

# Smart Power Sensor

## PWR-8P-RC

50Ω -60 dBm to +20 dBm, 10 to 8000 MHz

### The Big Deal

- Peak & average power of CW & pulse waveforms with pulse profiling
- Measures power levels down to -60 dBm
- Sample rate 500,000 samples per sec.
- **USB and Ethernet control**

### Typical Applications

- Pulse profiling & statistical signal analysis
- Radar characterization (VHF / UHF / L / S / C bands)
- Particle accelerator experimentation
- Signal level calibration in production test systems
- Power monitoring in remote installations / base-stations

### Product Overview

Mini-Circuits' PWR-8P-RC is a compact sensor-head that turns any PC into a high performance power meter for peak and average measurements of CW and pulse modulated signals. The sensor has an 80 dB input dynamic range and wide bandwidth, allowing measurement of RF powers down to -60 dBm over 10 to 8000 MHz.

The USB HID interface is "plug & play" compatible, meaning no driver installation is required, while the additional Ethernet interface allows remote power measurements over a network. Full software support is provided, including our user-friendly GUI application for Windows and a full API with programming instructions for Windows and Linux environments (both 32-bit and 64-bit systems). Download the software package from <http://www.minicircuits.com/softwaredownload/pm.html>

### Key Features

Feature	Advantages
Peak, average and pulse profiling	Measure peak & average power of CW and pulsed signals. Analyze and graphically plot the peak & average power, duty cycle, pulse width, crest factor, rise & fall times of pulsed signals.
Wide dynamic range (80 dB)	Measure as low as -60 dBm and as high as +20 dBm with a single sensor, opening up a wide range of applications and reducing the need for external gain / attenuation control circuits
External trigger controls and video output	Trigger in and out ports support precise synchronization with external test equipment and allow capture of irregular signal patterns and pulses. Video output allows the sensor to be used in ALC loops
Very low duty cycles	Capable of measuring pulses as short as 10 μs with duty cycles as low as 0.001%
No user calibration required	Accurate power measurements can commence as soon as the sensor is connected since it does not require any zero or reference measurements
Excellent impedance match	Input VSWR of 1.15:1 typ reduces measurement errors due to impedance mismatch

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Software Package

CASE STYLE: JL2441

Model No.	Description
PWR-8P-RC	USB smart Power Sensor
<b>Included Accessories</b>	
PWR-SEN-8P-RC	Power Sensor Head
USB-CBL-AB-7+	6.8 ft USB cable
CBL-5FT-BMSMB+	BNC(M) to SMB(F) Trigger cable
NF-SM50+	N-Type (F) to SMA(M) Adapter

**RoHS Compliant**

See our web site for RoHS Compliance methodologies and qualifications

## Electrical Specifications, -60 dBm to +20 dBm, 10 to 8000 MHz

Parameter	Freq. Range (MHz)	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Units	
Dynamic range <sup>1</sup>	10 - 8000	-60	-	+20	dBm	
VSWR	10 - 8000	-	1.15	1.28	:1	
Uncertainty of power measurement <sup>2,3</sup> @ 25°C	@ -60 to -50 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.10	±0.35	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.10	±0.40	dB
	@ -50 to 0 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.10	±0.35	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.10	±0.40	dB
	@ 0 to +20 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.10	±0.40	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.10	±0.40	dB
Uncertainty of power measurement <sup>2,3</sup> @ 0°C to 50°C	@ -55 to -50 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.20	-	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.35	-	dB
	@ -50 to 0 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.10	-	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.15	-	dB
	@ 0 to +20 dBm	10 - 4000	-	±0.10	-	dB
		4000 - 8000	-	±0.10	-	dB
Linearity @ 25°C	10 - 8000	-	2.0	-	%	
Measurement resolution	10 - 8000	0.01	-	-	dB	
Averaging range	10 - 8000	1	-	999	-	
Sample period	@ full sampling rate	10 - 8000	0.01	-	2.5	ms
	@ reduced sampling rate <sup>4</sup>	10 - 8000	-	-	1000	
Time base accuracy	-	-	-	30	ppm	
Max sample rate @ sample period ≤ 2.5 ms <sup>5</sup>	10 - 8000	-	500	-	ksps	
Pulse profiling bandwidth	10 - 8000	-	-	100	kHz	
Minimum pulse width	10 - 8000	-	5	10	µs	
Minimum measurable rise/fall time <sup>6</sup>	10 - 8000	-	-	4	µs	
Pulse duty cycle for pulse profiling <sup>4</sup>	10 - 8000	0.001	-	99.999	%	
Video output frequency	-	DC	-	10	MHz	
DC current	@ Ethernet disabled	10 - 8000	-	400	450	mA
	@ Ethernet enabled <sup>7</sup>		-	540	650	
Trigger in voltages	Logic High	-	2.4	-	5.5	V
	Logic Low	-	0	-	0.6	
Trigger out voltages <sup>8</sup>	Logic High	-	3	-	5.2	
	Logic Low	-	0	-	0.3	
Video out @ 50 Ω load	Output voltage	-	0.5	-	2.2	

