Technical Frequently Asked Questions

**I am currently a MSA Solaris® Multigas Detector user; what do I need to consider when purchasing a MSA ALTAIR® 4X MSHA Multigas Detector?**

Customers using a few Solaris Multigas Detectors should consider purchasing a standard kit that contains an instrument, charger, calibration cap, and tubing. Kits are available in several standard configurations.

Customers with a fleet of Solaris Multigas Detectors should consider the new compact 4-unit and 12-unit chargers, as well as upgrade or replacement of their Solaris GALAXY Test System (see “What are my options to upgrade or replace my Solaris GALAXY Test System”). The 12-unit charger’s physical dimensions are smaller than those of the Solaris Detector 10-unit charger; enabling a seamless and less intrusive upgrade process (see “How big are the different charging solutions”). Customers also have the option to order the ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detector without power supply to save on unnecessary components when considering a multi-unit charger. Local MSA representatives are available to assist you with your transition.

**What are my options to upgrade or replace my Solaris GALAXY® Test System?**

Depending upon the condition of your Solaris GALAXY System, you should determine whether upgrade or replacement is right for you. Components to upgrade GALAXY System test stands to accept ALTAIR 4X Multigas Detectors are available. You can work with a local MSA representative to help determine the best conversion path for you.

**Can I use my Solaris Detector chargers?**

No. The new chargers are redesigned to provide better drop-in charging stations while creating increased cross-compatibility across MSA’s entire product line. MSA provides a 12-unit charger that fits within the same footprint as the Solaris Detector 10-unit charger, allowing for an easy upgrade while also increasing the number of units that can be charged in the multi-unit charger from 10 to 12.

**How big are the different charging solutions?**

Multi-unit charging solutions minimize the necessary installation footprint. Not only does the 12-unit charger take up less space than the 10-unit Solaris Multigas Detector charger, the 12-unit charger also provides a single power supply, meaning that you only have one 120V plug to power the entire 12-unit charging station. Installation is easy with available clips that allow the charger to be mounted to a DIN rail at the top and screwed to the wall at the bottom. Install three clips, mount the charger to the rail, slide the power supply into the space behind the charger, and screw down the bottom clip to the wall. It's that easy.

**I want to use multi-unit chargers and don’t need individual power supplies for each instrument. Can I order instruments without a power supply?**

Yes. An instrument can be configured using MSA’s Assemble-To-Order System to order an instrument with the configuration of your choosing without the power supply.

**Do I need to change my calibration gas?**

No. The ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detector uses the same calibration gas mixtures as the Solaris MSHA Detector.

**Can I mix-and-match GALAXY System test stands for Solaris Multigas Detectors and ALTAIR 4X Multigas Detectors?**

Yes. You can continue to use MSA’s powerful GALAXY System test stations for both instruments simultaneously, linking up to 10 GALAXY System units together.
Can I continue to use the 10-unit MSA power supply to power all of my GALAXY System units?

Yes. The GALAXY System power supply has not changed and is compatible with your existing test stands, as well as those currently produced.

What GALAXY System configurations are available for ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detectors?

For customers requiring a stand-alone GALAXY System, please order:

*Includes: Test stand, power supply, regulator, cylinder holder, memory card
P/N 10144716
*Cylinder not included

For customers requiring add-on GALAXY System test stands for an existing system, please order:

*Includes: Test stand and power supply
P/N 10144715

These two GALAXY Systems are configured to accept standard 3- and 4-gas calibration cylinders with 2.5% CH4, 15% O2, 60 ppm CO and/or 10ppm NO2.

Additional GALAXY System configurations may be ordered from the GALAXY System Assemble-To-Order System; however these test systems require a calibration gas configuration change to accept your calibration gas.

I currently have a large fleet of Solaris Multigas Detectors and accessories; why should I invest in new instruments?

The ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detector is the most durable and reliable product in the marketplace. It is built for the mining industry with extreme durability, able to survive multiple drops of up to 20 feet onto concrete. Furthermore, the ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detector uses MSA’s revolutionary XCell® Sensor technology that affords significant cost savings over the instrument’s life. Using less calibration gas during bump and calibration while offering a three-year standard warranty, the ALTAIR 4X MSHA Multigas Detector is the clear choice for mining applications. Local MSA representatives are available to assist you in the transition process.

I currently use products from another manufacturer; why should I switch to MSA?

MSA-exclusive XCell Sensor technology provides faster response time, longer sensor life and uses less calibration gas, all of which add up to increased cost savings over the instrument’s life. End-of-sensor-life indicators provide ample time to order replacement sensors, reducing downtime and sensor inventory. Built for industry-leading durability, backed by MSA’s standard three-year warranty (optional fourth year coverage available) and supported with award-winning customer service, you can feel confident that MSA instruments are made to last.

What is MSA’s warranty policy?

Your ALTAIR 4X MSHA Detector comes standard with a three-year warranty that covers sensors, battery and electronics. An extended warranty for an additional one year (four years total) is available as an option through the Assemble-To-Order system.

Are BD-20 Regulators compatible with the GALAXY System?

Yes. All MSA demand regulators (P/N 10034319 Model RP Universal, P/N 10035594 Model RP CI2-NH3, P/N 710289 Model BD-20) are compatible with the GALAXY System test stand. MSA supplies 24” tubing to connect a calibration gas cylinder to the GALAXY System unit.