AQ-SPEC
Air Quality Sensor Performance Evaluation Center

Field Evaluation Report for

Particles Plus 15000-OEM Community CPC

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Performance Snapshot

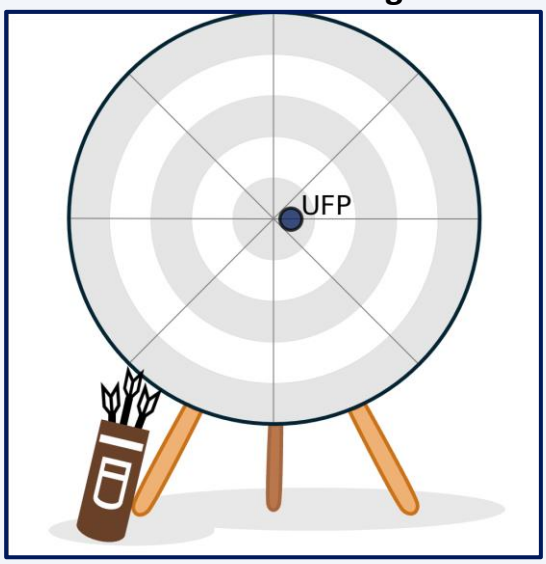
Particles Plus 15000-OEM Community CPC

Tested: 01-25-2025 to 03-22-2025

○ CH_4	○ SO_2
○ CO	○ VOC
○ CO_2	○ BC
○ H_2S	○ PM_1
○ NO	○ $PM_{2.5}$
○ NO_2	○ PM_4
○ NO_x	○ PM_{10}
○ O_3	✓ UFP

✓ Tested ● Not tested ○ Not available

Does it hit the target?



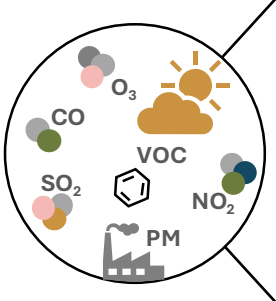
The closer the sensor lands near the center, the more accurate its readings were compared to the pollution levels.

How well does it track?

A longer bar means the sensor did a better job of tracking the real changes in air pollution levels — going up when the concentration levels went up, and down when they dropped.

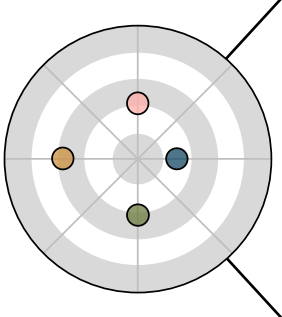
$$$ Cost	Web portal	2 lbs Weight	Display	Battery	Solar	Weatherproof
Wi-Fi	Cellular	Bluetooth	Internal memory	Serial	USB	Ethernet

Performance Snapshot Guide



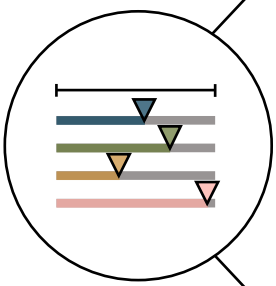
Pollutant List: This list shows the pollutants that the sensor is capable of measuring. Pollutants highlighted in blue with a check mark were tested for performance, those in gray were not tested, and those in white are not measured by the sensor.

◆ **CH_4** methane ◆ **CO** carbon monoxide ◆ **CO_2** carbon dioxide ◆ **H_2S** hydrogen sulfide ◆ **NO** nitric oxide ◆ **NO_2** nitrogen dioxide ◆ **NO_x** nitrogen oxides ◆ **O_3** ozone ◆ **SO_2** sulfur dioxide ◆ **VOC** volatile organic compounds ◆ **BC** black carbon ◆ **PM_1** mass of particles smaller than 1 micrometer ◆ **$PM_{2.5}$** mass of particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers ◆ **PM_4** mass or particles smaller than 4 micrometers ◆ **PM_{10}** mass of particles smaller than 10 micrometers ◆ **UFP** ultrafine particles, smaller than 0.1 micrometers



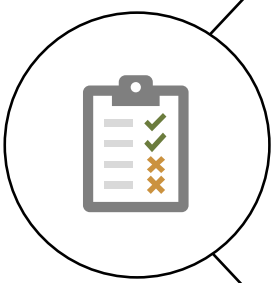
Target Graphic: The closer the sensor "hits" the center, the closer the sensor's readings were to the actual concentrations. If the sensor hit inside the center circle, its readings were within 20% of the actual concentration. Each ring going outward is another 20% further from the actual concentration. If the sensor falls off the target entirely, its readings were either zero, or more than twice the actual concentration!

