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**In-Situ PXD Series  
Sensor Interface Manual  
Revision 07.01.17**

## About NexSens Technology, Inc.

NexSens Technology, Inc. was started in the 1990s with a mission to advance the capabilities and simplify the development of environmental monitoring systems. Our main focus is on the creation of easy-to-use computer software and powerful communications technology to provide advanced remote data acquisition and data logging systems.

iChart is an easy-to-learn, easy-to-use Windows-based software program designed to interface with the industry's most popular environmental monitoring sensors and systems. A large multi-vendor instrument library makes setup quick and easy. iChart automates much of the tedious programming, data collection and manual data processing common with other environmental data collection systems.

The NexSens iSIC (Intelligent Sensor Interface and Control) is a state-of-the-art line of data loggers that simplify the collection of real-time data from environmental sensors and monitoring instruments. The iSIC data logger supports multi-vendor sensor connections and is designed for environmental data monitoring with NexSens communication equipment and software.

Remote data acquisition systems have been developed specifically for unattended monitoring applications. NexSens telemetry systems provide real-time access and 2-way communication to remote environmental monitoring systems via direct-connect, landline phone, radio, and cellular telemetry.

## How to Use This Manual

This manual is designed to provide you with detailed instructions for interfacing specific sensors to the NexSens iSIC data logger.

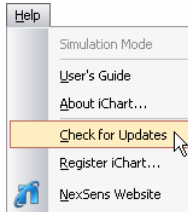
**Important:** Before attempting to interface a sensor with a NexSens data logging system, it is important that you have thoroughly read the operation manual(s) provided with your NexSens system and environmental monitoring sensor(s).

This manual provides you with all the information needed to interface your sensor with the iSIC data logger. For advanced system and sensor reference material:

- Review the material in the iSIC operations manual:
  - <http://www.nexsens.com/support/manuals.htm>
- Review the sensor manufacturer's operations manual. This information should have been provided with the purchase of the sensor. This material can also typically be found at the instrument manufacturer's website.
- If you are still having difficulty, email your technical support question to:  
[support@nexsens.com](mailto:support@nexsens.com)

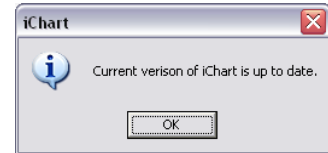
## Keeping iChart Up to Date

NexSens periodically releases new versions of iChart software and iSIC firmware to be downloaded free of charge. The updated versions typically add new features, improve existing features, and/or add more reliability to the system. It is important that iChart is updated to the latest version before connecting a new sensor to your iSIC data logger. Your computer will require internet access to update automatically.

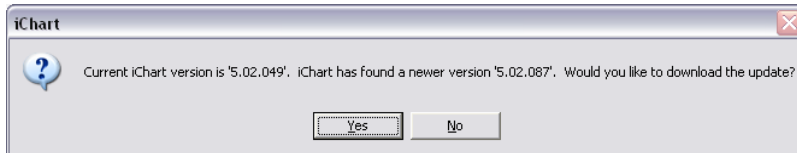


To obtain the latest version of iChart software, open the program on your computer. In the **Help** menu, select **Check for Updates**.

If your software is up to date, iChart will confirm that your computer is running the current software release.

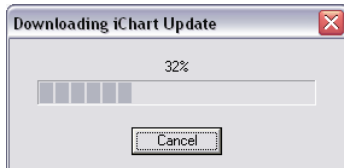


If a newer version of iChart is available, a dialog box will appear asking if you would like to upgrade to download the update.



Click **Yes**. iChart will begin downloading the update.

**Note:** Depending on your connection speed, this update may take a few minutes. You can continue running other applications on your computer while the download is progressing.



When the update has finished the downloading process, click **OK** and close iChart.

Reopen iChart. When the program opens, iChart will automatically begin the installation process. Follow the step-by-step installation windows to complete the iChart software update.