<sup>1</sup> Maximum continuous safe operational power limit: +23 dBm.

<sup>2</sup> Tested with CW signal

<sup>3</sup> Power uncertainty is specified for default sample period of 10ms.

<sup>4</sup> As sample period increases above 2.5 ms, resolution will decrease. If measuring a signal with duty cycle below 0.1% or over 99.9%, use the 'Zoom on Pulse' function in Pulse Profiling to get accurate peak and average measurements.

<sup>5</sup> Max sample rate is measured in thousands of samples per second (ksps). With sample periods greater than 2.5 msec the sample rate will be reduced to allow covering the full sample period.

<sup>6</sup> sensor's internal rise time of 2.5 µs contributes an error to the measured rise time up to  $M_{max} = \sqrt{(R^2 + 6.25)}$  where R is the real rise time of the signal and M is the measured rise time indicated by the sensor, so for example a signal with a 6µs rise may produce a measured rise time of up to  $\sqrt{(\text{signal rise time}^2 + \text{sensor rise time}^2)} = \sqrt{(6^2 + 2.5^2)} = 6.5\mu\text{s}$  (8.3% measurement error in rise time)

<sup>7</sup> When Ethernet control is enabled, it is recommended to use an external power supply (USB-AC/DC-5+ or equiv), a powered hub, or USB 3.0 port, as USB 2.0 ports are specified to supply 500mA load and thus may not be able to supply the required current.

<sup>8</sup> Internal trigger functions may not correctly identify a pulse lower than -48 dBm. If a trigger is needed for such signals it is recommended to use external trigger.

