

VARÈSE
User Guide

VARÈSE

Welcome

When an artist creates music, they build a world: a universe of details that intertwine and collide to create something unique. Behind each of these fine details is a story, a thought, a feeling or an idea, and it's only when we can hear them all that we can truly immerse ourselves in a performance and see the world that an artist wants us to see.

Thank you for choosing the Varèse music system.

Document information

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Intended purpose

This document advises users how to set up, use and configure the product.

This document provides information that helps you get started and how to get the most from your Varèse music system, which includes the Core, User Interface, left Mono DAC, right Mono DAC, Clock, Transport, and Remote Control.

Conventions in this document

This document uses the following safety notices and tips:



WARNING

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.



CAUTION

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in moderate injury, damage the product, or lead to loss of data.

NOTICE

Indicates an important situation which, if not avoided, may seriously impair operations.



Additional information relating to the current section.

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Introducing Varèse

Varèse is designed to be easily and quickly set up so you can enjoy your music.

You can control the Varèse music system in three ways that work seamlessly together and guarantee the best user experience, regardless of how you interact with your music.

dCS Mosaic ACTUS

Use the application when you want full control over your system directly from your favourite mobile device.

User Interface display

Use the touchscreen on the display when you are close to the system and want to quickly change a track and adjust system settings.

Varèse Remote Control

Use the Remote Control when you want to be away from all bright displays but still have access to the basic controls of the system.

This document helps you get started and configure your Varèse music system, which includes the following components:

- Core
- User Interface
- Remote Control
- Left Mono DAC
- Right Mono DAC
- Clock
- Transport
- ACTUS cables

Getting started

For more information about box contents, how to set up the system, and specifications, refer to the Setup Guide.



With all your Varèse units connected, you can use dCS Mosaic ACTUS to finish configuring your audio system.

Turning on the system

From Standby mode (dim white LED) press the power button on one of units to turn on the system. From Sleep mode (red LED) press the power button on the core, once the core LED has turned white, press the power button on each of the remaining units in the system.

Using dCS Mosaic ACTUS

dCS Mosaic ACTUS is an application for your iOS or Android mobile device. With dCS Mosaic ACTUS, you have access to a vast library of music through a simple, yet powerful interface. You can use the app to browse media from various streaming services, as well as manage your Varèse settings and configuration options.

To download dCS Mosaic ACTUS, visit the app store on your iOS or Android device and search for dCS Mosaic ACTUS.



Setting up the Varèse system with dCS Mosaic ACTUS

Connect your Varèse system to dCS Mosaic ACTUS, which helps you get your system ready.

1. Download dCS Mosaic ACTUS.
For more information, see "Using dCS Mosaic ACTUS" above.
2. Run the app and follow the setup instructions.



When dCS Mosaic ACTUS detects your Varèse music system, the app guides you through the initial system update and remote configuration. You can also select detected audio sources and add streaming services.

Playing music from streaming services

You can use dCS Mosaic ACTUS to play music from online streaming services, such as TIDAL, Spotify, Qobuz, and Deezer. You can also listen to Internet Radio, and podcasts using Airable.

You can add streaming services during the initial system setup, or configure your sources in the app settings.


► For more information, see "Managing streaming service inputs" on page 15.

Using Google Cast



Your Varèse product works with Google Cast so you can stream (music/tunes/podcast/playlists) from your phone, tablet, or laptop by selecting the Cast icon.

Your phone is your remote.

- Select cast  from apps you already know and love. No new logins or downloads required.
- Use your phone to search, play, pause and turn up the volume from anywhere in the home.
- While you are streaming, you can keep using your phone for other things – scroll through social media, send a text, and even accept calls.
- Enjoy music throughout your house when you use multi-room casting with Cast-compatible speakers.
- Say **Hey Google** to cast to your Varèse Core.

Unlimited entertainment, all on your schedule.

- Works with hundreds of apps and new apps are being added all the time.
- Choose from millions of songs from popular music services like Pandora, Spotify, and YouTube Music.

Google Cast is a trademark of Google LLC.

NOTICE

When first setting up your player using dCS Mosaic ACTUS or after a factory reset, when prompted to enable the Google Cast functionality, make sure you accept Google's terms and conditions.

