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Universal Reconfigurable Translator Module (URTM) Final Report

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May 2009

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Space Administration

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List of Acronyms

ACK	Acknowledgment
APID	Application Identifier
BC	Bus Controller (for MIL-STD-1553B bus)
b	bit
B	Byte (8 bits)
BIT	Built-In-Test
CSR	Configuration and Status Registers
FIFO	First-In, First-Out
FAT	Forwarding Address Table
FPGA	Filed Programmable Gate Array
GSE	Ground Support Equipment
HW	Hardware
K	10^3 in the context of communication (data rates); 2^{10} in the context of memory space (storage)
LUT	Look-up Table
LVDS	Low Voltage Differential Signaling
M	10^6 in the context of communication (data rates); 2^{20} in the context of memory space (storage)
Mbps	10^6 bits per second
MBps	10^6 bytes per second
NVMem	Nonvolatile Memory, Flash Memory
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
PDU	Power Distribution Unit
PIM	Physical Interface Module
PROM	Programmable Read-only Memory
RAM	Random Access Memory
RAT	Return Address Table
RPTM	Reconfigurable Protocol Translation Module
RT	Remote Terminal (for MIL-STD-1553b bus)
SpW	SpaceWire
SoC	System on Chip
SW	Software
URTM	Universal Reconfigurable Translation Module
UUT	Unit Under Test
VHDL	VHSIC Hardware Description Language

1 Overview

1.1 This Document

The following describes the Final Report for the Universal Reconfigurable Translation Module, or URTM. URTM was developed by Sigma Space Corp. for NASA to translate specific serial protocols, both logically and physically. At present, the prototype configuration has targeted MIL-STD-1553B, IEEE 1394b (Firewire), and ECSS-E-50-12A (SpaceWire).

1.2 Relevant Documentation and Manuals

In addition to the documents and manuals listed below, all Sigma generated documentation and applicable datasheets for components used within the design may be helpful.

- 1) Merlin+ Software Manual, version 3.4, Excalibur Systems
- 2) RT1553FE MIL-STD-1553 Remote Terminal Front End & RT1553 ERL Extended Reliability Logic MIL-STD-1553 Remote Terminal Front End, FPGA Core User's Manual, Rev 2.6.0 May 2007, Sital Technology Ltd.
- 3) BC1553FE MIL-STD-1553 Bus Controller Front End FPGA Core User's Manual, Rev.1.1, December 2006, Sital Technology Ltd.
- 4) STAR-Dundee SpaceWire Link Analyser User Guide, Rev. 2.01, 07 February 2007
- 5) James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) SpaceWire Point-To-Point Link IP Core Specification, "Deluxe" Version, Rev. -, October 10th, 2007
- 6) FireLink Evaluation User Guide, Dap Technology
- 7) FireLink Basic 1394b Link Layer Controller IP Core, Version 1.00, Dap Technology
- 8) 1394 Analyzer Operation Manual, Hardware and Software Guide, Dap Technology
- 9) AS5643 Rev. A, IEEE-1394b Interface Requirements for Military and Aerospace Vehicle Applications, SAE Aerospace Standard
- 10) URTM User's Guide, Sigma Space Corporation, September 30, 2008.

2 URTM Implementation and Performance

The objectives of the contract (as per the SOW) were as follows:

Study the feasibility of a configurable URTM to translate serial link data and resolve technical issues, and of using the concept for a universal serial interface to space computer and/or communication boards. Based on the results, design, develop, document, and deliver engineering prototype model of the URTM with a path to spaceflight.

The specific objectives of the URTM are:

- Design and develop an engineering prototype of an universal serial link translator
- Adapt any two point-to-point data links logically, electrically, and mechanically
- Support popular data links for space applications
- Automatic reconfiguration with plug-and-play
 - Simply connect the Physical Interface Modules (PIM) on either end of the Reconfigurable Protocol Translation Module (RPTM)
 - The RPTM then self configures via a library of interface translation functions thus allowing the two data links to communicate seamlessly

All of these general and specific objectives have been met. Furthermore, protocol translation was demonstrated at the desired bit rates and required items have been delivered.

