

# INTEL-IRRIS

Intelligent Irrigation System for Low-cost Autonomous Water Control  
in Small-scale Agriculture



This project is part of the PRIMA  
Programme supported by the  
European Union



# Intelligent Irrigation System for Low-cost Autonomous Water Control in Small-scale Agriculture



## Building the INTEL-IRRIS LoRa IoT platform Part 1: soil sensor device (annex for IRD PCB v5 – RAK3172)



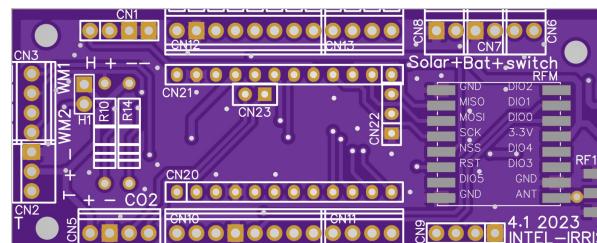
Prof. Congduc Pham  
<http://www.univ-pau.fr/~cpham>  
Université de Pau, France



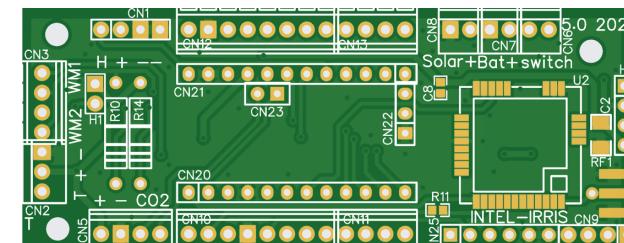


# Important

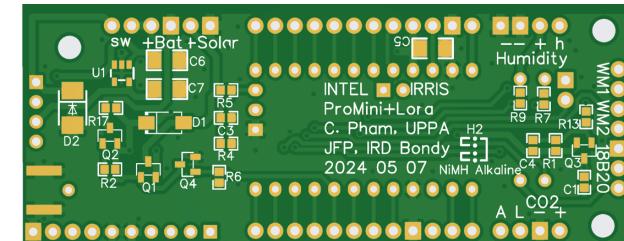
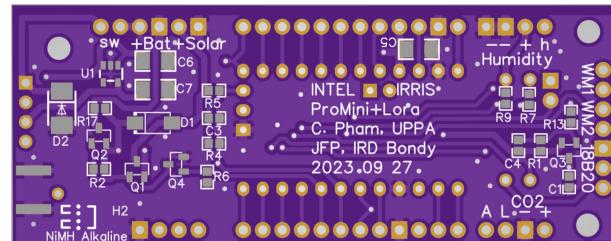
- This tutorial is an update for the IRD PCB v5 based on the RAK3172 radio module
- Reader MUST first look at the tutorial presenting the IRD PCB v4.1 to understand the common instructions
- This tutorial only presents the differences between the 2 versions



IRD PCB  
v4.1 for  
RFM95W  
radio



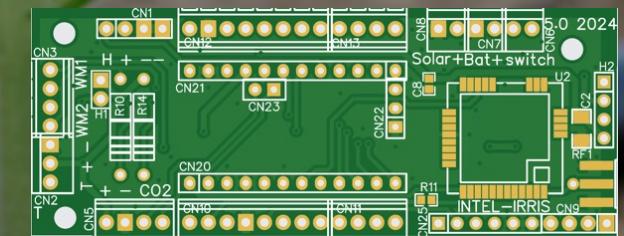
IRD PCB  
v5 for  
RAK3172  
radio



# INTEL-IRRIS

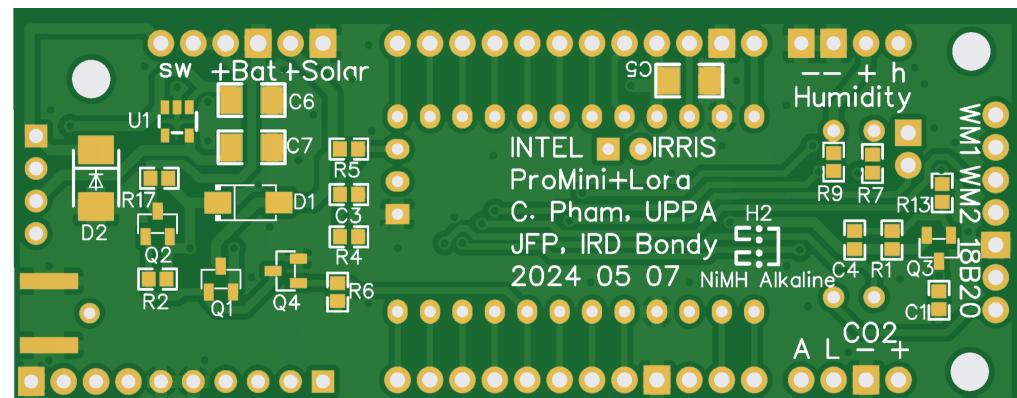
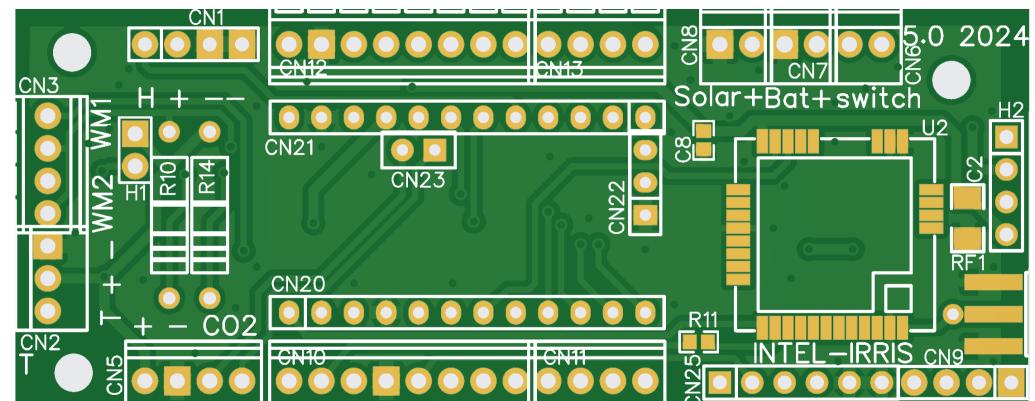
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## IRD PCB v5

