

Seatex Seapath 200 Precise Heading, Attitude and Positioning Sensor

Accuracy, reliability and simplicity are now more than ever essential features for equipment used in demanding marine operations. Advancements in areas such as hydro acoustic positioning and seabed mapping systems mean auxiliary equipment must keep up. Within these considerations as the measure of our success, Seatex is pleased to present the third generation Seapath. Building on fifteen years of design and field experience with inertial and GPS technologies, this generation Seapath 200 highlights our commitment to supplying the most precise, reliable and easy-to-use heading, attitude and positioning sensor ever!

The best of integrated inertial/GPS

The Seapath 200 provides highly accurate, real-time heading, attitude and position information by blending the best characteristics of sensor-based inertial navigation and GPS continuous position update technologies. High-rate motion data obtained from the system's IMU (Inertial Measurements Unit) and precise position data from two, fixed baseline GPS carrier-phase receivers are integrated in a Kalman Filter within the Seapath Processing Unit. Based on analysis and extensive field testing, the Kalman Filter algorithms have been refined to insure maximum measurement fidelity and reliability.

The Seapath 200 IMU contains highly accurate linear accelerometers and Bosch Coriolis force angular rate gyros (CFG). Real-world precision accuracy is guaranteed by utilising the most accurate calibration methods and sophisticated production equipment available. Roll and pitch accuracy together with the linear acceleration performance are documented for each delivered IMU on a Calibration Certificate.

Robust and reliable

The two, fixed baseline GPS antennas and their receivers that determine precise heading are also used as redundant GPS position and velocity sources. In case of missing data from one GPS receiver, then the other (remaining) receiver provides position and velocity. The Seapath 200 is robust against GPS dropouts by using the IMU to provide position, velocity and heading measurements when GPS is not available.

The Seapath 200 is equipped to utilise up to six different DGPS reference stations to insure robust and reliable DGPS position and velocity measurements. If data from more than six stations are available, the Seapath 200 automatically identifies and uses the six nearest stations.

Consistency checking within measurements from the different sensors is performed internally to ensure reliability. Noisy data are automatically rejected or reported as inaccurate.

The Seapath provides accurate roll and pitch under all conditions by tightly integrating the GPS and IMU data. With this feature, horizontal accelerations are observable, making the run-ins needed to stabilise conventional vertical reference systems unnecessary.



Visual and flexible configuration

The new version of the Seapath configuration software, SCC, centralises configuration of all parts of the system, including the IMU. A 3D visual presentation of the vessel showing the centre of gravity, antenna and measurement point lever arms is used to simplify and promote an error free installation and calibration. Intuitive Help Wizards assist in system set-up and operation to minimise operator interface and maximise work time.

Output variables and protocols

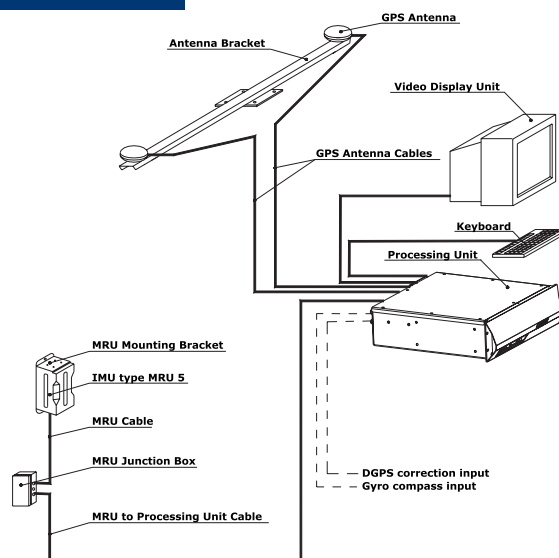
Third generation Seapath data is available through an Ethernet interface making it easy to distribute the Seapath data to multiple users on board the vessel. Data synchronisation with multibeam echo sounders and other equipment is simplified by the availability of a 1-second time pulse (1PPS) on the Seapath data output. Output protocols for commonly used survey equipment are available on two RS-232 and two RS-422 individually configurable output serial lines and on Ethernet output. All the data are output in real-time, at high update rate, including the position data.