More technically, the distance from the center is calculated from sensor-reference relative absolute errors, averaged across all 5-minute means, averaged across the number of sensor units tested. These distances are precise and not binned in 20% intervals.



Bar Graphic: The longer the bar, the better the sensor followed the ups-and-downs of the actual concentrations. A long bar doesn't always mean that the sensor exactly "matched" the actual concentration, but it does mean the sensor was responding when the air was clean or dirty. A long bar also means it's possible to adjust the sensor's readings to match the actual concentrations if you can gather data side-by-side with a reference monitor to make a formula to correct the readings!

More technically, the bar length ranges between 0 to 1 and is calculated from sensor-reference coefficients of determination (R^2; square of the Pearson correlation coefficient), with 5-minute means, averaged across the number of sensor units tested.



Feature Symbols: Some sensors can be configured with extra features. The price we list in the reports was the price for the product version we tested. Your price may vary from ours. If a symbol has the word option in it, it means the manufacturer offers that option at no extra cost. If a symbol has a small $ sign in it, that means it is a paid option.

The number of **$** signs used for sensor "cost" is based on the 2022 average cell phone price of $735 (https://www.wsj.com/business/telecom/how-much-is-too-much-for-a-smartphone-3a300905), adjusted for inflation for the year we tested the sensor. One **$** sign means the sensor cost less than an average cell phone; two **$$** signs means it cost less than twice an average cell phone; three **$$$** signs means it cost more than twice an average cell phone. For other options, only one $ sign is used for simplicity as it is too complicated to describe the variety of add-on costs through symbols.

Revision History

Version	Date	Note
0	06/25/2025	Original issued report

Disclaimer: All documents, reports, data, and other information provided are for informational and/or educational use only.

Some sensors evaluated by AQ-SPEC were field-tested inside a custom-made aluminum enclosure to protect the sensors from windblown rain, harsh sunlight, and animals. The field evaluation reports contain data collected at an air monitoring station during a specific 30- to 60-day period and cannot be duplicated at a different location, season, or time period. As sensor performance may be affected by time- and location-specific environmental conditions at the test site, replication and/or duplication of results may not be possible to achieve. The sensor assembly, installation, and use can also impact the performance of products evaluated by AQ-SPEC. No sensor calibration was performed by South Coast AQMD staff for this evaluation. Laboratory chamber testing may be necessary to fully evaluate the performance of these sensors under controlled temperature, humidity, pollutant, and interferent concentrations.

South Coast AQMD makes no claim, warranty, or guarantee that these devices will or will not work when operated by other users for their specific applications.

South Coast AQMD's AQ-SPEC aims at providing information to and for the benefit of the public to make informed purchasing decisions on air quality sensors. In accordance with this mission, the general policy of the Governing Board of the Agency is to exclude all commercial advertising and promotional material, including links which provide exclusive private or financial benefit to commercial, non-public enterprises and which do not promote or enhance a public benefit to the general public. As a Government Agency, the South Coast AQMD neither endorses nor supports individual private commercial enterprises through testing of products by AQ-SPEC or through providing links to the sites of such commercial enterprises.