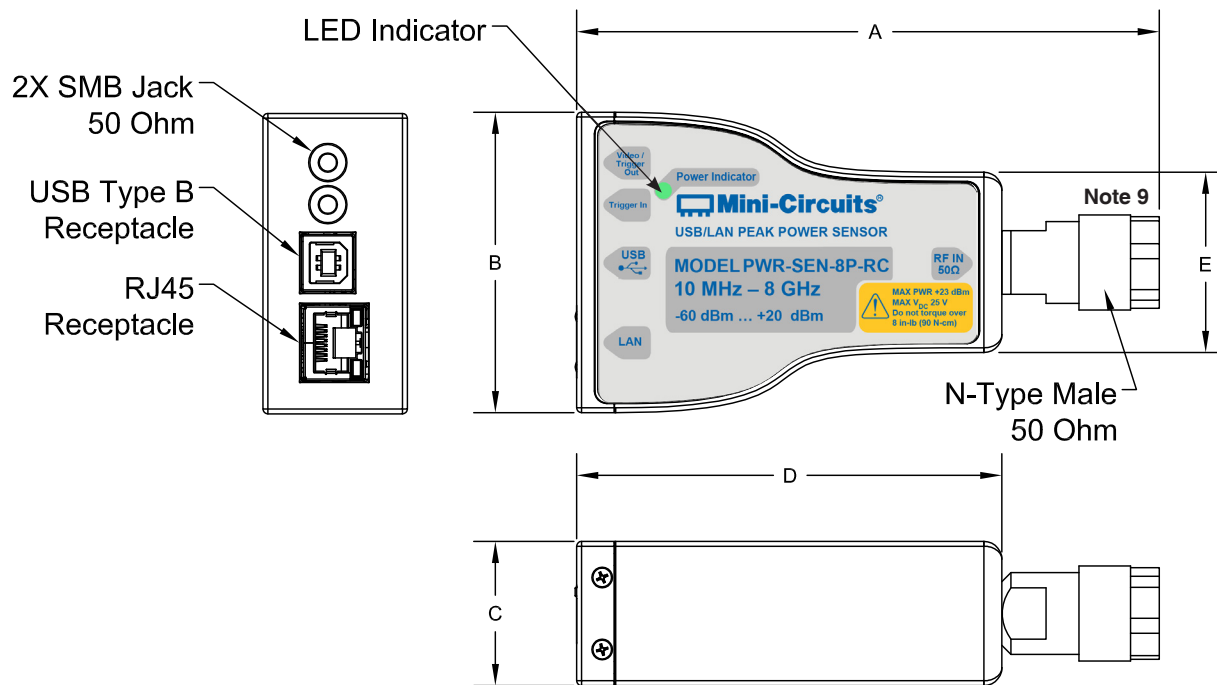
## Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Ratings
Operating Temperature	0°C to 50°C
Storage Temperature	-30°C to 70°C
DC Voltage at RF port	25 V
Trigger In	-0.3V to 5.5V
CW Power	+26 dBm

## Connections

RF Input	(N Type-Male)
Trigger In	(SMB-Male)
Trigger Out	(SMB-Male)
USB Port	(USB type B female)
Network (Ethernet/LAN)	(RJ45 socket)