Android, Google Play and the Google Cast built-in logo are trademarks of Google Inc.

Limitations and capabilities

- Full Google Cast built-in features may not be available in some territories.
- Due to the complex architecture of your Varèse system, the playback time from the system sleep state may take longer than expected compared to a single streaming.

Using Apple AirPlay




To use Apple AirPlay Audio with Varèse, the latest version of iOS, iPadOS or macOS is recommended.

Apple and AirPlay Audio are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.



Use of the Works with Apple AirPlay badge means that an accessory has been designed to work specifically with the technology identified in the badge, and has been certified by the developer to meet Apple performance standards.

Use Apple AirPlay Audio to wirelessly stream music or podcasts to your Varèse audio system right from your iPhone or iPad.

1. Connect your Apple device to the same network as your Varèse Core.
2. Swipe down from the top-right of the screen on your Apple device to access the Control Center.
3. Select AirPlay Audio , and then select your Varèse Core.

When AirPlay Audio is active, the system's network input is automatically selected.

For more information, see www.apple.com/airplay.

Using Spotify Connect

Use your phone, tablet or computer as a remote control for Spotify.

Go to spotify.com/connect to learn how.



The Spotify software is subject to third-party licences. For more information, see: <https://developer.spotify.com/third-party-licenses>.

Using Roon

The Varèse system is Roon Ready.

roon READY

Being Roon Ready means that your Varèse uses Roon streaming technology, for an incredible user interface, simple setup, rock-solid daily reliability, and the highest levels of audio performance, without compromise.

If you have a Roon account, install Roon Core on your NAS drive or on a networked computer. You can then use Roon remote to control playback on your unit.

For more information about Roon, see <https://roonlabs.com/>

Using TIDAL Connect



TIDAL Connect allows TIDAL users to seamlessly play TIDAL content on a wide range of hardware devices.

1. Open the TIDAL app.
2. Choose the playlist, album, or song that you wish to send to your Varèse Core.
3. Play a song.
4. Select **Now Playing**.
5. From the device selector, select your Varèse Core.

For more information, see tidal.com/connect.

Playing music from local sources



You can stream content from local sources, such as a music server on your network or USB drives.





The music server must be UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) compatible, and must be connected to the router using an Ethernet cable.

Varèse Transport loading or removing a disc

Loading or removing a disc using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home screen, select Varèse Transport from the drop-down menu.
2. Select open  OPEN
3. Load or remove a disc.
4. Select close  CLOSE


Using the User Interface

1. On the home screen, select Varèse Transport from the drop-down menu.
2. Select open 
3. Load or remove a disc.
4. Select close 

Using the Varèse Transport



1. On the Varèse Transport, select the button on the underside front of the device.
2. Load or remove a disc.
3. Select the button again.

NOTICE



Select the switch layer  to switch between the CD layer and, if supported, SACD layer.

Adjusting music volume

Adjust the volume using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the player bar or player screen, select .
2. On the **Volume control** screen:
 - To increase the volume, swipe clockwise.
 - To decrease the volume, swipe anti-clockwise.
 - To mute the volume, select .
3. To close the **Volume control** screen, swipe down from the top of the screen.

Using the User Interface


1. On the User Interface front panel, select .
2. Adjust the volume:
 - To increase the volume, swipe clockwise.
 - To decrease the volume, swipe anti-clockwise.
 - To mute the volume, select .

Using the Remote Control


- To increase the volume, turn the knob clockwise.
- To decrease the volume, turn the knob anti-clockwise.

Changing the source input

Change the source input using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.


1. On the home screen, select .
2. From the **Select source** drop-down, select a source.
The content of the selected source is displayed on the player screen.
The source change is reflected on the User Interface front panel.

Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface front panel, select .
2. From the drop-down, select a source.
The content of the selected source is displayed on the front panel.
The source change is reflected in dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

Using the Remote Control



Switch between sources that have been connected to the Digital I/O Module.

- On the Remote Control, select .


