

## Observant Remote Management System™ - Quick Start Guide

This Quick Start Guide presents an overview of the installation process. It should be used in conjunction with the Observant Desktop User Guide and Hardware Installation Guide, which are included with your equipment.



- Before installing any field units in their final locations, set them up near the base unit and configure them using the Observant Desktop software. Configuration of field units is described in the User Guide. If any problems arise during configuration, it will aid troubleshooting if all units are in the same location.
- To ensure the best possible reliability and long life of the system, carefully read the Hardware Installation Guide prior to installation.

### Important Installation Notes



- Always have an antenna or dummy load plugged into the base C1 unit's antenna post. Leaving the antenna post open can cause damage to the radio unit and void the C1 unit warranty.
- Always keep the top of a level sensor out of the water. Water level sensors are not designed to be completely immersed in water and are not covered under warranty in this case.

#### Do:

- Mount the base unit antenna at least 10 metres above ground.
- Use a low loss coaxial cable if the antenna cable is over 15 metres long. Observant recommend RF400 antenna cable for this purpose.
- Protect sensor cables from UV light, birds and insects by containing them within a protective housing such as PVC and/or electrical conduit.
- Run RS485 cable in a daisy-chain configuration, where a single cable runs from the C1 to the farthest device via all the other devices. i.e. a straight cable with the short links wired in a 'T' format.

#### Don't:

- Position the base or field unit antenna near metallic objects that absorb radio signals, e.g. water tanks.
- Position base or field unit antenna within 3 metres of transmitting devices, e.g. UHF antennas, TV antennas.
- Use a cable splitter on base or field unit antenna cables. i.e. don't attempt to use an existing antenna with a splitter.

## Installation Overview

1. Check the requirements for base antenna location in the Hardware Installation Guide - see *Radio Location Considerations*.
2. Place the base C1 unit close to the location of the computer and mount the base antenna.
3. Attach the base C1 unit to the computer's serial port using the supplied serial cable. Connect the supplied power pack to the C1 unit. Check that the C1 powers on and goes through a startup sequence where it flashes all the front panel LEDs.
4. Install the Observant Desktop software.
5. Ensure the base unit is powered on, then launch the software and run the setup wizard to configure the base C1 unit.
6. Power on any field units by placing them in direct sunlight. Start the Observant Desktop software and add the field units to the system, including any attached devices (e.g. water level sensors).
7. After the system is verified to be operating, install the field units in their intended locations.
8. Verify that the Observant Desktop software shows all units have adequate communications.
9. If any problems are experienced after the field units are commissioned, refer to Appendix C of the Hardware Installation Guide for troubleshooting suggestions.



One of the most critical installation issues arises when multiple devices are cabled to a single C1 port via the RS485 bus. To avoid device communication problems, carefully read the *Cabling Recommendations* and *Cable Run Examples* sections of the Installation Guide. In general, where there are multiple devices, the RS485 cable should be run in a daisy-chain configuration where a single cable runs from the C1 to the farthest device via all the other devices:

