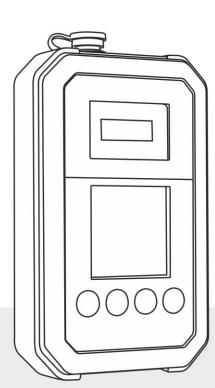
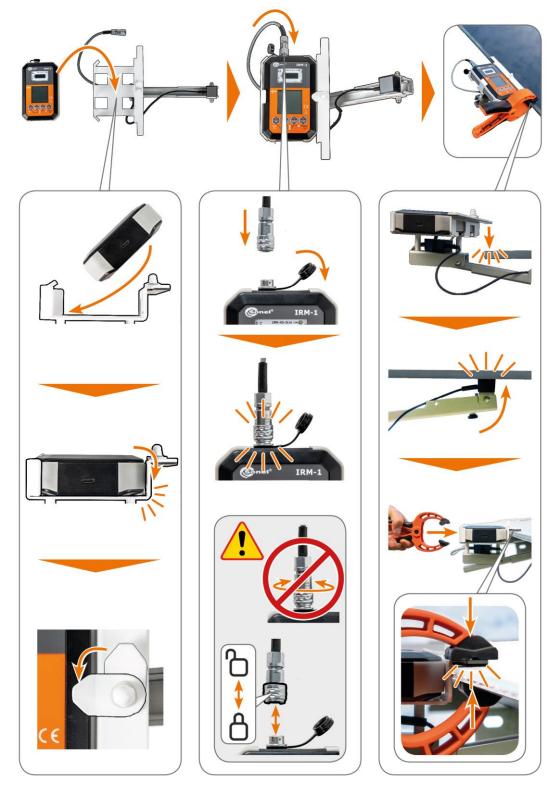
IRM-1

SOLAR RADIATION AND TEMPERATURE METER

USER MANUAL









USER MANUAL

SOLAR RADIATION AND TEMPERATURE METER IRM-1

(6

SONEL S.A. Wokulskiego 11 58-100 Świdnica Poland

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IRM-1 is a modern, state-of-the art measuring instrument, easy to operate and safe. Read this manual to avoid mistakes during the measurements and prevent operational problems.

CONTENTS

1		UCI	neral information	.5
	1.	.1	Safety symbols	. 5
	1.		Safety	
		.3 (General characteristics	. 6
			Compliance with standards	
2		Qui	ick start	.7
	2.	.1	Turning the meter on and off, display content	. 7
	2.		Selection of general measurement parameters	. 7
		2.2.		7
		2.2.		
		2.2.		9 11
		2.2.		11
	2.	.3 1	Pairing with a master meter	
3		Mea	asurements	14
			Live mode	
			HOLD mode	
			Inclination in relation to the ground	
	З.	.4 (Geographical direction	15
4		Rea	corder	16
			Setting the recording interval and memory mode	
		.2	Recording	17
			mory of measurement results	
5				1 🖌
	5.	.1	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user	19
	5. 5.	.1 .2	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user	19 20
	5. 5.	.1 .2 .3	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user	19 20 21
	5. 5.	.1 .2	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user	19 20 21 21
	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3.	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory	19 20 21 21 21 22
6	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Coi	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory	19 20 21 21 22 23
	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Coi	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory	19 20 21 21 22 23
6 7	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Coi Tro	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory	19 20 21 21 22 23 23
6 7 8	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Coi Tro	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 mmunication 2 wer supply	19 20 21 21 22 23 23 23
6 7 8	5. 5. 5.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Coi Tro Pov .1	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory mmunication 2 wer supply 2 Monitoring the power supply voltage 2	19 20 21 21 22 23 23 24 24
6 7 8	5. 5. 5. 8. 8.	.1 .2 .3 5.3. 5.3. Col Tro Pov .1 .2	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the power supply voltage 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery	19 20 21 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24
6 7 8	5. 5. 5. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.	.1 1 .2 5.3. 5.3. 5.3. Coi Tro .1 1 .2 1 .3 (.4 (Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory. 2 Deleting the power supply voltage. 2 Replacing the battery	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24 24 24
6 7 8	5. 5. 5. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.	.1 1 .2 5.3. 5.3. 5.3. Coi Tro .1 1 .2 1 .3 (.4 (Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting memory 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the power supply voltage 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery 2 Deleting the battery	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24 24 24
6 7 8	5. 5. 5. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.	.1 1 2 .3 1 5.3. 5.3. Con Tro Pov .1 1 .2 1 .3 (.4 (Cle	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory. 2 Deleting the power supply voltage. 2 Replacing the battery	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24
6 7 8 9	5. 5. 5. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 9	.1 1 .2 .3 1 5.3. Con Tro Pov .1 1 .3 0 .4 0 Cle Sto	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user Image: Constraint of the user Viewing user memory data Image: Constraint of the user 1 Deleting memory data Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the recorder memory Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the recorder memory Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the recorder memory Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the recorder memory Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the power supply voltage Image: Constraint of the user 2 Monitoring the power supply voltage Image: Constraint of the user 2 Deleting the battery Image: Constraint of the user 3 Deleting the battery Image: Constraint of the user 4 Deleting the battery Image: Constraint of the user 4 Deleting the user supply to the user Image: Constraint of the user 4 Deleting the user Image: Constraint of the user 4 Deleting the user Image: Constraint of the user 5 Deleting the user Image: Constraint of the user 6 Deleting the user Image: Constraint of	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 25 25
6 7 8 9 10	5.5.5. 8.8.8.8. 0.1	.1 1 .2 1 5.3 1 5.3. Col Tro Pov .1 1 .2 1 .3 (Col Col	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user Image: Constraint of the user Viewing user memory data Image: Constraint of the user 1 Deleting memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory 2 Deleting the power supply voltage 2 Monitoring the power supply voltage 2 Charging rechargeable battery 2 Charging rechargeable battery 2 Charging and maintenance 2 Charge 2 Charge 2 Charge and maintenance 2 Charge 2 Charge 2 Charge and	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 25 25 25 25
6 7 8 9 10	5.5.5. 8.8.8.8. 0.1 2	.1 1 .2 5.3. 5.3. Con Tro Pov .1 1 .2 1 Cle Sto Dis Teo	Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 2 Viewing user memory data 2 Deleting memory data 2 1 Deleting user memory data 2 Deleting the recorder memory. 2 Deleting the power supply voltage. 2 Replacing the battery. 2 Charging rechargeable battery . 2 General rules for using Li-lon rechargeable batteries. 2 Paning and maintenance 2 Paning and disposal .	19 20 21 22 23 23 24 24 24 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25

13 Manufacturer	27
12.2.1 Maximum operating time on a single battery charge	
12.2 Other technical specifications	
12.1.4 Measuring the geographical position of the location – compass	
12.1.3 Measuring of the inclination angle	
12.1.2 Temperature measurement of the PV module and the environment	25

1 General information

1.1 Safety symbols

The following international symbols are used in the device and/or in this manual:





Do not dispose of with other household waste

CF

Declaration of Conformity with EU directives (Conformité Européenne)

1.2 Safety

To avoid damage to the device and to ensure its safe operation, the user must observe the notes and warnings provided in these operating instructions.

- Before you proceed to operate the device, acquaint yourself thoroughly with this manual and observe the safety regulations and specifications defined by the producer
- Any application that differs from those specified in this manual may result in damage to the device and constitute a source of danger for the user.
- Using this manual does not exclude the need to comply with occupational health and safety regulations
 and with other relevant fire regulations required during the performance of a particular type of work.
 Before starting the work with the device in special environments, e.g. potentially fire-risk/explosive
 environment, it is necessary to consult it with the person responsible for health and safety.
- Do not make any electrical contact between the temperature probe sensors and exposed live parts.
- It is unacceptable to operate:
 - \Rightarrow it is damaged and completely or partially out of order,
 - \Rightarrow its cords and cables have damaged insulation,
 - \Rightarrow of the device and accessories mechanically damaged,
 - ⇒ it was stored for an excessive period of time in disadvantageous conditions (e.g. excessive humidity) After moving the device from a cool to a warm place with a high level of relative humidity, do not start measurements until the device is warmed up to the ambient temperature (approximately <u>30</u> minutes).
- Remember that symbol appearing on the display indicates insufficient voltage of power supply and the need to recharge the battery. Measurements performed with the meter supplied with insufficient voltage are burdened with additional errors that are impossible to be estimated by the user. Such measurements must not be used to confirm correctness of the tested photovoltaic installation or network.
- Opening the socket plug of the temperature probe results in the loss of its declared tightness, leading to a possible damage in adverse weather conditions. It may also expose the user to the risk of electric shock.
- Repairs may be performed only by an authorised service point.
- The battery may be replaced only by an authorised service point.



NOTE!

- The temperature sensor cannot be installed on damaged surface of the PV module. Installation on a damaged surface may result in a short circuit to the metal part of the temperature sensor.
- Only accessories intended for a given device should be used. Using other accessories may cause damage to measuring terminals, introduce additional measurement errors and create a risk for the user.
- The included charger is not intended for outdoor use as it is not protected against the ingress of moisture.



Due to continuous development of the meter's software, the actual appearance of the display, in case of some of the functions, may slightly differ from the display presented in this operating manual.

1.3 General characteristics

IRM-1 meter is a device for measuring environmental conditions during measurements of photovoltaic systems. The very high tightness class of the device (IP65) ensures measurements in diverse weather conditions.

Measured parameters:

- solar irradiance on the surface i.e. the power per unit area received from the sun that reaches the earth's surface, measured in W² or BTU/ft²h,
- air temperature,
- temperature of the cell(s) in a photovoltaic module,
- inclination of the photovoltaic system in relation to the ground surface,
- the geographical direction in which the photovoltaic system is oriented.

The meter is equipped with two sockets:

- socket for connecting the temperature probe (without the probe, other functions in the device work properly),
- micro-USB socket (for charging the device and communicating with a PC in order to collect measurement results).

The meter has a built-in LoRa radio interface for communication with the master device.



IRM-1 is a meter designed for measuring solar irradiance and the temperature of photovoltaic cells and their environment. The data it provides is necessary to convert the measured values to the STC conditions. The standardized values enable the user to determine whether the photovoltaic system is working with optimal efficiency and to check the PV modules for potential damage.

1.4 Compliance with standards

IRM-1 meets the requirements of the following standards:

Safety standards:

• IEC 61010-1 – Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements.

Standards for electromagnetic compatibility:

IEC 61326-1 – Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – EMC requirements – Part 1: General requirements.

2 Quick start

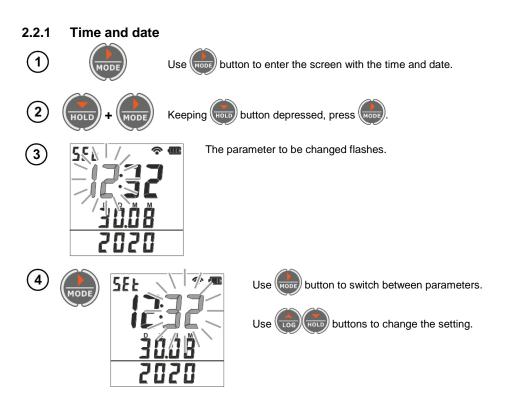
2.1 Turning the meter on and off, display content

The white marks on the buttons refer to the functions that can be activated in the meter. Orange markings refer to appropriate commands for changing device settings.

Briefly press button to turn on the meter. Press it for a longer time to turn it off (OFF is displayed).

Briefly press button during the meter operation to see the following indications: temperature, angle (compass), clock.

2.2 Selection of general measurement parameters

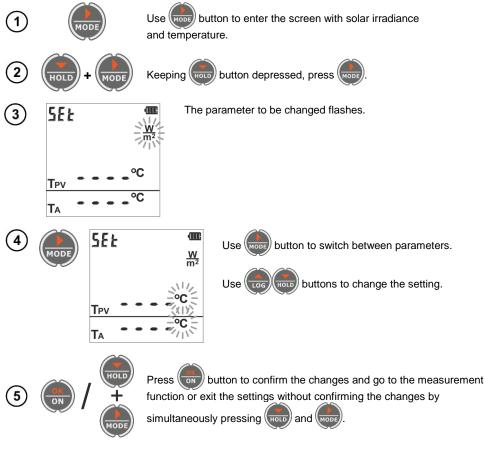




- If the IRM-1 communicates with the master meter, the master meter changes the IRM-1 clock settings to synchronize time in both devices.
- Do not change time in the IRM-1 when it is synchronized with the master meter. However, if you change the time, the data in both devices will be desynchronized, and then the time in the IRM-1 will be corrected by the master meter.

