Aircraft Ice Detectors and Related Technologies for Onground and Inflight Applications

April 1993
Final Report

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

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This report describes a number of ice detection systems and identifies companies which produce ice detection systems. Twenty-two companies were contacted for this report. Of these companies, 16 satisfied the criteria for inclusion in the report. Systems described in this report include inflight, on-ground, combined inflight and on-ground, and related technologies. Each technology category features a "Promising Technologies" section. In these sections, future ice detections systems are discussed.
PREFACE

Appreciation is expressed to the FAA Technical Center Library and the companies and manufacturers listed in this report for providing valuable information and support.
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ac Alternating Current
approx. Approximately
BITE Built in Test Equipment
°C degrees Celsius
CCD Charge Coupled Device
CCTV Closed Circuit Television
CCU Camera Control Unit
cps Cycles per Second
diam. Diameter
DNE Dataproducts New England
DOT Department of Transportation
°F degrees Fahrenheit
FAA Federal Aviation Administration
FAR Federal Aviation Regulation
FS Full Scale
ft Foot
ft•lb foot-pound
g Gram
h Hour
HOT Heat of Transformation
Hz Hertz
iDMS Ice Detection and Measuring System
in Inch
IR Infrared
kb Kilobyte
kg Kilogram
kHz Kilohertz
kn Knot
kPa Kilo Pascals
lb Pound
LCD Liquid Crystal Display
LRU Line Replaceable Unit
LWC Liquid Water Content
max Maximum
MIAMI Microwave Ice Accretion Measurement Instrument
min Minute
mm Millimeter
ms Millisecond
MSO Magnetostrictive Oscillator
MTBF Mean Time Between Failure
<table>
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<td>OAT</td>
<td>Outside Air Temperature</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCC</td>
<td>Piezoelectric Ceramic Crystal</td>
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<tr>
<td>psi</td>
<td>Pounds per Square Inch</td>
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<tr>
<td>rh</td>
<td>Relative Humidity</td>
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<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>Second</td>
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<td>Si</td>
<td>Silicon</td>
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<td>Surface Solid-State Ice Detector</td>
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<td>Thin Film Platinum Resistance Thermometer</td>
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<td>Vac</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Throughout aviation history, icing conditions have caused a significant number of accidents. As technology has advanced, improved methods of ice detection have been developed. This report identifies ice detection companies and documents the systems they produce for the aviation industry. The goal of this report is to provide a current list of available ice detection systems. Ice detection systems that are in the development stages and not yet available are included in the Promising Technologies sections of this report. The main approach used in achieving this goal was to contact the ice detection companies and examine the data that they provided. The data were assessed on these criteria: the device was an ice detector or a related technology, or a system or technology currently in the development stage.

This survey/study was initiated and completed in 1993, therefore it is only representative of those technologies during this time frame. A follow-on survey/study is in progress, which will update the technologies and provide information on those recent research efforts by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), industry, and academia.

The main source of data for this report was ice detection companies. They provided data to make the contents of this report accurate and complete. Another source used to collect data for this report was a literature search conducted at the FAA Technical Center Library. A total of 22 companies provided information. Of those companies, 16 met the criteria necessary for inclusion in this report.

There are four technology categories in this report: onground ice detection systems, inflight ice detection systems, combined onground and inflight ice detection systems, and related technologies. Each of these will include a subsection entitled “Promising Technologies.” Companies identified in this report are described as follows:

- Company name and theory of operation
- System description
- Technical specifications
- Point of contact

It must be stated that no evaluation of the systems was performed and no comparison between systems was made.
INTRODUCTION

Background

It is a vital part of flight safety to inform the flight crew of ice or icing conditions. The formation of ice can take place anywhere on an aircraft surface including engines and air induction systems. The formation of ice can occur in many ways and in many conditions. During flight, ice can accumulate when the aircraft flies through clouds containing supercooled water droplets. These clouds contain droplets of water which are suspended in a liquid state. Although water normally freezes at temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), the water droplets in an icing cloud are suspended in a supercooled unstable state as long as nothing is present on which the first ice crystal can form. Disturbance of this state causes the droplets to freeze. Ice accumulation on inflight aircraft may include rime ice, glaze ice, runback ice, and mixed ice. Rime ice is a frosty ice formation occurring at very cold temperatures during which the freezing process is rapid. Glaze ice often occurs at temperatures near freezing. The resulting ice formation often is clear because the droplets run along the surface before they freeze. This eliminates most air pockets. Runback ice may occur when impinging droplets do not freeze instantly upon impact and the liquid water "runs back" and freezes beyond the leading edge of the wing. Mixed ice is a hybrid of glaze and rime ice and forms as a result of fluctuating temperatures.

Ice may build up on an aircraft during conditions of snow, freezing rain, hail, supercooled fog, or frost. Dry snow by itself is not critical to airframe icing but in combination with supercooled droplets (mixed conditions) or in temperatures only slightly below freezing (wet snow) can create conditions where ice accretion is extremely rapid. Freezing rain usually takes place when large supercooled droplets make contact with the ground or any exposed surface. Hail is small balls or chunks of ice or snow with diameters of 0.1 to 3 inches that are developed in cumulonimbus clouds. Supercooled fog represents a fog or low cloud composed of supercooled water droplets. Frost is a thin layer of crystalline ice that forms on exposed surfaces when the temperature of these surfaces drops below 32 °F even though the outside air temperature (OAT) may be above freezing.

Ice buildup on airframes causes many concerns. Ice accretion usually results in loss of performance and loss of operational safety. Ice buildup can cause decrease in lift and increase in weight, drag, and stalling speed. The overall effect on the aircraft is loss of aerodynamic efficiency, engine power, or control surface efficiency, and increase in fuel consumption. Another danger is engine ingestion of the shed ice and subsequent damage or engine failure.

There are three ways a flight crew can be warned of the onset of ice—all have application for both onground and inflight use. The most basic technique is "meteorological prediction." The pilot needs to know the air temperature and if there is liquid water in the environment. Knowledge of cloud types and their probability of containing water is all that is needed. The second technique is to detect ice accretion
visually. Generally, the flight crew or ground crew can note the buildup of ice on wings, windshields, or other spots that may be prone to ice buildup. One of the most common visible spots for detection of ice buildup is on windshield wiper parts. During on-ground operations, the flight crew also may observe ice buildup on other aircraft as they pass by or as they wait in line for takeoff. The third method is to use devices that are specifically designed for ice detection.