## Outline Drawing (JL2441)

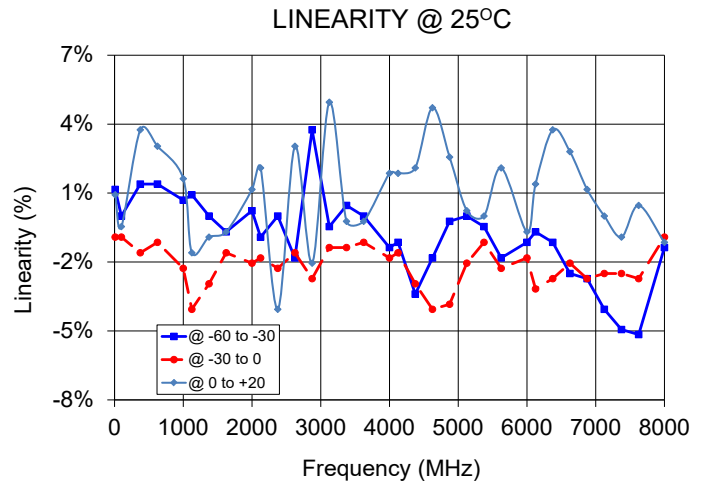
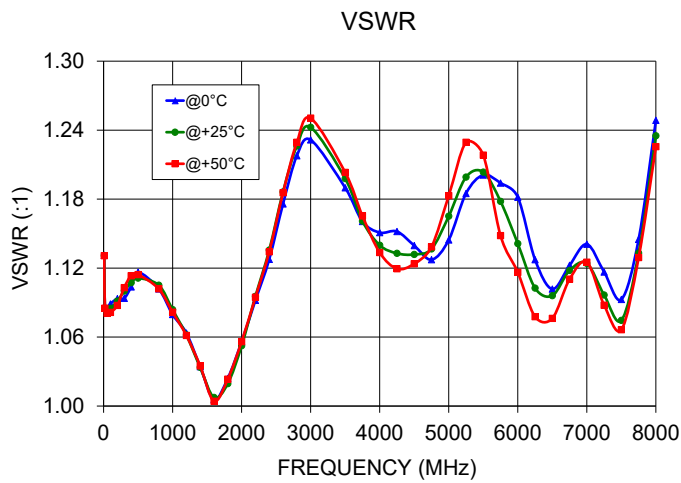
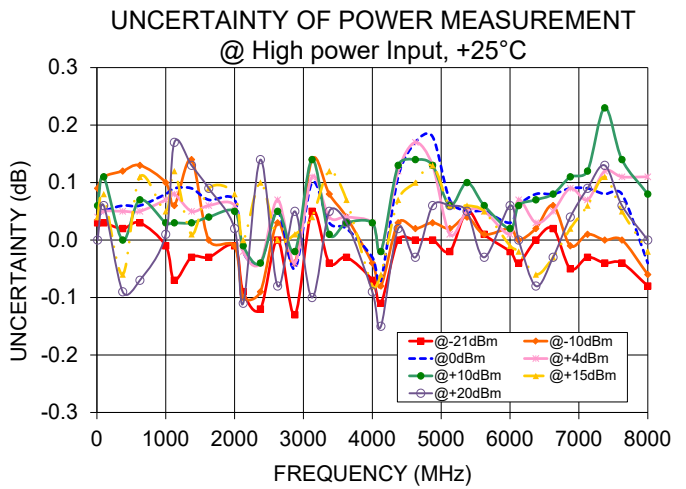
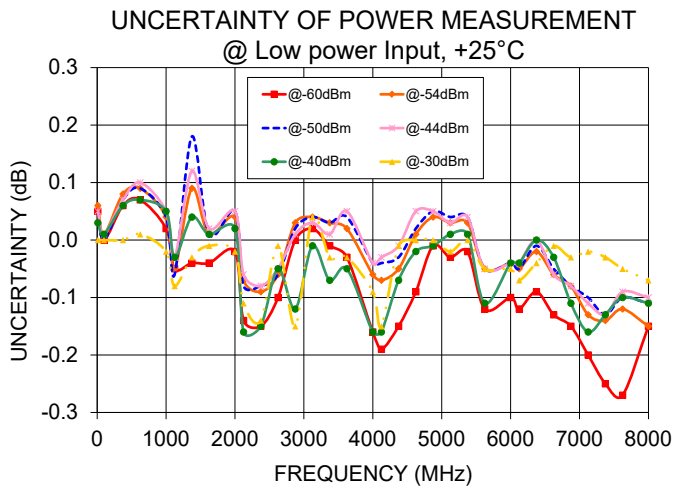


## Outline Dimensions ( $\frac{\text{inch}}{\text{mm}}$ )

A	B	C	D	E	WT. GRAMS
4.85 123.1	2.50 63.5	1.20 30.5	3.54 89.9	1.5 38.1	260

<sup>9</sup> Maximum torque 8 in-lb (90 N-cm).

## Typical Performance Curves



## Software & Documentation Download:

- Mini-Circuits' full software and support package including user guide, Windows GUI, DLL files, programming manual and examples can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.minicircuits.com/softwaredownload/pm.html>.
- Please contact [testsolutions@minicircuits.com](mailto:testsolutions@minicircuits.com) for support

## Minimum System Requirements

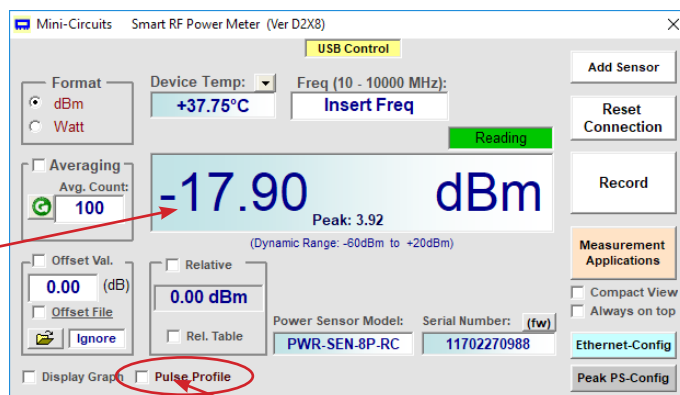
Parameter	Requirements	
Interface	USB HID or HTTP Get/Post or Telnet protocols	
System requirements	GUI:	Windows 32 & 64 bit systems from Windows 98 up to Windows 10
	USB API (ActiveX & .Net)	Windows 32 & 64 bit systems with ActiveX or .Net support from Windows 98 up to Windows 10
	USB direct programming support	Linux, Windows systems from Windows 98 up to Windows 10
	Telnet & HTTP	Any Windows, Mac, or Linux computer with a network port and Ethernet-TCP/IP (HTTP or Telnet protocols) support
Hardware	Pentium® II or higher, RAM 256 MB	
Control cable (supplied)	Power sensor to be used with the supplied USB cable only	