2.2.2 Units of solar irradiance and temperature.

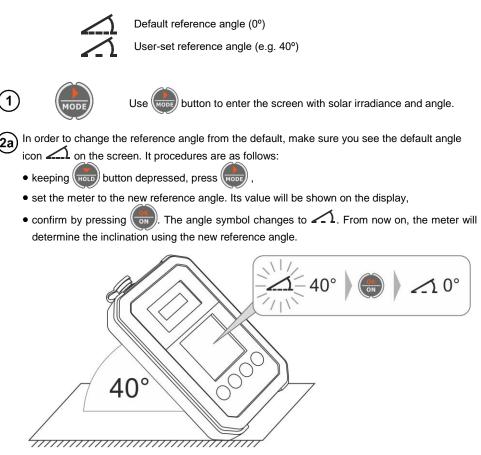
Irradiance measurements may be performed using two units (W/m² and BTU/ft²h) and the results with selected unit may be saved in the memory. Measurements of ambient temperature and solar cell (module) temperature may be also carried out in two units (°C and °F) and saved in the memory using these units.



2.2.3 Zeroing the meter inclination angle in relation to the ground

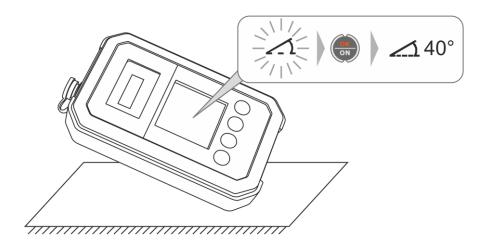
The default position of IRM-1 relative to the ground is parallel, i.e. its inclination angle in relation to the ground is 0°. The user can change this reference angle. This is useful when you need to specify the inclination angle in relation to any surface.

The type of the reference angle – default or user – is indicated by relevant icon on the display.



(2b) In order to change the reference angle to the default value (0°), make sure you see the angle icon \checkmark on the screen. It procedures are as follows:

- keeping (HOLD) button depressed, press (HODE),
- the angle of the meter does not matter,
- press . The angle symbol changes to . From now on, the meter will determine the inclination using the default reference angle, i.e. 0°.

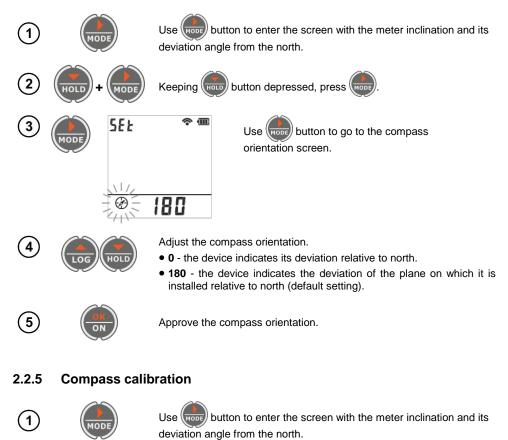


2.2.4 Compass orientation

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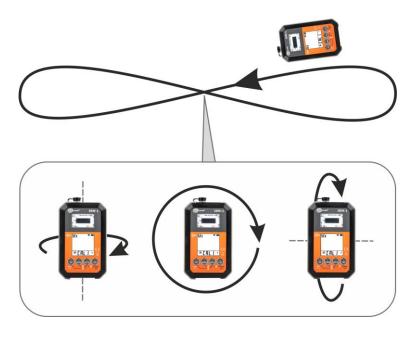
calibration screen.

Use (MODE) button to go to the compass

Keeping (HOLD) button depressed, press

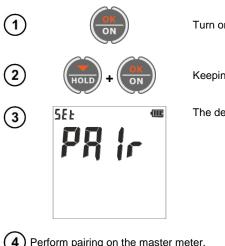


5 For 3 minutes, move the device in a way that will rotate it in as many directions as possible. The movement should be performed in each axis of the device.



- The compass should be calibrated after noticing significant deviations of its indications from the real world directions. This can happen in environments, where magnetic materials are present (magnets, metals, etc.) or where there is a high magnetic field.
- During calibration, no peripheral devices may be connected to the IRM-1.
- If it is necessary to complete the calibration within 3 minutes, press (button.
- After leaving the "magnetic" environment, the compass must be recalibrated.
- When using the product, you may need to recalibrate the compass. It should be done in a free space, away from magnetic fields and materials.

2.3 Pairing with a master meter



Turn on the meter.

Keeping HOLD button depressed, press OK.

The device is in pairing mode.

Perform pairing on the master meter.



Pairing with the master meter is in progress.



Successful pairing is indicated by a message. Then, the device returns to displaying the measurement readings.

