

Datasheet Radiosonde DFM-17



- Designed for balloon borne use throughout the world under all meteorological conditions
- Heated humidity sensor
- Multi GNSS radiosonde (GPS, GLONASS, BEIDOU)
- Highly stable transmitter
- Low weight, small size
- Simplified handling
- Operating status indication via status LEDs
- Optional XDATA interface
- Easy ground check via Near Field Communication (NFC)
- Optional barometric pressure sensor



Radiosonde DFM-17

Overview

The DFM-17 radiosonde is designed for reliable measurement of the atmospheric profile of pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction from the ground to a height of 40 km. Data records are continuously sent to the ground station via a stable telemetry connection.

Sensor boom

To ensure consistent and reliable performance, all sensors are supplied ready to fly — 100% factory-set calibrated. An additional calibration before the flight is not necessary. Temperature and humidity sensors ensure measurements during the ascent, and are not influenced by thermal effects of the housing. A mirrored surface reduces the susceptibility to errors by solar radiation. The ceramic temperature sensor guarantees a fast reaction time due to low mass and heat capacity.

Heated humidity sensor

The humidity sensor consists of three tightly integrated elements: A thin-film capacitor for measuring the relative humidity, a heating element avoiding icing, reducing the response time and improving ground check and a resistive temperature sensor. This complex structure enables a precise humidity measurement under all atmospheric conditions.

High quality telemetry

The telemetry of the radiosonde was developed for an interference-free transmission of the data and is capable of horizontal distances up to 300 km. The continuous detection and transmission of the measured values of all sensors of the radiosonde is performed in a time window of less than one second.

Near field communication (NFC)

The DFM-17 radiosondes can be initialized either via a serial interface or via integrated near field communication.

Indication of the operating status by status LEDs

The operating status of the battery, GNSS and radiosonde sensors is indicated by three status LEDs. This makes it easy to check the proper functionality of the radiosonde before launch.

Simple flight preparation

All sensors are well protected during transportation and mounted ready to fly. After unpacking, the radiosonde just needs to be initialized, thereafter it can immediately be attached to the balloon. Since the DFM-17 initialization requires very limited physical contact during flight preparation, there is no undue risk of damaging the sonde during the preflight process. The power needed during this procedure is provided by the computer via the initialization cable, thereby saving battery life. The complete preparation takes less than 1 minute!

Stable housing

The Styrofoam housing is designed to balance between maximum robustness and minimum environmental impact. The housing is designed to fully protect the electronics, including from humidity and moisture, and is strong enough to avoid any damages before and during flight. The shape and colour is designed to minimize any thermal impacts on the sensors.

Technical Data

Temperature	
Type	Resistive
Measurement Range	-90 to +60 °C
Resolution	0.01 °C (internal)
Temperature accuracy	< 0.2 °C
Repeatability in calibration	< 0.05 °C
Reproducibility in sounding	< 0.2 °C
Response time (63.2%, 5 m/s, 1000 hPa)	< 0.6 s
Stability (0.5 years)	< 0.03 °C

Humidity	
Type	Heated capacitive thin-film polymer sensor
Measurement Range	0 to 100 %rH
Resolution	0.1 %rH
Uncertainty	< 3 %rH
Reproducibility in sounding	< 2 %rH
Repeatability in calibration	< 1 %rH
Response time (6 m/s, 1000 hPa, +20 °C)	0.2 s
Response time (6 m/s, 1000 hPa, -60 °C)	10 s (time lag corrected)

Pressure	
Type	Calculated by GPS (optional barometric)
Measurement Range	1100 to 1 hPa
Resolution	0.01 hPa (internal)
Uncertainty > 100hPa	< 1 hPa
Uncertainty 100 - 10hPa	< 0.2 hPa
Uncertainty < 10hPa	< 0.04 hPa

Geopotential height	
Measurement Range	-500 m to 40,000 m
Resolution	0.1 m
Uncertainty	< 8 m
Reproducibility in sounding	< 5 m

Wind speed	
Method	Calculated by GPS
Measurement Range	0 to 200 m/s
Resolution	0.01 m/s (internal)
Uncertainty	< 0.1 m/s

Wind direction	
Method	Calculated by GPS
Measurement Range	0 to 360°
Resolution	0.01° (internal)
Uncertainty	< 1°

Telemetry	
Transmitter type	Synthesized
Tuning Range	400 - 405.99 MHz
Bandwidth	< 12 kHz
Max. range	> 250 km
Frequency stability	< 1 kHz (frequency drift < 1 kHz)
Emission bandwidth	Acc. to EN 302 054
Output power	< 100 mW
Sideband radiation	Acc. to EN 302 054
Modulation	GFSK
Data downlink	1250 bit/s
Data loss	< 1%
Sampling rate	1 Hz
Frequency channels	300 (tuneable in 20 KHz steps)
National standards	ETSI (Europe), NTIA (USA)

GNSS receiver	
Type	GPS/GLONASS/BEIDOU
Number of channels	72
Cold start acquisition time	26 s
Reacquisition time	1 s
Technology	DGPS (SBAS)
Horizontal position accuracy	< 2.5 m
Horizontal position error	< 5 m (CEP90)
Vertical position error	< 10 m (CEP90)
Velocity accuracy	< 0.05 m/s
Heading accuracy	< 0.3°
Maximum altitude	unlimited

Interface to external sensors	
Protocol	Xdata
Transfer rate	24 bytes/s

Miscellaneous	
Battery type	2 x Lithium CR123A, replaceable
Battery capacity	2 x 1500 mAh
Battery operating time	> 240 min
Battery voltage	3 - 6 V
Battery saving feature	Radiosonde powered by groundstation during preparation
Dimensions (body)	90 x 67 x 44 mm
Weight	63 g
Antenna	Steel wire strand
Documentation	Complete user documentation set is available

Unwinder	
Material of string	Polypropylene (optional cotton)
Tenacity	< 120 N
Length of string	30 m
Unwinding Speed	0.3 m/s
Weight	25 g

Packing / Labelling	
Packing type	Robust carton with individual protective placeholders
Moisture protection	Optional sealed packing with an appropriate desiccant package
Quantity per carton	Standard (1, 5, 20) or customer-specific
Labelling	Standard or customer-specific with durable and legible marking
Serial numbers	Standard or customer-specific
Shipping documentation	Standard or customer-specific packing lists, commercial invoices, customs documents, etc.

Notes: Uncertainties are expressed with 2-sigma confidence level ($k=2$); Reproducibility calculated by twin soundings.