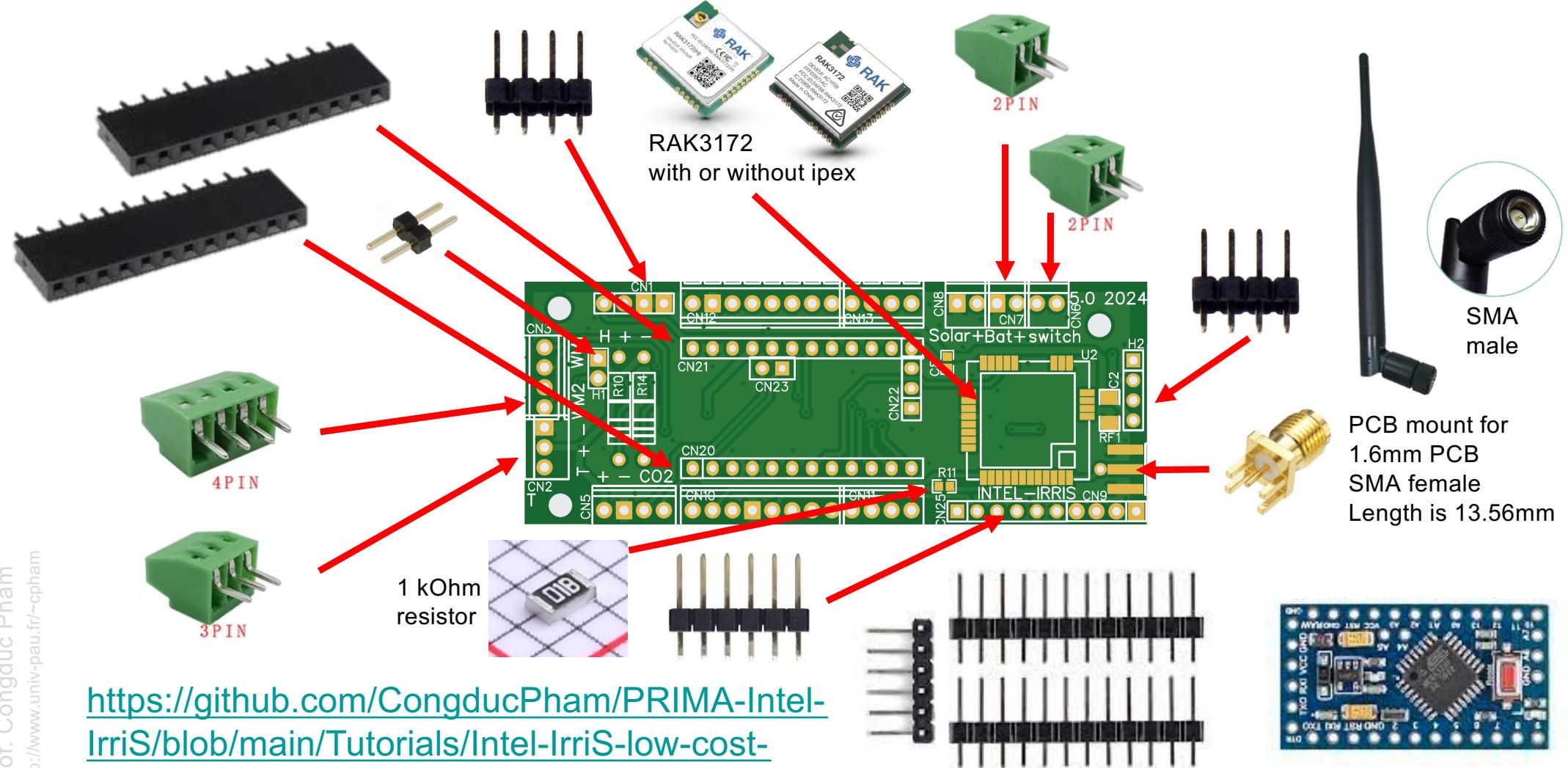


# The IRD PCB v5 – raw version

- You can order the raw version of the IRD PCB, which means only the PCB, without any electronic components soldered by the manufacturer
- It is the so-called DIY approach
- The raw version is not intended to have solar charging capabilities