Many applications

The Seapath 200 integrated navigation sensor is an excellent solution for applications such as hydrographic surveying, dredging, oceanographic research, seismic work and offshore construction where accurate compensation of multibeam echo sounders, hydro acoustic positioning systems and ADCP's or vessel motion monitoring are required. The Seapath can also be used for continuous calibration of gyrocompasses onboard a vessel.

Features

- 0.03° in documented roll and pitch dynamic accuracy.
- No accuracy degradation in roll, pitch and heave measurements during turns
- Robust against GPS dropouts with IMU sensor-based backup
- Reliable and robust DGPS position ensured by combining up to six different correction signals
- Highly accurate heading during and after turns compared to heading from standard gyrocompasses
- All data have the same time stamp and the output is available in real-time
- Outputs on RS-232, RS-422 and Ethernet
- 100 Hz update rate
- No export license required
- Simple and error free installation ensured by using the graphical configuration software
- System performance specification extensively tested and verified with a Honeywell INS system as the reference system



- The range of Seapath models; Seapath 100, Seapath 200, Seapath 200 RTK and Seapath 200 M (with military receivers) suits a large number of applications

Technical specifications

Performance

Heading accuracy	0.05° RMS (4 m baseline) 0.075° RMS (2.5 m baseline)
Roll and pitch accuracy	0.03° RMS for ±5° amplitude
Scale factor error in roll, pitch and heading	0.2% RMS
Heave accuracy	5 cm or 5% whichever is highest
Heave motion periods	1 to 25 seconds
Position accuracy with DGPS (*)	0.7 m RMS or 1.5 m (95% CEP)
Position accuracy (optional)	0.15 m RMS or 0.4 m (95% CEP) with Searef 100 corrections
Velocity accuracy	0.03 m/s RMS or 0.07 m/s (95% CEP) with DGPS

Data outputs

Communication ports	4 serial RS-232/RS-422 lines and Ethernet UPD/IP
Data output interval	Programmable in 0.01-sec. steps and 1PPS pulse
Output message formats	NMEA 0183 ZDA, GGA, GLL, VTG, HDT and proprietary messages, Seatex Binary, Simrad EM1000 and EM3000, Echo sounder format, ADCP proprietary NMEA format 'PRDID', Atlas Fansweep, Submetrix and Lehmkuhl gyro repeater interface.
Analog outputs	3 user configurable channels

Data inputs

Communication ports	4 serial RS-232/RS-422 lines
Baud rate	38.4k baud (max)
DGPS corrections	RTCM-104 version 2.2
Gyrocompass	NMEA 0183 HDT, Robertson 4 byte BCD

Dimension and weight

Seapath Processing Unit	3U 19" rack unit, 430 mm (d) x 132 mm (h), weight 12 kg
Video Display Unit (optional)	362 mm (w) x 370 mm (h) x 396 mm (d), weight 13.5 kg
Motion sensor	Ø105 x 204 mm, weight 2.5 kg.
Antenna beam	2700 x 200 x 100 mm

Operating temperature

Seapath Processing Unit	0 to +55°C
Video Display Unit (optional)	0 to +40°C
Motion sensor	-5 to +55°C
Antenna	-30 to +70°C

Power

Seapath Processing Unit	85 to 265V AC, 100 W (max)
Video Display Unit (optional)	95 to 264V AC, 75 W (max)

Humidity:

Seapath Processing Unit	10-95% relative non condensing
Video Display Unit (optional)	10-80% relative non condensing
Motion sensor	Hermetically sealed
Antenna	Hermetically sealed

(*) Accuracy is dependent on GPS satellite geometry, environment, ionospheric conditions and distance to the reference station

Specification subject to change without further notice

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