**Note:** If an internet connection is unavailable on the computer, iChart can be downloaded onto another computer and then moved to the computer where it needs installed. The latest version of iChart can be downloaded here:

<http://www.nexsens.com/support/downloads.htm>

## Technical

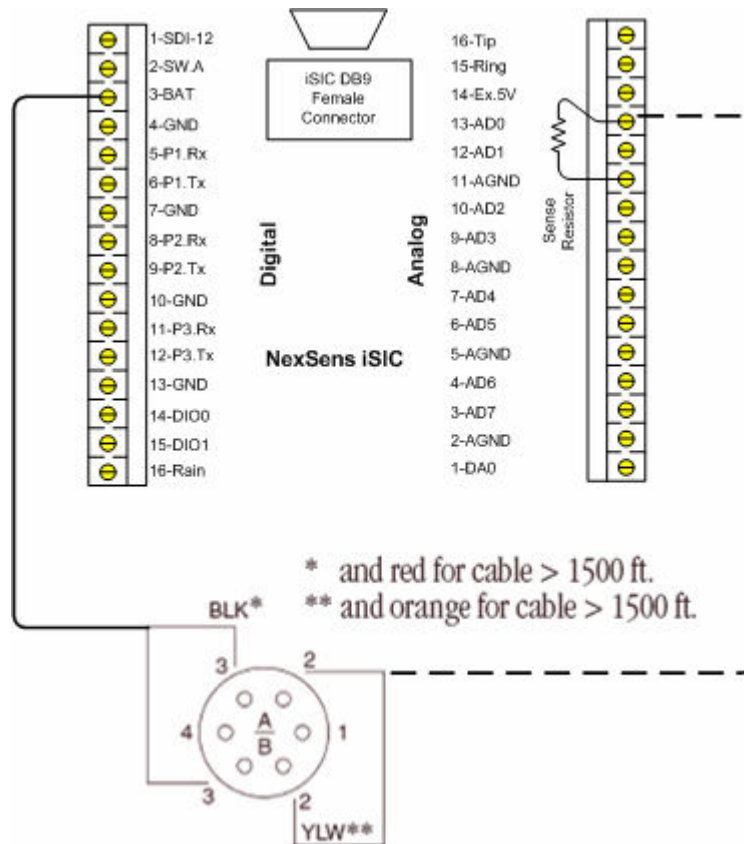
The PXD series are transducers that measure pressure with high accuracy. Please review the PXD manual for more information regarding parameter specifications.

Industrial sensors commonly use a 4-20 mA DC signal. With this method, the sensor signal is conveyed as a current. Raw output of the sensor will either be 4 mA at the lowest or 20 mA at the highest. By examining the current between 4 and 20 mA an actual reading can be determined. For example, assume an air temperature sensor has a range of 0°C to 100°C. If the output from the temperature sensor is 4 mA, then the temperature is 0°C. If the output from the sensor is 20 mA, then the temperature is 100°C. Readings between 4 and 20 mA are linear and simple to determine. Dataloggers can be programmed to convert the electrical signal into the appropriate engineering units.

One of the major advantages of using 4-20 mA sensors is the limited signal loss of these devices. By outputting a sensor signal in the form of current, electrically noisy areas do not have an effect on the sensor's readings. Furthermore, accuracy is not affected by changes in line and connection resistance, or by the addition of other loads in the circuit.

## Wiring

Connect the loop powered 4-20 mA signal to the internal analog terminal strip.



Mating connectors must be ordered separately from In-Situ, Inc. A kit with wiring diagrams is available. *Do not use any other type of connector* as this will compromise the integrity of waterproof operation. Also, remember that the vent tube in the cable must remain unobstructed to assure that the transducer is insensitive to barometric pressure changes.

Pins AD0 through AD7 can all be used for connecting 4-20 mA sensors.