There are several types of ice detection systems. Some provide the pilot with visual detection in the cockpit while others automatically activate deicing equipment. Ice detection systems are divided into two categories: primary and advisory. The major difference between the design of a primary versus an advisory ice detection system is related to meeting the requirements of Part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulation. A primary ice detection system is one that has been certified either to automatically activate deicing systems or to be used as the sole source of input for the flight crew’s deicing-related decision. As a result of lower reliability standards for an advisory system, the main detection of icing conditions is through visual cues. It is normally the pilot’s responsibility to determine if conditions are conducive to aircraft icing and to activate the ice protection systems.

Scope

This report provides a list of companies that produce ice detection systems. Every effort was made to provide a complete list of companies and ice detection systems. Each company included in this report has been contacted and has provided the information used herein. The systems cited in this report are available and/or in use as of January 1993. The sections in this report entitled "Promising Technologies" include systems that are in development.

Information in this report is categorized into four sections: Inflight Ice Detection Systems, Onground Ice Detection Systems, Combined Onground and Inflight Ice Detection Systems, and Related Technologies. Inflight ice detection systems generally incorporate a probe or intrusive type of sensor. These sensors are mounted so that they are exposed to free airflow while in flight. They are designed for detection of environmental icing conditions and are not location specific. Current onground ice detection systems generally are used to detect ice at a specific point on the aircraft. Combined onground and inflight ice detection systems are systems that use the same technology for both applications. Related technologies describes systems that have some relation to ice detection technology. Following each of these four sections will be a subsection entitled "Promising Technologies." Here related future technologies will be discussed. Within these sections information will be organized alphabetically by company. Information about each company includes a brief theory of operation of the ice detection system, a description of specific devices, technical specifications, and a point of contact through whom additional information may be obtained.
INFLIGHT ICE DETECTION SYSTEMS

Lucas Aerospace Limited

The Lucas system uses a cylindrical collecting head that rotates close to a stationary cutting edge. This system is designed for fixed wing aircraft.

Lucas Mk 3 Series Ice Detectors

The Lucas Mk 3 series ice detectors consist of a small electrically driven cylinder upon which ice may collect. Part of the cylinder is exposed to the supercooled icing airflow. The presence of ice is detected by a knife-edged cutter that operates close to the rotating cylinder. The ice buildup initiates a shaving action which increases the torque on the electric motor that is driving the cylinder. The torque on the motor under non-icing conditions is negligible. The shaving action however, causes the motor to rotate slightly within its mounting against a spring pressure. This movement of the motor operates a micro-switch, the signal from which may be used to light a warning lamp or other signal or to initiate the operation of a deicing or anti-icing system. This unit is capable of continuous operation or may be switched on or off at the pilot’s discretion. The collecting head is self-cleaning and requires no heating.

Data

Weight: 2.75lb approx.

Overall Dimensions: Length 8.75 in consisting of a 2.25 in cylinder with a 3.25 in x 0.125 in thick end mounting plate. The rotating cylinder and cutter project 1.25 in from the mounting plate. Two 3-pin polyether-sulphone terminal blocks are fitted to the main body and project 0.66 in from it.

Fixing Holes: Four 0.1935in diameter holes equally spaced around the end mounting plate at 2.7in diameter.

Design Specifications No.: N.E.S. 377 Lucas Aerospace Limited.

Voltage: 104-126 V 380-420 cps ac single phase. 18-29 Vdc

Power Consumed: 18 W
Rating: Continuous

Ambient Temperature Range: -70 to +71 °C without derangement
-65 to +50 °C operating
-55 to +50 °C starting

Altitude Rating: Sea level to 60,000 ft

Overhaul Period: 3,000 h subject to sampling at 1,000 and 2,000 h or at the nearest convenient aircraft check periods.

Mounting Attitude: It is essential to mount the unit below the aircraft’s horizontal center line and not less than 15 degrees below the center line to allow for drainage through the vent holes.

Intended Use: Inflight ice detector for aircraft to provide indication of the onset of icing conditions or to automatically initiate aircraft deicing or anti-icing systems.

Point of Contact

Phil A. Harris
Commercial Manager
Phone: 44-0582-31441
Fax: 44-0582-412292

Lucas Aerospace Limited
Fabrication Division,
Engineering & Heating Systems,
Luton Airport,
Bedfordshire, England LU2 9NQ
Normalair-Garrett Limited

The Normalair-Garrett system is a visual detector that incorporates a probe type sensor. Normalair-Garrett developed this system in the mid-1970's. This system is still available.

Normalair-Garrett’s Hot Rod Ice Detection System

This unit is mounted outside the cockpit window in a location where it can be observed by the flight crew. If the aircraft enters an icing environment, ice will buildup on the leading edge of the probe. For use at night the system has a light mounted in the base to illuminate the leading edge. The probe has been painted matte black which has proven to give the best visual background. In order to observe the rate of ice buildup, the system has the ability to be deiced. The deicing is achieved by a heater element within the rod, and is operated by a press button in the cockpit. Normalair-Garrett has a number of ice detectors of similar construction.

Data

| **Weight:** | .9lb |
| **Probe Dimensions:** | 8.0 in with 30° tilt |
| **Fixed Holes:** | 6 |
| **Voltage (heater):** | 25 to 29 Vdc |
| **Power Consumption (heater):** | 380 W |
Point of Contact

Mike Bednall
Head of Marketing
Phone: 44-0935-75181
Fax: 44-0935-27600

Normalair-Garrett Limited
Yeovil, Somerset, England
BA20 2YD

Figure 2 - NORMALAIR-GARRETT (Hot Rod Ice Detector)

Penny and Giles Avionic Systems Limited

The Penny and Giles system uses a probe type sensor that measures ice buildup in terms of Liquid Water Content (LWC). This system was designed specifically for use on helicopters and is available for all turbine-powered helicopters.