## Graphical User Interface (GUI) for Windows

### Key Features:

- Set compensation frequency and monitor power measurement
- Configure measurement (offsets, relative power readings, averaging, etc.)
- Peak and average power measurement
- Pulse profiling (see [user guide](#) and page 6 for details)
- Internal and external trigger, Trigger and Video outputs
- Graphical pulse display with 'zoom on pulse' feature (see [user guide](#) and page 6 for details)
- Control multiple power sensors at once
- Schedule data recording

Note: Main screen power measurement will be accurate only for duty cycle 99.9% to 0.1%, for duty cycles outside this range need to use the 'Zoom on Pulse' function in Pulse Profiling.



Enable pulse profiling and graphical pulse display, see page 6 for details

## Application Programming Interface (API)

### Windows Support:

- API DLL files exposing the full power sensor functionality
  - ActiveX COM DLL file for creation of 32-bit programs
  - .Net library DLL file for creation of 32 / 64-bit programs
- HTTP Get/Post and Telnet protocols use SCPI commands to provide full control.
- Supported by most common programming environments (refer to application note [AN-49-001](#) for summary of tested environments)

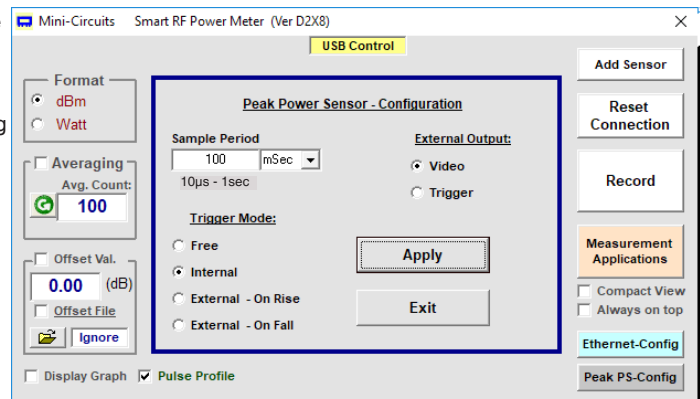
### Linux Support:

- Full power sensor control in a Linux environment is achieved by way of USB interrupt commands.



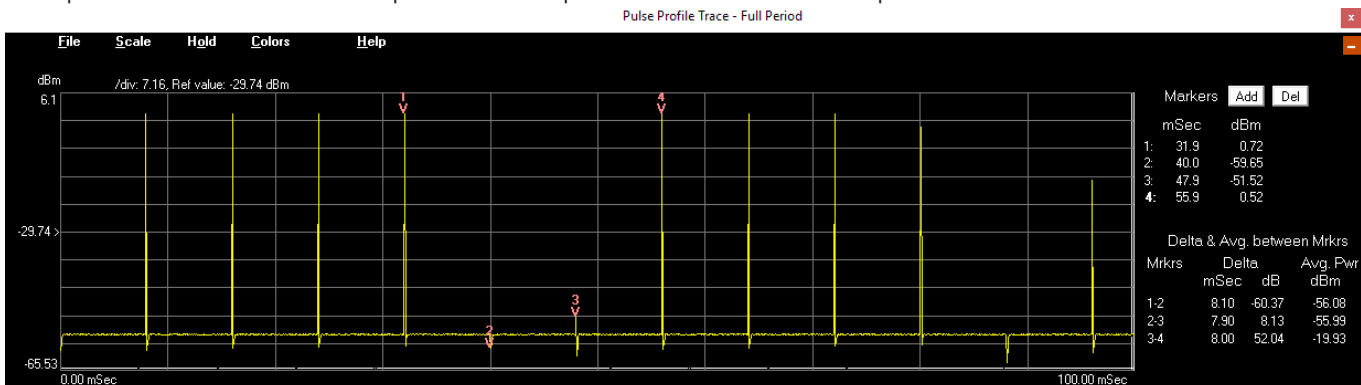
## Graphical User Interface - Pulse Profiling Features