A model, written in Python, was developed in order to demonstrate the feasibility of the planned protocol translation. The structure of this model was maintained as the URTM hardware design was developed. The architecture of the URTM is designed to separate the physical interfaces into the PIMs from the link layer protocols into the RPTM in order to facilitate the addition of future communication protocols. In addition, the VHDL partitioning implements well-defined blocks for reading, writing and translation functions that allow for much re-use if adding a new protocol. These features make the URTM hardware more “universal” than a translation of just one protocol to another. The URTM is reconfigurable, since the same hardware can be used to perform translations between different protocols by adding a simple new hardware PIM for the physical interface and new VHDL code for the particular link layer. The appropriate bitstream can be loaded from non-volatile FLASH memory into the reconfigurable FPGA translation chip after power-up, and after sensing which hardware PIMs are attached.

Basic testing was performed on the completed unit to ensure that all objectives were met. Additional automated testing and optimization of the FPGA timing would be beneficial to ensure robust operation in a user application. It would also be beneficial to utilize the protocol translator in a real-world application to control an instrument, rather than using just the test equipment. Future work on each protocol, future protocols, and general comments are discussed at the end of this report.

The protocol translation has been successfully modeled, translated to VHDL and tested to verify protocol translation using all three PIM combinations in each direction. This was shown through both the Test Procedure as well as during the hardware demonstration at NASA Langley Research Center.

2.1 URTM Implementation

The finished product is shown in the figures below.

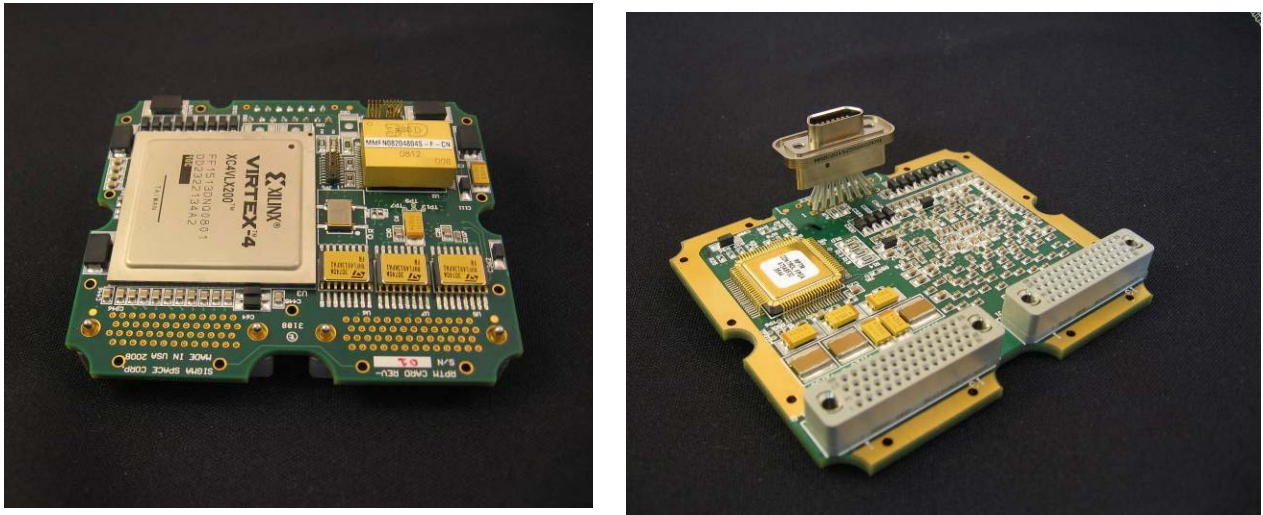


Figure 1: RPTM circuit board, bottom (left) and top (right).