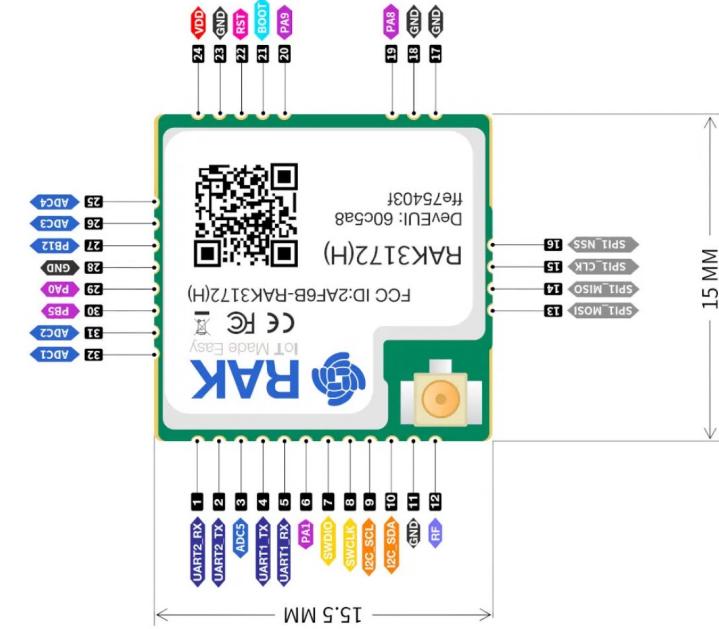
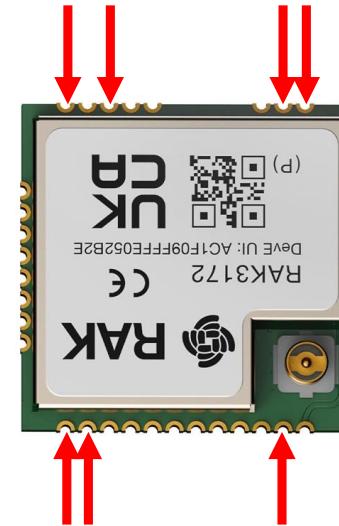
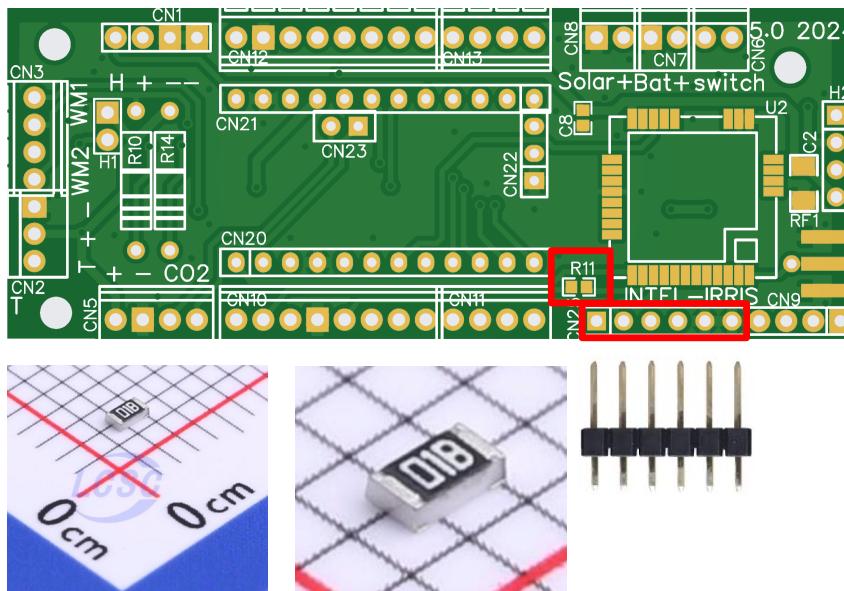
# Electronic parts - starter-kit version



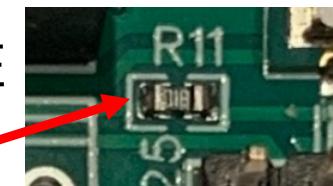
<https://github.com/CongducPham/PRIMA-Intel-Irris/blob/main/Tutorials/Intel-Irris-low-cost-sensor-hardware-parts.pdf>

# Difference compared to PCB v4.1

- The RAK3172 radio replaces the RFM95W radio module. No need to solder all pins, only those marked by the red arrows



- A 6-pin header needs to be soldered in order to enable serial monitor debug from the Arduino IDE
- A 1kOhm resistor must be soldered at R11 place



