

Operator's Manual



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Symbols

Important Symbols in This Manual



The exclamation point calls your attention to a requirement, safety issue, or important action that should not be overlooked.



A check mark highlights a tip or feature.

Important Symbols on the Product



Caution

This symbol indicates critical safety information. Ignoring text that accompanies this symbol could result in injury or death due to improper handling.



WEEE Directive: Disposing of VuLink at the end of its useful life

In accordance with the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive of 2005 and later Directives, VuLink should not be discarded with regular household waste. Check local electronic/electrical waste regulations before disposing of a VuLink device.



Safety Information

Using VuLink Correctly



Read these instructions carefully before using VuLink. Don't use VuLink in any manner not specified in the manual or quickstart guide. Follow all safety warnings.

Installing and Replacing Batteries



Never mix old and new batteries, or Lithium and alkaline batteries. Make sure all three batteries are installed in the same orientation. Use only In-Situ recommended Lithium batteries for longest battery life.



A blinking red and green battery LED indicates a problem with the batteries. Do not deploy the VuLink in this condition. Check batteries and reinstall as necessary.

Installing the Antenna



Use only In-Situ recommended cellular antennas. Maintain a safe distance of at least 14cm from the antenna and VuLink when the device is in operation.



Required Components

1 Cable



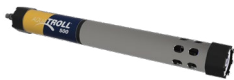
Rugged Twist-Lock Cable

Connects VuLink to an Aqua TROLL, Baro TROLL, Level TROLL, or Rugged TROLL instrument.

Vented or non-vented.

2 Instrument

Aqua TROLL



Baro TROLL



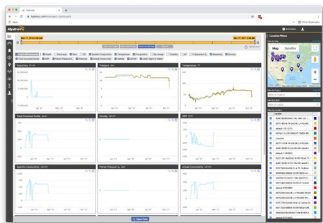
Level TROLL



Rugged TROLL

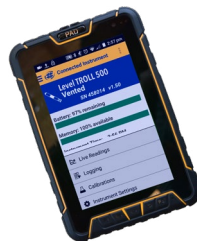


3 Software



HydroVu Software

View data, manage instruments, create alarms, and modify VuLink settings in your browser.



VuSitu Mobile App

Communicate with VuLink on any Bluetooth-enabled mobile device and the VuSitu mobile app.

4 Batteries



In-Situ recommends Saft LM33600 batteries for your VuLink. Find them at <https://bit.ly/2Qmtmwe>.

Accessories



The following accessories are available for VuLink.



Cellular Antenna

Part #: 0043630

The cellular antenna permits strong cellular network connectivity.



Rugged Cable Splitter

Part #: 0095500 (vented)

Part #: 0085840 (non-vented)

With the Rugged Cable Splitter, you can connect as many as 8 instruments to VuLink.



Load-Bearing Universal Adapter

Part #: 0101000

To attach pulse instruments and devices that don't have a Twist-Lock connector, use the Load-Bearing Universal Adapter.



Mounting Kit

Part #: 0095570

The Mounting Kit lets you attach VuLink to a pole, wall, or other structure.



How it Works



Using VuLink in any manner not specified by the manufacturer (In-Situ) may impair the device's built-in protections.



1

Carabiner

VuLink hangs from the top of a well with the detachable carabiner.

2

VuLink Telemetry Device

VuLink provides power to monitoring instruments, transmits data to the cloud, and notifies you when maintenance is required.

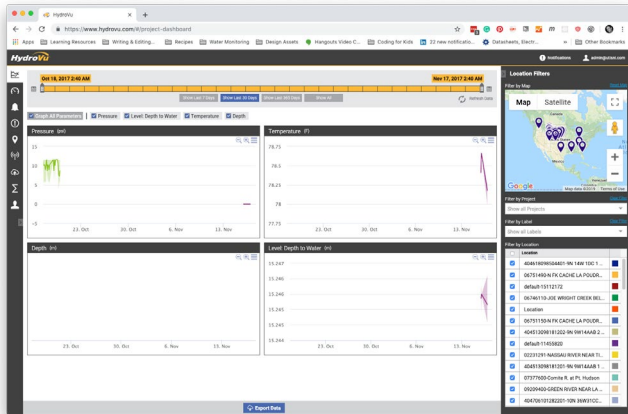
3

Instrument

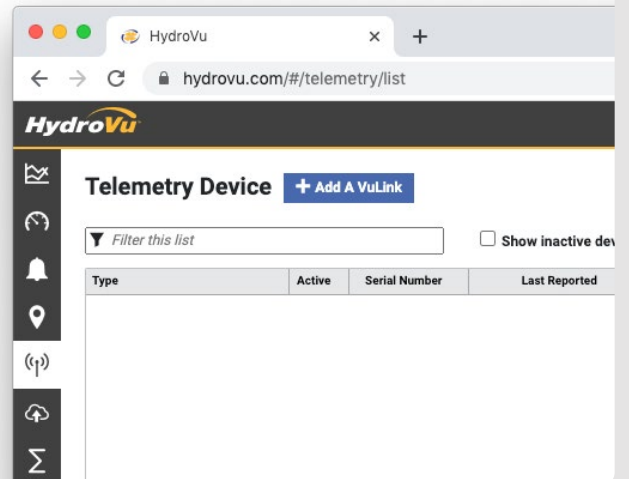
An In-Situ instrument measures water quality and/or water level.



1 Create a HydroVu account.



2 Go to the telemetry page.



Visit hydrovu.com and create an account.

Click the telemetry page link in the menu on the left side of the page. Then click **Add a VuLink**.

3 Scan the QR code on your VuLink.



or



4 Attach the antenna and connect an instrument.



Open your web camera and scan the QR code on your device, or type the registration code into the provided field.