Managing power options

Configure how your system behaves when it is not active. The system includes the following power states:

Power state	Description
Sleep (Red LED)	Press and hold the power button to enter Sleep mode. Units consume very low power and can only be woken by pressing the power button on the front panel.
Standby (Dim white LED)	Press and release the power button to enter Standby mode. Units consume low power but remain connected to the network. You can turn on the system from the unit, from the Remote Control or using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
4. On the **System** screen, select **Power management**.
5. On the **Power management** screen, toggle **Auto standby** on or off.
When you activate **Auto standby**, the system enters standby after being left inactive for 20 minutes.

Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface front panel, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.

3. On the **System** screen, select **Power management**.
4. On the **Power management** screen, toggle **Auto standby** on or off.

When you activate **Auto standby**, the system enters standby after being left inactive for 20 minutes.



ErP Power Usage

The European energy-related products directive (ErP) is aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact of products.

The Varèse User Interface, Core and Mono DACs are considered ErPs.



- These components automatically switch to a power-saving mode after 20 minutes of inactivity.
- The power consumption with the **Auto standby** power option is 0.5 watt.
- If you are not using these components during certain periods of time, they can be unplugged to save energy.

The Varèse Clock is exempt from ErP requirements due to the nature of its function.

- If you are not using this component during certain periods of time, it can be switched off to save energy.


Changing display settings

Configure your display settings using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **Display**.
4. On the **Display** screen, toggle display options according to your needs:

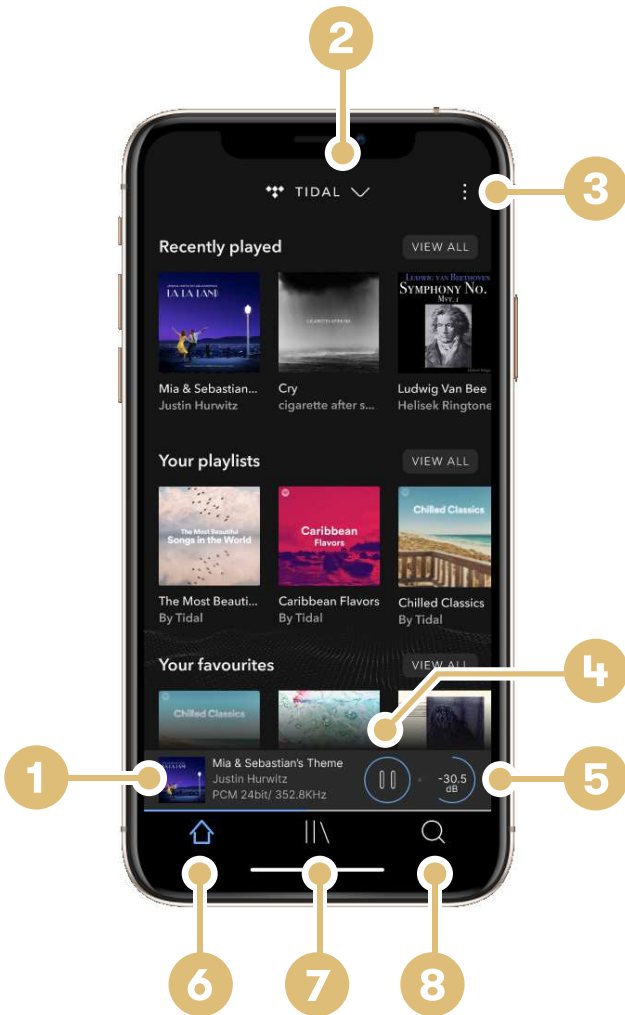
Display option	Description
Brightness	Use the brightness slider to set the screen brightness.
Display on/off	When you deactivate the display and close the menu, the display turns off after a few seconds. You can then tap any button to turn on the display briefly. The display stays on while the menu is open.
Touchscreen on/off	When you deactivate the touchscreen, the Varèse User Interface front panel is inactive.



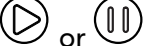





Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface front panel, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **Display Brightness**.
3. To set the screen brightness, use the brightness slider.

Navigating the menu



Navigate the Varèse menu by selecting icons in dCS Mosaic ACTUS.



Item	Description	
1	Current selected track	Select this area to open the player screen. Swipe down to return to the home screen.
2		Open the Select source drop-down.
3		Open the menu to access a connected device, settings and standby.
4	 or 	Play or pause currently selected track.
5		Adjust volume.
6		Return to the home page.
7		Open your library.
8		Search your music collection.

