

**RADIODETECTION** 

# RD500

Water pipe locator system

Quick Start Guide

90/RD500QSGUIDE/ENG/02

# Introduction

## About this guide

This guide provides basic operating instructions for the RD500 water pipe locator system and is intended as a portable reference only. It also contains important safety information and guidelines. As such, it should be read in its entirety before attempting to operate the RD500. For detailed instructions, including the use of accessories, please refer to the RD500 operation manual which is available for download from [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)

Radiodetection products, including this manual, are under continuous development. The information contained within is accurate at time of publication; however the RD500, this manual and all its contents are subject to change.

Radiodetection Limited reserves the right to modify the product without notice and some product changes may have taken place after this user manual was published.

## Unpacking and Set-up

Your RD500 Receiver comes packaged in a special carrying case that has compartments for the Receiver with spike installed, a hard surface plate and the headphones. Each kit that you order is pre-assembled and ready for use. Please keep all packaging materials in case it becomes necessary for you to return any of your equipment. The following items should be checked as you unpack your system.

1. **RECEIVER:** The receiver is supplied with a 9-volt battery and ground spike installed. A hard surface plate and headphones are also included along with this operation manual. If any items are missing please contact your local Radiodetection office.
2. **TRANSMITTER KITS:** Each transmitter adapter kit comes fully assembled and ready for use. A detailed drawing of each adapter kit is contained in this guide. If any items are missing please contact your local Radiodetection office.

---

# Quick Start Guide:

For your convenience operating instructions are also included on the side of the receiver.

## Transmitter Operating Instructions:

1. Remove protective caps from transmitter
2. Connect transmitter to nearest water outlet using kit supplied with transmitter
3. Turn on water and loosen adjustment lock nut near T-handle
4. Turn T-handle clockwise until water flows
5. Turn T-handle counter-clockwise until water pulses several times per second; tighten lock nut

## Receiver Operating Instructions:

1. Turn ON/OFF knob clockwise to activate.
2. Initial meter reading indicates battery condition.
3. To replace battery, loosen battery release button, move housing upward to expose battery.
4. Begin initial tracing about 2 meters from transmitter or any other area where pipe location is known.
5. Push spike of receiver into ground near known pipe location and turn ON/OFF knob clockwise for mid-range meter reading. Starting with the headphone volume sensitivity at a low level, adjust the controls for comfortable listening level. Each earpiece has its own adjustment.
6. To pinpoint pipe position, use receiver to probe ground until you find peak (maximum) meter reading. You will also hear the pulsing sound (similar to a heartbeat) grow louder.
7. Trace the pipe by establishing the direction of pipe route by probing every one to two meters to locate a peak meter reading. Adjust the ON/OFF knob to maintain a mid-range meter reading.

## Notes and Precautions:

- The RD500 is for use on water pipes only.
- It works best on water pressures in the range of 3 to 7 bar, (44 to 100psi); maximum pressure 10 bar, (145psi).
- The Transmitter pulsating effect causes pipe movement. If used for extended periods or on substandard plumbing systems, leaks may result.
- RD500 readings do not indicate depth and the RD500 does not detect buried electrical power lines, gas lines or other hazardous underground objects, so always dig carefully in the proximity of buried pipes or cables.
- Use caution while wearing headphones and be alert to traffic or other hazards that are normally heard outdoors.
- Always stand clear of all transmitters, adapter kits and hoses while they are connected to water systems and operating. Ensure the drain hose is secured with a heavy object.
- On all hose bib applications, within 15 meters (50 feet) of a building, the proper low-power transmitter (GREEN) and faucet damper **MUST** be used.

---

# Transmitter Application Techniques:

Transmitters are connected at sprinkler heads, hose bibs, water meter bases, fire hydrants and clean-outs. Supplied transmitter adapter kits are illustrated later in this manual. Always flush any connection site until the water that flows is clear of all rust, silt, sealing compounds and foreign materials before connecting a transmitter to the water line.