After connecting the external or on-board antenna and instrument, follow the instructions on the next pages of this quickstart guide.

Setting Up Vulink



VuLink works with Aqua TROLL, Level TROLL, Baro TROLL, and Rugged TROLL instruments. Follow the steps below to connect an instrument and start transmitting data.

5 Attach the antenna and remove the battery pull-tab.



Make sure the antenna is properly attached before proceeding.



Remove the battery cover by twisting it counter-clockwise and pulling down.



Remove the yellow tab to allow current to flow through the batteries. Replace the cover.



Press the button. All LEDs turn on. Each LED changes color according to device status.



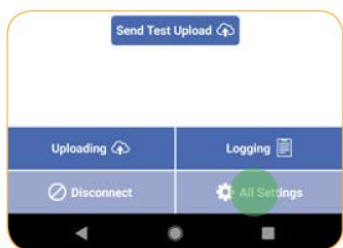
Never mix old and new batteries, or Lithium and alkaline batteries. Make sure all three batteries are installed in the same orientation.



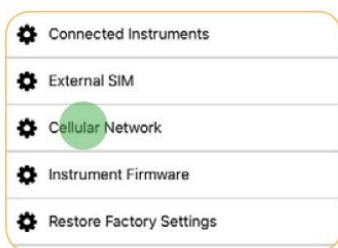
Troubleshooting Network Connectivity



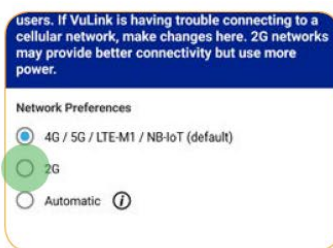
If VuLink has trouble connecting to a 4G network, switching to 2G may help. Launch VuSitu and follow the instructions below. Contact your cellular provider for coverage details.



Press the **All Settings** button at the bottom of the screen.



Tap **Cellular Network** on the Settings screen.



Tap **2G** to change VuLink's network settings. Press **Save**.



VuLink should now connect to a network and sync with HydroVu



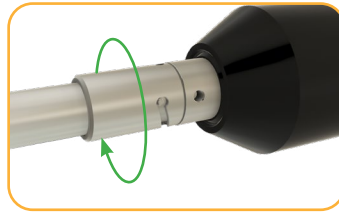
Connecting to a cellular network can take up to 10 minutes the first time VuLink powers up or when VuLink hasn't been powered up in several weeks or months

Adding Instruments

6 Connect an Instrument



Align the flat edge of the connector with the flat edge inside the cable.



Twist the cable until it clicks into the secure position.



Connect the cable to your instrument.

7 Add another instrument and press the button (optional)



Add as many as 8 instruments to VuLink, repeating the steps below for each one. When you're ready to deploy, use one or more Rugged Cable Splitters to connect multiple instruments.



Disconnect instrument. Attach another and press the button.



VuLink connects to the new instrument and the data network.



VuLink connects to HydroVu or an FTP site.



All LEDs indicate current device status. See the section below for details.

Understanding the LEDs



All five LEDs illuminate when VuLink is powered on. The color of an LED indicates status.

Battery status



Solid green

Battery power is at least 75%.

Blinking green

Battery power is between 50% and 75%.



Blinking red

Battery power is between 25% and 50%.

Solid red

Battery power is less than 25%





Blinking red and green



A blinking red and green LED indicates a problem with the batteries. Do not deploy the VuLink in this condition. Check batteries and reinstall as necessary.

Instrument connection status



Blinking green

Searching for an instrument

Solid green

Connected to instrument



Blinking red

New instrument not found

Solid red

No instruments connected to VuLink

Network connection status



Blinking green

Attempting to connect to network

Solid green

Connected to network



Solid red

Unable to connect to network

Cloud connection status



Blinking green

Connecting and uploading data to HydroVu

Solid green

Upload successful



Blinking red

Unclaimed device

Solid red

Failed to connect to HydroVu.com

Bluetooth connection status



Blinking blue

Ready to connect

Solid blue

Bluetooth connected



Logging With VuLink



VuLink logs get uploaded to the cloud; instrument logs do not. Be sure to understand the differences between these log types before deploying VuLink.

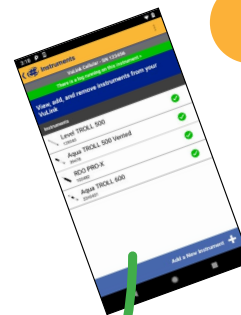
VuLink Logs

Instrument Logs

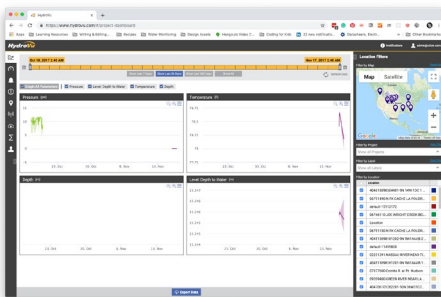
1 Program a log into **VuLink** with the **VuSitu** mobile app.



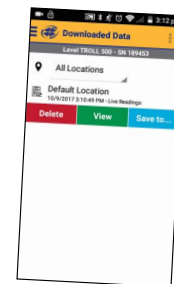
Program a log into the **instrument** with **VuSitu**.



