Specifications & Installation Guide

NextConnect

Smart Metering Made Simple

The NextConnect (NC5) is a universal 5G LTE-M cellular meter endpoint. Capable of supporting fixed-network, walk-by, drive-by, and cellular applications, it's designed to scale your metering deployments with the simplicity of a single device.

Flexible Communications

With the NextConnect wireless solution, all of your meter endpoints are enabled with 5G LTE-M cellular communication, allowing them to directly sync meter data within coverage areas without additional infrastructure.

Additional built-in wireless technologies offer redundancy and scaleability, enabling the NextConnect to also communicate through fixed-network, walk-by, or drive-by reading methods. No matter what method is used to collect reads, all data is brought into the same platform, eliminating the need for manual entry or reporting from multiple systems.

Meter+ Simplified

Using Meter+ Technology, the NextConnect enhances your meter with auto protocol detection. One single model works for all meter types across pulse and encoded outputs, simplifying your installations.

Added smart alerts quickly surface potential issues of meter health and utility usage, empowering you with the insights that matter most.

Durability

Engineered for tough outdoor environments and sealed with a 20+ year battery, the NextConnect delivers consistent, maintenance-free performance that you can count on.

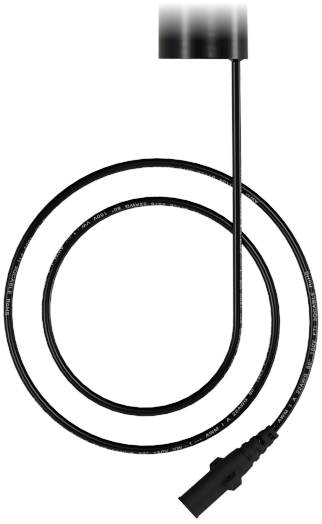
Key Benefits

- Multi-carrier 5G LTE-M cellular
- Single model for cellular, drive-by, fixed-network, and walk-by reading
- Meter+ Technology with protocol auto-detection
- Single model reads all industry standard wire output meters
- 20+ year battery life for maintenance-free operation
- IP-68 rated for outdoor & meter pit installations
- Compact design, high-strength housing
- Secure and easy mounting
- Add new endpoints easily-without building new infrastructure.

Warranty

- 20-year warranty

Specifications



Standard Cable: 3' / 91.5 cm
Extended Cable: 10' / 3 m

Compatibility

NextConnect offers a wide range of cable and connector configurations to suit any setup. With support for Nicor, Itron (adapter), and universal, you can completely eliminate compatibility issues. For installations requiring extra reach, we also offer a 10ft universal cable.

Nicor

3ft Cable

Itron (adapter)

3ft Cable

Universal

10ft cable

Approvals

FCC ID: 2A8EC-NC5 (Pending)

IC: 28950-NC5 (Pending)

Contains FCC ID: 2ANP000NRF9151

Contains IC ID: 24529-NRF9151

Communications

Multi-carrier 5G cellular with simple LTE-M

Wireless fixed-network, drive-by, and walk-by reading modes

Seamless operation between wireless technologies

Specifications & Installation Guide

Data

- Mobile and web access for configuration and monitoring
- API access to interval data
- Supports detailed hourly full-resolution meter read

Environment

- Engineered for long-term outdoor durability
- Operates in temperatures from -40°C to 60°C
- Waterproof sealed construction, IP-68 rated

Meter+ Protocol Compatibility

- Auto protocol detection & wide compatibility
- Passive pulse sensing (reed switch, open drain, etc.)
- Active voltage pulse (max 16v)
- Encoded UI-1203 (Sensus), Neptune, GWF, & Elster protocols

Data

- Mobile and web access for configuration and monitoring
- API access to interval data
- Supports detailed hourly full-resolution meter read

Power

- 20+ year high capacity battery

Warranty

Next Meters warrants the NextConnect to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 20 years when installed in accordance with these instructions and with limitations as detailed in complete warranty.

docs.nextmeters.com/warranty

Contact

For additional information or assistance, please visit our Support Center or contact our Product Support Team:

support.nextcenturymeters.com

(844) 538 8203

support@nextmeters.com

Installation

Qualifying Installations

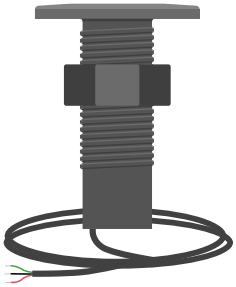
The NextConnect is primarily designed for use in outdoor meter pits. It is compatible with pit lid mounting holes from 1.7 to 2.1 inches (43 to 53 mm) in diameter.

The top of the NextConnect should be kept clear to avoid potential signal disruptions. Where possible, the area immediately surrounding the device should also be kept free of large objects that could interrupt device communications.

Doing this will also make it easier to locate and service the NextConnect and its connected meter when necessary. For best performance, poly/plastic lids are recommended.

Package Contents

A



A) NextConnect (NC5) with attached cable

B

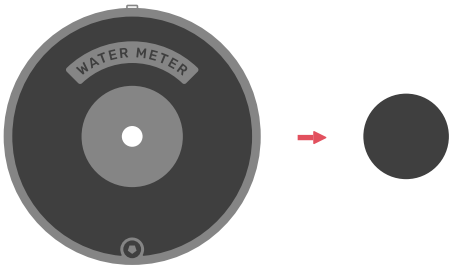
B) Mounting Nut

Instructions

Note: for installations in locations beyond meter pits, NextConnect wall mount accessories are available for purchase. Contact us for more information.