All adapter kits are supplied with a 3 meter (10 foot) high-pressure drain hose that must be connected to the outlet of the transmitter in order for the device to work properly. Always use a weight on the hose or tie the hose down to prevent the hose from whipping.

Check the water pressure before attempting to locate the water line and make sure that it is in the operating range of the transmitter, which is 3 to 10 bar (40 to 140 psi).

The transmitters are color-coded to identify their intended usage: A color-coded ty-wrap is used along with a small square area that is painted on the side of the transmitter to indicate the colour. Green is the lowest power transmitter and is intended for use on sprinkler and hose bib pipes that typically range in diameter between 1.3cm and 5cm (0.5 inches and 2 inches). Green transmitters may be used on larger diameter pipes where reduced operating range is acceptable. Yellow transmitters are intended for use on water mains that range in diameter between 5cm and 15cm (2 inches and 6 inches). They are typically connected at a water meter connection. Yellow transmitters should never be used on smaller diameter pipes, but they may be used on larger diameter pipes. Red transmitters are intended for use only on water mains that are 15cm (6 inches) in diameter or larger. The typical connection is via a fire hydrant.

Always start your adjustments by turning the T-handle clockwise until full water flow is attained at the transmitter outlet. Then, slowly turn the T-handle counter-clockwise until the transmitter begins to pulse. Once the pulsing begins, turn the handle very slowly in each direction to fine tune the pulse to a regular beat of about two to five times per second. This adjustment range varies between less than one turn to several turns depending on the operating conditions. If you turn the T-handle too far in the clockwise direction, water will flow continuously without pulsing, and if you turn the T-handle too far in the counter-clockwise direction, water flow will stop completely.

The best results are obtained with the slowest pulse possible. Range and signal strength are greatly improved with low pulse rates of a few pulses per second. Higher water pressures typically cause faster pulse rates. Pulse rates above 10 pulses per second are difficult to use and cause reduced location range.

The transmitter contains a locking collar located directly below the T-handle. Tighten the hex-shaped collar to prevent the T-handle from moving (walking) while pulsating.

---

## Receiver Application Techniques:

Two devices are provided for probing the surface with the RD500 receiver. A 14cm (5.5 inch) ground spike is supplied for soft surfaces and a brass hard surface plate is included for hard surfaces such as concrete or tarmac (asphalt). The hard surface plate has concentric recessed channels in its surface that allow it to be positioned such that it lays flat against surfaces.

The RD500 is supplied with high quality headphones that have independent volume adjustments on each ear piece. Using non-standard headphones may reduce system performance, create oscillation in the audio output and cause mechanical damage to the headphone jack.

Pinpointing pipe location is difficult without using the meter to measure signal level. It is very difficult for the average person to discern slight variations in audio signal levels. Always adjust the sensitivity so as to maintain a mid-scale meter reading while locating. Typical location accuracy is plus or minus one pipe diameter. Always probe or expose the pipe to confirm the exact location before performing any excavation.

Best location results are obtained by beginning the trace at least 3 meters (10 feet) from the location where the transmitter is connected. The signal levels are normally too strong in the area immediately surrounding the transmitter. Alternately, tracing may begin at a known pipe location that is not more than 75 meters (250 feet) down the pipe from the transmitter.

The preferred method for tracing pipes is to locate at least two known pipe locations that indicate the heading or direction that the pipe is laid. Readings should be taken along an imaginary line that runs perpendicular to the pipeline. Confirm a peak signal reading by taking additional readings that are equal distances from the peak location. These readings should be lower than the peak reading and approximately equal.