Report Role	Name	Date Completed
Tested by	Jenna Drewitz and Victor Rocha, Jr.	03/22/2025
Analysis by	Namrata Shanmukh Panji, Ph.D.	04/15/2025
Quality Control Review by	Michelle Kuang, Ph.D.	04/23/2025
Approved by	Wilton Mui, Ph.D.	06/25/2025
Revision by	-----	-----

Table of Contents

Section 1: Background

Four Particles Plus Community 15000-OEM CPC (hereinafter 15000-OEM) units (IDs: 203, 204, 216, and 226) were deployed at the South Coast AQMD stationary ambient monitoring site in Rubidoux from 01/25/2025 to 03/22/2025. The evaluation period lasted 8 weeks. The sensor units were co-located with a Teledyne Ultrafine Particle Monitor Model 651 as a reference instrument (hereinafter Model 651).

Particles Plus Community CPC Unit

Test site at Rubidoux

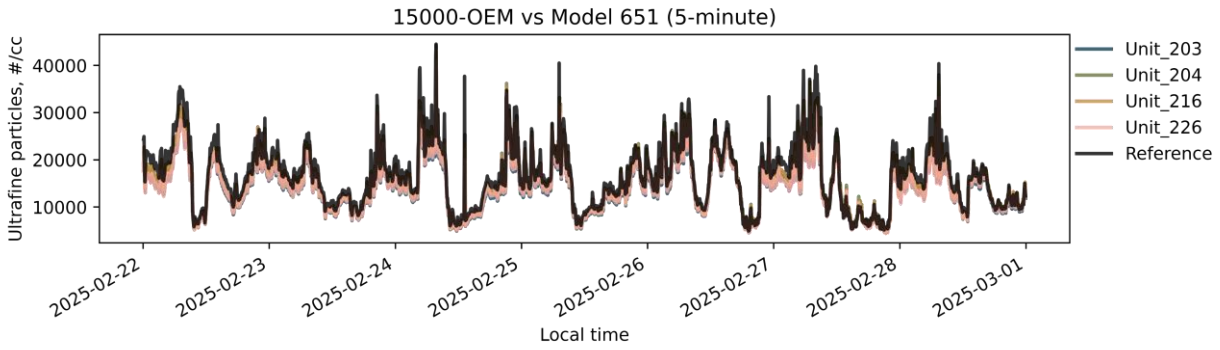
Section 2: Manufacturer Specs

Parameter	Sensor: Particles Plus 15000-OEM CPC	Reference Instrument: Teledyne Model 651 CPC
Cost	$2,995 (at time of testing)	~$20,000
Weight	2 pounds	22 pounds
Dimensions (LxWxH)	5.40 x 2.00 x 6.71 inches	8 x 19 x 12 inches
Power	12 VDC	110 VAC
Battery	No	No
Data transmission	Serial (as-tested)	Serial, Ethernet, USB
Internal memory	Yes; 65,000 records	Yes (with USB flash drive)
Operating temperature range	41-104 degrees F	50-100.4 degrees F
Operating RH range	20%-95%	0%-90%
Product website	https://particlesplus.com/15000-oem-cpc/	N/A (discontinued)
Operating principle	Optical light scattering, water vapor growth	Optical light scattering, water vapor growth
Time resolution	10 seconds (as-tested)	1 minute (as-configured)
Concentration range	0-100,000 particles/cm^3	0-1,000,000 particles/cm^3
Particle size range	5 nm – 3 µm	7 nm – 3 µm