2 See your data in **HydroVu**.



2 Download log files with **VuSitu**.



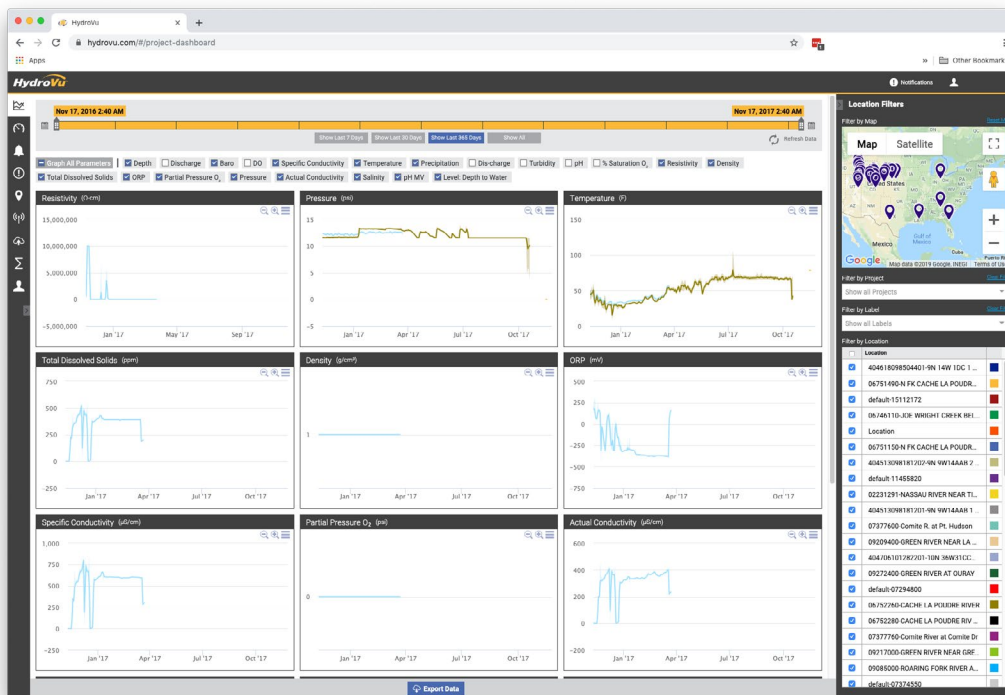
Pressing the VuLink button for 5 seconds or longer will stop the active VuLink log. Create a new log in VuSitu to configure custom log settings. If no user-created log is configured, VuLink will automatically create a default log to collect all parameters at 1 hour intervals. Logs on connected instruments are not affected.



Using HydroVu



Use HydroVu to create logs, configure alarms, and modify VuLink's settings.



Sidebar Menu Options/HydroVu Pages



View your data



See Locations



Create and edit dashboards



Configure telemetry devices



Manage alarms



Upload data



Set up notifications



Edit calculated parameters



Manage users

Using VuLink With VuSitu



After connecting to your VuLink with VuSitu, the app always displays the Connected Telemetry Device screen at launch. You can access all features of the app from this screen.

Connected Telemetry Device Screen

The screenshot shows the 'Connected Instrument' screen of the VuLink Cellular app. The interface includes a status bar at the top with the time 2:51 and various icons. Below the status bar is an orange header with a hamburger menu icon on the left, the text 'Connected Instrument', and a vertical ellipsis icon on the right. The main content area has a blue header with a pen icon, the text 'VuLink Cellular', 'SN 123456 v0.01', and a gear icon. Below this is a large circular area containing several icons: a signal tower, a flower-like sensor, a cloud with an upload arrow, a battery, a signal strength indicator, and a circular arrow. Below the circle is the text 'Tap icons for more information.' Below this is a white section with the time '14:51' and date '09/16/2020' on the left, and a gear icon on the right. Below this are two expandable sections: 'Battery Life' and 'Connected Instruments'. Below these is a blue button labeled 'Send Test Upload' with an upload icon. At the bottom is a grid of four buttons: 'Uploading' with an upload icon, 'Logging' with a document icon, 'Disconnect' with a circle and slash icon, and 'All Settings' with a gear icon. Callouts with arrows point to various elements: 'Access menu.' points to the hamburger menu; 'Access help information.' points to the vertical ellipsis; 'View and make changes to instruments connected to a VuLink.' points to the 'Connected Instruments' section; 'Specify a destination for uploads, like HydroVu or an FTP server.' points to the 'Uploading' button; 'Create and modify logs.' points to the 'Logging' button; and 'Adjust VuLink and instrument settings.' points to the 'All Settings' button.

Access menu.

Access help information.

VuLink Cellular
SN 123456 v0.01

Tap icons for more information.

14:51 09/16/2020

Battery Life

Connected Instruments

Send Test Upload

Uploading

Logging

Disconnect

All Settings

View and make changes to instruments connected to a VuLink.

Specify a destination for uploads, like HydroVu or an FTP server.

Create and modify logs.

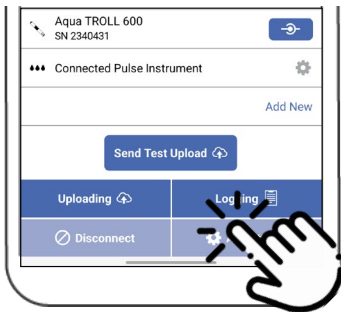
Adjust VuLink and instrument settings.

Creating Alarms

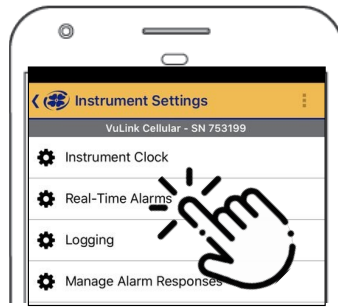
VuLink Alarms



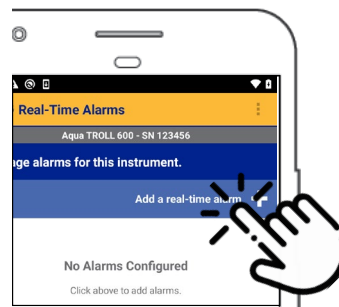
VuLink alarms send a notification when VuLink batteries run low, a VuLink parameter crosses a specified threshold, or other events occur at a remote monitoring site.