The Penny and Giles Ice Detector

The Penny and Giles Ice Detector uses an annular jet aspirator powered by engine compressor bleed air to entrain the supercooled water droplets. The water droplets in the ambient air freeze out on a low-thermal-inertia probe in the detector while it is continuously monitored by a solid state photocell. The icing severity, in terms of LWC, is electronically computed from the rate of beam-blockage of the infrared photocell as the probe collects ice. Once iced, the low-thermal-inertia probe is rapidly heated to remove the ice and then cooled to begin another cycle.
Data

Liquid Water Content: 0 to 2.0 g/m³
Airspeed: 0 to 200 kn
Air Temperature: 0 to -25 °C (32 to -13 °F)
Altitude: Sea level to 15,000 ft
Response Time: 2 s LWC 1.0 g/m³
Accuracy: ±10%

Power:
- Indicator lamps (28 Vdc) 30 W
- Ice detector (115V 400 Hz) 2 W continuous/360 W intermittent

Bleed Air Pressure: 350 ± 100 kPa (50 ± 15 psi)
or 170 ± 70 kPa (25 ± 10 psi)

Bleed Air Temperature: operating 50 to 200 °C
(120 to 390 °F)
max. 200 °C (390 °F)

Operating Temperature: -57 to +71 °C (-70 to +160 °F)

Storage Temperature: -62 to +85 °C (-80 to +185 °F)

Reliability:
- Electronics: 10,850 h MTBF

Weight:
- Ice detector 0.9 kg (2.0 lb)
- Meter 0.34 kg (0.75 lb)

Point of Contact

Kevin Rayment
Technical Sales Engineer
Phone: (0202) 476621
Fax: (0202) 470070
Rosemount Incorporated

Rosemount has developed two ice detection technologies that can be used for inflight ice detection. Both the Magnetostrictive and the Heat of Transformation Ice Detection Systems can be used for fixed and rotor wing aircraft and both take the form of a probe type sensor when used for inflight applications. (Although the Model 871CV and the Model 873B ice detectors are listed below, Rosemount produces ice detectors for many aircraft locations and applications.)

Magnetostrictive Ice Detection Systems

The sensing probe is driven magnetostrictively to vibrate at its resonant frequency of 40,000 Hz. As the ice detector enters an icing environment, ice collects on the sensing probe. The added mass of the accreted ice causes the frequency of the sensing probe to decrease in accordance with the laws of classical mechanics.

The electronic processor’s circuitry utilizes a microcontroller to monitor the probe frequency. When the probe’s vibrational frequency decreases by an amount
corresponding to a preset thickness of ice accumulation, the ice detector generates an icing signal and deices itself through internal heating elements in both the strut and probe. Deicing takes approximately five to seven seconds. Once deiced, the sensing probe cools, and is ready to sense ice formation again. When ice re-accretes on the sensing probe to the preset ice thickness trip point, another signal will be issued. Should this occur before the previous signal has timed out, the icing signal will be continuous. This cyclic process is repeated as long as the ice detector remains in an icing environment.

**Heat of Transformation Ice Detection Systems**

The Heat of Transformation Ice Detection System (HOT) uses a patented Thin Film Platinum Resistance Thermometer (TFPRT) technology. Periodically, the TFPRT sensing element is heated with constant power input until a cutoff temperature is reached. Then power to the element is removed. The element cools down and remains at ambient temperature until it is pulsed for the next cycle. During each sensing cycle, microprocessor electronics measure the time between two set point temperatures. When no ice is present on the TFPRT element, the temperature rise is steady and the times will be constant. In icing conditions, ice forms on the sapphire surface of the TFPRT element. When the sensing element is pulsed, the sapphire surface begins to heat up. When the sapphire surface reaches $0^\circ C$, any accumulated ice starts melting at the ice-sapphire interfaces. This melting absorbs considerable energy and substantially reduces the rate of temperature rise. After the accumulated ice melts and the water runs off, the rate of temperature rise returns to the same rate as before melting commenced. When the cutoff temperature is reached, power is removed from the sensing element.

To determine if ice is present during the heating cycle, the microprocessor electronics monitor the time interval required to pass through two set point temperatures. If the time interval required to pass through both temperatures is greater than the time interval in non-icing conditions, then ice is present.

**Data (Model 871CV Magnetostrictive Ice Detector)**

- **Height:** 4.1 in approx.
- **Width:** 3.84 in
- **Depth:** 3.94 in
- **Weight:** 2.0 lb max.
- **Standard Trip Point:** Nominally 0.020 in ice thickness
- **Temperature:** -55 to $+70^\circ C$
Altitude: -1000 to +50,000 ft

Duration of Icing Signal: 60 s ± 10 s

Power Requirements: 28 Vdc and/or 115 Vac, 400 Hz per MIL-STD-704A

Power Consumption: 350 W max. in deicing mode
15 W max. in sensing mode

Data (Model 873B Heat of Transformation Ice Detector)

Height: 8.9 in
Width: 2.25 ± 0.25 in
Weight: 1.5 lb approx.
Temperature: -67 to +160 °F
Altitude: 80,000 ft max.
Humidity: 100% rh at 110 °F
Icing Signal: 60 s ± 10 s
Power Requirements: 28 Vdc ± 4 Vdc (heater)
5 W (idle and detection)
400 W (deicing mode)

Point of Contact

Richard Feely
Marketing Engineer
Phone: (612) 892-4381
Fax: (612) 892-4430

Rosemount Incorporated
Aerospace Division
143000 Judicial Rd.
Burnsville, MN 55337
Sunstrand Corporation

The Sunstrand Ice Detection System use a probe type sensor and can be used on fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft.

Sunstrand Data Control's Ice Detector System

The Sunstrand system uses a mounted probe with a sensing surface facing the airstream. Beta particles are released from a Strontium 90 Radiation Source and are collimated by a specially shaped window in the probe housing. These particles pass across the sensing surface to a Geiger-Muller tube. High voltage is applied to the Geiger-Muller tube to enable it to detect the radiation emitted by the Strontium 90 source. Ice accretion on the probe decreases the beta particles detected by the tube. When the particle count drops below a pre-set level, a pulse rate discriminating amplifier energizes an icing signal visible to the flight crew. At this time a heater inside the probe is activated, the ice is removed from the probe, and the probe is ready to begin another icing cycle.