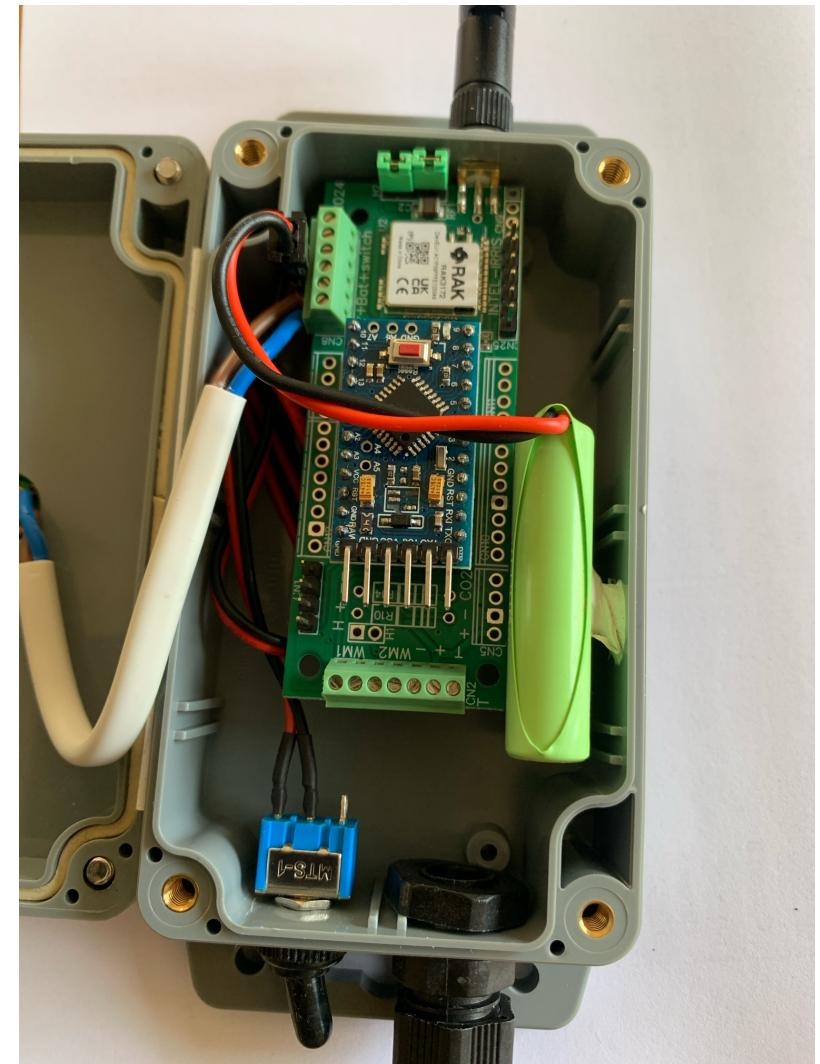
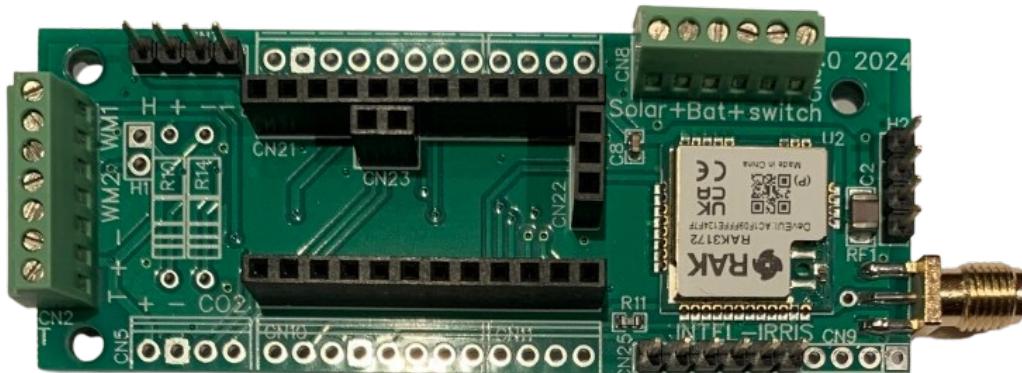
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## THE IRD PCBA v5



# Soil device with PCBA v5, final result



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## PROGRAM THE ARDUINO

# Config for IRD PCB v5 (1)

- For raw version, uncomment IRD\_PCB in BoardSettings.h

```
//uncomment for WAZISENSE v2 board
//#define WAZISENSE
```

- For PCBA version, also uncomment IRD\_PCBA

```
///////////////////////////////
//uncomment for IRD PCB board
#define IRD_PCB
//also uncomment for IRD PCB board fully assembled by manufacturer
//with all components, including solar circuit
#define IRD_PCBA
```

- ONLY for solar version, uncomment SOLAR\_BAT

```
///////////////////////////////
// uncomment only if the IRD PCB is running on solar panel
// MUST be commented if running on alkaline battery
// code for SOLAR_BAT has been written by Jean-François Printanier from IRD
#define SOLAR_BAT
// do not change if you are not knowing what you are doing
#define NIMH
```

# Config for IRD PCB v5 (2)

- Uncomment SOFT\_SERIAL\_DEBUG in BoardSettings.h

```
//////////  
// uncomment for IRD PCB RAK version where  
#define SOFT_SERIAL_DEBUG
```

- Uncomment RAK3172 in RadioSettings.h

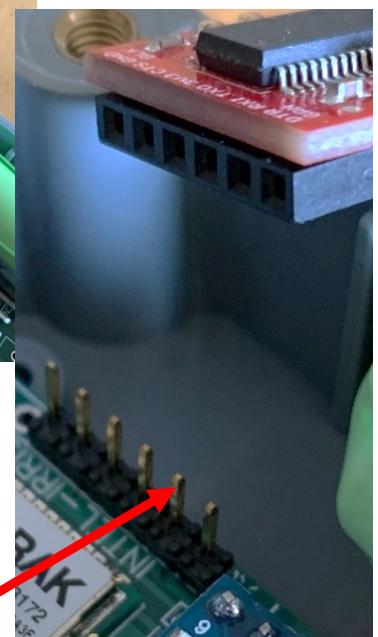
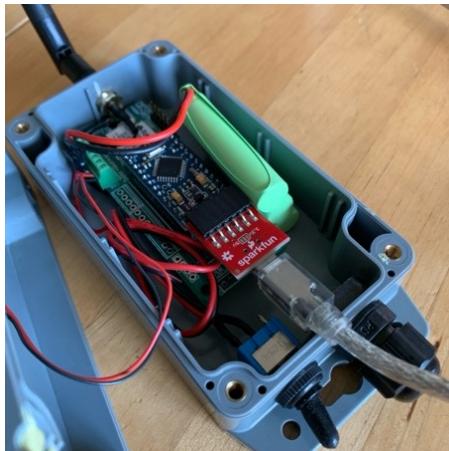
```
//////////  
// please uncomment only 1 choice  
///#define SX126X  
///#define SX127X  
///#define SX128X  
#define RAK3172  
//////////
```