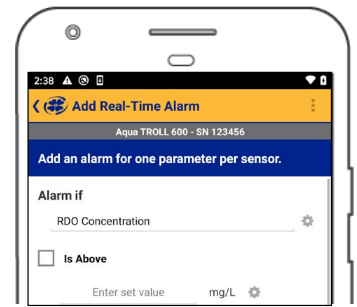
Tap **All Settings** from the menu.



Tap **Real-Time Alarms**.



To create an alarm, tap **Add a real-time alarm**.

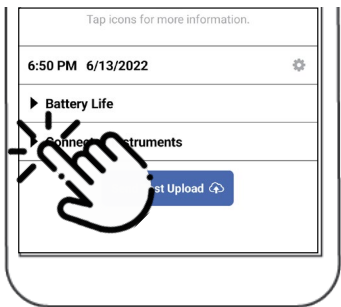


Select the parameter that should trigger the alarm and set the limits.

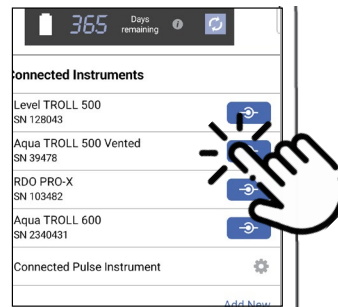
Connected Instrument Alarms



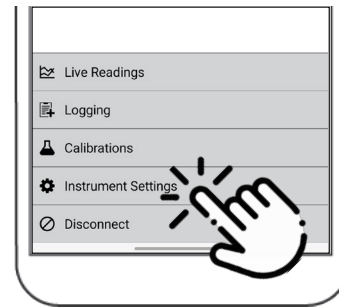
Connected instrument alarms send a notification when a parameter measured by a connected instrument crosses a specified threshold.



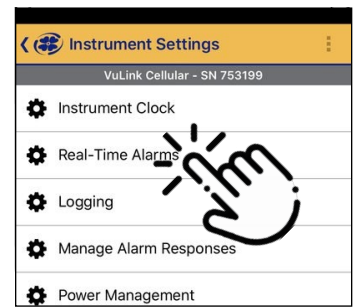
Tap **Connected Instruments**.



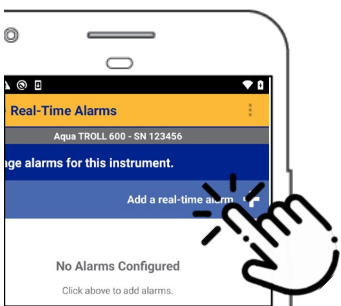
Select an instrument to connect.



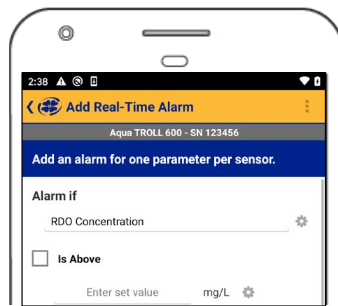
Tap **Instrument Settings** from the menu.



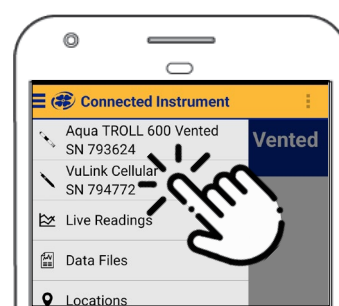
Tap **Real-Time Alarms**.



To create an alarm, tap **Add a real-time alarm**.



Select the parameter that should trigger the alarm and set the limits.

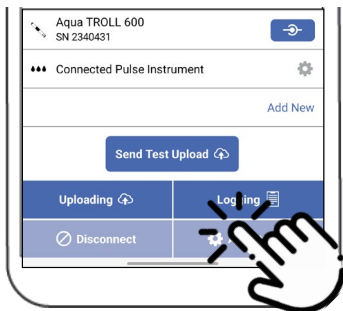


Use the menu to reconnect to VuLink.

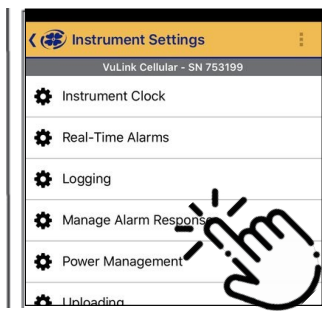
Managing Alarm Responses



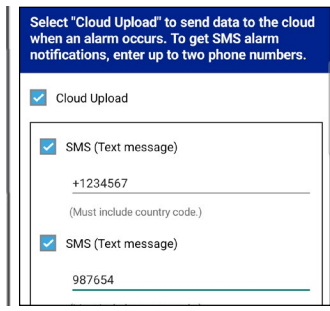
Alarms can send a notification by SMS or through the cloud when an alarm threshold is crossed. Message and data rates may apply.



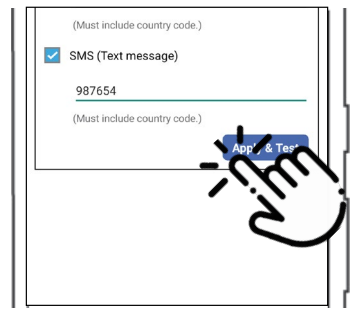
Tap **All Settings** from the menu.



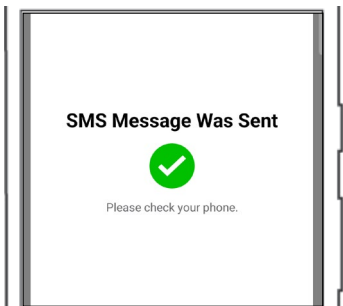
Tap **Manage Alarm Responses**.