In the event of an overheat, the second relay is energized, breaking the power to the heater. A lock-on circuit keeps the second relay energized until the system can be reset.
Data (Ice Detector Probe)

Height: 5.35 in max.
Length: 2.75 in max.
Width: 2.50 in max.
Weight: Less than 1 lb

Radiation Source: 50 microcurries of Strontium in hermetically sealed capsule

Structural Integrity: Will withstand 1450 ft•lb ice ball impact

Point of Contact

Greg Francois
Marketing Product Manager
Phone: (206) 885-8576
Fax: Message Return (206) 885-2061

Sunstrand Corporation
Sunstrand Aerospace
15001 N.E. 36th Street P.O.Box 97001
Redmond, Washington 98073-9701
Vibro-Meter Corporation

Vibro-Meter’s Ice Detection Sensor can be used on fixed and rotor wing aircraft. This probe has a flush-mounted sensor that is placed in the direct airflow to detect an icing environment. (Although the Model EW134 will be described below, the technology may be configured to many shapes.)

Vibro-Meter Model EW134

The Vibro-Meter method is based upon the principle that the resonant frequency of a solid body will change with a change in mass or stiffness. Ice is detected using a continuously vibrating sensor diaphragm which is forced into oscillation at its resonant or natural frequency by a piezoelectric material. The piezoelectric material is driven by an electronic oscillator. The resonant frequency is ultrasonic (above 70 kHz) and the maximum oscillation amplitude very small (under 1 micrometer) so that effectively there are no moving parts.

Ice accretion on the sensor diaphragm increases its stiffness and mass, hence increasing the natural frequency. Water or liquid contaminants increase the sensor diaphragm mass without increasing the stiffness thus decreasing the natural frequency. This sensor is designed to extend into the free stream air flow.

Data

Height:
- Probe: 3.149 in
- Electronics housing: 5.511 in

Width: 3.5 in approx.

Weight: 1.55 lb

Material:
- Probe and sensor: Stainless steel
- All other external parts: Aluminum alloy with yellow Alodine coating

Temperature:
- Operating: -67 to +160 °F
- Survival: -76 to +185 °F

Altitude: 80,000 ft max.
Humidity:

100% rh at 110 °F

Shock:

Saw tooth pulse 20 g, 11 ms duration, 6 shock axis

Power requirements:

115 Vac ± 15 Vac, 400 Hz generally to RTCA DO-160C or specific user requirements

Point of Contact

Charles Witt
Vice President
Phone: (310) 320-8410
Fax: (310) 618-9670

Vibro-Meter Corporation
22109 South Vermont Ave.
Torrance, CA 90502

Figure 6 - VIBRO-METER (Model EW134)
Simmonds Precision

Simmonds Precision has developed two separate ultrasonic Ice Detection and Measuring Systems (IDMS). These systems use flush-mounted sensors and can be used on rotor or fixed wing aircraft with use of as many as eight sensor heads.

Simmonds Precision Ultrasonic Ice Presence Measurement System

This system uses a pulse-amplitude technique. A piezoelectric ceramic crystal (PCC) acts as a transmitter and launches an ultrasonic pulse through a delay line to the surface being monitored. After initial excitation, the PCC acts as a receiver and detects an echo returning from the surface. The delay line guarantees that the PCC has recovered from the initial excitation before it receives the returning echo. When an air interface is present at the surface being measured (no ice), a maximum amount of energy is reflected. When ice is present, approximately 30 percent of the transmitted ultrasonic energy propagates in the ice, thus reducing the level of the reflected signal the PCC receives. This level reduction provides an indication of the presence of thin ice layers. Once the ice has exceeded the threshold thickness, the sensor continues to detect the presence of ice regardless of the accretion of additional ice.

Simmonds Precision Ultrasonic Ice Thickness Measurement System

This system uses a pulse-echo technique. There are two PCC’s. One acts as a pulse transmitter, and the other acts as a pulse echo receiver. The signal conditioner sends a high-frequency excitation signal to the first PCC, which transmits an acoustic pulse toward the sensing surface. Either the sensing face or the surface of the ice, when ice is present, reflects the acoustic pulse. The second PCC receives the returning echo. The signal conditioner measures the transit time between excitation and receipt of the returning echo, thereby determining the amount of accumulated ice.

Data (Ice Presence Measuring System)

Ultrasonic Sensor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>1.355 in x 1.100 in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>0.14 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power requirements</td>
<td>28V; 5W (when deicing heater is activated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature ranges</td>
<td>-55 to +200° C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reliability: 472,000 h MTBF

**Signal Conditioner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>8.10 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>4.50 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>1.69 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>2.5 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Requirements:</td>
<td>28 V; 5 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature Ranges:</td>
<td>-55 to +74 °C (commercial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-55 to +95 °C (military)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reliability: 51,000 h MTBF

**System Accuracy:**

0.010 in ± 0.005 in (ice detection minimum thickness threshold) for temperatures of -20 to 0 °C and liquid water content levels between 0.2 to 2 g/m³.

**Data (Ice Thickness Measuring System)**

**Ultrasonic Sensor:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>1.0 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>0.6 in (or per customer specifications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Less than 0.15 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Requirements:</td>
<td>7 W (for heater, when included)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature Ranges:</td>
<td>-55 to +150 °C (operating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-55 to +300 °C (non-operating)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reliability: 100,000 h MTBF

**Ice Thickness Measuring Range:** 0.025 in to 0.150 in

**Accuracy:** Set point ± 0.005 in
Signal Conditioner:

Length: 7.0 in
Width: 4.5 in, 2.5 in thick (or per customer specifications)
Weight: 2.5 lb
Power Requirements: 28V; 5W
Temperature Ranges: -55 to +75 °C (commercial)
                      -55 to +95 °C (military)
Reliability: 31,000 h MTBF

Point of Contact

Derek Van Dyke
Director Commercial Marketing
Phone: (802) 877-4421
Fax: (802) 877-3996

Simmonds Precision
Aircraft Systems Division
Panton Road
Vergennes, VT 05491
ONGROUND ICE DETECTION SYSTEMS

Finnair

Finnair has developed a clear ice detector to aid in the visual inspection of upper wing surfaces for ice buildup.

Finnair Clear Ice Detector

These indicators have been designed for clear ice inspection during the pilot’s walk around check. If no clear ice or a negligible amount of ice exists, five equal five-millimeter-wide stripes which are painted alternating red and yellow are visible to the observer. If clear ice exists, one or more of the strips will not be visible to the observer. Thickness of clear ice can be estimated knowing that each stripe is five millimeters thick.

Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>25 mm (5 sections 5 mm each)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
<td>75 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length:</td>
<td>75 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials:</td>
<td>2.03 mm thick cres steel 321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Point of Contact

Jouko Haime
Manager Project Engineering
Phone: (358-0) 8286192
Fax: (358-0) 8186797

Finnair
Helsinki Airport
01530 Vantaa
Finland
McDonnell Douglas Corporation

McDonnell Douglas has developed the use of painted stripes to detect clear and rough ice.

McDonnell Douglas Clear Ice Detector

This system uses non-slip black painted stripes that are installed on the upper wing surface. The physical check for wing upper surface ice may be made with an inspection pole. The wing surface is rough where stripes are painted black, and smooth between the black paint stripes. When the wing’s surface in the area of the black painted stripes has a consistent texture, either rough or smooth, ice may be present and further checking of the wing surface is required. Only the rough-smooth-rough contrast felt with an inspection pole indicates no ice is present.

Data

Stripe Size: 3 in
Over All Length: 5 ft
Over All Width: 4 ft
Point of Contact

Lars Rosenbiad
Senior Engineer
Phone: (310) 593-6931
Fax: (310) 593-7352

McDonnell Douglas
3855 Lakewood Blvd.
Mail code 36-50
Long Beach, CA 90846

Figure 8 - McDonnell Douglas Clear Ice Detector

O'Connor Ladder Company Inc.

The O'Connor Ladder Company manufactures a ladder that is designed specifically to aid in the visual detection of ice that is attributable to cold soaked fuel on the surface of aircraft wings.

The O'Connor 412-9-SP Aircraft Ladder

This ladder was designed primarily for wing ice inspection on the MD 80 aircraft, however it may be used for other tasks. The ladder is made from aluminum with curved rubber pads where the ladder comes in contact with the wing surface. The ladder rests on the leading edge of the wing at a 20° slope. The ladder is designed to be used either alone to aid in the touching of airfoil surfaces, with other visual ice detection devises, or with user supplied ice detection devices. American Airlines has developed a pole that is used in conjunction with this ladder. This pole is seven feet
in length, is made from half inch schedule 40 PVC pipe, and has a hand grip at one end. This pole is attached to the ladder and can be detached to inspect the icing tufts on the upper wing surface.

Data

Weight: 30 lb per unit

Over all Length: 104 in (available in longer lengths)

Over all Width at Top: 19.5 in

Over all Width at Bottom: 28.5 in

Point of Contact

Vart Barsamian
President
Phone: (818) 579-0127
Fax: (818) 579-7268
Outside Calif: 1-800-367-1579

The O’Connor Ladder Company Inc.
1703 Floradale Ave.
South El Monte, CA 91734

Figure 9 - O’CONNOR LADDER COMPANY (Model 412-9-SP)
(pole not shown)
Rosemount Incorporated

Rosemount offers two surface-mounted ice detection technologies. The Rosemount Surface Solid-State Ice Detector (SSSID) is based on the TFPRT technology. The Rosemount Magnetostrictive Surface Sensor utilizes a magnetostrictive oscillator (MSO) circuit to detect the accretion of ice on a diaphragm mounted flush with the surrounding surface.

Magnetostrictive Ice Detection Systems

The Rosemount magnetostrictive surface ice sensor detects the accumulation of ice on a flush-mounted sensing surface. The sensing surface has a thin annular ring diaphragm section. The center of the sensing surface is rigid and is attached to a standard Rosemount magnetostrictive sensor tube. This tube expands and contracts under the influence of a varying magnetic field. The metallurgical properties of the sensor tube have been selected to minimize the effect of temperature on the overall accuracy of the sensor. The magnetic field is provided by a drive coil surrounding the lower half of the tube. An MSO circuit is created with the addition of a pickup coil and an operational amplifier. The axial movement of the tube, which results from the activation of the drive coil, causes a current to be induced in the pickup coil. This current from the pickup coil drives the operational amplifier which provides the signal for the drive coil.

In an icing situation, ice will accrete on the sensing surface. In accordance with the laws of classical mechanics, a layer of ice across the thin annular ring diaphragm section will increases the stiffness of the system, and therefore the natural frequency will increase, in direct proportion to the thickness of ice present. The accumulation of .010 inches thickness of ice on the sensing surface will cause the vibrational frequency of the system to increase by approximately 330 Hz. When the electronics, which constantly monitor the sensor’s frequency, measure the frequency change corresponding to the preselected ice thickness accumulation, an icing signal is issued.

Heat of Transformation Ice Detection Systems

The Rosemount SSSID uses a TFPRT element to sense the presence of icing conditions and/or snow accumulations. The SSSID uses microprocessor-based electronics with the ability to modify measurement parameters to fit the individual applications. The sensitivity of the sensor can be adjusted for varying ice thickness trip points and possibly differentiation between "wet" and "dry" snow measurements.

The TFPRT element consists of a thin film of platinum deposited on one side of a sapphire substrate. Supercooled water droplets and/or snow accumulate on the sapphire surface providing the basis for detection. The resistance element of the TFPRT functions both as a temperature sensor and a heater. Periodically, the element is heated by pulsing approximately three watts of power through the platinum grid causing the element’s temperature to rise at a rate of 500 °F per second. Once the
cut-off temperature is reached, the power input ceases until it is pulsed for the next cycle. During each sensing cycle, microprocessor electronics measure the time between two set point temperatures. When no ice or snow is present on the TFPRT element, the temperature rise is steady and the time duration between cycles is constant.

When the sensor is pulsed during ice or snow conditions, the ice or snow accumulated on the sapphire surface will start melting once the sensor temperature reaches 0 °C. This melting absorbs considerable energy and substantially reduces the rate of temperature rise during the frozen to liquid water phase transition period. After the ice or snow is melted, the rate of temperature rise returns to the same rate as before melting commenced. To determine if ice or snow is present during the heating cycle, the microprocessor electronics monitor the time interval required for the heated element to pass through two set temperature points. The sensor’s temperature quickly rises to the ice melting point, passing through the first temperature and triggering the ice counter. The TFPRT element temperature plateaus near 0 °C while the heat melts the accumulated ice. After the ice is completely melted, the element temperature quickly rises and passes through the second set point temperature, shutting off the internal ice counter. If the time interval required to pass through both temperatures is greater than in a non-icing conditions, then ice or snow is present.