# Serial monitor with IRD PCB v5

- After flashing the Arduino, it is usually desirable to watch at the text output from the Arduino IDE serial monitor to check that everything went OK
- With IRD PCB v5, the RAK radio module is controlled by AT commands received on its serial port and sent by the Arduino on its serial port (baud rate is normally set to 38400)
- Therefore, Arduino's TX/RX pins are connected to the RAK3172 and the serial monitor used traditionally to look at text output can not use the default Arduino TX/RX pins
- The IRD PCB v5 uses a software defined serial port for the text output where only TX is defined on digital pin 2

# Connect the FTDI USB-Serial

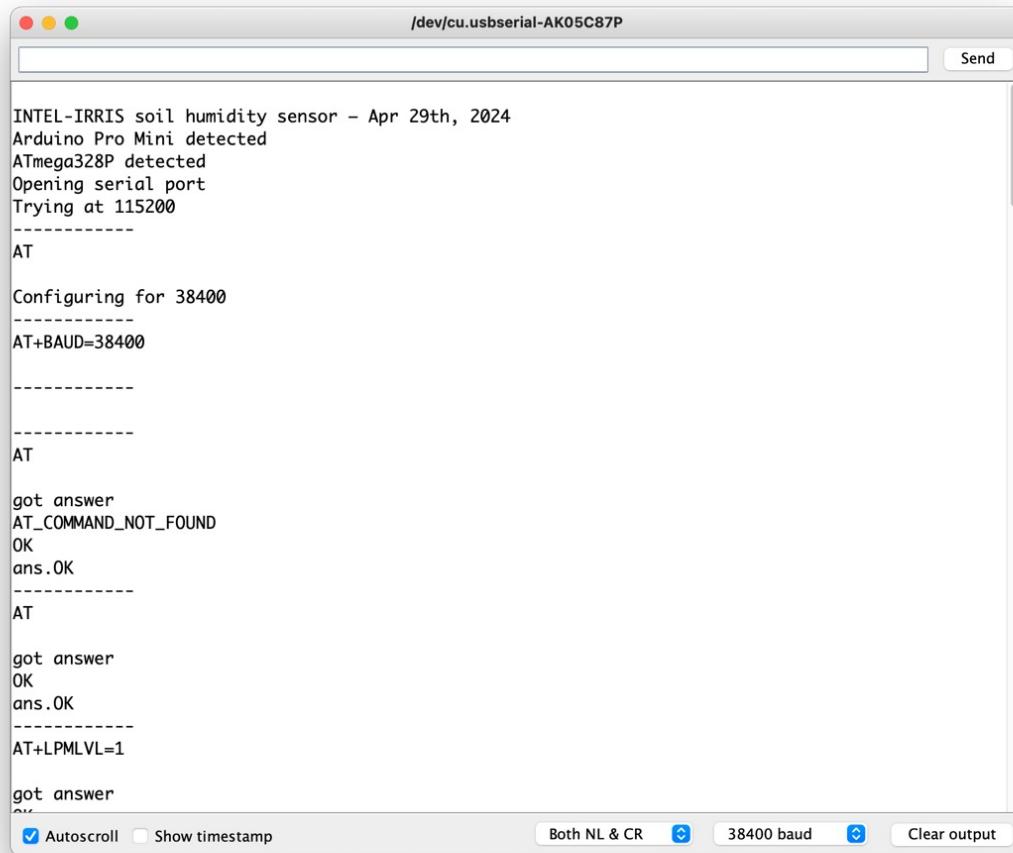
- After flashing the Arduino with the FTDI USB-Serial cable (left photo), unplug it in order to plug it again on the dedicated debug header on the IRD PCB v5 (middle & right photo)



- Battery should be connected, but switch is on OFF
- Be sure to connect the RX pin of the FTDI USB-Serial to the TX pin of the debug header on the IRD PCB v5

# Getting text output from the board

- ➊ Order of steps is important!



The screenshot shows a Mac OS X-style terminal window titled '/dev/cu.usbserial-AK05C87P'. The window displays the following text:

```
INTEL-IRRIS soil humidity sensor - Apr 29th, 2024
Arduino Pro Mini detected
ATmega328P detected
Opening serial port
Trying at 115200
-----
AT
Configuring for 38400
-----
AT+BAUD=38400
-----
AT
got answer
AT_COMMAND_NOT_FOUND
OK
ans.OK
-----
AT
got answer
OK
ans.OK
-----
AT+LPMLVL=1
got answer
:)
```

At the bottom of the window, there are several status indicators and buttons: 'Autoscroll' (checked), 'Show timestamp' (unchecked), 'Both NL & CR' (selected), '38400 baud' (selected), and 'Clear output'.