Menu overview

The table below shows the settings available in dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

To enter the settings, on the home page of the app, select , then select .

Menu	Setting	Value
Audio	Signal path	Select preset
		Filter, Conversion, Mapper
	Balance control	Left to right level
	Output voltage	6 V / 2 V / 0.6 V / 0.2 V
Sources	UPnP	Hide / Unhide
	USB	Hide / Unhide
	TIDAL	Sign in / Sign out
	Deezer	Sign in / Sign out
	Qobuz	Sign in / Sign out
	Spotify	Hide / Unhide
	Google Cast	Hide / Unhide
	Radio	Hide / Unhide
	Podcast	Hide / Unhide
	Varèse Transport	Hide / Unhide
	Audio inputs:	
	AES 1	Hide / Unhide
	AES 2	Hide / Unhide
	AES 3	Hide / Unhide
	USB B	Hide / Unhide
Digital I/O	AES 1 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	AES 2 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	AES 3 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	USB B Sync Mode	Master
Display	Brightness level	0–100
	Display on/off	On / Off
	Touchscreen on/off	On / Off
Remote Control	Battery level	
	Customise hot key	Favourite current track / Toggle phase / Toggle Display On/Off

Menu	Setting	Value
System	Power management	Auto standby (On / Off)
	Language	List of languages
	System update	Check for update
	Factory reset	
Help & support	User manual	
	Contact us	
About your Varèse	System information	Version
		Serial number
	Network information	IP address
		MAC address
	Legal and regulatory	License

From the User Interface, it is also possible to access the following menu options:

	Setting	
Audio	Balance control	Left to right level
	Output voltage	6 V / 2 V / 0.6 V / 0.2 V
Display brightness		0–100
Digital I/O	AES 1 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	AES 2 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	AES 3 Sync Mode	Audio / Master
	USB B Sync Mode	Master
Remote Control	Status	
	Battery level	
	Customise hot key	Favourite current track / Toggle phase / Toggle Display On/Off
	Version	
System	Power management	Auto standby (On / Off)
	Language	List of languages
	System update	Check for update (On / Off)
	Factory reset	
Help & support	User manual	
	Contact us	
About your Varèse	Legal and regulatory	License

Configuring Varèse

After the initial set up, you can configure all the system options directly using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.


Managing audio sources

Use dCS Mosaic ACTUS to configure all your audio sources. You can stream content from the following:

- Online streaming services, such as Spotify or TIDAL
- Local network inputs, like a music server or USB storage device
- Digital I/O Module audio inputs, including AES 1, AES 2, AES 3, and USB B.
The AES and USB B inputs are only available if you have the Digital I/O Module installed.

Managing streaming service inputs

Sign in to your streaming services using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.



1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. From the **Select source** drop-down, select **Manage sources**.
The **Sources** screen opens.
3. To sign in to a streaming service, select **Sign in** next to the service name.
The log in page of the selected streaming service opens.
When you sign in, the streaming service is added to the **Select source** drop-down.
4. To sign out of a streaming service, select **Sign out** next to the service name.
The streaming service is deleted from the **Select source** drop-down.

Managing local network inputs

Manage your local network inputs, such as a music server or USB storage device, using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.



The music server must be UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) compatible, and must be connected to the router using an Ethernet cable.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. From the **Select source** drop-down, select **Manage sources**.
The **Sources** screen opens.
3. To open the list of UPnP inputs, select  next to **UPNP SERVER**.
You can hide each UPnP input.

If a USB device is connected to the USB-A socket, the unit treats it as a network drive. The USB device is automatically added to the **Select source** drop-down.




The USB device type must be:

- A USB flash drive or low-powered USB hard drive, with the suggested maximum size of 32 GB.
- In FAT32 or unencrypted NTFS format.


Managing Digital I/O Module inputs

Manage your Digital I/O Module inputs using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. From the **Select source** drop-down, select **Manage sources**.
The **Sources** screen opens.



You can arrange your sources with dCS Mosaic ACTUS by dragging the source to the desired order.

3. Select  next to **AUDIO INPUTS** to open the list of Digital I/O Module inputs.
You can hide or reorder each Digital I/O Module input.