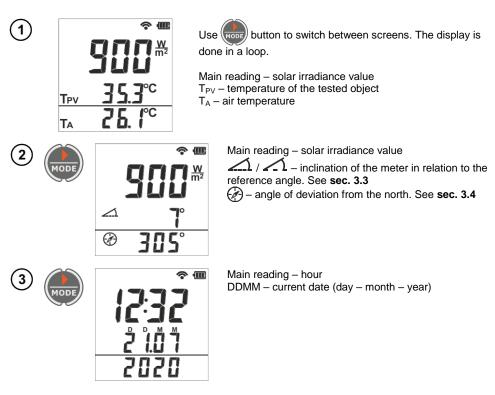


5

- The IRM-1 may be paired with up to 3 master meters. Each subsequent pairing will delete the oldest pairing with a master meter from the memory.
- Once paired with a master meter, the IRM-1 will remember it. When the device comes within the range of the paired master meter, which sends a connection request, the connection will be made automatically.

3 Measurements

3.1 Live mode



The cell is protected by a special glass that transmits the spectrum of solar radiation in the measured range. In order to maintain the accuracy of the measurement, the protective glass should be kept clean.

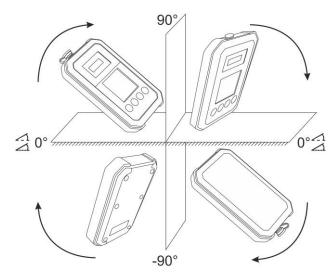
3.2 HOLD mode

This function is used to 'freeze' the measurement result on the display. To do this, shortly press button. When the function is enabled, the display shows symbol **H**.

To return to the normal operation mode of the device, press (HOLD) button again.

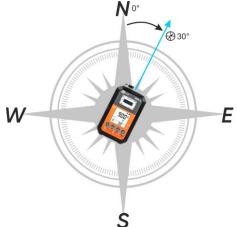
3.3 Inclination in relation to the ground

The inclination value changes as shown in the figure below.



3.4 Geographical direction

The geographical direction is indicated as an angle in the range of 0° ... 359°. North (in the northern hemisphere) or south (in the southern hemisphere) is indicated when the angle is 0° . Angle rise – clockwise.



Depending on the compass orientation (sec. 2.2.4), indicated is the orientation of the instrument itself or the plane on which it is installed.

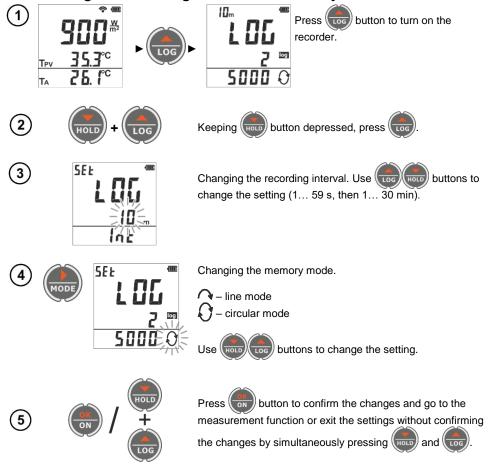
4 Recorder

The recorder allows you to save one or more records, i.e. sets of measurement records. The maximum cumulative number of records in the memory is 5000. The lowest number of records is 1 record, which means that you can record up to 5000 single records.

You can enable and disable recordings in the recorder. Each recording has its own unique tag. This allows unambiguous assignment of records to the recording data. This solution prevents confusing records from different recordings after transferring them to the computer

The recorder memory may work in one of two modes: linear or circular. In the linear **mode**, the memory is full until the last cell is used, then recording is stopped. In the **circular** mode, recording continues until the battery is discharged or until the device is turned off by the user. The results are saved in a loop, i.e. after the memory is full, the oldest records are overwritten with the newest ones. The last 5000 records are stored. Recording is made at the preset interval.

4.1 Setting the recording interval and memory mode



1

2

3

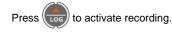


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qq

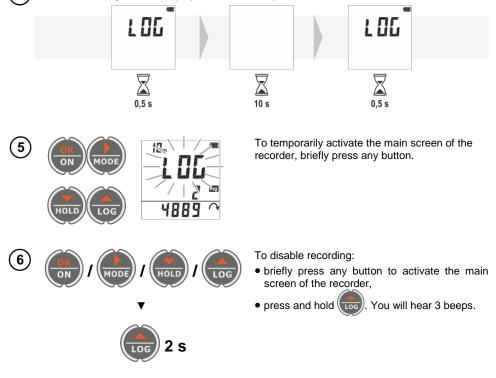
Press button to turn on the recorder. The screen displays the following:

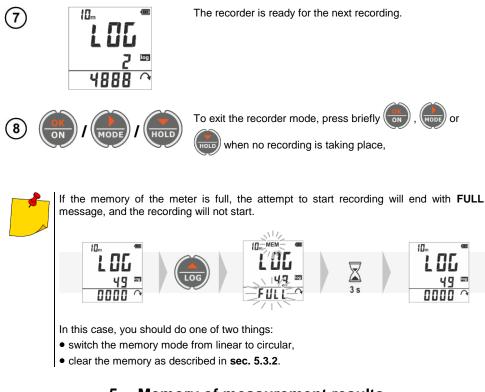
- interval (here: 10 m[inutes]),
- number of saved records (here: 1 record),
- number of free memory cells (4900) saved in the line mode (



You will hear a short beep. The LOG will start flashing, the recording number will increase by 1. Short presses on the buttons will not cause any reaction. The screen will go blank after 10 seconds.

4) The LOG message will be displayed for 0.5 s every 10 seconds.





5 Memory of measurement results

The meter is equipped with three independent memories:

- user measurement memory 999 records,
- recorder memory 5000 records,
- temporary memory 1200 records.

The memory with the measurement results **is not erased** after the meter is turned off. Results from the user memory and recorder can be transferred to a computer via USB.

Each record has a time stamp and all the values measured during the recording i.e. solar irradiance, air temperature T_A , temperature of the photovoltaic cell T_{PV} , angle of inclination to the reference surface, geographical direction. The measurement results are stored with the measurement unit set at the recording time, i.e. if the solar irradiance was measured in W/m^2 , then the result value will be saved in W/m^2 . The information about the set measuring unit is included in the record.

User measurement memory can be viewed directly on the IRM-1. You can save it, view it, delete it.

The recorder memory cannot be viewed in the IRM-1 device. It can only be deleted.

The temporary memory is not available to the user. It activates when the IRM-1 is communicating with the master meter and the connection is lost. Then, the internal recording of measurements is activated with an interval of 1 second. The results are saved in a loop, i.e. after the memory is full, the oldest records are overwritten with the newest ones. Due to the size of the memory, the records of the last 20 minutes of are saved in this mode.

After restoring the connection with the master meter, the IRM-1 shares the temporary memory with the master meter to supplement the missing data on environmental parameters.

Recording measurement results in the memory of the user 5.1

1 0 Ē \bigtriangleup Τρν °C C TA ዘ 🛜 🎟 (2) H symbol is displayed on the screen. Press Hold $\frac{W}{m^2}$ °C Τρν °C D. ΤΑ $\langle |$ 1 3 Press Log . The device shows the screen with saving MEM 🕂 🗢 the result to the user memory. The cell number under <u>W</u> m² which the result will be saved is blinking. - saving the result to the user's memory C Τρν - return to the measurement °C Ь TA screen without saving the result

The device is in the solar irradiance measurement mode.



If the memory is full, the meter will ask for erasing it before saving. This request must be accepted or rejected.

If it is rejected, press (mon



• If it is accepted, proceed as described below. After erasing the memory, the result is saved in the cell number 1.



5.2 Viewing user memory data

1) The device is in the solar irradiance measurement mode.



2



Press and hold . The meter will enter the user memory browsing mode.

The number of the last saved cell is shown in the upper left corner. Below – solar irradiance, temperature of the tested object T_{PV} and ambient temperature T_A .

Use button to display the values saved within a single record.



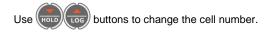
Solar irradiance, inclination angle of the meter, deviation from the north.





Time, date.







