



The World's Lightest Solar PTT - 2g



At our conference in the spring of 2012, Paul announced that our long-term aim was to eventually produce a 2 gram PTT suitable for tracking birds. In fact, at that time, we were actively working to achieve this goal and already had a functioning prototype. Unfortunately, due to the loss of Christiane Howey, progress on this project was halted. However, over the last two years, Paul (along with his colleagues at MTI) rekindled the project and, in the end, exceeded the initial goal set forth. We have developed a new Argos 3 compatible PTT, the electronics of which weigh less than 250 mg.

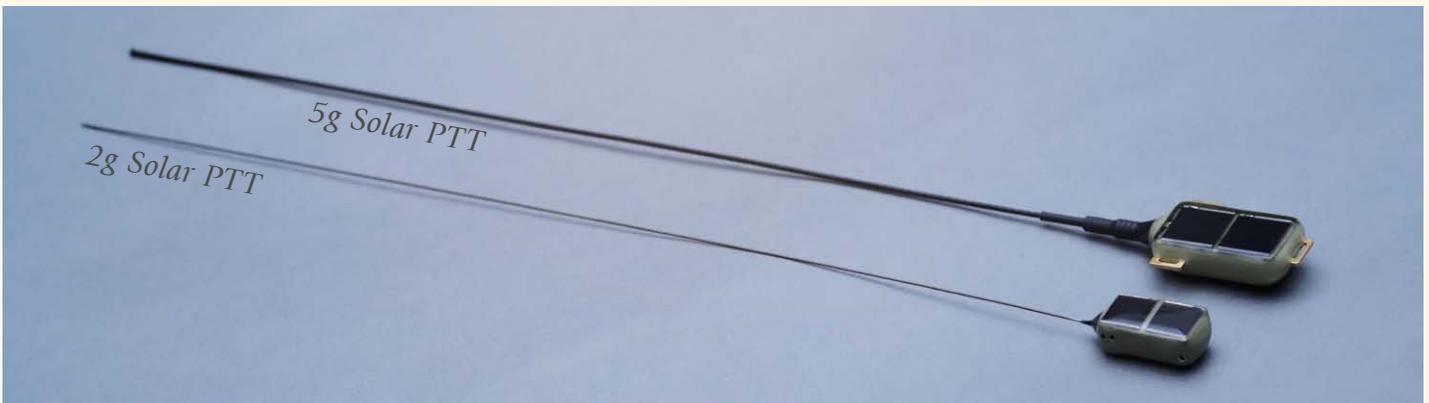
Using this tiny module, we propose to produce a new range of PTTs, each model weighing less than 2.5 grams. The lightest prototype we have constructed so far weighs a mere 1.8 grams. However, by using a new lighter battery that we are developing, we eventually hope to produce a version nearer to 1 gram in weight.

This tiny PTT module has already been submitted to CLS for certification testing and has been approved, achieving the highest Class "A" certification and exceeding the specifications of our other certified PTTs. We are very excited about this accomplishment, as this represents the start of a new era of satellite tracking the travels of small birds. In fact, as some of you may already know, the new era has already begun. Two prototype 2.2 gram PTTs have been successfully attached to Roseate Terns in the British Virgin Islands as part of a larger study funded by a grant from The Darwin Initiative. Their deployment would not have been possible without the help of Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, together with Susan Zaluski and Captain Luverne Peterkin of the Jost van Dykes Preservation Society.

Unfortunately, although the announcement of this new PTT has generated much attention, we are not in a position to produce a large number of these tiny PTTs immediately – a first, limited-production run is planned for this spring.

UPDATE

As of September 2015, another new version of the Argos 3 PTT has been certified. Again, it received a Class A rating from CLS. This new version has the potential to lead to a version even lighter than our 2g PTT. We will keep you posted, but please have patience with us as we find ways to produce them efficiently.



MTI Holiday Donation



Here at MTI, we try to take time to extend our gratitude, especially during the holidays, for your continued support, friendship, and the health and happiness of our staff. In the past, a small token of our appreciation has been enclosed with our winter newsletter. However, the global crises of the last year, and our sustained interest in education, have urged us to make a donation instead. We've chosen to support educational efforts for refugee children in Turkey through a US-based charity, **Karam Foundation**, and their "Learn Not Earn" program. Unfortunately, many Syrian children now taking refuge in Turkey are not afforded the opportunity to attend school or are forced to forfeit their education in order to provide financially for their families. The Karam Foundation offsets the potential earnings of the child and allows them to pursue an education. Additionally, the devastating earthquake that damaged or destroyed thousands of homes and historical and religious sites in and around Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, also destroyed many schools and, with it, many children's opportunities to learn. To assist in rebuilding and reestablishing educational institutions for children living in areas affected by the earthquake, we are making a donation to the international charity **Room to Read**, and their ongoing efforts in Nepal.

Please see their websites for more details:

<http://www.karamfoundation.org/education/>

<http://www.roomtoread.org/page.aspx?pid=311>