

## Frequently Asked Questions

# FAAST Fire Alarm Aspiration Sensing Technology® with Modbus/TCP

### What is Modbus?

Modbus is an open communications protocol commonly used in industrial manufacturing that allows for communication between devices. With Modbus, devices from different manufacturers can be integrated in to the same device management system. Modbus also enables remote read and write functionality from a device.

### Why would I use Modbus?

Modbus is used to gather data from many different devices for simultaneous observation, configuration, or data archiving. If you have a large campus with many buildings, or even buildings spread across a region, Modbus can be used to monitor those buildings from one central point.

### What Modbus protocol is available on FAAST?

FAAST uses Modbus/TCP with a physical Ethernet port connection. TCP/IP is the common “language” of the Internet, and Ethernet is the most common physical connection, making FAAST easily compatible with existing infrastructure. All FAAST models ship standard with Modbus connectivity at no additional cost.

### Is Modbus rated for primary fire detection?

No. While Modbus can be used for remote monitoring of a device, FAAST must still be connected to a fire alarm control panel via the SLC or relays. Modbus is only rated for secondary reporting purposes.

### How do I use Modbus?

In order to use Modbus, you must have an understanding of the device registers and how they will interface with whatever Modbus Building Management System to which you are interfacing. The FAAST Modbus User Guide, available at [www.systemsensor.com/faast](http://www.systemsensor.com/faast), provides all the information required to interface FAAST with a Modbus system.