Open serial monitor,  
you should see nothing

Set baud rate to 38400

Switch ON the board

See output from board

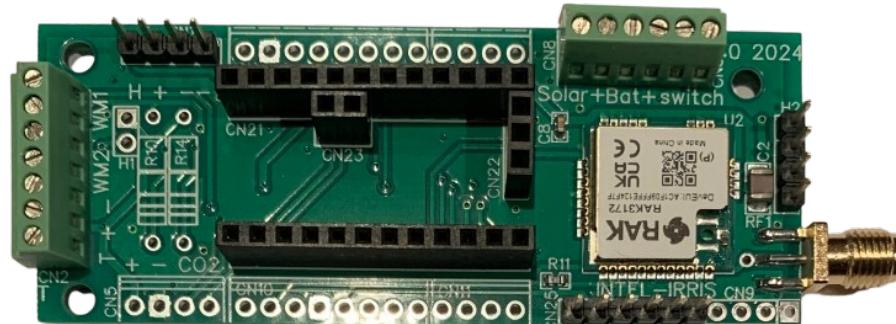
Check that  
transmission is OK

# Annex: RAK3172 baud rate

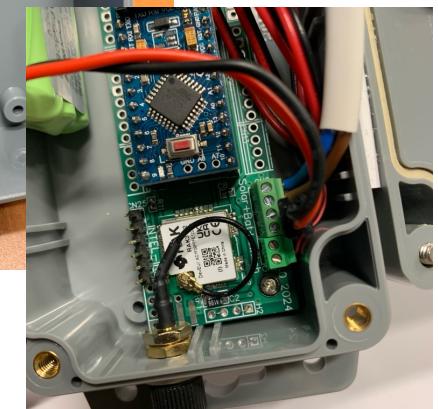
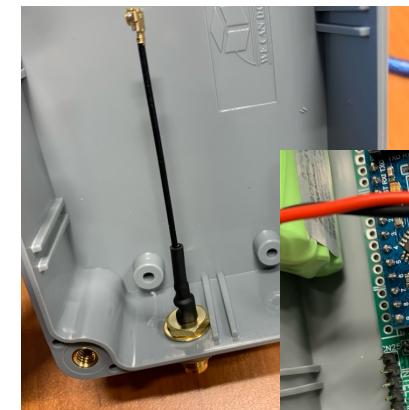
- Latest version of RAK3172 is using by default (factory setting) a **baud rate of 115200**, which is too fast (mostly for RX) for the Arduino Pro mini based on ATMega328P microcontroller
- The INTEL-IRRIS code is actually reprogramming the RAK3172 to use a baud rate of 38400, therefore you do not need to worry about setting the correct baud rate for RAK3172, especially with the fully assembled version of the PCB where the RAK3172 is provided and assembled on the PCB by the PCB manufacturer

# Annex: IPEX or not IPEX?

- The BOM file for the PCBA fully assembled is using the RAK3172 without the IPEX connector because we prefer to have a robust soldered RF connector

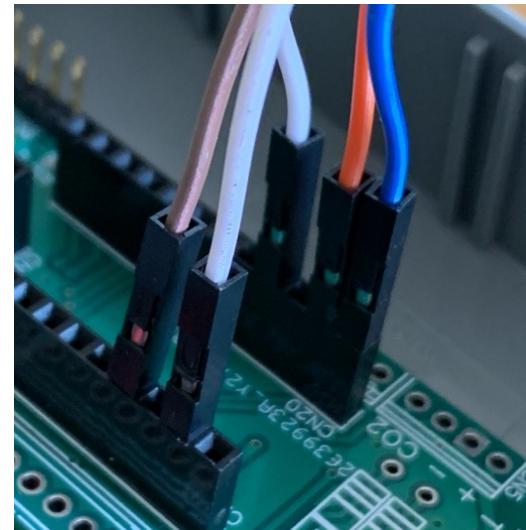
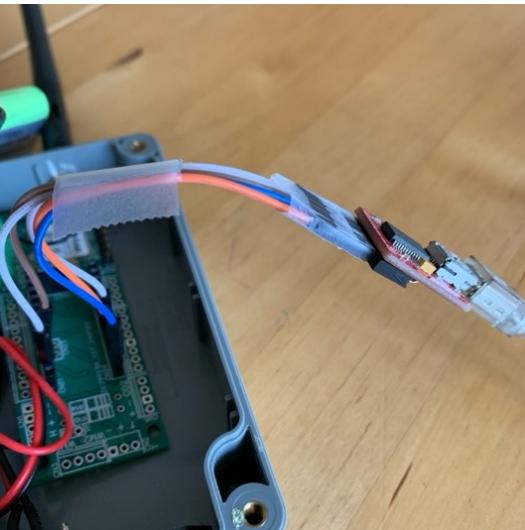
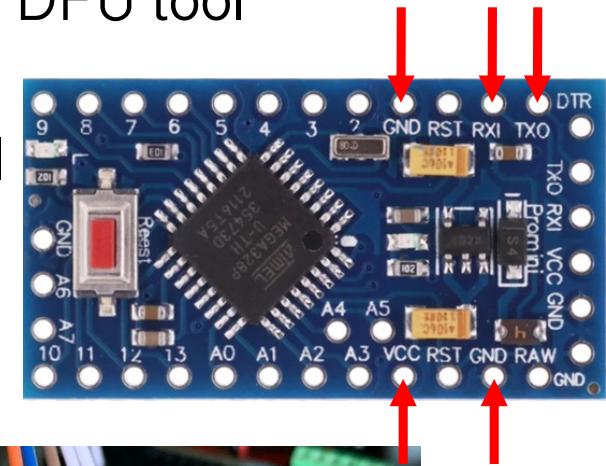