- Set the sample period between 10µs and 1s to capture the pulse profile
- Select from 4 trigger options:
  1. Free – No trigger / free running measurements
  2. Internal – Detect and stabilise the measurements on the rising edge of the RF signal (not recommended for signals with pulse power below -48 dBm).
  3. External
    - a. Rising edge – Measurements are triggered on the rising edge of an external trigger signal
    - b. Falling edge – Measurements are triggered on the falling edge of an external trigger signal
- Enable external trigger / video output if required:
  - a. External trigger provides a TTL output on the rising edge of a pulse for synchronization with external measurement equipment
  - b. Video output allows wider bandwidth pulses to be recorded by external measurement equipment



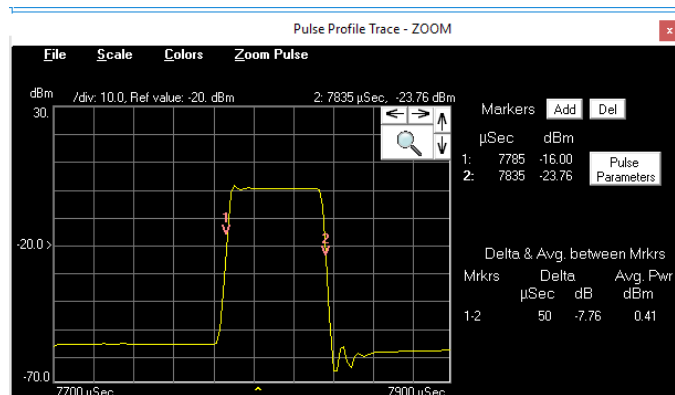
**Fig 1: Main screen in Pulse Profiling configuration mode**

The main pulse profile display shows the full sample period of the sensor in the time domain. Up to four markers can be set as required to measure power levels and calculate time / power deltas



**Fig 2: Graphical Pulse Profile - Full sample period**

“Zoom on pulse” feature will automatically zoom on the first identified pulse and allows any portion of the pulse profile to be focused on / expanded in a second graphical display, simply by ‘right clicking’ and dragging the mouse cursor over relevant section of the profile.



**Fig 3: Graphical Pulse Profile - “Zoom on Pulse”**

For signals with duty cycle greater than 99.9% or under 0.1% the automatic ‘zoom on pulse’ may not work - in such cases you can adjust the zoom window by clicking on the arrow icons to increment/decrement the trigger delay and span, or the magnifying glass to type in precise values

Parameter	Value
Pulse Width (mSec)	0.044
Pulse Period (mSec)	8.020
Duty Cycle (%)	0.55
Rise Time (µs)	3.54
Fall Time (µs)	3.54
Pulse Pwr ( dBm)	0.75
Cycle Avg. ( dBm)	-19.70
Crest Factor (dB)	20.45
Over Shoot (dB)	0.98