Data

Both the Magnetostrictive Surface Ice Detection (Models 870) and the Heat of Transformation (Models 875) Ice Detection Systems are customized for each specific application.

Point of Contact

Richard Feely
Marketing Engineer
Phone: (612) 892-4381
Fax: (612) 892-4430

Rosemount Incorporated
Aerospace Division
14300 Judicial Rd.
Burnsville, MN 55337
Vitachrome Graphics

Vitachrome produces a "Tuft and Triangle Decal Assembly" for the detection of upper wing clear ice.

Vitachromes Tuft and Decal Assembly Ice Detection System

The Vitachrome systems may be used by ground maintenance personnel that are responsible for checking and verifying that the aircraft is free of ice. The system consists of a black and yellow decal that is attached to the aircraft surface. The decal has a red dacron cord (tuft) attached to it, this cord makes up the detection surface. Checking the free ends of the tufts for freedom of movement provides an indication of any surface ice formation. If any of the loose tuft ends are not free, surface ice is presumed to be present, and established deicing procedures should be conducted. Finalized procedures are at the option of the individual operator.

Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cord Length</td>
<td>18 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cord Material</td>
<td>Red dacron 0.125 diam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decal Length</td>
<td>7.5 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decal Material</td>
<td>Meyercord vinyl 87V-02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wahl Instruments Incorporated

The Wahl systems uses an infrared thermometer gun to detect the presence of ice on an aircraft.

Wahl Heat Spy

The Wahl system is based on the principle that all solid objects emit infrared energy above absolute zero. The Heat Spy directs this energy, by means of fixed focus optics, to a sensitive detector. The energy is amplified and processed by the computer to give temperature readings in °F or °C. To use the Wahl system to detect ice it is necessary to have a bare aluminum surface and a painted aluminum surface in close proximity to each other. The temperature is take from both areas of aluminum. If there is no ice present, the Heat Spy senses the infrared energy of the
atmosphere as reflected by the unpainted aluminum. The painted aluminum, however, does not reflect in the infrared range. Therefore the energy detected is the energy emitted by the painted surface, giving the temperature of the surface, not the atmosphere. This means that if no ice is present the two readings may differ in temperature (greater than 10 °F). However, if there is ice present the infrared signal will not be reflected from the bare aluminum surface and will provide the temperature of the surface. If readings from the bare aluminum surface and the painted aluminum surface are similar (closer than 5 °F) and both temperatures are below 32 °F, then ice is present.

Data (Model DHS-24X)

Temperature Range: 0 to 1000 °F
Accuracy at 77 °F ± 5°: ±0.3% FS
Ambient Operational Temperature: 25 to 125 °F
Response Time to 95% of Reading: 1 s
Target Size at Focal Point: 1 in diam. at 2 ft
Practical Working Distance: 0 to 40 ft
Sighting System: Enclosed Sight or Laser
Operating Time Per Battery: 40 h (Laser 5 h)
Weight: 2.2 lb

Point of Contact
Herm Rudman
Western Regional Manager
Phone: 1-800-421-2853
Fax: (213) 670-2840

Wahl Instruments, Inc.
5750 Hannum Avenue
Culver City, CA 90231
Figure 12 - WAHL (Heat Spy)
PROMISING TECHNOLOGIES (Onground)

Airborne CCTV

The Airborne system is an infrared video wing ice detector. Airborne has used this base technology for detection of fires in the cargo area and in passenger cabin security applications.

Airborne CCTV Infrared Video Wing Ice Detection System

The Airborne system is a self-contained Closed Circuit Television system based on Silicon (Si) Charge Coupled Device (CCD) image technology. The color CCD cameras have a spectral response of ultra-violet through near infrared (IR). The system consists of six Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) that are interconnected. The system utilizes near infrared spectrum illumination (.9 micron wavelength) which is directed toward the upper wing surface. The IR is reflected by the subject surface, detected by a silicon chip CCD television camera, and displayed as a black and white image on a cockpit mounted LCD display. This image provides a clear "go/no go" indication. An optical filter switching device permits the camera to operate in the visual light spectrum as well and provides a full color display. The Monitor Display Unit utilizes a seven inch LCD display and provides a menu-driven display to select and view cameras and adjust system parameters.

Each Camera Head Unit has an associated Camera Control Unit (CCU). The CCU translates the video signal from the CCD camera into a usable composite video signal. The CCU also contains camera location identification data and BITE logic, and transmits this data along with the video signal during the vertical interval to the Central Processing Unit. The proposed installation would have the camera mounted in the fuselage wall looking through a 1.5 inch circular window down at the wing surface. The optics provide a field of view from approximately .5 square ft to the entire upper wing surface.

Data

Camera Size: Less than 1 in$^3$

Camera Weight: 90 g approx.

Power Requirement: < 35 W during system operations
< 5 W in standby mode
Total System Weight: 14.3 lb (not including interconnect cables)

Point of Contact

Thomas D. Henderson
President
Phone: (714) 263-5750
Fax: (714) 757-0705

Airborne CCTV
4220 Van Karmen Ave.
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Bolvad Communications

The Bolvad system is a hand held unit which is used by touching it to the surface to be tested.

Bolvad IDSS-1

The IDSS-1 system consists of a custom made sensor which detects the presence and thickness of ice as soon as the sensor touches the surface. It operates by measuring the travel of the tip. The electronic module obtains the readings, analyzes them against the preset values, displays them, and stores them for future tracking. Ice thickness measurements of up to 0.002 inch resolution are detected. By touching the surface, the operator obtains positive indication of ice buildup and its thickness. The IDSS-1 system stores all the readings. At the end of the inspection, the readings could be down-loaded to a centralized system for diagramming, further analysis, or verification. Set points can be securely programmed in as well. All readings are stored in non-volatile memory even when the primary power is removed.

Data

Supply Voltage: 115 Vdc, 0.5 W
Operating Voltage: 15 Vdc, 0.5 A
Operating Temperature: -25 to 65 °C
Storage Temperature: -40 to 80 °C
Maximum Ice Thickness: 0.4 in
Accuracy: 0.002 in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sensor</td>
<td>0.5 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meter</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmup Time:</td>
<td>5 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Surface Test Time:</td>
<td>2 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Memory Capacity:</td>
<td>64 kb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Memory Capacity:</td>
<td>32 kb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Number of Readings Stored:</td>
<td>8000 readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-volatile memory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Number of Readings Stored:</td>
<td>30,000 readings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Point of Contact**

David Boyarsky  
Phone: (609) 428-4315

Bolvad Communication  
139 Ashley Court  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

**FMC Corporation**

The FMC Ice Detection System is an external video system that consists of a special camera, an image processor, and a video monitor.