- For the raw version of the PCB, you can solder the version with IPEX and connect the antenna with an IPEX-female to SMA female short pigtail



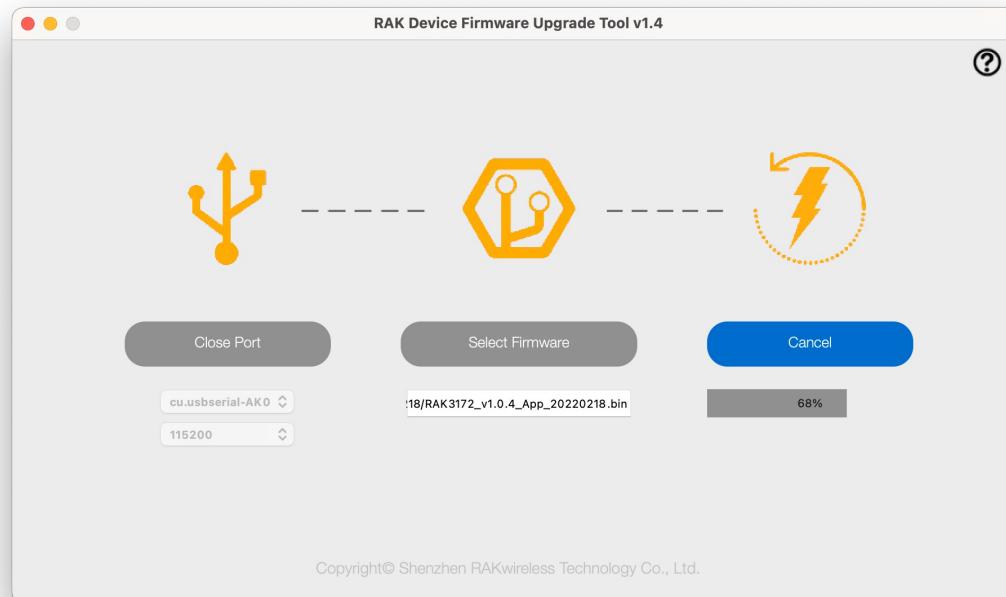
# Annex: update firmware of RAK3172

- The RAK3172 can be upgraded with the RAK DFU tool
- You can use Dupont wires to directly connect VCC, GND, RX and TX of the FTDI USB-serial cable to corresponding pins on the female headers after removing the Arduino Pro Mini from its socket. DTR is not connected



# Annex: RAK DFU tool

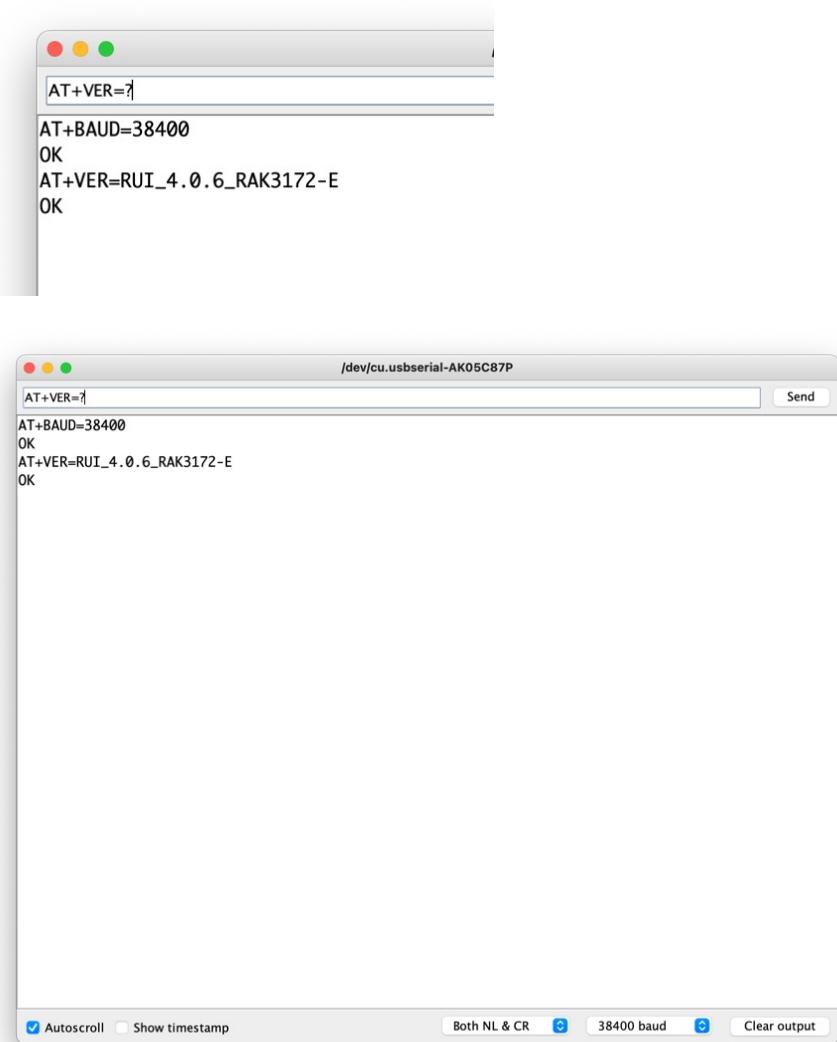
- Get latest RAK3172 firmware from  
<https://downloads.rakwireless.com/#RUI/RUI3/Image/>  
usually, it is the RAK3172-E\_latest.bin file
- Use RAK DFU tool to flash the new firmware



You may need to issue AT+BOOT from a serial tool in order to be able to upgrade with DFU tool

# Annex: send direct AT commands

- With the FTDI USB-serial cable connected to the PCB v5 without the Arduino Pro Mini, as show on the previous slide, you can directly communicate with the RAK3172 to send AT commands for test purposes
- Any serial communication tool can be used, including the Arduino IDE serial monitor
- RAK also proposes the WisToolBox software to communicate with RAK components



The image shows two screenshots of a terminal window. Both windows have a title bar with red, yellow, and green close/minimize/maximize buttons.