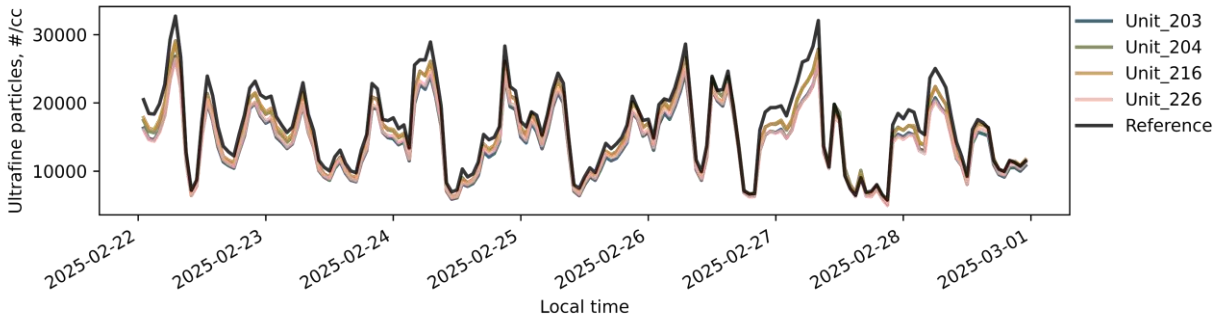
Section 3: Ultrafine Particles

Section 3.1: Data Overview

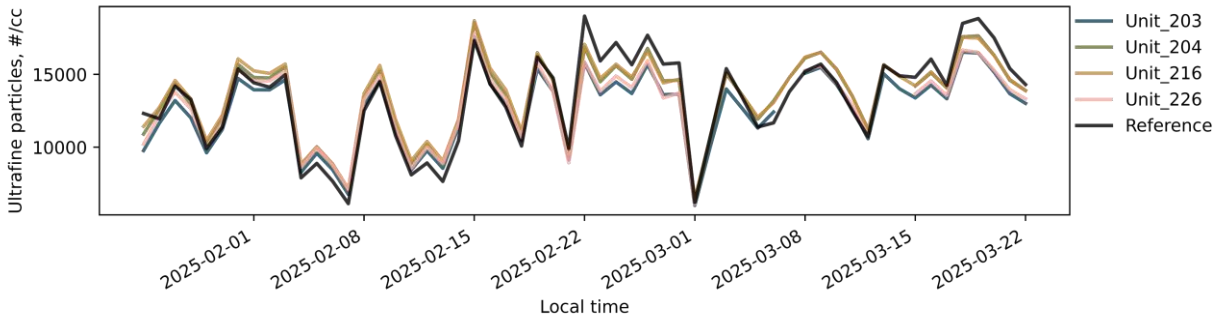
Timeseries of a 1-week subset of the 8-week evaluation



Timeseries of a 1-week subset of the 8-week evaluation



Timeseries of the 8-week evaluation



Section 3: Ultrafine Particles

Section 3.2: Data Recovery

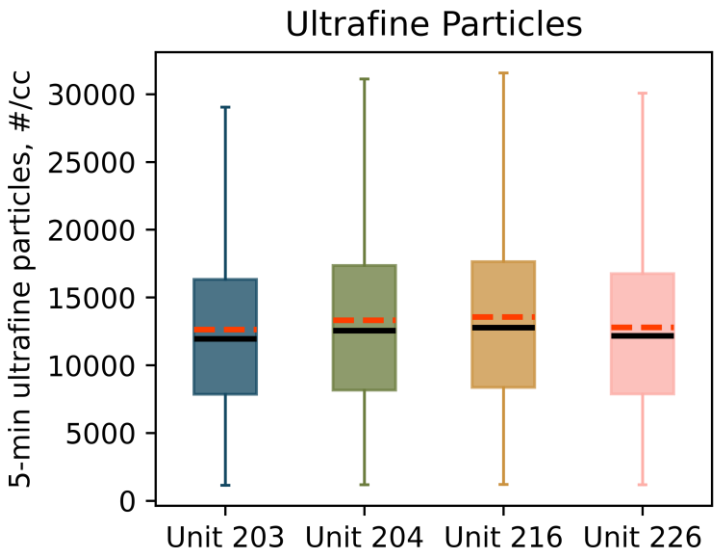
Basic QA/QC procedures such as removal of duplicate records was performed. Nulls, negatives, out of instrument bounds as specified by the manufacturer, and values flagged as invalid by the sensor were considered invalid. Data recovery was calculated as the percent of valid readings through the entire evaluation.

Parameter	Unit 203	Unit 204	Unit 216	Unit 226
Ultrafine Particles	100%	100%	100%	100%

Section 3.3: Intra-Model Variability

Absolute intra-model variability was calculated as the standard deviation of the mean values of the sensors. Relative intra-model variability was calculated as the absolute intra-model variability divided by the sensor grand mean. Calculations were performed using data resampled to a 5-minute averages.