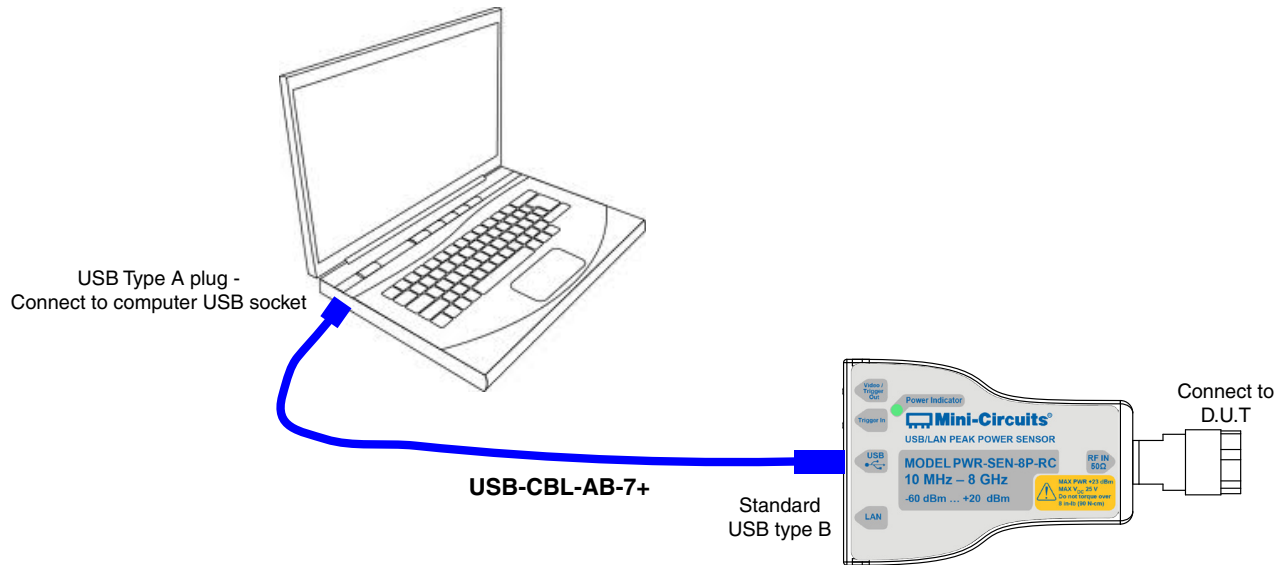
**Fig 4: Calculated Pulse parameters**

Full pulse parameters are calculated and displayed in tabular form, including peak / average power, pulse width / period, duty cycle, rise / fall time, crest factor and overshoot.