Select cloud notifications or SMS notifications. Enter SMS phone number(s).



Select **Apply and Test**.



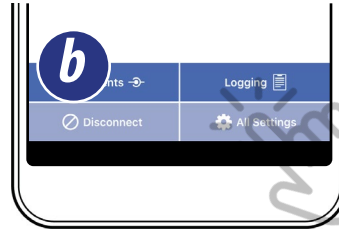
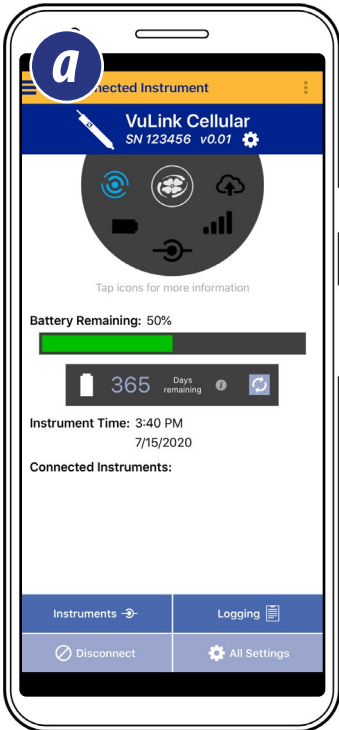
Confirm that the test message was received.



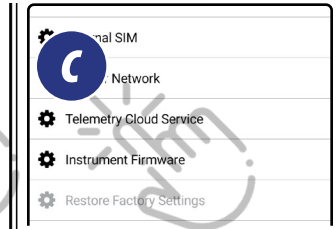
Using VuLink with an FTP Server



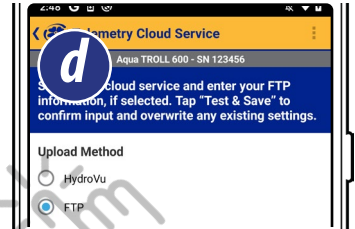
You can configure VuLink to upload data to an FTP server via VuSitu. Have your FTP hostname, path, port, username, and password ready before getting started.



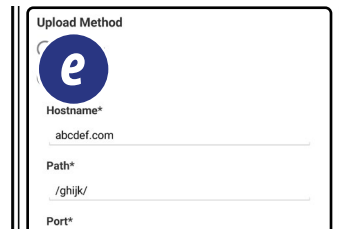
Tap **All Settings**.



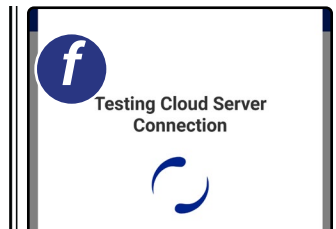
Select **Telemetry Cloud Service**.



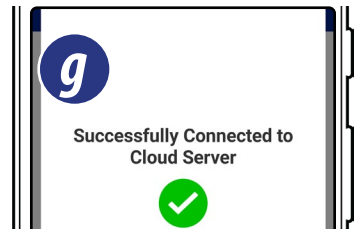
Tap the radio button next to **FTP**.



Enter your FTP credentials. Then tap **Test & Save**.



VuLink tests the connection to the server.



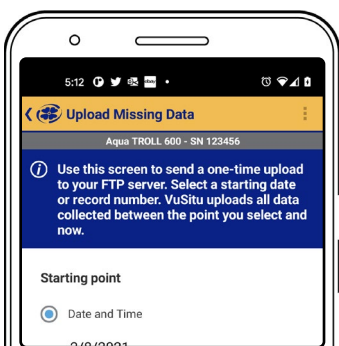
The app displays the test results.

Connect to VuLink with the VuSitu mobile app.

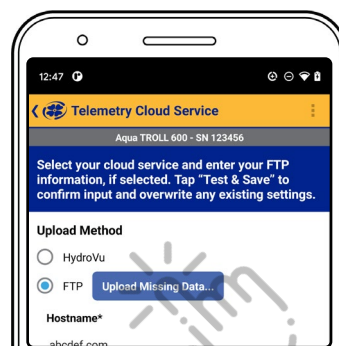
Recovering Data Via FTP



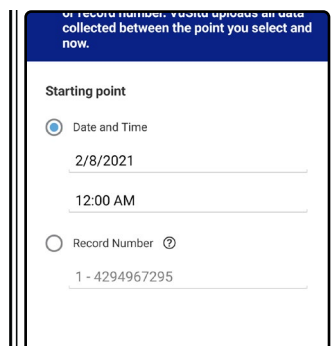
Use the recovery FTP screen to send data that failed to transmit via a scheduled upload. You need to know the number or date of the last record uploaded before a data gap occurred.



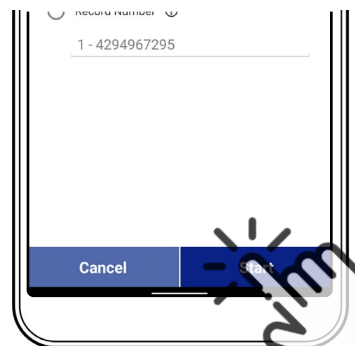
Access the Telemetry Cloud Service screen as shown above.



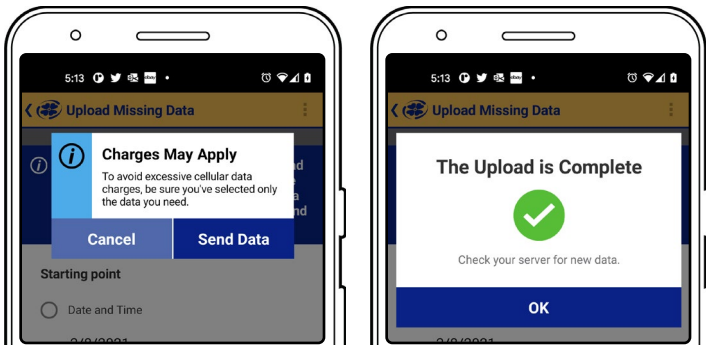
Tap **Upload Missing Data**.



