



ARB® FixedBase™ AMI Field Service Tool



Immediate installation notification is critical to a successful AMI deployment. Without this functionality, system deployment can be an overwhelming task. The logistics of an installation can cost a utility substantial time and money regardless of whether the deployment is being performed by the utility or by an outsourced installation firm. Of the challenges facing AMI deployments, a primary concern is knowing whether an MIU installation is successful before the installer moves to a new location.

Many systems require days (or more) before an installation can be confirmed as successful. Even systems that can validate communication over the network and report it back in hours or even minutes are likely to be of little value since installers will likely not want to wait for the confirmations. Without immediate validation, MIUs that are not communicating properly with the network will require follow-up trips so that the installer can troubleshoot the previous installations. This process can cause project costs to increase and inconvenience the homeowner.

Neptune's Field Service Tool (FST) eliminates this problem entirely. The FST is a handheld-based device with an integrated 450MHz transceiver that utilizes the ARB® FixedBase™ AMI System's two-way communication to confirm an installation is successful before the installer leaves the site. Upon a magnet swipe, the R450™ MIU sends a signal which is received by all collectors within range. The collector which records the best RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indication) sends a signal back in response. The FST records this



**CE5320
Handheld**

communication in real-time and supplies the installer with a green light for successful installation or a red light indicating that signal strength isn't optimal for two-way communication. This information is provided as part of the normal installation procedure, resulting in instantaneous validation of the installation.

Additionally, receiving this information as part of the install process allows the installer to make adjustments if needed so that the MIU will be successfully received by the collector. These adjustments are often as simple as altering the location of the MIU or antenna.

Many systems claim to save your utility time and money in the long-run but only Neptune's ARB FixedBase AMI System can save you both from day one.

KEY FEATURES

- Real-time installation confirmation
- MIU simulator
- Collector simulator
- Integrated 450Mhz transceiver
- Handheld-based for in-field use

KEY BENEFITS

- Lowers installation costs
- Decreases AMR/AMI deployment time
- Optimizes installation for two-way communication
- Reduces the number of truck-rolls due to improper installation
- Reduces homeowner inconvenience

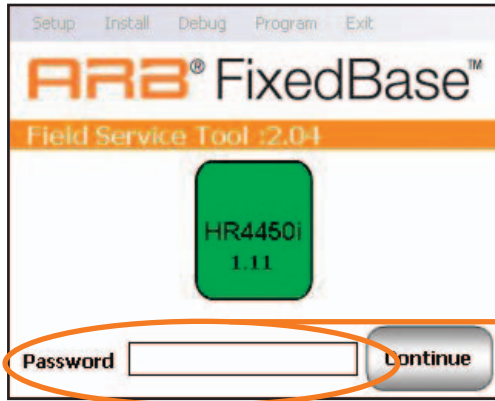


Figure A: Field Service Tool Start Screen

The security verification in the Field Service Tool ensures that only authorized personnel can interact with the ARB FixedBase AMI System.

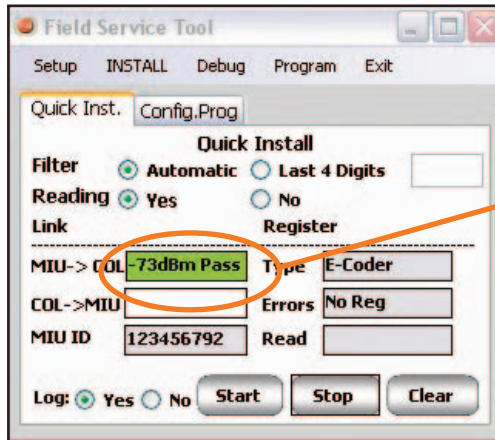


Figure B: Quick Install Results Screen

Upon a magnet swipe of the R450 MIU, the FST will record the two-way communication between the collector and MIU in real-time. The results are displayed on this screen. If the installation was successful, this box will be highlighted green. A red highlight indicates that the installer would need to alter the location of the MIU/antenna.

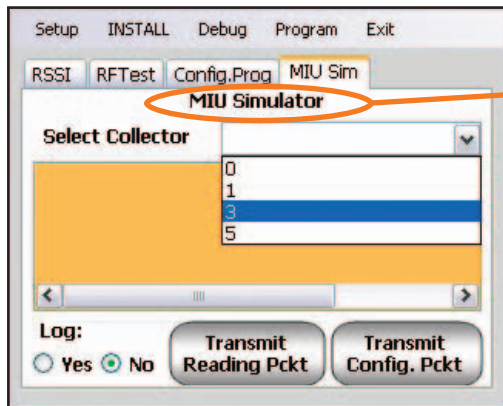


Figure C: MIU Simulator Screen

The MIU Simulator allows the user to simulate an MIU transmission in order to test an R450 Data Collector (DC). This can be used to confirm a DC is fully operational once it has been installed.

Neptune Technology Group Inc.
1600 Alabama Highway 229
Tallassee, AL 36078
USA
Tel: (800) 645-1892
Fax: (334) 283-7293

Neptune Technology Group (Canada) Ltd.
7275 West Credit Avenue
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 5M9
Canada
Tel: (905) 858-4211
Fax: (905) 858-0428

Neptune Technology Group Inc.
Ejército Nacional No. 418
Piso 12, Desp. 1201-1202
Col. Chapultepec Morales
Delegación Miguel Hidalgo
11570 México, Distrito Federal
Tel: (525) 55203 5294 / (525) 55203 5708
Fax: (525) 55203 6503