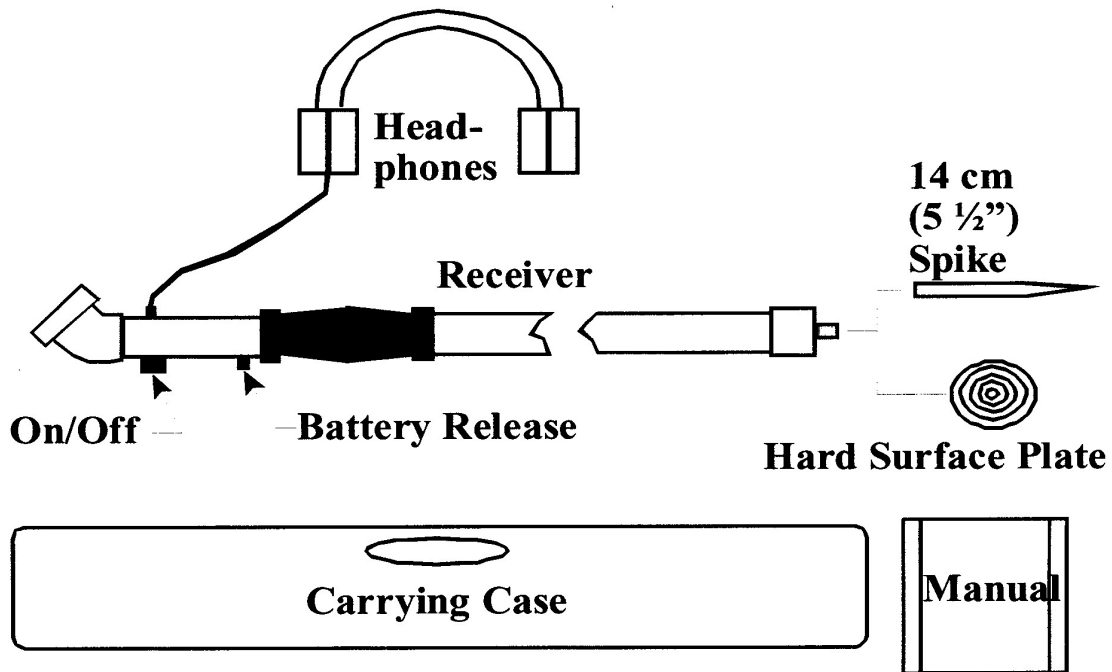
Once the pipe direction is determined, it is possible to quickly trace the pipe along this heading and confirm any changes in direction by periodically taking readings.

Always transport and store your receiver in the carrying case to protect it from damage. If the receiver is allowed to fall over and strike a hard surface it may permanently damage the meter.

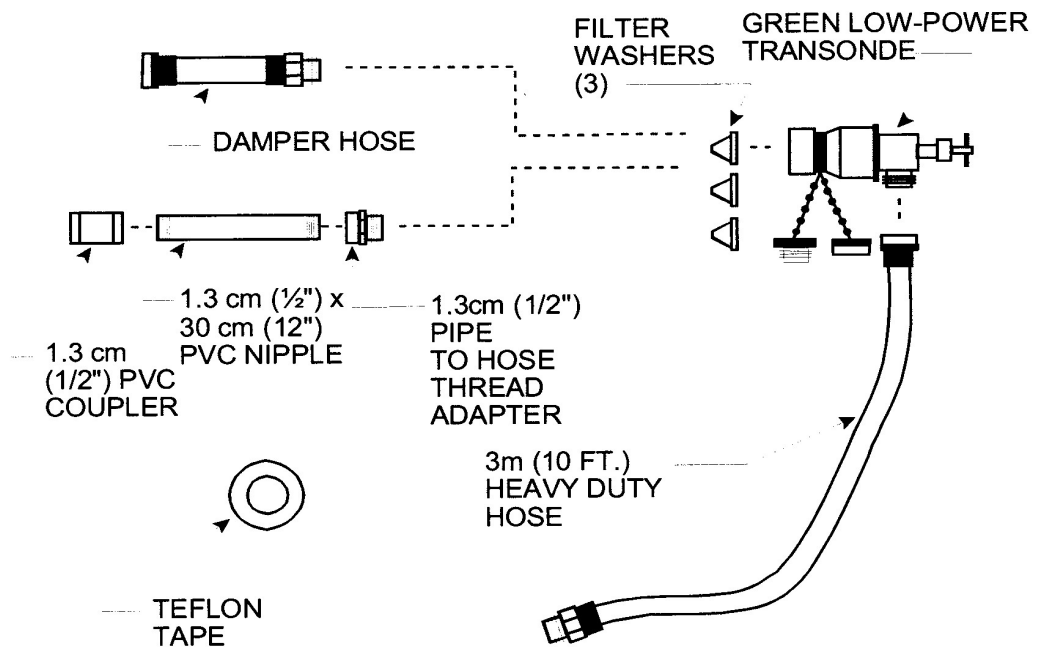
## Receiver and Adapter Kit Details:

The receiver kit and the available adapter kits are shown for your reference and help in identifying and maintaining the equipment.

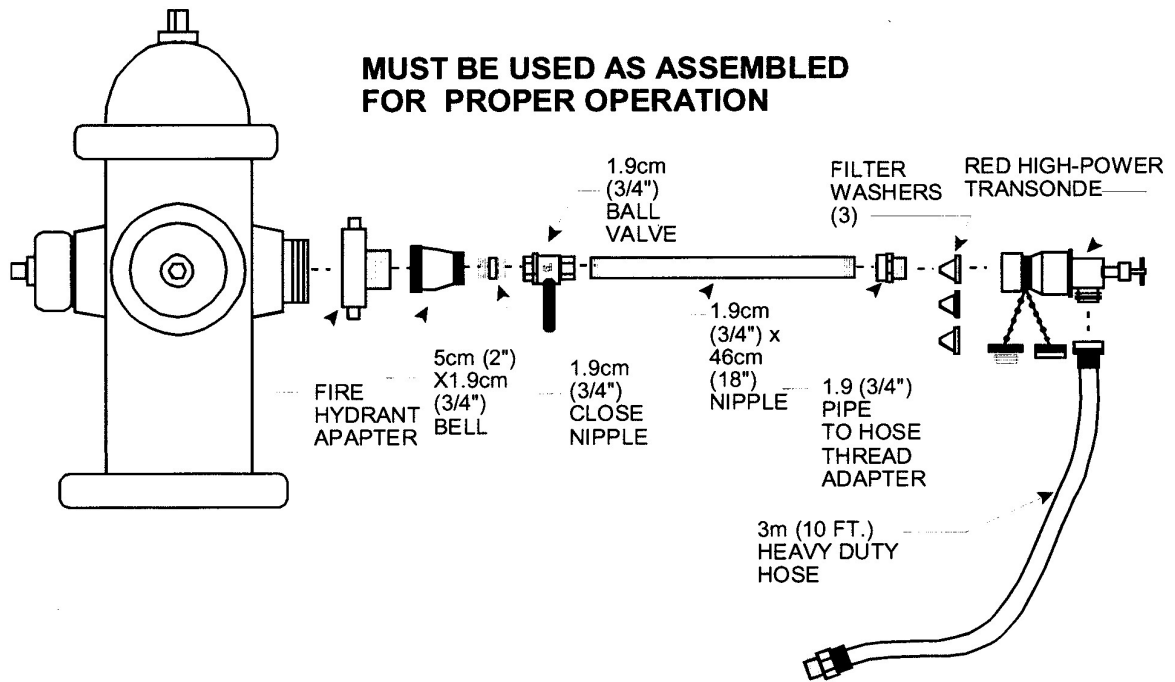
### Receiver Kit Details:



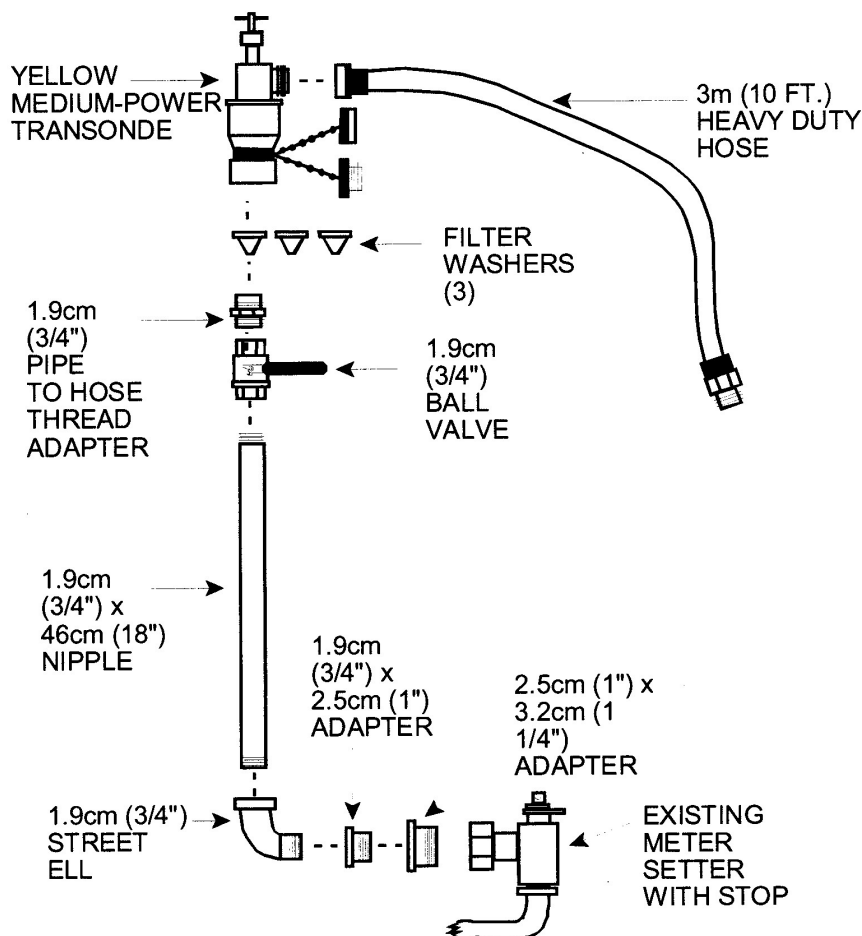
### Sprinkler/Hose Bib Kit Details:



## Fire Hydrant Kit Details



## Water Meter Kit Details:



---

# RD500 Operating Parameters

The RD500 will locate plastic/concrete transit/non-metallic pipe, provided:

1. Access point to water column is within 90 to 100 meters, (300 to 500 feet), of target site (sometimes more).
2. Correct adaption is available to fit TransOnde to water column
3. Standing water pressure of 1.4 to 10 bar, (20 to 150psi) is available with flow of 5 to 10 litres, (1 to 2 gallons), per minute.
4. Water pressure is reasonably stable.
5. Pipe system is in good condition.
6. Pipe is less than 240cm, (8 feet), deep
7. No 'in-line' pressure regulator
8. Soil/ground conditions do not include strata of seismically absorbent material (i.e. soft sand, saturated "bog-type" soil, hardpan).
9. Spike can penetrate beyond the 5cm, (2 inch), surface vibration zone.
10. Brass disc is used on solid surfaces such as tarmac or concrete (reduced performance).

## Safety Information

To prevent injuries to yourself and others or damage to your device, it is important that you read all safety warnings, cautions and notes before use.



### WARNING

**Warnings alert you to possible personal injury.**

You are responsible for determining whether the conditions are suitable for using the RD500. Always carry out a risk assessment of the site to be inspected.

**Subsurface utilities:** Before inserting the RD500 into the ground ensure there are no shallow cables or services that could be damaged by the spike.

This equipment is NOT approved for use in areas where potentially explosive (or otherwise hazardous) gases, vapors, liquids or solids may be present.

**Headphone use:** you need to remain alert to traffic and other hazards that are normally heard outdoors. Always turn the volume down before plugging headphones into an audio source and use only the minimum level necessary to take your measurements. Excessive exposure to loud sounds can cause hearing damage.

Do NOT carry out any measurements on components carrying live voltages.