Enter a starting date and time, or a starting record number.



Tap **Start**.



Read the pop-up message about data charges. Tap **Send Data** if you wish to continue.

If the upload is successful, VuSitu displays a confirmation.



Connecting a Pulse Instrument to VuLink



VuLink can upload data from a pulse instrument to HydroVu or an FTP server.

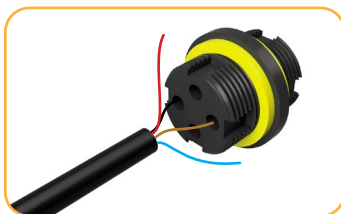
Required Components

- Rugged Twist-Lock Cable with one stripped-and-tinned end
- Load-Bearing Universal Adapter (LBUA)
- Cable (from LBUA to pulse instrument)
- Pulse instrument
- VuLink

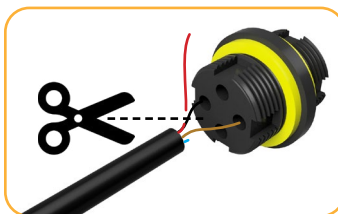
Wiring with the Load-Bearing Universal Adapter (LBUA)



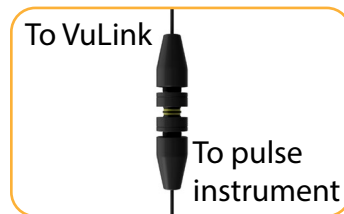
Attach the Twist-Lock end of a Rugged Cable to VuLink.



Connect the brown and black wires at the other end of the Rugged Cable to the Load-Bearing Universal Adapter.



Snip the four unused wires.



Run wires from the other end of the LBUA to the pulse instrument.



Refer to the following table when connecting a pulse instrument to VuLink via a Rugged Cable.

Rugged Cable Wire Legend

Wire Color	Signal
Brown	Pulse Output
Black	Ground
Red	Power (optional)
Blue	Unused
Green	Unused
White	Unused



Setting Up a Pulse Instrument with VuSitu

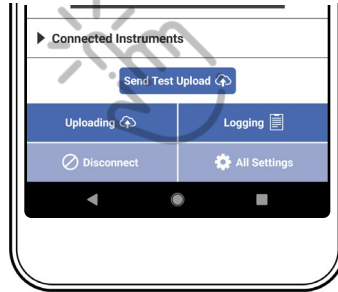


Add rain gauges and other pulse devices to VuLink with VuSitu pulse configuration.

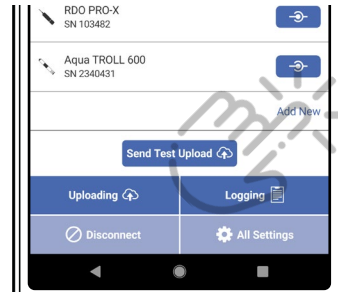
1 Add the instrument to VuLink.



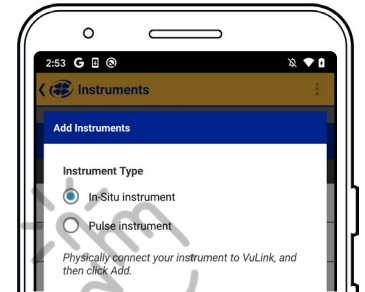
Launch VuSitu and connect to VuLink.



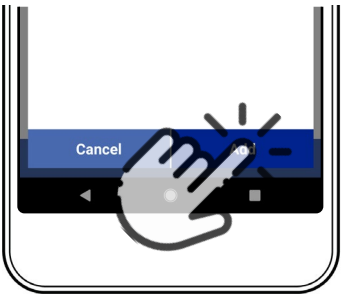
Tap the **Connected Instruments** dropdown.



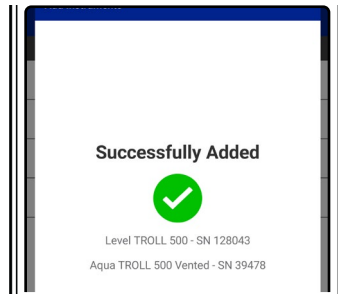
Tap **Add New**.



Select the **Pulse Instrument** radio button.

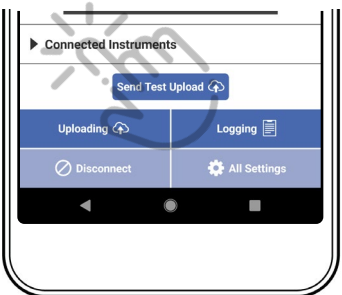


Connect the instrument to VuLink with a cable. Press the **Add** button in VuSitu.

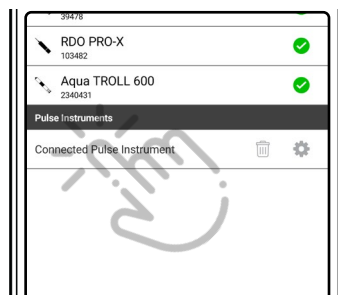


VuSitu displays a confirmation message. Press **OK** to dismiss it.

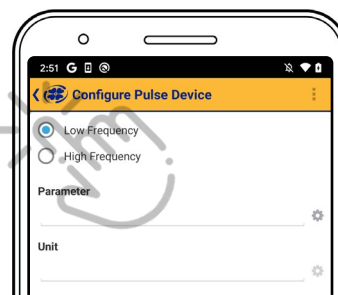
2 Configure it.