3

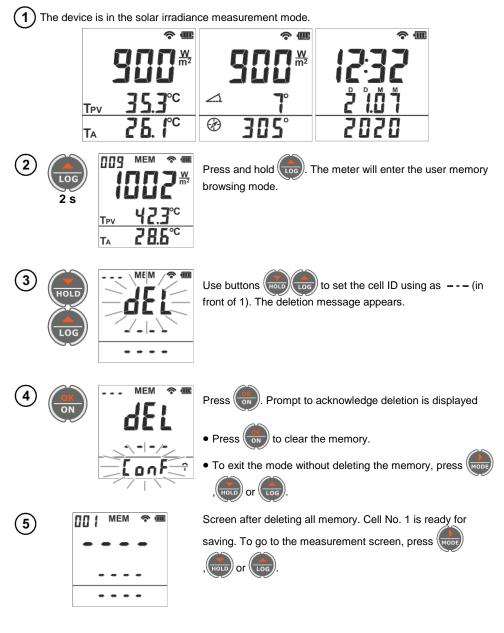


To exit the memory viewing mode, press



5.3 Deleting memory data

5.3.1 Deleting user memory data



5.3.2 Deleting the recorder memory.

 \sim

1 The device is in the solar irradiance	measurement mode.
Теу д.д.	I I <thi< th=""> <thi< th=""> <thi< th=""></thi<></thi<></thi<>
	Press (). The meter will enter the recorder mode.
	Press and hold . The deletion message appears.
	Press On. Prompt to acknowledge deletion is displayed Press On to clear the memory. To exit the mode without deleting the memory, press One, To come or October of 0-200-4005000 will start to reflect the deletion progress.
	Screen after deleting all memory (0 records) To go to the neasurement screen, press , , , , or , or , .

6 Communication

IRM-1 is equipped with two communication channels: wired USB and wireless LoRa®.

Wired communication via USB is used to transfer the results from the recorder's memory and from the user's memory to the computer. After connecting IRM-1 to a computer, it will be detected. Then, using the Sonel Reader software, the user will be able to download measurement records. Data transfer is indicated by the blinking **MEM** icon.

Wireless communication in the LoRa® standard is used to send measurement results to the master meter. Any loss of communication does not result in data loss. The readings are then recorded in the temporary memory and transmitted to the master meter after the communication is restored in accordance with sec. 5.

7 Troubleshooting

Before sending the instrument for repairs, call our service. Perhaps the meter is not damaged, and the problem has been caused by some other reasons.

The meter can be repaired only at outlets authorized by the manufacturer.

Troubleshooting of typical problems during the use of the meter is described in the table below.

Symptom	Cause	Action
The meter does not start after pressing button $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$.	Battery discharged.	Charge the battery. If this does not help, sent the meter for servicing.
Measurement errors after moving the meter from cold environment to a warm and humid place.	No acclimatization.	Do not perform the measurements until the meter reaches the ambient temperature (about 30 minutes) and dries.

8 Power supply

8.1 Monitoring the power supply voltage

The batteries charging level is indicated by the symbol located in the top right-hand corner of the screen:



Battery charged.

Battery discharged.

Measurements performed with an insufficient supply voltage will be at risk of additional errors which the user is unable to evaluate.

8.2 Replacing the battery

The meter is powered by an internal battery. The battery may be replaced only by an authorised service point.

8.3 Charging rechargeable battery

Charge the battery using the provided charger or via the USB interface of a computer.

8.4 General rules for using Li-Ion rechargeable batteries

- Store the half-charged battery pack in a plastic container placed in a dry, cool and well ventilated place and protect them from direct sunlight. The battery pack may be damaged if stored when fully discharged. The ambient temperature for prolonged storage should be maintained within the range of 5°C...25°C.
- Charge the batteries in a cool, well-ventilated place at a temperature of 10°C ... 28°C. Modern fast chargers detect both too low and too high temperature of rechargeable batteries and react to the situation adequately. Too low temperature should prevent starting the process of charging, which might irreparably damage rechargeable batteries. The increase in temperature of the battery pack may cause electrolyte leakage and even its ignition or explosion.
- Do not exceed the charging current, as it may result in ignition or "swelling" of the battery pack. "Swollen" battery pack must not be used.
- Do not charge or use the batteries in extreme temperatures. Extreme temperatures reduce the lifetime of rechargeable batteries. Always observe the rated operating temperature. Do not dispose the battery pack into fire.
- Li-lon cells are sensitive to mechanical damage. This kind of damage may cause its permanent damage and thus – ignition or explosion. Any interference in the structure of Li-ion battery pack may cause its damage. This may result in the ignition or explosion. A short-circuit of the battery poles "+" and "-" may permanently damage the battery pack or even cause its fire or explosion.
- Do not immerse Li-Ion battery in liquids and do not store in humid conditions.
- If the electrolyte contained in the Lithium-Ion battery pack, contacts eyes or skin, immediately rinse the affected place with plenty of water and consult a doctor. Protect the battery against unauthorised persons and children.
- When you notice any changes in the Lithium-Ion battery pack (e.g. changes in colour, swelling, excessive temperature), stop using the battery pack. Li-Ion batteries that are mechanically damaged, overcharged or excessively discharged are not suitable for use.
- Any misuse of the battery may cause its permanent damage. This may result in the ignition. The seller and the manufacturer shall not be liable for any damages resulting from improper handling Li-lon battery pack.

