

- Check the connector on both the sensor and the instrument for corrosion or damaged contacts
- Is the instrument subject to vibrations?
- Are there pressure eddies in the water being tested?
- Is there a nearby source of electromagnetic interference? Examples are arcing brushes on electric motors, radio transmitters, switching power supplies, and faulty cathode ray tube monitors.
- Check the power supply to the sensor for noise. Ideally the power supply should have less than 30mV of noise.

The pressure sensor shows an offset error.

- Is the offset due to barometric pressure? The P.Xchange sensors are calibrated to output 0 dbar at one standard atmosphere (10.1325 dbar absolute). If the barometric pressure deviates from one standard atmosphere then the P.Xchange sensor will output the difference.
- If the ZERO command has been used to match the instrument to the atmospheric pressure the offset will continue to be applied until the ZERO OFF command is used to remove any barometric corrections.

## ***AML Oceanographic Contact Info***

### Service:

To request an RMA or technical support

Email: [service@AMLoceanographic.com](mailto:service@AMLoceanographic.com)

Phone: 1-250-656-0771

Fax: 1-250-655-3655

### Sales:

For all general sales inquiries

Email: [sales@AMLoceanographic.com](mailto:sales@AMLoceanographic.com)

Phone: 1-250-656-0771

Fax: 1-250-655-3655

### Website:

<http://www.AMLoceanographic.com>

### Customer Portal:

The Customer Portal allows AML Oceanographic customers to download calibration certificates and other related instrument/sensor documentation, view instrument/sensor details and diagnostic reports. It also allows AML Oceanographic customers to gather technical documentation, troubleshooting guides etc. RMA requests or technical support queries may also be submitted through the portal.

To access the Customer Portal, please navigate to the 'Support' button, located on the top right hand side of AML Oceanographic home page, select the 'Customer Centre' from the options on the drop down menu and follow the instructions provided.

### Mailing and Shipping Address:

AML Oceanographic Ltd.

2071 Malaview Ave.

Sidney, BC, Canada

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