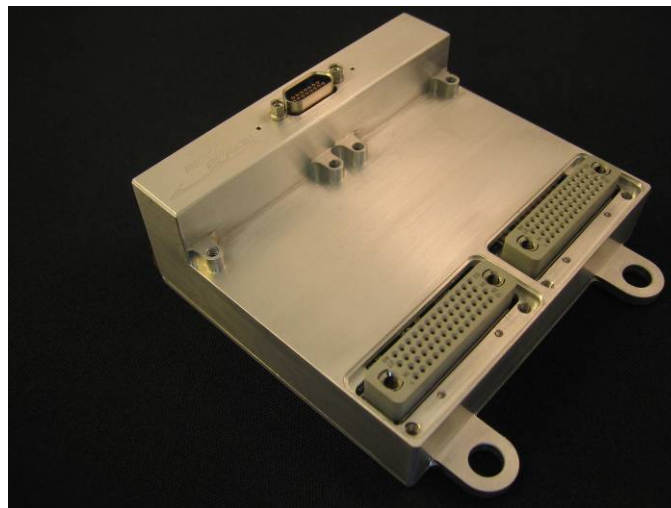


Figure 2: RPTM package.

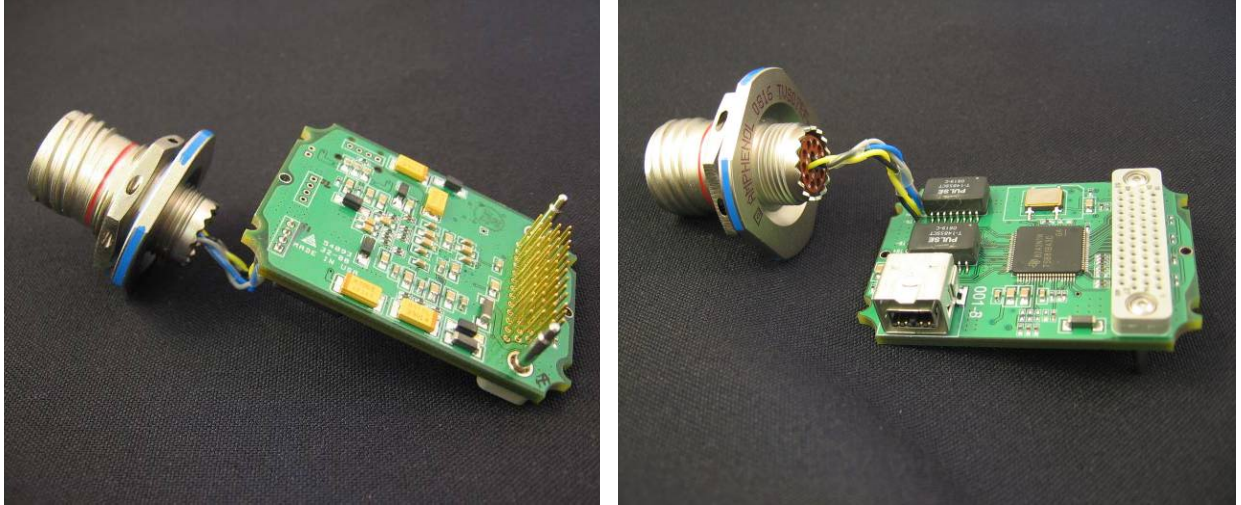


Figure 3: IEEE 1394 connector and PIM PCB.



Figure 4: IEEE 1394 PIM package.