It is necessary for a sense resistor to be added into the wiring to convert the current signal into a voltage signal. For your convenience, four 56Ω resistors are included with the iSIC. The included resistors have a ±1% accuracy.

Simply wire the positive yellow wire to an AD port and a 56 Ohm resistor from the same AD port and AGND.

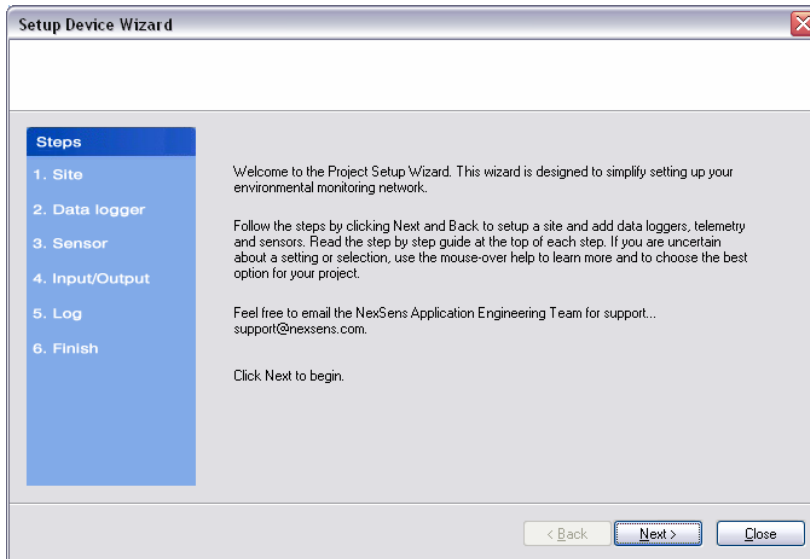
**Note:** Do not wire more than one analog wire to each analog pin.

## Adding to iChart

Once all wiring is completed, the device is ready to be added to an iChart database. To add the device to an existing database, select **Instrument | Add Device**. To create a new database, select **File | New Project**.

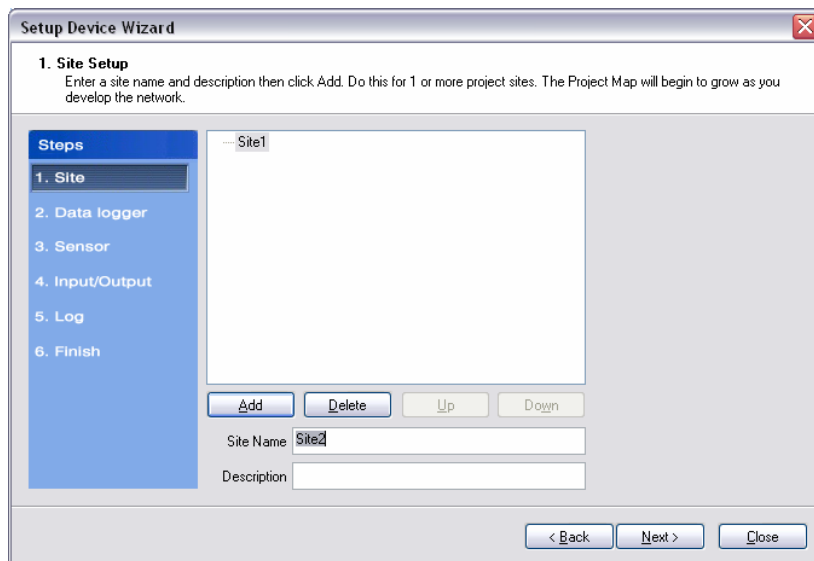
### Setup Device Wizard

The Setup Device Wizard will begin. Click **Next** to continue.