1. Remove Lid Cutout

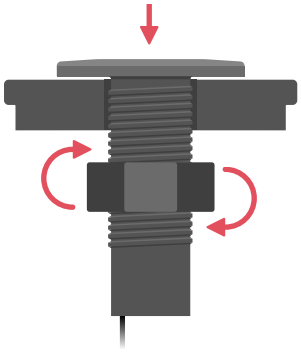
Drill a 1⅛" hole (standard pit lid mounting size) in the meter pit lid for mounting. If using metal lids, verify location and take proper safety precautions.



Use a 1⅛" hole saw for poly lids or a metal-cutting hole saw for cast iron lids

2. Secure the NextConnect to the Lid

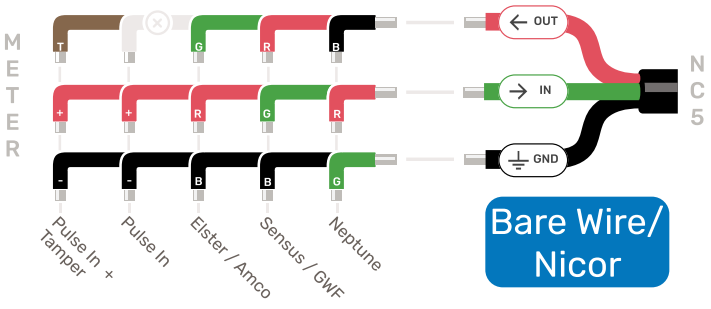
Insert the NextConnect through the mounting cutout and secure it to the lid using the provided mount nut.

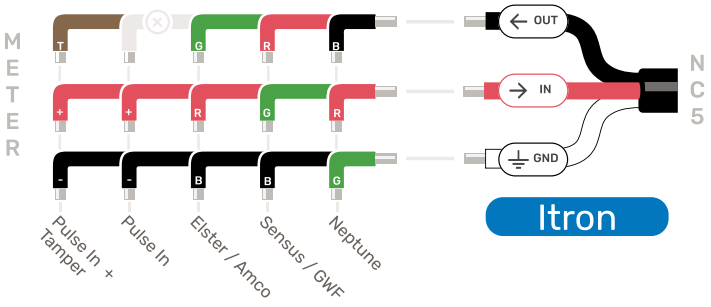


Tighten mounting nut until snug and flush with lid. Do not overtighten; hand-tight is sufficient.

3. Connect Cables

Connect the NextConnect's cable to your water meter. If you need to manually wire the connection, follow the appropriate wiring guide.





Programming & Wireless Communication

Configuration

The NextConnect is designed to be easily configured to switch between pulse or encoded meters using the NextCity Mobile App.

App Store
iOS App

Google Play
Android App

Once you've logged into the app, select the **Direct Connect** tool to connect to the NextConnect. This will allow you to verify or make changes to its configuration.

Wireless Made Easy

Use a magnet to verify device connectivity. A magnet swipe initiates a check-in. The LED will blink green when the NextConnect communicates with the Cloud.

If green blinks are not seen after 15 seconds, you may need to reposition the pit lid, ensure the antenna is unobstructed, or use a cellular Repeater.

An additional magnet swipe can initiate another check-in to retry.

Programming

Programming is the process of associating the NextConnect's serial number with the location and water utility type where it is installed.

To quickly program a large number of devices at once, you can use the CSV file uploader tool on the NextCity web portal. The web portal also offers a rapid programming interface to program additional devices later on.

The NextCity mobile app is ideal for on-site programming and verification.

After you log into the app, select the correct property. Then select "Program NextConnect."

Program the NextConnect by entering its serial number.

You can use the app's built-in barcode scanner to scan the NextConnect's barcode, or you can enter the serial number manually.

Resident App

This service gives residents the ability to view meter data, analyze usage trends, and receive critical alerts on their mobile devices.

Enable the Leak Monitoring Service subscription for optional immediate alerting of sustained high-flow (burst pipe).

Once configured, alerts will automatically be sent via phone, text, and/or email to residents. Alert notifications are repeated until one of the contacts confirms the alert has been received.

Television and Radio Interference Information

Television and Radio Interference

FCC Statement: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation.

This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation.

If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

FCC Radiation Exposure Statement: This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 40cm between the radiator and your body.

ISED Statement: This radio transmitter 28950-NC5 has been approved by ISED to operate with the antenna types listed below with the maximum permissible gain indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.

This device complies with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's licence-exempt RSSs. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) This device may not cause interference; and
(2) This device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

ISEDC Radiation Exposure Statement: This equipment complies with the ISED RSS-102 radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with a minimum distance of 40cm between the radiator and your body.

Television and Radio Interference (French)

Déclaration d'ISDE: Cet émetteur radio 28950-NC5 a été approuvé par ISDE pour fonctionner avec les types d'antennes énumérés ci-dessous, avec le gain maximal autorisé indiqué. Les types d'antennes non inclus dans cette liste, dont le gain est supérieur au gain maximal indiqué pour ce type, sont strictement interdits avec cet appareil.

Cet appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada) applicables aux appareils exemptés de licence. Son utilisation est soumise aux deux conditions suivantes:

(1) Cet appareil ne doit pas causer d'interférences; et
(2) Cet appareil doit tolérer toute interférence, y compris celles qui pourraient nuire à son bon fonctionnement.

Déclaration d'ISDE relative à l'exposition aux rayonnements: Cet équipement est conforme aux limites d'exposition aux rayonnements du CNR-102 d'ISDE, établies pour un environnement non contrôlé. Cet équipement doit être installé et utilisé en maintenant une distance minimale de 40 cm entre le radiateur et votre corps.