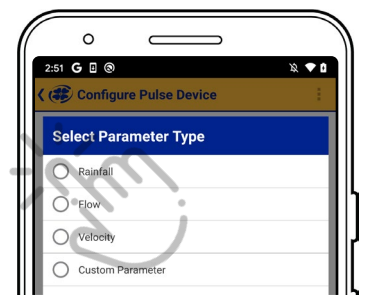
Tap the **Connected Instruments** dropdown.



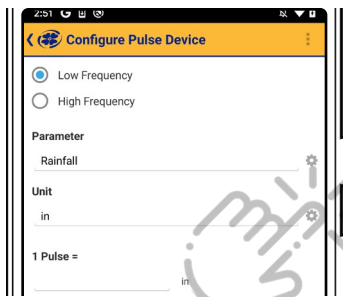
Tap the instrument.



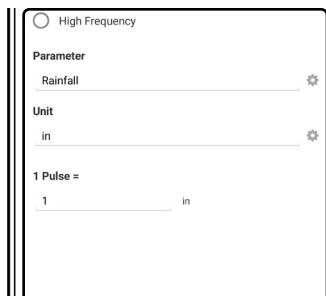
Select low or high frequency.



Low frequency: Choose one of the three built-in parameters or create a custom parameter.



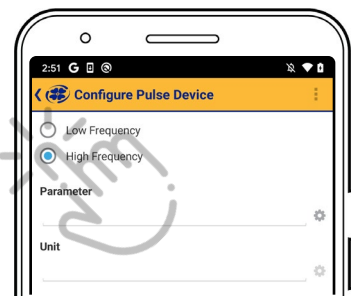
Tap the gear icon next to the unit field to select a unit.



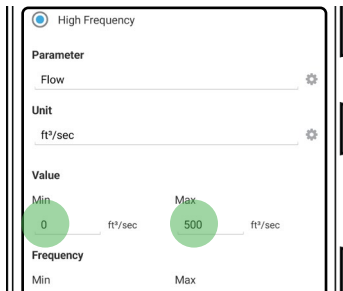
Enter the value of one pulse in the selected units.



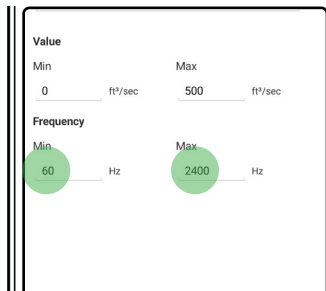
Tap **Save**. VuSitu displays a "Saving" message.



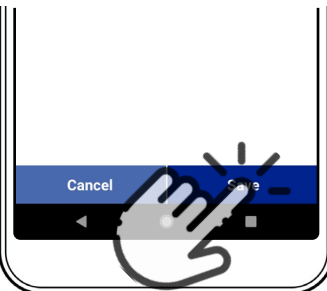
High frequency: Select **High Frequency** and choose a parameter and unit.



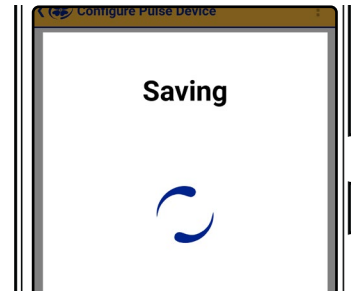
Enter a minimum and maximum value.



Enter a minimum and maximum frequency in hertz.



Tap **Save** to confirm the pulse instrument configuration.



VuSitu displays a "Saving" message.



A custom parameter can be anything you want (for example, snow or precipitation), but you must select one of VuSitu's built-in unit types.

Understanding VuLink SIM Cards



External SIM Card

VuLink attempts to use an external SIM card for all communications if one is present. If communication via the external SIM fails, VuLink uses the built-in SIM instead.



Built-in SIM

If an external SIM card isn't present, VuLink uses its built-in SIM for all communication.