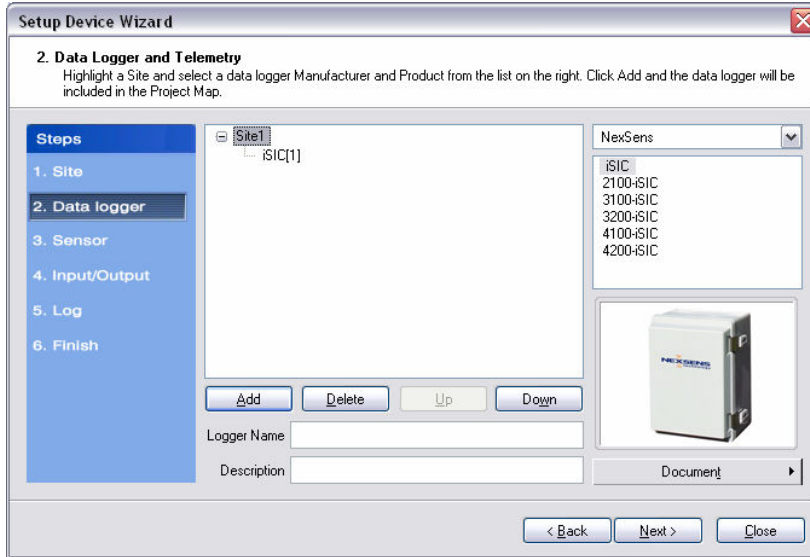
### Step 1 – Site Setup

The first step is to create a site for data loggers and sensors to be located in. If this is an existing project, sites may already exist. Enter a **Site Name** and click **Add**.



## Step 2 – Data Logger & Telemetry

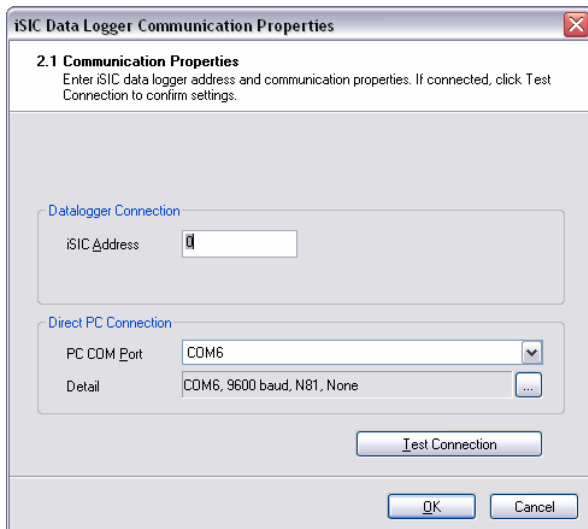
The next step is to add the data logger(s) to the sites created in the previous step. Select a site to add a data logger to. Then select the data logger model number from the list at right and click **Add**.



The **iSIC Data Logger Communication Properties** dialog box will appear. Enter the required iSIC data logger connection information (see below for model-specific instructions) to finish adding the data logger to the selected site. When complete, click **OK**.

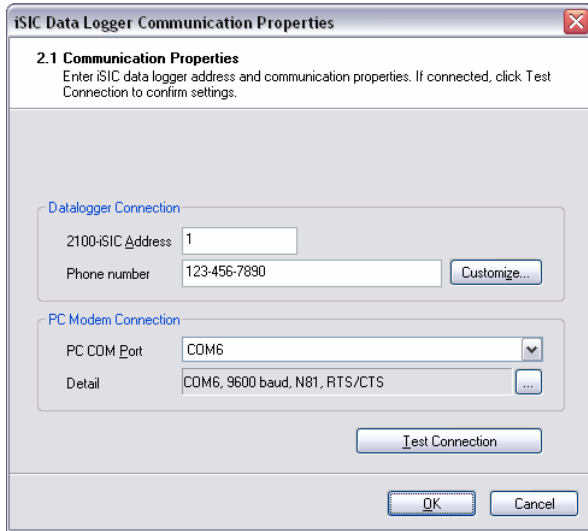
For an **iSIC** data logger, enter the iSIC address and select the PC COM Port that the data logger is connected to.

