

GeoNet Wireless Network

Applications

GeoNet is a low power, wireless data acquisition network developed to more efficiently collect data from widely distributed instruments where cabling and cable trenching is difficult and time consuming (or not possible).

Typical applications include...

- Groundwater monitoring
- Tailings dams
- Structural monitoring of buildings, bridges, excavations and tunnels
- Historical structures
- Mining/slope stability



● Model 8800-8-1 Multiplexer, shown with eight 2-pair cable connections.



● Model 8800-6 Sensor Node connected to Model 6150E MEMS Addressable In-Place Inclinator string.



● Model 8800-2 Network Supervisor (center), surrounded by five Model 8800-1 Sensor Nodes.

Introduction

GeoNet is a low-power, wireless data acquisition network developed to more efficiently collect data from many points. The system consists of a Network Supervisor (8800-2) and up to 100 Single-Channel Sensor Nodes (8800-1), or up to 25 Nodes when used with Sensor Node Multiplexers (8800-8). The supervisor controls the network and is the aggregator of all the data collected by the nodes. The system is compatible with all **GEOKON**® Vibrating Wire instruments and addressable sensor strings (MEMS, VW and thermistor).

Topology

The system topology takes the form of a mesh, or cluster tree, with an outdoor range¹ of 26 km or an indoor/urban range¹ of 1.2 km with line-of-sight between hops and a maximum of 4 hops.

Sensor Node Multiplexers expand the capacity at each node to 8 channels, thereby allowing clusters of closely spaced sensors to be added to the system, or to add vibrating wire load cells (which contain between 3-6 sensors), multipoint borehole extensometers (which contain between 3-8 sensors) or multilevel piezometers. Sensor cables are connected to the multiplexer through cable glands (Model 8800-8-1, 8800-8-3) or via 10-pin plugs (Model 8800-8-2). Multiplexers are connected to the nodes via a 3 m interconnect cable, with 10-pin plugs each end) and are supplied with mounting brackets for attaching to poles or backboards as required.

Operating Principle

GeoNet is built on top of the IEEE 802.15.4 standard. The network is self-healing and will reconfigure itself, if possible, to tolerate disturbances to the physical environment (see insets on backside). Up to 12 networks can coexist by setting each to a different operating frequency (channel).

The nodes that comprise the network are synchronized so that they wake from deep sleep simultaneously to communicate or collect data, and then return to sleep when finished. Nodes separated from the network will continue to collect and store data autonomously until battery expiration. When network connectivity is reestablished, the data collected is transmitted to the supervisor where it is aggregated (a copy of all data, collected and sent to the supervisor, is stored on each respective node).

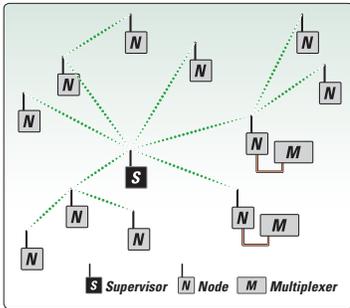
Configuration of the network and collection of data is accomplished via a PC client program by connecting to the network supervisor either directly, through cellular modems² or network serial servers. Each data array consists of the record date/time, battery voltage, node temperature, vibrating wire sensor reading, sensor temperature, array number and radio signal strength.

¹900 MHz (North America, Brazil, Singapore, Australia). Other countries: 2.4 GHz with a range of: 3 km (outdoor); 240 m (indoor/urban). Line-of-sight, maximum 4 hops.

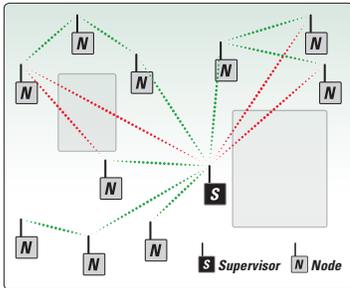
²GEOKON, INCORPORATED offers cell modem compatibility for GeoNet Supervisors by way of the Model 8800-2-4A (please contact GEOKON for details).



• Model 8800-1 Sensor Node, with 10-pin connector option and cover removed to show battery compartment.