Updating VuLink



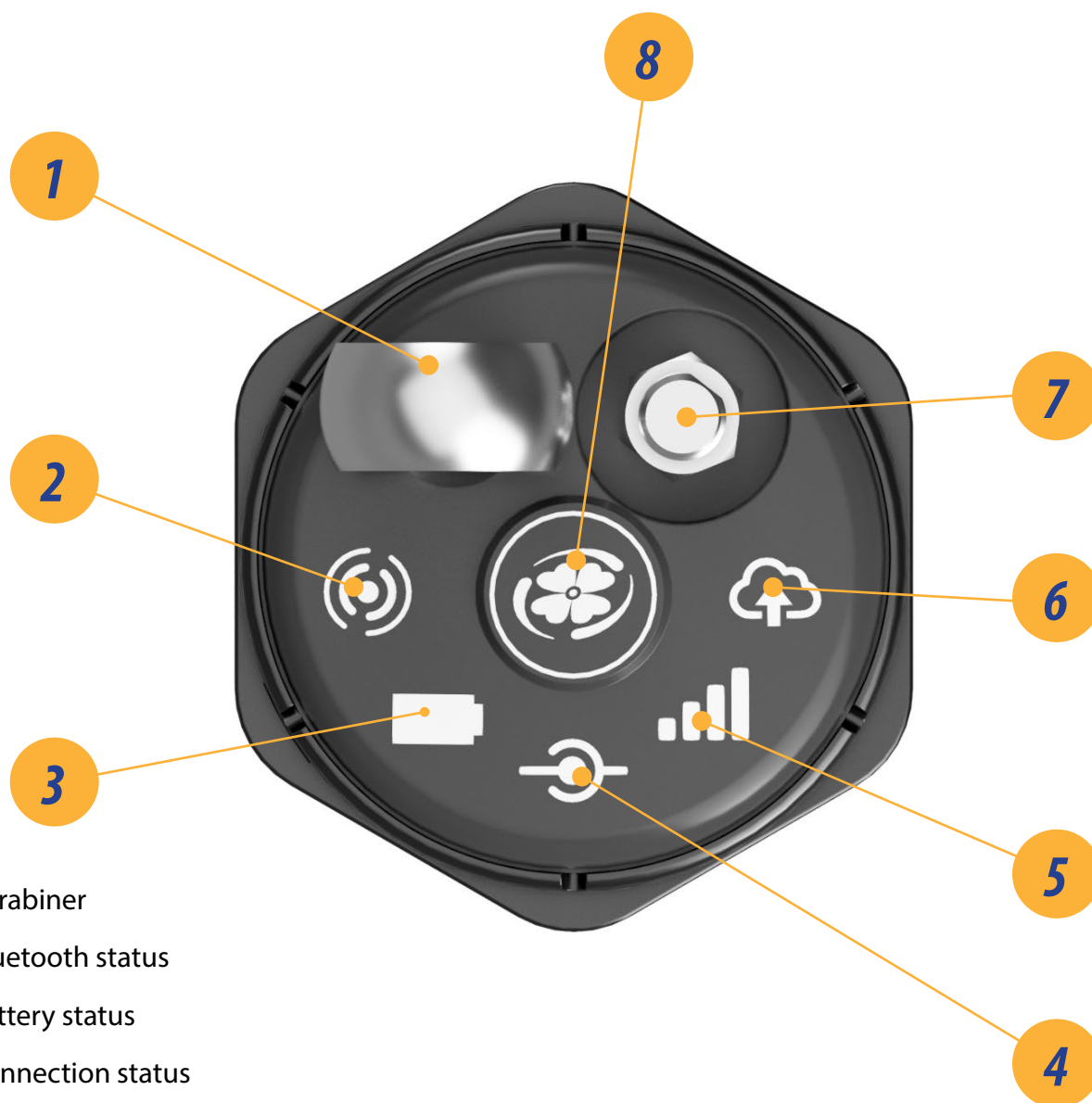
The automatic update option ensures that VuLink always has the current firmware.



Controls



LEDs on VuLink's control panel indicate the device's status.



- 1 Carabiner
- 2 Bluetooth status
- 3 Battery status
- 4 Connection status
- 5 Network connection status
- 6 Cloud connection status
- 7 Antenna
- 8 Power



Specifications

Battery	3 x D cell (1.5V - 3.6V) Alkaline / Li-SOCl ₂ [Lithium Thionyl Chloride] / Li-MnO ₂ [Lithium Manganese Dioxide] supported
Operation Time (24 hour reporting, Li-MnO ₂)	Up to 12 years*
Operation Time (24 hour reporting, Alkaline)	Up to 3 years*
Clock Accuracy	Less than 1 minute drift per year with ability to synchronize to network provided time for accuracy +/- 1 second
Network Type	4G LTE Category M1 (LTE-M) / NB-IoT (Narrow Band) with 2G fallback
Bands	LTE Global - B1(2100), B2(1900), B3(1800), B4(AWS1700), B5(850), B8(900), B12(700), B13(700), B18(800), B19(800), B20(800), B28(700)
Protocols	HTTPS (HydroVu), SMS (alarms)
Data Provider	Built-in free** global roaming (see Network List Addendum for details: in-situ.com/VuLinkNetworks), additional single 4FF slot for 3rd party SIM support
Antenna	SMA-M connector
GPS	Up to 3m accuracy, built-in antenna
File Format (non-HydroVu)	CSV
Remote Setup	Supported
Overall Length	19.1"
Diameter	1.85"
Weight	2.2 pounds/1.0 kg (with included alkaline batteries and carabiner, excluding antenna)
Materials	Ryton (housing), PVC (battery cover), Titanium (Twistlock connector, eyebolt), 316 Stainless Steel (carabiner), Silicone (keypad cover), Brass (SMA antenna connector), Polycarbonate (label), Viton (O-rings)



Storage Temperature	-20°C to 60°C
Operating Temperature	-20°C to 50°C (Li-SOCl ₂ /Li-MnO ₂), 5°C - 40°C (Alkaline)
Ingress Protection	Device: IP68 System: Up to IP68 per antenna specification
Protocols	Modbus over RS-485, SDI-12, Pulse low/high frequencies (max 40 khz)
Connectors	1 In-Situ Twistlock (supports multiple instruments via Rugged Cable Splitter, TROLL Net Hub, or Load-Bearing Universal Adapter)
Simultaneous Connections	Up to 8 instruments (total maximum of 75mA provided to connected instruments at 16V)
Venting	Built-in on all models, no desiccant required
Barometric Compensation	Built-in on all models for automatic compensation of level readings
Barometer Accuracy	+/- 1 hPa
Alarms	Configurable based on instrument readings and device parameters
Power	Total maximum of 75mA provided to connected instruments at 16V (intended typically to power a single instrument)
Wireless Setup	Supported via Bluetooth Low Energy
Logging Rate	1 minute to 7 days
Transmission Rate	5 minutes to 7 days
Memory	512 MB (soldered to circuit board)
Maximum Transmitter Output Power	All LTE FDD bands: +23 dBm +/- 1dB (conducted) GSM900: +32.5 dBm +/- 1dB GSM1800: +29.5 dBm +/- 1dB (conducted) EGPRS900: +27.0 dBm +/- 1dB EDGE1800: +26.0 dBm +/- 1dB (conducted) Bluetooth: +5.5 dBm +/- 0.35 dB (EIRP)