- The iSIC address is typically '1'. If unknown, enter '0' and click **Test Connection** to determine the address.
- The PC COM Port drop-down menu is the list of available COM ports iChart detected on the computer.



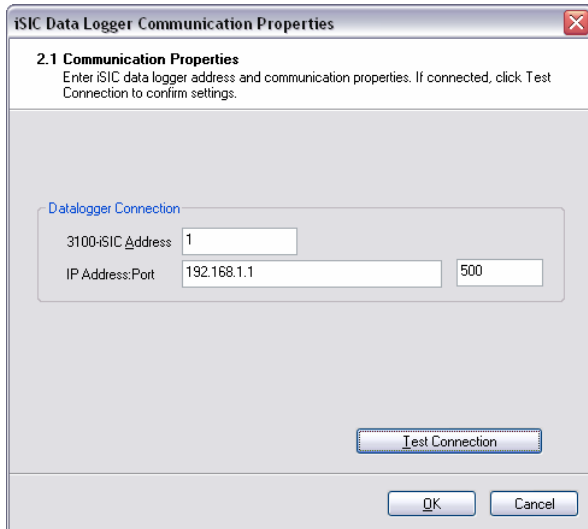
For a **2100-iSIC**, enter the 2100-iSIC address, phone number, and PC COM Port that the computer phone modem is connected to.

- The 2100-iSIC address is typically '1'. If unknown, enter '0' and click **Test Connection** to determine the address.
- The PC COM Port drop-down menu is the list of available COM ports iChart detected on the computer. Internal PC phone modems are typically set to COM3.



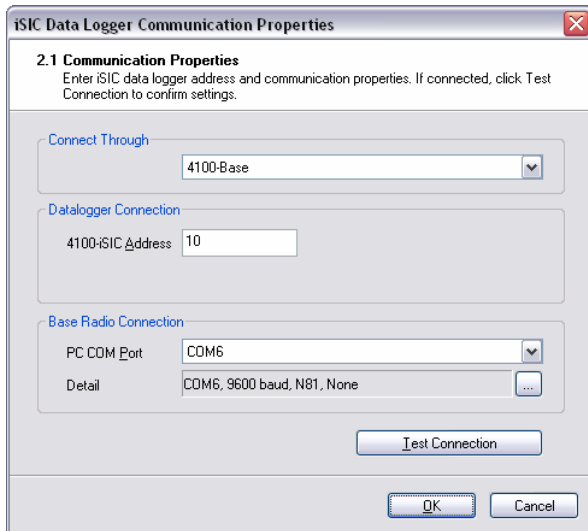
For a **3100-iSIC**, enter the 3100-iSIC address and the IP address of the data logger.

- The 3100-iSIC address is typically '1'. If unknown, enter '0' and click **Test Connection** to determine the address.
- The IP address is provided by the cellular service provider in which your cellular data account is setup. The port is set to 500 by default.



For a **4100-iSIC**, select the method in which the 4100-iSIC is connected to your PC and enter the 4100-iSIC address.

- A 4100-iSIC can connect to a PC through a 4100-BASE or a 4200-iSIC.
  - A 4100-BASE system connects to a PC via RS-232 cable.
  - A 4200-iSIC connects to a PC via landline telephone.
- The 4100-iSIC address is '1' by default.
  - If there is more than one 4100-iSIC in use, each 4100-iSIC should be programmed with different addresses (See the *4100-iSIC | iSIC Addressing* section in the iSIC manual).