**FMC Ice Imaging System**

The FMC camera forms an image of the aircraft which is transformed by the image processor and then displayed as a pseudocolor video image. Distinctive colors highlight patches of ice on the display screen. The system discriminates ice from water by exploiting the natural spectral shift which occurs when water freezes. The spectral signatures (reflectance spectra) of water and ice are not identical, even though both substances appear transparent to the eye. The differences are in the non-visible portions of the spectrum.
In the FMC system, specially prepared filters are used in conjunction with panspectral imaging arrays. Each filter is selected to admit light only within a predetermined pass band. Ratios of the reflected energies are made at a large number of points over the electronically sampled image. The ratiometric data are transformed into a displayable image which is used to highlight areas of interest on a conventional video image.

Data

No specific data exists at this time.

Point of Contact

Doug Robertson
Engineering Manager
Phone: (407) 850-2858
Fax: (407) 857-9180

FMC Airline Equipment Division
7300 Presidents Drive
Orlando, FL 32809

Instrumar Limited

Instrumar has proposed a system that uses a flush-mounted sensor for use on fixed wing aircraft.

Instrumar Aircraft Ice Detector

The Instrumar prototype has a 60 mm diameter and has been designed to measure ice layers from 0.2 mm to 5 mm in thickness. The sensor is constructed of a material with similar thermal and structural properties to those of aircraft wings. The sensor is designed for detection, thickness, and characterization of ice and snow. It will be able to distinguish ice from de/anti-icing fluids, and to provide a measure of the state of the fluids. The sensor establishes electric fields close to its surface with a series of electrodes to measure and identify existing accretions. These fields are characterized by sensor attributes such as the number of electrodes, their size and configuration, sensor material dimensions and electrical properties, electrode drive voltage levels, and operating frequency. The sensor's response to the presence of different surface accretions is modeled by representing the accretion with one or more stratified layers characterized by their respective electrical properties and thicknesses.
Data

Maximum Ice Thickness: 5 mm

Accuracy: 0.1 mm for ice < 1 mm linearly varying to 0.5 mm for ice at 5 mm

Sensor Head Diameter: 60 mm

Sensor Mounting: Flush

Operating Temperature: -55 to +85 °C

Storage Temperature: -65 to +100 °C

Sensor Update Time: Less than 4 s

Point of Contact

Robert Vivian
Vice President of Marketing
Phone: (709) 726-8460
Fax: (709) 726-8613

Instrumar Limited
P.O. Box 13246 Station 'A'
St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 4A5
Dataproducts New England, Inc.

The Dataproducts system is available in three different sensor forms: probe, remote probe, and flat sensor. This system was designed in 1979 for use on military and commercial aircraft.

Dataproduct's System for Ice Detection

The Dataproducts New England (DNE) system utilizes the unique thermal quality of ice, where 80 calories of heat are required at 0 °C to change one gram of ice into water. A nickel wire that is in-grooved on a narrow cylindrical probe forms the detection surface. A quantity of energy in the form of a short current pulse (every 2.5 seconds) is introduced into a resistance wire that has been wound on the surface of the icing sensor. This causes the wire to increase in temperature at a rate proportional to the energy dissipated by the wire. The increase in temperature in the wire results in a corresponding change in resistance. By measuring the resistance change and knowing the temperature coefficient of the conductor, the increase in wire temperature can be calculated. As ice accretes, the thermal characteristics change and substantially reduce the conductor temperature rise. This difference in thermal characteristics is compared to an internal reference and an icing signal is generated in the cockpit. The signal also can be used to activate the aircraft ice protection system.

The DNE system is equipped with an integral deicing heater to clear the sensor for the next detection cycle. The DNE system has self-test circuitry and programming that may be activated by an external switch to validate the detector system on the ground, or while airborne.

Data (Model 6316-5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probe Length</td>
<td>2.55 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Warning Point</td>
<td>0.006 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Pulse</td>
<td>Every 2.5 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detection Signal</td>
<td>Within 5 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>23,000 h at 100 °C MTBF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Power</td>
<td>28 Vdc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vibro-Meter Corporation

The Vibro-Meter Overwing Ice Detection System was designed for fixed wing aircraft. (Although the system described below is for overwing use almost any shape can be realized to accommodate many applications for both inflight and onground operations.)
Vibro-Meter Overwing Ice Detector

The Vibro-Meter method of measuring ice is based upon the principle that the resonant frequency of a solid body will alter with a change in mass or stiffness. Ice is detected using a continuously vibrating sensor diaphragm which is forced into oscillation at resonant frequency. The resonant frequency is ultra-sonic and the maximum oscillation amplitude is very small (under 1 micrometer) so that effectively there are no moving parts. Ice accretion on the sensor diaphragm increases both the stiffness and mass, thereby increasing the resonant frequency. (The effect of the increased stiffness is much greater than that of the increased mass.) Water or liquid contaminants increase the mass without increasing the stiffness thus decreasing the natural frequency.

If a predetermined thickness of ice is detected on the surface of the sensor while the aircraft is on the ground then an indication in the aircraft cockpit will alert the flight crew that deicing action should be taken.

Data

Length: 2.71 in
Weight: 1.03 lb
Material: Corrosion resistant alloy
Operating Temperature: -67 to +171 °F
Power Requirements: 28 Vdc
Power Consumption: Less than .5 W in flight
Less than .7 W on ground

Point of Contact

Charles Witt
Vice President
Phone: (310) 320-8410
Fax: (310) 618-9670

Vibro-Meter Corporation
22109 South Vermont Ave.
Torrance, CA 90502
Figure 14 - VIBRO-METER OVERWING ICE DETECTOR
PROMISING TECHNOLOGIES (combined Onground and Inflight)

Ideal Research Incorporated

This Ideal system is intended as an early warning indicator of icing for use on fixed wing aircraft equipped with Hot Wing Deicers. (Although Ideal Research invented and developed the technology, the patents for this system are owned by the University of Maryland Research Foundation.)

