

# Data Sheet

Vehicle Gateway Basestation (VGB) Model 4600

## Description

The Sensus FlexNet Vehicle Gateway Basestation (VGB) is a portable radio-based device used for the acquisition of data from utility meters and other field-based diagnostic instruments. The VGB is compact and portable, allowing it to be used in any vehicle providing 12-volt DC power. The operator simply places the unit in the vehicle cabin, loads the desired meter reading route into the laptop computer and drives along the prescribed route. Meter data is collected as the vehicle travels within proximity to the selected



Sensus' user-focused equipment and software provides utilities with tremendous meter reading efficiency, with fewer limitations compared to other types of radio-based meter reading systems. In addition, Sensus' software platforms operate with all of our reading packages, allowing utilities to transition systems without downtime for operator training.

## Features

### FLEXNET AND RADIOREAD COMPATIBILITY

The VGB Model 4600 provides the ability to read both Sensus RadioRead and FlexNet drive-by technologies. By combining these technologies, this solution allows the utility to maintain and utilize their existing RadioRead system and reading equipment while transitioning to FlexNet. Dual reading capability allows the utility to transition to the latest FlexNet technology and positions utilities to migrate to a fixed base platform in the future.<sup>1</sup>

### PORTABILITY

Through the use of advanced design, the radio electronics of the VGB are contained in a portable enclosure about the size of a small briefcase. With the addition of a laptop computer, connecting cables and antenna, the complete VGB package can be set up in any vehicle within minutes. The portable

VGB instantly turns almost any vehicle—even a compact car—into a meter reading machine.

### SYSTEM RELIABILITY

FlexNet and RadioRead+ utilize primary-use radio frequencies to communicate with SmartPoint modules. The combination of FCC-protected frequencies and shear transmission power of the SmartPoint modules ensure reliable communication from meters and ancillary devices. In addition, SmartPoint M2 and RadioRead+ modules provide infrastructure detail by monitoring their operating conditions and reporting meter tamper, continuous flow, leak detection (when equipped), high or low consumption and low battery alarms.

### OPERATION

The VGB sends an alert signal to the meter's SmartPoint module or ancillary device. Upon receipt of the alert, the SmartPoint module responds by transmitting its most

recent reading. Once received, the SmartPoint module returns to a low-power listening mode. The operator has the option of directing the VGB to signal all endpoints within range (blind reading mode), or to select endpoints (geographic reading mode).

### USER FRIENDLY SOFTWARE

The VGB utilizes AutoVu, a software program especially designed for operating Sensus drive-by meter reading equipment. AutoVu features a convenient, user-friendly pull-down menu system for directing the meter reading process. Operators are also able to input information, such as route notes, manually via the PC's keyboards. The operator can easily edit route data configurations when necessary. Back at the office, Sensus AutoRead processes the information gathered by AutoVu and provide the utility's billing software with a simple plug-and-play interface, no matter what Sensus reading system is utilized.

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## Specifications

<b>SERVICE</b>	Radio-based mobile utility meter reading system
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>	VGB in metal case with folding handle: Length 18.5" x Width 11.25" x Height 4.5". Includes laptop computer, USB cables, magnetic-mount antenna and hard shell carrying case.
<b>WEIGHT</b>	19lbs.
<b>POWER</b>	12-volt DCDC adapter through VGB (with battery back-up, computer only); 7 watts
<b>FREQUENCY RANGE</b>	900 – 950 MHz
<b>RECEIVER SENSITIVITY</b>	-119 dBm
<b>MEMORY</b>	Non-Volatile
<b>APPROVALS</b>	Licensed Operation US: FCC CFR 47, Part 24D, Part 101C, Part 15 Canada: Industry Canada (IC) RSS-134, RSS-210
<b>SOFTWARE</b>	AutoVu (3.0 or higher)



VGB Unit



Power Cord

GPS Antenna

USB Cord

Antenna



(1) A Vehicle Transceiver Unit (VXU) is required for dual reading capability.

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