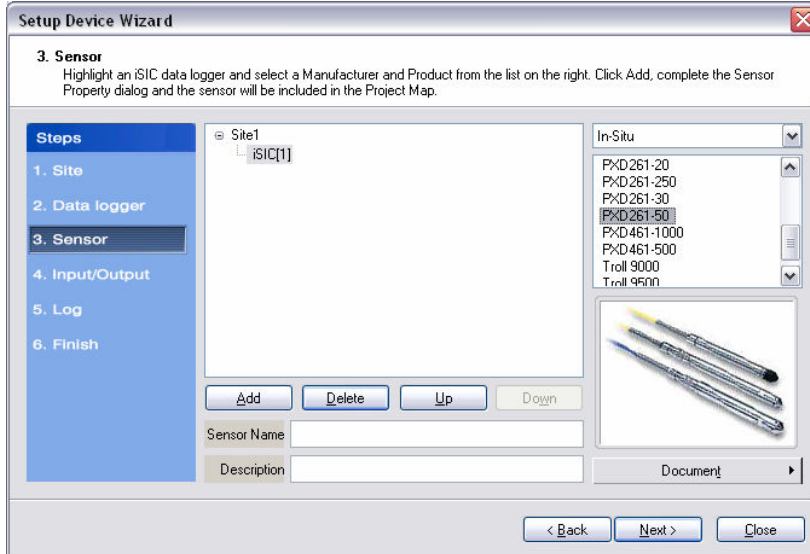


For a **4200-iSIC**, enter the iSIC address and PC COM port the data logger is connected to.

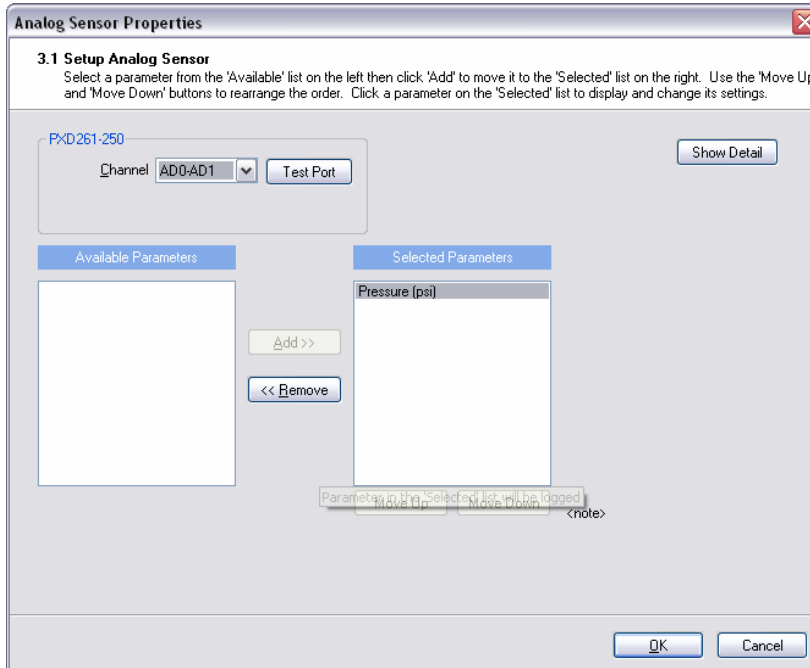
- The 4200-iSIC address is typically 250. When communicating with a 4200-iSIC, any communication using the 4200-iSIC address will be sent to the 4200-iSIC data logger.
  - Communications using any other address will be broadcast to any 4100-iSIC(s) in your radio network.
- **Note:** Do not use address '0' when communicating to a 4200-iSIC.
- The drop down menu of PC COM Port's is the list of available COM ports iChart detected on the computer. Internal phone modems are typically set to COM3.