Selecting the source and starting playback using the User Interface

You can use the User Interface to select a source and to start playback, allowing you to quickly access your favourite music.

1. From the left hand side of the screen, swipe right.
2. Select the desired source from the drop down menu.
3. Press the desired item to start playback.

Adjusting signal path settings

You can use the signal path settings to change how music sounds, depending on the data source and your personal preferences. You can adjust the following settings using dCS Mosaic ACTUS:

- PCM and DSD filters
- Conversion modes
- Mappers

dCS Mosaic ACTUS also offers signal path presets - a bank of preconfigured settings.


Available presets	Description
Measured (Default)	This ensures the highest level of measured performance, as concluded by dCS engineers.
PCM	When listening to PCM, this preset is what dCS listening tests have shown to be preferred settings.
DSD	When listening to DSD, this preset is what dCS listening tests have shown to be preferred settings.
PCM to DSD	When converting PCM to DSD, this preset is what dCS listening tests have shown to be preferred settings.
Custom	When you adjust a preset bank, a custom preset is created.



Preset settings:

Preset	PCM	DSD	Conversion	Mapper
Measured (Default)	F6	F1	OFF	M2
PCM	F3	F5	OFF	M3
DSD	F3	F5	OFF	M1
PCM to DSD	F3	F1	DSD	M1


Selecting a signal path preset


Select a signal path preset using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the player screen of the app, select .
2. From the drop-down, select a preset signal path.



 To open the **Signal path presets** screen when a track is playing, select  on the player bar or player screen.

Selecting a signal path preset using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface front panel, select .
2. From the drop-down, select a preset signal path.


 It is not possible to make changes to the filters, conversion modes or mappers from the User Interface. These need to be configured using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

Selecting a signal path preset using the Remote Control

1. On the Remote Control, select .
The current signal path preset is displayed on the User Interface front panel.
2. Select  again to toggle through the available signal path presets.

Changing the PCM filter

Change how music sounds when listening to PCM data using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the player screen of the app, select .
2. Select the PCM filter you want to apply.


Menu icon	Filter	Description
F1	Filter 1	This filter has the best rejection of unwanted Nyquist images with the sharpest roll-off, and the poorest transient response of the first four filters.
F2	Filter 2	Recommended for orchestral music. This filter has a more relaxed image rejection and better transient response than Filter 1.
F3	Filter 3	Recommended for rock music. This filter has a more relaxed image rejection and better transient response than Filters 1 and 2.
F4	Filter 4	This filter has the lowest image rejection and the best transient response of the first four filters.
F5	Filter 5	If the sample rate is 176.4, 192, 352.8, or 384 kS/s, this filter has a Gaussian response, which offers no overshoot on transients and a relaxed roll-off. If the sample rate is 44.1 kS/s, the filter is an asymmetrical design, which features almost no pre-ringing. If the sample rate is 48, 88.2 or 96 kS/s, Filter 5 is not available.
F6	Filter 6	If the sample rate is 176.4, 192, 352.8, or 384 kS/s, the filter is an asymmetrical design, which features almost no pre-ringing. If the sample rate is 44.1 kS/s, the filter is an alternative sharp filter, which has linear phase and pre-ringing. If the sample rate is 48, 88.2 or 96 kS/s, Filter 6 is not available.

Changing the DSD filter

The DSD filter is active when you are playing DSD files or converting PCM data to DSD.




If you are playing a DSD file or converting to DSD, and the level of hiss at the output is high, your amplifier may not work well with wideband DSD signals. Try setting the DSD filter to Filter 2 or 3.

1. On the player screen of the app, select .
2. Select the DSD filter you want to apply.

Menu icon	Filter	Description
F1 DSD	Filter 1	Gives the widest bandwidth and the highest level of out-of-band noise.
F2 DSD	Filter 2	Reduces the out-of-band noise and bandwidth.
F3 DSD	Filter 3	Reduces the out-of-band noise and bandwidth further.
F4 DSD	Filter 4	Recommended for troubleshooting only. Sharply reduces the out-of-band noise and limits the bandwidth to 25 kHz
F5 DSD	Filter 5	Has a relaxed roll-off with a smoother phase response. Removes much of the out-of-band noise.

Changing the PCM to DSD conversion mode


Conversion mode is a personal choice.