9 Cleaning and maintenance



NOTE!

Use only the maintenance methods presented by the manufacturer in this manual.

Clean the meter casing with a wet cloth, using generally available detergents. Do not use any solvents and cleaning media which could scratch the casing (powder, paste, etc.).

The probes can be cleaned with water and then wiped dry. Before longer storage, it is recommended to lubricate the probes with any machine grease.

Clean the leads with water and detergents, then wipe dry.

The meter electronic system is maintenance free.

10 Storage

When storing the instrument, observe the following recommendations:

- disconnect all leads from the meter,
- thoroughly clean the meter and all accessories,
- In order to prevent a damage of the battery pack due to its total discharge in the case of a
 prolonged storage, charge it at least once every 3 months.

11 Dismantling and disposal

Used electric and electronic equipment should be collected selectively, i.e. not placed with other types of waste.

Used electronic equipment shall be sent to the collection point according to the Used Electric and Electronic Equipment Act.

Before sending the instrument to the collection point, do not dismantle any parts by yourself. Observe local regulations on disposal of packagings and used batteries.

12 Technical data

12.1 Basic information

⇒ The abbreviation "m.v." used in the specification of accuracy denotes a measured value

12.1.1 Measurement of solar irradiance

Measurement range: 100 W/m²...1400 W/m², 32 BTU/ft²h...444 BTU/ft²h

	Display range	Resolution	Accuracy
Γ	01400 W/m ²	1 W/m ²	L(E)(m) () digita)
	0…444 BTU/ft ² h	1 BTU/ft ² h	±(5% m.v. + 2 digits)

12.1.2 Temperature measurement of the PV module and the environment

Display range	Resolution	Accuracy
-20.0100.0°C	0.1°C	±(1% m.v. + 5 digits)
-4.0212.0°F	0.1°F	$\pm(1\% 11.0. \pm 5 \text{ digits})$

12.1.3 Measuring of the inclination angle

Display range	Resolution	Accuracy
-90+90°	1°	±4°

12.1.4 Measuring the geographical position of the location – compass

Display range	Resolution	Accuracy
0360°	1°	±7°

12.2 Other technical specifications

b) power supplyLi-Ion rechargeable battery 3.7 V 1.3 Ah c) indication for range exceeding • irradiance exceeded
 irradiance exceeded
 minimum temperature not reached
maximum temperature exceededOL symbol dimensionsOL symbol dimensionsOL symbol meters with serial number up to L20399
d) dimensions
e) weightapprox. 0.2 kg f) storage temperature
f) storage temperature20+60°C g) operating temperature10+50°C h) humidity
g) operating temperature
h) humidity
h) humidity
i) reference temperature
j) reference humidity
k) altitude (above sea level): <2000 m
 I) time to Auto-OFF
 m) type of supported temperature probe meters with serial number up to L20399analogue meters with serial number starting from L20400digital n) displayosegmented LCD o) memory of measurement results cache memory
meters with serial number up to L20399analogue meters with serial number starting from L20400digital n) displaysegmented LCD o) memory of measurement results cache memory1000 cells recorder
meters with serial number starting from L20400digital n) displaysegmented LCD o) memory of measurement results eache memory
n) displaysegmented LCD o) memory of measurement results • cache memory
o) memory of measurement results • cache memory
cache memory
recorder
interface
• range up to 300 m
q) quality standard
design, construction and manufacturing are ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, IEC 61010-1 compliant
r) the product meets EMC requirements (immunity for industrial environment) acc. to the following standards
IEC 61326-1

SONEL S.A. hereby declares that the radio device type IRM-1 complies with Directive 2014/53/EU. The full text of the EU Declaration of Conformity is available at the following website address: https://sonel.pl/en/download/declaration-of-conformity/

12.2.1 Maximum operating time on a single battery charge

Operating time: up to 18 h

Conditions

- Active communication with master meter via LoRa® interface
- Temperature -10...50°C

13 Manufacturer

The manufacturer of the equipment and provider of service during and past the warranty period:

SONEL S.A.

Wokulskiego 11 58-100 Świdnica Poland tel. +48 74 884 10 53 (Customer Service) e-mail: <u>customerservice@sonel.com</u> web page: <u>www.sonel.com</u>



NOTE!

Service repairs must be performed solely by the manufacturer.

NOTES



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