Parameter	Absolute intra-model variability	Relative intra-model variability
Ultrafine Particles	427.2 #/cc	3.28 %



Interpretation: The 15000-OEMs had similar pollutant distributions.

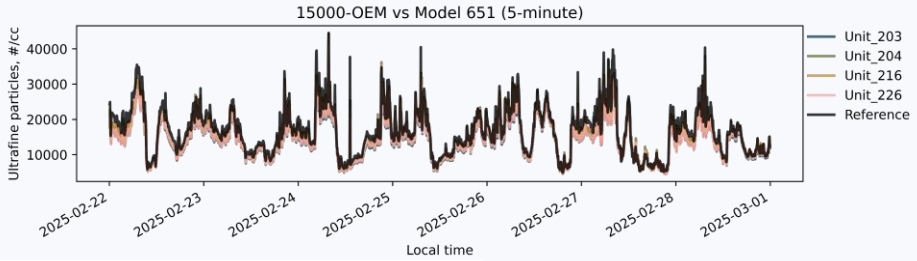
Section 3: Ultrafine Particles

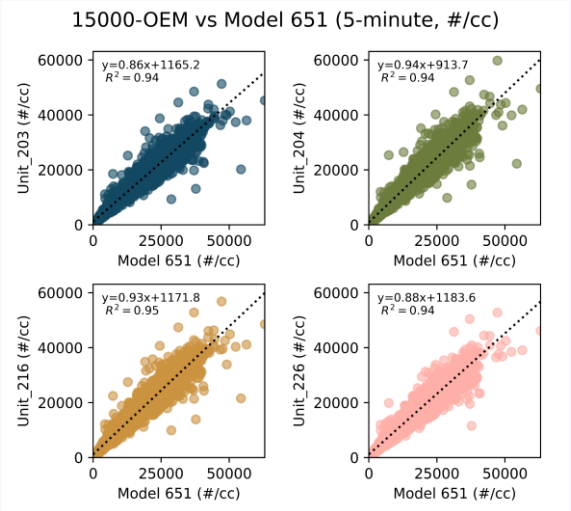
Section 3.4: Linear Correlation Coefficient (R^2)

Basic QA/QC procedures were used to validate the collected data (i.e., obvious outliers, negative values, readings flagged by the sensor, and invalid data points were eliminated from the data-set.

A summary of the mean R^2 between the sensor and Model 651 across all units tested.

Parameter	Time Resolution	15000-OEM (mean ± SD)
Ultrafine Particles (#/cc)	5-minute	0.94 ± 0.00
	1-hour	0.96 ± 0.00
	24-hour	0.92 ± 0.01

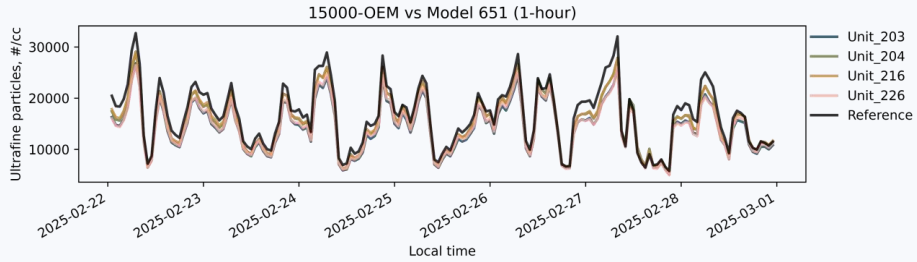


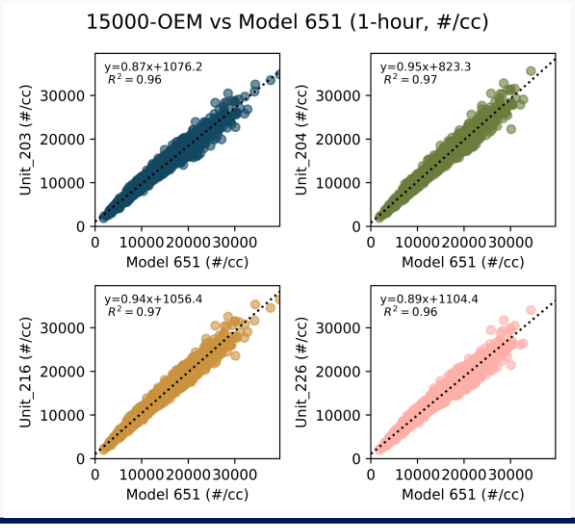


Interpretation: The 15000-OEMs showed very strong correlation with the corresponding Model 651 data ($0.94 < R^2 < 0.95$) at 5-minute averaging.