### Step 3 – Sensor

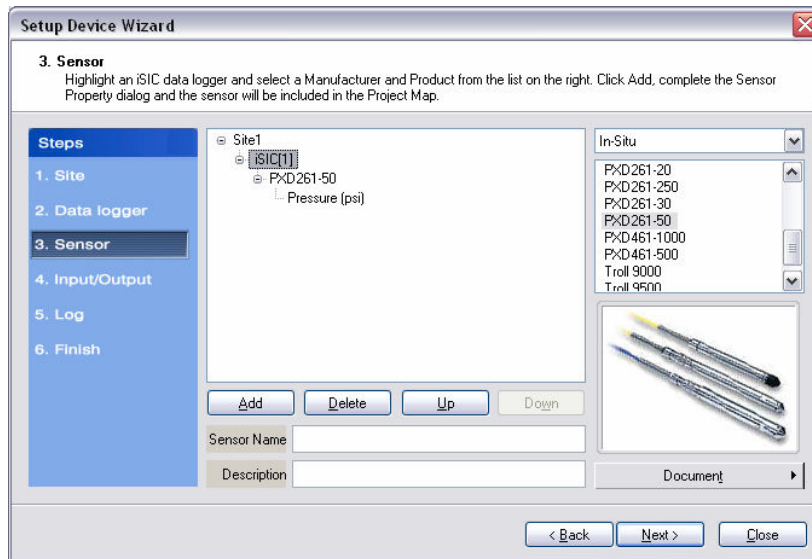
After selecting a data logger, click **Next** and select **In-situ** from the drop-down list of manufacturers. Then select the **PXD** model associated with your device and click **Add**.



The **Sensor Properties** dialog box will come on the screen. Make sure the appropriate unit of measurement is in the **Selected Parameters** column. Then from the **Analog Channel** drop-down menu, select the differential channels to which the In-situ sensor is connected. AD0 was used in the wiring diagram at the beginning of this manual.

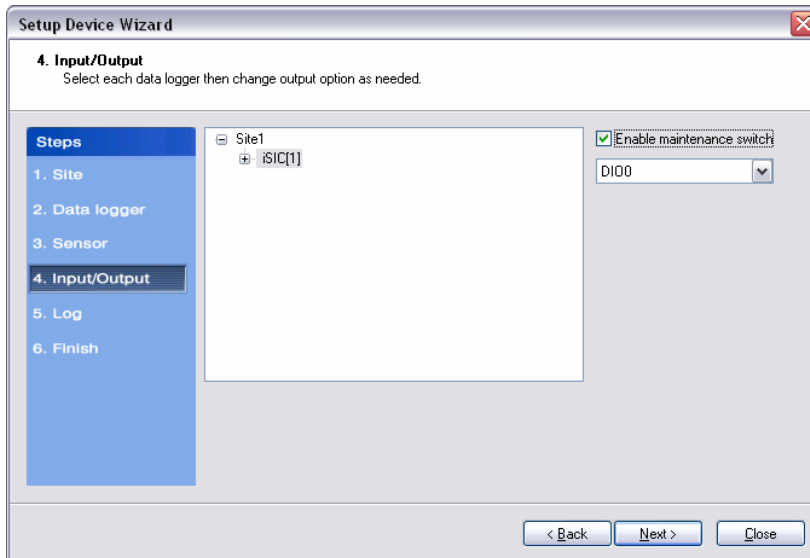


Click **OK** and the sensor will be added to the selected data logger. More sensors can be added at this time by selecting the sensor manufacturer and then sensor model number from the drop down menu on the right. Click **Next** when finished adding sensors.



## Step 4 – Output

Enable any output and control features of the data logger. See the iSIC manual for more information on this functionality.