1. On the player screen of the app, select .
2. Select the conversion mode you want to apply.

Menu icon	Conversion mode	Description
OFF	OFF	The system uses its standard PCM oversampling process for PCM data.
DSD	DSD	The system adds a DSD upsampling step before the end of the PCM oversampling process.
DSD x2	DSDx2	The system adds a DSDx2 upsampling step before the end of the PCM oversampling process.
DSD x4	DSDx4	The system adds a DSDx4 upsampling step before the end of the PCM oversampling process.
DSD x8	DSDx8	The system adds a DSDx8 upsampling step before the end of the PCM oversampling process.

Changing the Mapper

Mappers control how data is presented to the Ring DAC. Mapper selection is a personal choice. Varèse includes three Mapper designs.

1. On the player screen of the app, select .
2. Select the Mapper you want to apply.

Menu icon	Mapper	Description
M1	Mapper 1	This Mapper drives the Ring DAC at either 5.644 or 6.14 MHz.
M2	Mapper 2	The classic Mapper design, used on earlier dCS products. This Mapper drives the Ring DAC at either 2.822 or 3.07 MHz.
M3	Mapper 3	An alternative Mapper design. This Mapper drives the Ring DAC at either 5.644 or 6.14 MHz.

Changing the absolute phase of analogue outputs

When listening to music, if the character of the instruments sounds wrong then it may be because the track was recorded with both channels phase-inverted. You can correct the absolute phase of the outputs using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

The **Phase** setting  can be found on the **Volume control** screen of dCS Mosaic ACTUS or on the User Interface.



Adjusting the output voltage

Select an output voltage that is suitable for your hardware and guarantees optimal sound quality.




CAUTION

High voltage may cause damage to equipment connected to system analogue outputs.



1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **Audio**.
4. On the **Audio** screen, select **Output voltage**.
5. On the **Output voltage** screen, select the required voltage.

Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **Audio**.
3. On the **Audio** screen, select **Output voltage**.
4. On the **Output voltage** screen, select the required voltage.


Customising the Remote Control hot key

You can customise the shortcut button on Remote Control using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **Remote Control**.



4. On the **Remote Control** screen, in **Customise hot key**, select the hot key function you wish to assign to the Remote Control.

Using the User Interface


1. On the User Interface, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **Remote Control**.
3. On the **Remote Control** screen, in **Customise hot key**, select the hot key function you wish to assign to the Remote Control.

Changing the system language

You can change the language of your system using dCS Mosaic ACTUS, for example, when the system language is incorrect, or if you accidentally change the language to one you do not understand.



1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
4. On the **System** screen, select **Language**.
5. From the list, select a system language.

Using the User Interface


1. On the User Interface, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
3. On the **System** screen, select **Language**.
4. From the list, select a system language.

Updating the system

You can update it manually using dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
4. On the **System** screen, select **System update**.
5. Follow the instructions shown in dCS Mosaic ACTUS.

Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
3. On the **System** screen, select **System update**.
4. Follow the instructions shown in the User Interface.



Resetting to factory defaults




CAUTION

A factory reset permanently erases all your data and settings.

Reset all system settings back to factory conditions.



1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
4. On the **System** screen, select **Factory reset**.
5. Follow the instructions.

Using the User Interface

1. On the User Interface, select .
2. On the **Settings** screen, select **System**.
3. On the **System** screen, select **Factory reset**.
4. Follow the instructions.

Viewing device information

View information about dCS Mosaic ACTUS on your device, such as serial number, firmware version, and network information.

1. On the home page of the app, select .
2. Select .
3. On the **Settings** screen, select **About your Varèse**.
4. On the **About your Varèse** screen, select **System info** or **Network info**.

Status lights

Each unit has a light. The light changes colour to show the current status of the unit.

Colour	Unit status
Bright white (solid)	Active mode and connected to another Varèse unit.
Bright white (pulsing)	Active mode but not connected to another Varèse unit.
Dim white	Standby mode.
Red	Sleep mode.
Magenta	Installing a firmware update.
Light off	Off.

Help and support

If you need help using your Varèse, contact your fulfilment centre for assistance, quoting the serial number of your unit.

Manufactured by:

Data Conversion Systems Ltd.
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VARÈSE

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