**Screenshot 1:**

```
AT+VER=?  
AT+BAUD=38400  
OK  
AT+VER=RUI_4.0.6_RAK3172-E  
OK
```

**Screenshot 2:**

```
AT+VER=?  
AT+BAUD=38400  
OK  
AT+VER=RUI_4.0.6_RAK3172-E  
OK
```

Below the terminal window, there are several status indicators and settings:

- Autoscroll  Show timestamp
- Both NL & CR  38400 baud  Clear output

# Annex: AT commands for INTEL-IRRIS

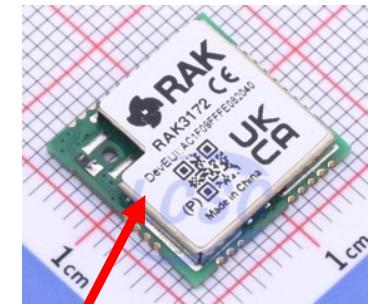
- Here is the list of AT commands used by INTEL-IRRIS code
- During setup(), for ABP mode in EU868 band, for capacitive
  - AT+BAUD=38400
  - AT+LPMLVL=1
  - AT+LPM=0
  - AT+LPM=? ; AT+VER=? ; AT+BAND=? ; AT+ADR=? ; AT+NJM=? ; AT+DEVADDR=? ;  
AT+NWKSKEY=? ; AT+APPSKEY=?
  - AT+NJM=0 ; AT+CLASS=A ; AT+BAND=4 ; AT+ADR=0
  - AT+DEVADDR=26011DAA
  - AT+NWKSKEY=23158D3BBC31E6AF670D195B5AED5525
  - AT+APPSKEY=23158D3BBC31E6AF670D195B5AED5525
  - AT+LPMLVL=2
  - AT+LPM=1
- On wake up, to transmit (sending 898.0 and 3.45 for instance)
  - AT+SEND=1:0067231406020159
  - AT+SLEEP

# Annex: OTAA with RAK3172 (1)

- The INTEL-IRRIS device with the RAK3172 can be integrated into a LoRaWAN ecosystem and configured by OTAA (Over The Air Activation) to dynamically get its address & session keys
- Uncomment ENABLE\_OTAA in native\_at\_lorawan.h
 

```
#include "BoardSettings.h"

#define ENABLE_OTAA
```
- When using OTAA, you need to know
  - DevEUI: unique identifier of the device, it is usually pre-provisioned by the radio module manufacturer and indicated on the radio module
  - AppEUI: or JoinEUI, it is usually pre-provisioned by the radio module manufacturer. For RAK, it is usually AC1F09FFF8683172
  - AppKey: it is usually pre-provisioned by the radio module manufacturer. For RAK it is usually DevEUI+AppEUI



# Annex: OTAA with RAK3172 (2)

- It is possible to use the default values pre-provisioned by the manufacturer for DevEUI, AppEUI and AppKey **IF YOU DIDN'T UPGRADE THE FIRMWARE**
  - Leave OVERWRITE\_OTAA\_EUI commented
- If RAK3172 firmware has been updated, they may not be set anymore! In this case, uncomment OVERWRITE\_OTAA\_EUI in native\_at\_lorawan.cpp and set in DevEUI, AppEUI and AppKey
- Flash device and run once to set DevEUI, AppEUI and AppKey in the RAK module
- Then, comment OVERWRITE\_OTAA\_EUI to flash again and run

```
///////////////////////////////  

//ENTER HERE your device info (same order, i.e. msb)  

///////////////////////////////  

#ifndef OVERWRITE_OTAA_EUI  

//DevEui is normally indicated on the radio module  

char* DevEuiStr="AC1F09FFFE12AAAA";  

//here is the default used by RAK  

char* AppEuiStr="AC1F09FFF8683172";  

//here is the default used by RAK: DEVEUI+APPEUI  

char* AppKeyStr="AC1F09FFFE12AAAAAC1F09FFF8683172";  

#endif
```

# Annex: register an OTAA device

- To register your RAK3172 OTAA device on a LoRaWAN Network Server such as TheThingNetwork (TTN) you can then just enter
  - DevEUI: get it from the sticker  
For instance **AC1F09FFFE12AAAA**
  - AppEUI or JoinEUI: it is **AC1F09FFF8683172**
  - AppKey: should be **AC1F09FFFE12AAAAAC1F09FFF8683172**
- That's all. Once powered your device will join and you should receive data if a LoRaWAN gateway is near your device
- **IMPORTANT, INTEL-IRRIS gateway is not full LoRaWAN in its single-channel version**
- **We will discuss how to get data from an OTAA device, locally on INTEL-IRRIS WaziGate in a dedicated tutorial**