The RD500 does not indicate the depth of the pipe. Additionally, it does not detect buried electrical power lines, gas lines or other hazardous underground objects. If you intend to uncover the pipe by digging, you must follow your company, region and country's codes of practice for excavation.

Always use a weight on the draining hose or tie the hose down to prevent the hose from whipping.

Stand clear of all transmitters, adapter kits and hoses while they are connected to water systems and operating.





## CAUTION

### **Cautions alert you to possible equipment damage.**

The Transmitter pulsating effect causes pipe movement. If used for extended periods or on substandard plumbing systems, leaks may result.

Use only the supplied RD500 headphones. Non-standard headphones may reduce system performance and could cause mechanical damage to the headphone jack through oscillation in the audio output.

Always transport and store your receiver in the carrying case to protect it from damage. The meter can be permanently damaged by impacts to the device.

On all hose bib applications, within 15 meters (50 feet) of a building, the proper low-power transmitter (GREEN) and faucet damper **MUST** be used.

## NOTE

### **Notes contain useful information.**

You are responsible for determining whether you consider the measurement results to be valid and for any conclusions that are reached or any measures that are taken as a result thereof. Radiodetection can neither guarantee the validity of any measuring results nor can we accept liability for any such results. We are on no account able to accept liability for any damage which may be caused as a consequence of the use of these results. Please see the Standard Warranty Terms for further information.

## Regulatory and Compliance Information

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This instrument, or family of instruments, will not be permanently damaged by reasonable electrostatic discharge and has been tested in accordance with IEC 801-2. However, in extreme cases temporary malfunction may occur. If this happens, switch off, wait and switch on again.

## Disposal



This symbol on the product, accessories or literature indicates that the product and its electronic accessories (e.g. charger, headset, USB cable) must not be treated as domestic waste, but must be disposed of professionally. It is your responsibility to dispose of your waste equipment by handing it over to a designated collection point for the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment. The separate collection and recycling of your waste equipment at the time of disposal will help to conserve natural resources and ensure that it is recycled in a manner that protects human health and the environment. For more information about where you can drop off your waste equipment for recycling, please contact your local city office, your disposal service or product supplier.

---

## STANDARD WARRANTY TERMS

Subject to the conditions set out herein, Radiodetection Limited expressly and exclusively provides the following warranty to original end user buyers of Radiodetection products. Radiodetection hereby warrants that its products shall be free from defects in material and workmanship for one year starting from point of sale to end customer. Extensions of this warranty period are available where the same terms and conditions apply.

### *Statement of warranty conditions*

The sole and exclusive warranty for any Radiodetection product found to be defective is repair or replacement of the defective product at Radiodetection's sole discretion. Repaired parts or replacement products will be provided by Radiodetection on an exchange basis and will be either new or refurbished to be functionally equivalent to new.

In the event this exclusive remedy is deemed to have failed of its essential purpose, Radiodetection's liability shall not exceed the purchase price of the Radiodetection product. In no event will Radiodetection be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential or punitive damages (including lost profit) whether based on warranty, contract, tort or any other legal theory.

Warranty services will be provided only with the original invoice or sales receipt (indicating the date of purchase, model name and dealer's name) within the warranty period. This warranty covers only the hardware components of the Radiodetection product. Data storage media or accessories must be removed prior to submission of the product for warranty service.

Radiodetection will not be responsible for loss or erasure of data storage media or accessories. Radiodetection is not responsible for transportation costs and risks associated with transportation of the product. The existence of a defect shall be determined by Radiodetection in accordance with procedures established by Radiodetection.