• Typical network.



• Network with obstructions.

Communications

Communication between the Supervisor and the client software can be accomplished several ways. The Supervisor protocol is **Modbus**[®] RTU over RS-232 or USB as a virtual COM port. The software also supports network connections such as serial servers and cellular modems. Devices capable of functioning as a **Modbus** master can be programmed to collect data from the network.

Advantages and Limitations

The system is non-obtrusive, simple to deploy, has a long battery life and is self-healing to accommodate disturbances in the network environment. Nodes continue to collect and store data autonomously if separated from the network, then transmit the data to the supervisor when network connectivity is reestablished. Sensor readings are synchronized across the entire network; the minimum sample interval is 10 minutes and the maximum is 24 hours.

Technical Specifications

	8800-1 (Node)	8800-2 (Supervisor)
Measurement Accuracy	±0.025% F.S. (400-5000 Hz)	
Thermistor Accuracy	2% F.S.	NA
Thermistor Resolution	0.4°C	NA
Data Memory	32 MB	
Storage Capacity	> 1.04 M Arrays	
Communication Type	NA	USB, RS-232, RS-485
Communication Speed	NA	115 k Bits/Second
Communication Parameters	NA	8, N, 1 (data bits, parity, stop bits)
Communication Protocol	NA	Modbus RTU
Scan Interval	10-1440 Minutes	
USB Driver	NA	FTDI
Power Supply	D Cell Alkaline or Lithium (2x)	
Operating Time	Please contact GEOKON	
Operating Temperature	-40° to +85°C	
L x W x H	122 x 120 x 91 mm	

Environment

GeoNet nodes, multiplexers and supervisors are enclosed in fiberglass NEMA 4X enclosures, which are suitable for harsh environments. The enclosures are treated with a conductive coating, that protects the internal components and signals from outside interference, and offers protection from transient events caused by nearby lightning strikes. Operating temperature range is from -40° to +85°C.

Power

The Supervisor and Nodes³ are powered by either Lithium or Alkaline “D” cell batteries, or an external source up to 12 V. For information regarding Battery Life versus number of Nodes, or additional power options, including internal and external 12 V batteries and solar panels, please contact **GEOKON**.

Software

“Agent” software is used for network configuration and data collection. A database, on a local host PC, stores the data, which can be viewed and easily exported for use in other data management applications. The Agent manages the conversion of raw data to engineering units and can be configured to collect and export data automatically.

³Nodes connected to either Multiplexers or addressable sensor strings will require Lithium batteries.

Multiplexer Specifications

	8800-8-1/2/3 (Multiplexers)
Supply Voltage (Nominal)	2.8 V - 3.6 V (3.3 V)
Quiescent Current (Typical)	50 µA
On-state Current (Typical)	10 mA (varies with temperature)
Switch Resistance (Maximum)	10 Ω added in series to each VW coil
Datalogger Cable	3 m
L x W x H	260 x 160 x 91 mm (8800-8-1/3) 360 x 160 x 91 mm (8800-8-2)

Network Specifications

	900 MHz	2.4 GHz
Topology	Mesh/Cluster Tree	Mesh/Cluster Tree
Radio Technology	IEEE 802.15.4 FHSS	IEEE 802.15.4 DSSS
Radio Frequency, ISM Band	900-928 MHz	2.4 GHz
Channels	12	12
Range ¹ (Outdoor) (Indoor, Urban)	26 km (6500 m x 4 hops) ² 1220 m (305 m x 4 hops) ²	3 km (750 m x 4 hops) ³ 240 m (60 m x 4 hops) ³
Receiver Sensitivity	-101 dBm	-100 dBm
Network Throughput	78, 50, 22 kbps (1, 2, 4 hops)	78, 50, 22 kbps (1, 2, 4 hops)
Antenna (Half-Wave Dipole)	2.1 dBm	2.1 dBm
Transmit Power	24 dBm (250 mW)	10 dBm (10 mW)

¹Line-of-sight, maximum 4 hops. | ²North America, Brazil, Singapore, Australia | ³Other countries