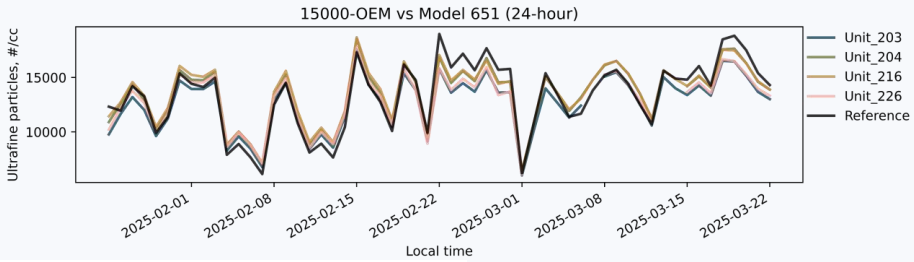
Section 3: Ultrafine Particles

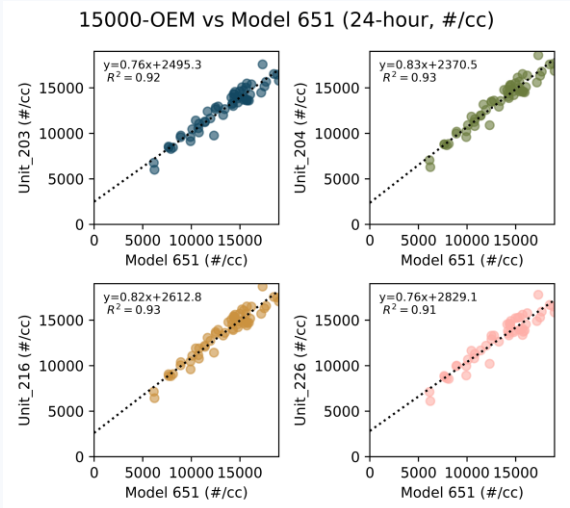
Section 3.4: Linear Correlation Coefficient (R^2)





Interpretation: The 15000-OEMs showed very strong correlation with the corresponding Model 651 data ($0.96 < R^2 < 0.97$) at 1-hour averaging.





Interpretation: The 15000-OEMs showed very strong correlation with the corresponding Model 651 data ($0.91 < R^2 < 0.93$) at 24-hour averaging.

Section 4: Summary Metrics

		Ultrafine Particles		
		5-min averages	1-hr averages	24-hr averages
15000-OEM	Average*	13087.9	13092.1	13126.1
	SD*	6277.4	5864.6	2708
	Range*	1145.5 to 59764.6	1872.1 to 36501.5	6006.6 to 18685.0
Model 651	Average*	13319.4	13319.9	13318.6
	SD*	6864.5	6362	3217.9
	Range*	1106.0 to 123960.0	1797.2 to 39646.7	6129.7 to 18997.0
15000-OEM vs. Model 651	R^2	0.94 to 0.95	0.96 to 0.97	0.91 to 0.93
	Slope	0.86 to 0.94	0.87 to 0.95	0.76 to 0.83
	Intercept*	913.7 to 1183.6	823.3 to 1104.4	2370.5 to 2829.1
	MBE*	-659.4 to 255.8	-666.8 to 248.2	-667.1 to 250.2
	MAE*	1045.4 to 1185.0	896.0 to 1041.9	799.9 to 950.1
	RMSE*	1576.1 to 1828.4	1178.4 to 1518.3	912.3 to 1249.0

*Units in #/cm^3