This warranty is in lieu of any other warranty, express or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

### *This warranty does not cover:*

- i periodic maintenance and repair or parts replacement due to wear and tear
- ii consumables (components that are expected to require periodic replacement during the lifetime of a product such as non-rechargeable batteries, bulbs, etc.)
- iii damage or defects caused by use, operation or treatment of the product inconsistent with its intended use
- iv damage or changes to the product as a result of:
- v misuse, including: - treatment resulting in physical, cosmetic or surface damage or changes to the product or damage to liquid crystal displays
- vi failure to install or use the product for its normal purpose or in accordance with Radiodetection's instructions on installation or use
- vii failure to maintain the product in accordance with Radiodetection's instructions on proper maintenance
- viii installation or use of the product in a manner inconsistent with the technical or safety laws or standards in the country where it is installed or used
- ix virus infections or use of the product with software not provided with the product or incorrectly installed software
- x the condition of or defects in systems with which the product is used or incorporated except other 'Radiodetection products' designed to be used with the product
- xi use of the product with accessories, peripheral equipment and other products of a type, condition and standard other than prescribed by Radiodetection
- xii repair or attempted repair by persons who are not Radiodetection warranted and certified repair houses
- xiii adjustments or adaptations without Radiodetection's prior written consent, including:
- xiv upgrading the product beyond specifications or features described in the instruction manual, or
- xv modifications to the product to conform it to national or local technical or safety standards in countries other than those for which the product was specifically designed and manufactured
- xvi neglect e.g. opening of cases where there are no user replaceable parts
- xvii accidents, fire, liquids, chemicals, other substances, flooding, vibrations, excessive heat, improper ventilation, power surges, excess or incorrect supply or input voltage, radiation, electrostatic discharges including lighting, other external forces and impacts.



## Global locations

### **Radiodetection (USA)**

28 Tower Road, Raymond, Maine 04071, USA

Tel: +1 (207) 655 8525 Toll Free: +1 (877) 247 3797 [rd.sales.us@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.us@spx.com) [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)

### **Pearpoint (USA)**

39-740 Garand Lane, Unit B, Palm Desert, CA 92211, USA

Tel: +1 800 688 8094 Tel: +1 760 343 7350 [pearpoint.sales.us@spx.com](mailto:pearpoint.sales.us@spx.com) [www.pearpoint.com](http://www.pearpoint.com)

### **Radiodetection (Canada)**

344 Edgeley Boulevard, Unit 34, Concord, Ontario L4K 4B7, Canada

Tel: +1 (905) 660 9995 Toll Free: +1 (800) 665 7953 [rd.sales.ca@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.ca@spx.com) [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)

### **Radiodetection Ltd. (UK)**

Western Drive, Bristol, BS14 0AF, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 117 976 7776 [rd.sales.uk@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.uk@spx.com) [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)

### **Radiodetection (France)**

13 Grande Rue, 76220, Neuf Marché, France

Tel: +33 (0) 2 32 89 93 60 [rd.sales.fr@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.fr@spx.com) <http://fr.radiodetection.com>

### **Radiodetection (Benelux)**

Industriestraat 11, 7041 GD 's-Heerenberg, Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0) 314 66 47 00 [rd.sales.nl@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.nl@spx.com) <http://nl.radiodetection.com>

### **Radiodetection (Germany)**

Groendahlscher Weg 118, 46446 Emmerich am Rhein, Germany

Tel: +49 (0) 28 51 92 37 20 [rd.sales.de@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.de@spx.com) <http://de.radiodetection.com>

### **Radiodetection (Asia-Pacific)**

Room 708, CC Wu Building, 302-308 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong SAR, China

Tel: +852 2110 8160 [rd.sales.asiapacific@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.asiapacific@spx.com) [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)

### **Radiodetection (China)**

Ming Hao Building D304, No. 13 Fuqian Avenue, Tianzhu Town, Shunyi District, Beijing 101312, China

Tel: +86 (0) 10 8416-3372 [rd.service.cn@spx.com](mailto:rd.service.cn@spx.com) <http://cn.radiodetection.com>

### **Radiodetection (Australia)**

Unit H1, 101 Rookwood Road, Yagoona NSW 2199, Australia

Tel: +61 (0) 2 9707 3222 [rd.sales.au@spx.com](mailto:rd.sales.au@spx.com) [www.radiodetection.com](http://www.radiodetection.com)