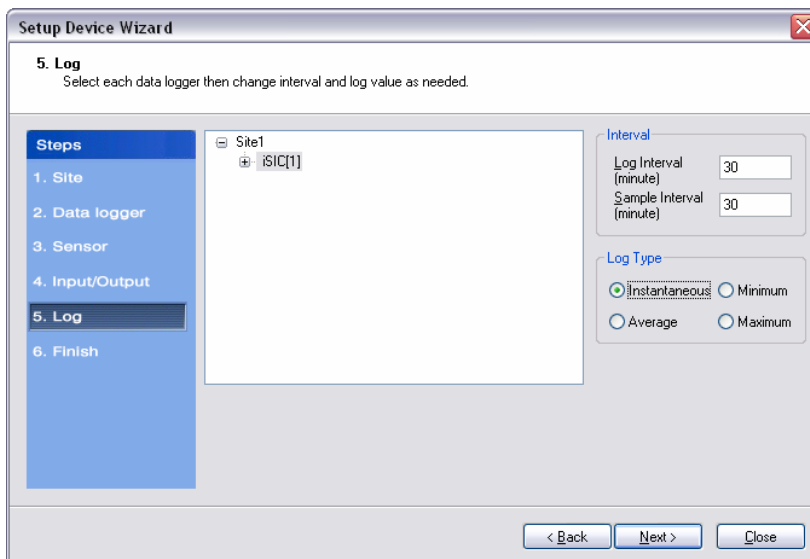


## Step 5 – Log

Select each data logger from the site list and enter the desired **Log Interval** and **Sample Interval** for the data logger in the **Interval** section. In the **Log Value** section, select how the data logger should log data points.

- The Log Interval is the minute interval that the iSIC will log sensor readings.
- The Sample Interval is the minute interval that the iSIC will sample sensor readings.

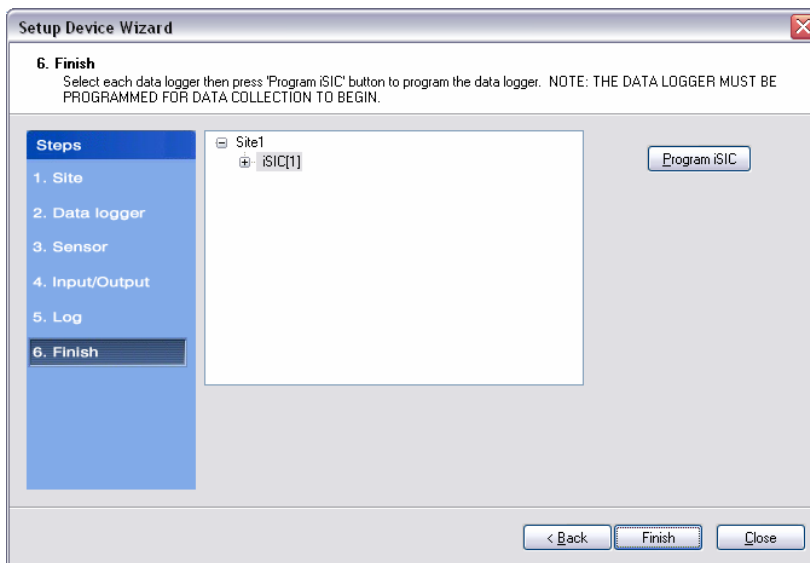
By default, the **Sample Interval** and **Log Interval** are equal. By setting the **Sample Interval** to an interval of the **Log Interval**, the iSIC data logger can log either the average, minimum, or maximum sample taken during that log interval.



## Step 6 – Finish

All data loggers and sensors must be programmed before data collection can begin.

- Select an iSIC data logger and click the '**Program iSIC**' button. Before programming an iSIC:
  - The iSIC must be powered and connected to the computer.
  - The 2100-iSIC must be powered and connected to a phone line.
  - The 3100-iSIC must be powered and have a cellular data account.
  - The 4100-iSIC must be powered and be able to communicate to the computer through a 4100-base or 4200-iSIC
- Click **Finish** when programming is complete. This screen can always be revisited by selecting **Project | Setup Device Wizard** if you would like to program an iSIC at a later time.



## Step 7 – Retrieve an Initial Data Set and Use the Instrument Within iChart

After your sensor has been added to the database, the main instrument control screen will appear.

**Important:** All parameters are initially displayed with blank values until after the first log interval has passed and data has been interrogated. Once data has been retrieved from the iSIC, these fields will show the most recent data set recorded by the instrument. By default, iChart will automatically interrogate devices five minutes after every hour.