**Note:** If ‘zoom on pulse’ window is not showing the pulse signal calculated parameter may not be correct

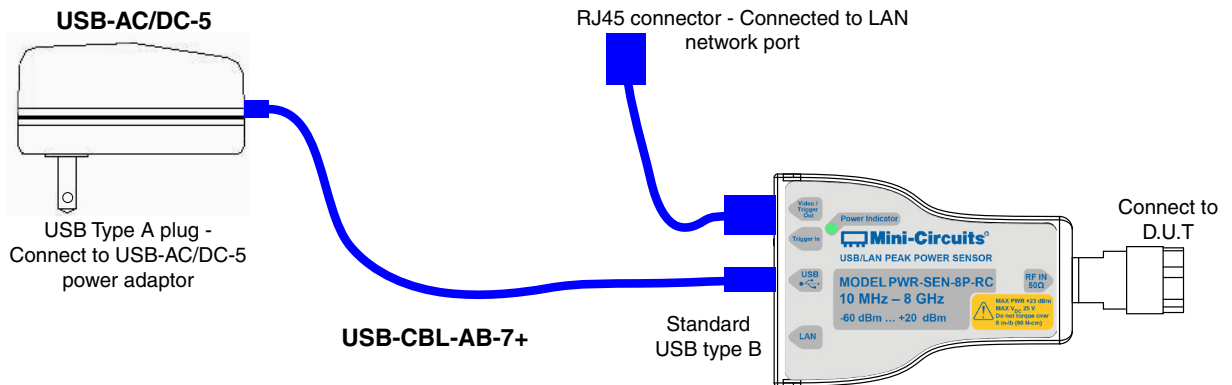
## Connection diagrams

### Connection diagram for USB control



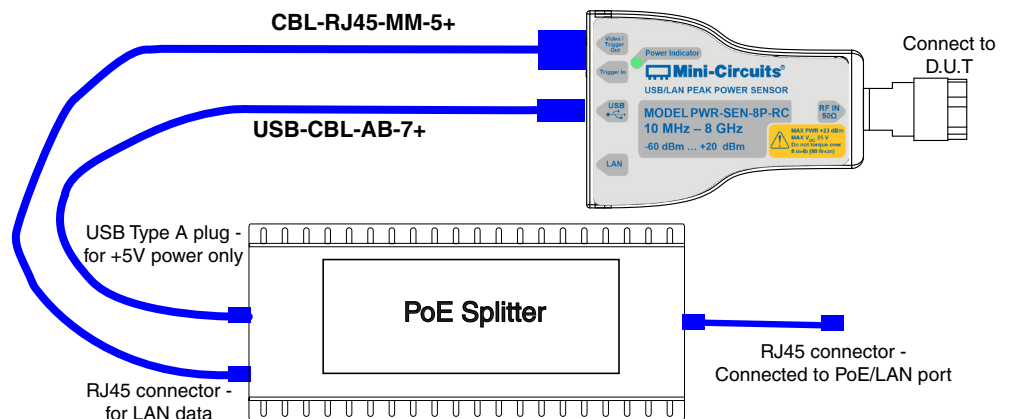
Connect USB-AC/DC-5 to mains power

### Connection diagram for Ethernet control, using power adaptor







### Connection diagram for Ethernet control, using PoE system

Note: Commercially available PoE splitter not supplied by Mini-Circuits



## Ordering Information

Model	Description
PWR-8P-RC	USB/Ethernet <i>Smart</i> Peak & Average Power Sensor

Included Accessories	Part No.	Description
	PWR-SEN-8P-RC	Power Sensor Head
	USB-CBL-AB-7+	6.8 ft (2.1 m) USB Cable: USB type A(Male) to USB type B(Male)
	CBL-5FT-BMSMB+	5 ft (1.5 m) Trigger cable: BNC(male) to SMB(Female)
	NF-SM50+	N-Type Female to SMA Male Adapter.

Optional Accessories	Description
USB-AC/DC-5	AC/DC 5V <sub>DC</sub> Power Adapter with US, EU, IL, UK, AUS, and China power plugs <sup>10,11</sup>
USB-CBL-AB-3+	2.7 ft (0.8 m) USB Cable: USB type A(Male) to USB type B(Male)
USB-CBL-AB-7+ (spare)	6.8 ft (2.1 m) USB Cable: USB type A(Male) to USB type B(Male)
CBL-RJ45-MM-5+	5 ft (1.5 m) Ethernet cable: RJ45(Male) to RJ45(Male) Cat 5E cable
CBL-5FT-BMSMB+(spare)	5 ft (1.5 m) Trigger cable: BNC(male) to SMB(Female)
NF-SM50+ (spare)	N-Type Female to SMA Male Adapter.
NF-SF50+	N-Type Female to SMA Female Adapter
NF-BM50+	N-Type Female to BNC Male Adapter.

<sup>10</sup> Power plugs for other countries are also available, if you need a power plug for a country not listed in the table please contact [testsolutions@minicircuits.com](mailto:testsolutions@minicircuits.com) for support.

<sup>11</sup> Power adaptor, powered hub or USB 3.0 port may be used to provide power when in Ethernet control, not needed in USB control.

Calibration	Description
CALSEN-8P-RC	Calibration Service <a href="#">Click Here</a>

## Additional Notes

- Performance and quality attributes and conditions not expressly stated in this specification document are intended to be excluded and do not form a part of this specification document.
- Electrical specifications and performance data contained in this specification document are based on Mini-Circuit's applicable established test performance criteria and measurement instructions.
- The parts covered by this specification document are subject to Mini-Circuits standard limited warranty and terms and conditions (collectively, "Standard Terms"); Purchasers of this part are entitled to the rights and benefits contained therein. For a full statement of the Standard Terms and the exclusive rights and remedies thereunder, please visit Mini-Circuits' website at [www.minicircuits.com/MCLStore/terms.jsp](http://www.minicircuits.com/MCLStore/terms.jsp)