Microwave Ice Accretion Measurement Instruments

The Microwave Ice Accretion Measurement Instruments (MIAMI) system uses a microwave transducer that is mounted in the wing's leading edge or other aircraft part flush with the surface being monitored. The transducer appears as a small white rectangular window conforming to the shape of the aircraft surface. The window is transparent to low levels of microwave energy which pass through the window. The presence of ice (0.003 inches) causes a shift in the resonant microwave frequency of the transducer. This initial shift is detected by a microprocessor-controlled system which then generates the signals required to illuminate the annunciator panel. The microprocessor continues to monitor this shift and uses this information to compute ice thickness, icing rate, and change in icing rate. The effect of ice on the transducer is different from other substances such as free water, oil, grease, insects, or other contaminants and can be recognized by the microprocessor.

Ideal Research also proposes two other forms of the MIAMI system. The MIAMI-PB is a flush-mounted system that is placed under a Pneumatic Boot Deicer. The MIAMI-US is designed for use with unprotected aircraft surfaces.

Data (MIAMI-HW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than 3 lb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Requirements</td>
<td>6 W at 28 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Ice Thickness</td>
<td>0.003 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Ice Thickness</td>
<td>0.2 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave Transducer Temp. Range:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operating:</td>
<td>-55 to +235 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating:</td>
<td>-40 to +40 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature All Other Components:</td>
<td>-55 to +85 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Point of Contact

Bertram Magenheim
President
Phone: (301) 984-5694

Ideal Research Incorporated
11810 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20852
RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

Dataproducts Corporation

Dataproduct's meteorological ice detectors employ fundamentally the same probe, sensing techniques, and self-deicing features that are used in aircraft versions.

Dataproducts Meteorological Ice Detectors

This system uses a probe that is oriented vertically, providing omnidirectional exposure of the sensor. The pulse and measurement characteristics of the electronics module have been altered to accommodate ground surface environmental conditions. The sensing probe is placed on top of a smooth aluminum mast which is equipped at the bottom with a thread for attachment to standard pipe. The connections for the sensor wire and the integral deicing heater are provided by a 15 inch pigtail through the pipe fitting.

A nickel wire is placed in grooves around the probe to create the sensing surface. The wire is electronically pulsed every 2.5 seconds. If ice forms on the wire, the electro-thermal properties of the wire change as heat generated by the pulse melts the ice. Once ice has been detected, an internal heater is activated to melt the remaining ice.

Data

Size:

- Probe: 16 in length, 3 in diam. (at the base, 1.38 in sensing surface)
- Controller: 10.7 in length, 9 in width, 6.1 in height

Weight: Max. 25 lb

Power Requirements: 150 W max. input voltage internally selected for 115 Vac, 210 Vac, and 230 Vac.
Instrumar Limited

Instrumar has developed the IM101 Ice Monitor to detect conditions of surface ice accumulation.

Instrumar Model IM101 Ice Monitor

The sensor functions through measurement of the surface electrical impedance and temperature of a proprietary ceramic probe. This data is combined to sense the surface condition of the probe. A default icing window is programmed into each device and when the parameters fall within this window, an "icing" signal is triggered. The sensor then initiates an optional self-deicing cycle and/or control signal output. The cycle time between initiating a deicing event and returning to a temperature receptive to icing is typically 5 to 10 minutes depending on ambient conditions.

An RS-232 serial interface is provided for data acquisition and computer-based control. An optional power-line monitor can sense the activity of the internal heater for remote applications where it is unsuitable to run an RS-232 data line. The sensor also provides a low-power relay contact closure output.

Data

Overall Height: 258 mm
Housing Diameter: 84 mm nominal
Tip Dimensions: 9.5 mm x 73 mm
Probe Tip: Beryllium oxide with Alumina finish
Housing Finish: Anodized aluminum
Weight: 1.5 kg

Power Consumption:
6 W (idle)
0-100 W heater power

Line Requirements:
110/220 Vac, 50-60 Hz

Probe Output:
Relay closure and RS-232

Probe Programming Mode:
Terminal keyboard entry; automatically prompts user on power up for changes in probe parameters.

Deicing Cycle Time (typical): 5-10 min.

Programmable Sensitivity:
0.1-1mm at -1 °C

Operating Temperature:
-40 to +50 °C
(detection inactive below -20°C)

Storage Temperature:
-50 to +85 °C

Point of Contact
Robert Vivian
Vice President of Marketing
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Instrumar Limited
P.O. Box 13246 Station ‘A’
St. John’s, Newfoundland, A1B 4A5

Normalair-Garrett Limited

The Normalair-Garrett system is comprised of a humidity and temperature sensor and a signal conditioner and power supply unit.
Normalair-Garrett Humidity Detection System.

The sensing unit is comprised of a plastic wafer with an electrically conductive surface and a non-conducting substrate. A thermistor mounted integrally with the sensor provides temperature compensation. The conductive surface of the sensor responds to changes in humidity and the output passes to the signal conditioner unit. If the relative humidity is outside preset limits a relay is energized to provide a warning signal.

Data

Size:
- Sensor: 0.38 lb
- Signal conditioner/power supply: 2.6 lb

Power Requirements:
- Consumption (steady state): 20 W max.
- 115 V 400 Hz single phase ac

Temperature Range:
- Operating: -10 to 30°C
- Without derangement: -60 to 90°C

Humidity Range:
- Preset: 70% ± 3% rh
- Operating without derangement: (adjustable control 100% rh) 0-100%

Point of Contact

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Normalair-Garrett Limited
Yeovil, Somerset, England
BA20 2YD

Rosemount Incorporated

Rosemount employs the same operating theory in its meteorological/ground and ground turbine engines that is used in their aircraft ice detectors.
Rosemount Ice Warning Systems

The sensing element is an external probe which vibrates ultrasonically in an axial direction at a resonant frequency of 40 kHz. When ice accretes on the probe the frequency of vibration decreases due to mass loading. At a preset frequency shift, an icing signal is automatically activated. Most Rosemount ice detectors are preset to provide a signal which corresponds to 0.020 inches of ice accretion.

Model number 872DE/524AA is designed for ground turbine engines and stationary devices and Model number 872B/524B is used for radar, television, and radio towers and antennas. Both systems use the same ice sensing principle described above.

Data

Model 872DE/524AA
Operating temperature: -54° to +84 °C

Model 872B/524B
Operating temperature: -40 to +160 °C

Point of Contact

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