

## MEA2213 Packet Data Terminal

The Packet Data Terminal (PDT) allows an MEA measurement system to automatically transmit data to an FTP site on the internet. Data is viewed at that site by anyone authorised to do so, using Magpie software.

The PDT is a plug-in device that sits between data logger and modem. It is intended to operate with modems on all mobile networks that offer packet data services, and will operate equally well with either GSM or NextG modems.

Data is transmitted automatically at user defined intervals (5 minutes, hourly, daily etc) to an FTP address. The FTP server is any computer directly connected to the internet that is running FTP server software. An FTP site is normally available from your Internet Service Provider (ISP).

No software or hardware needs to be installed on this computer.

Although the PDT is inline between data logger and modem, it will still allow a dial in connection to the data logger in order to facilitate real time communications or logger re-programming.

Thus, the PDT allows both push and pull data collection.

The advantage of the PDT is the cost savings arising from the use of the packet data function of the mobile phone network. This is particularly so when data is downloaded frequently, when there is more than one user to access data or when there are large amounts of data due to a frequent log interval or a large number of logged sensors.

Furthermore, the PDT overcomes the problem associated with international dialling. The data from a measurement system located in another country is available from the internet at whatever time you want to see it, without the vagaries and costs of an international phone call.

The combination of Magpie software's automation features and the PDT offers a powerful new way of automatically delivering data in Magpie formats (ie. graph images, CSV or HTML reports) without any requirement from the user to operate the software or the system. Magpie has the capability to generate files from data automatically and send them via e-mail. Alternatively, FTP processes can be used to post data directly to a web site.

In this mode, Magpie can be used for much more than a simple desktop application.

By choosing FTP, MEA does not need to write server specific software in order to establish a storage and data delivery server. This means that the internet based storage of data is not bound to any technology or any software vendor. The data can be hosted anywhere and be easily administered by the user.

Delivered data from site means lower risk of data loss.

At times, data may be lost from a measurement system because the user has forgotten to unload within the period dictated by the logging capacity of the data logger.

However, because the PDT at the data logger is performing the unloading at regular intervals, then as long as the system is operating correctly, it will update all logged data to

the FTP server; all of which can be collected by the user at any time in the future.

By collecting data from the data logging system using the FTP server, the need for access to a dedicated phone line and modem is eliminated (although dial-up access from at least one location is always useful). This means that corporate clients with phone systems that do not easily allow dial out access to equipment will not be prevented from obtaining data from systems.