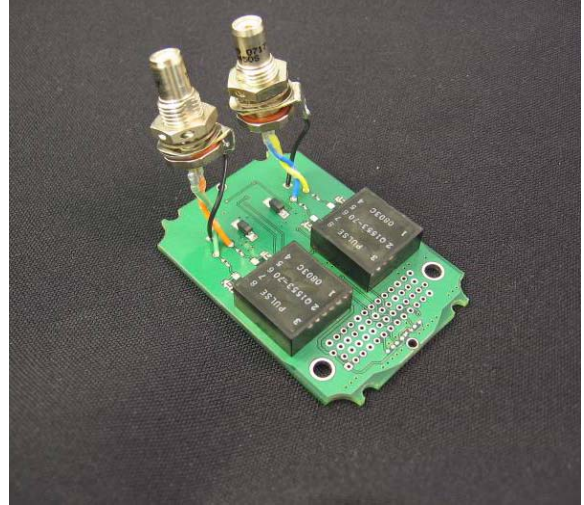
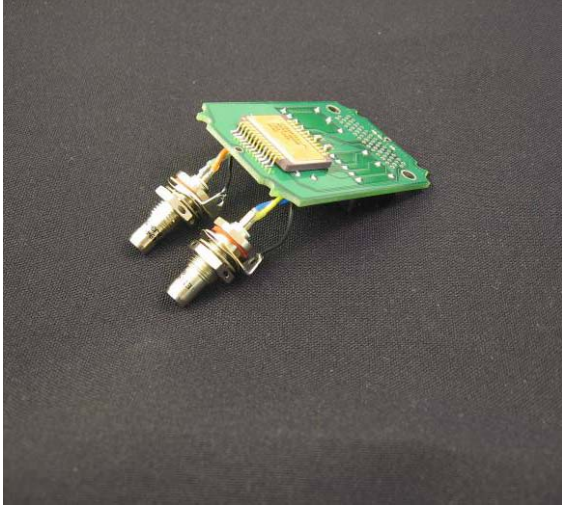


Figure 5: MIL-STD-1553 connectors and PIM PCB.

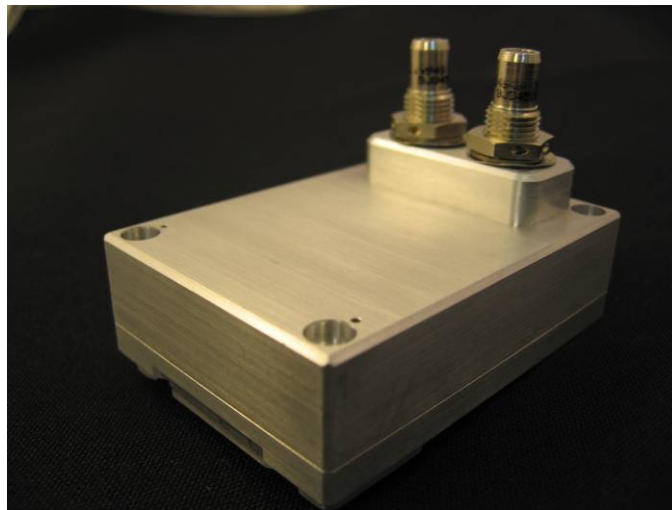


Figure 6: MIL-STD-1553 PIM.

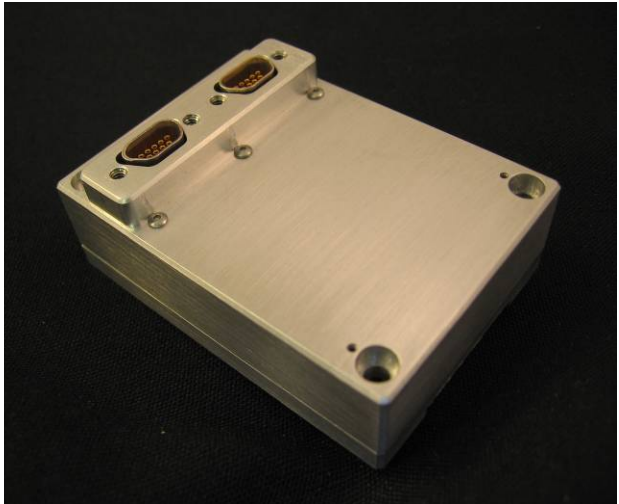
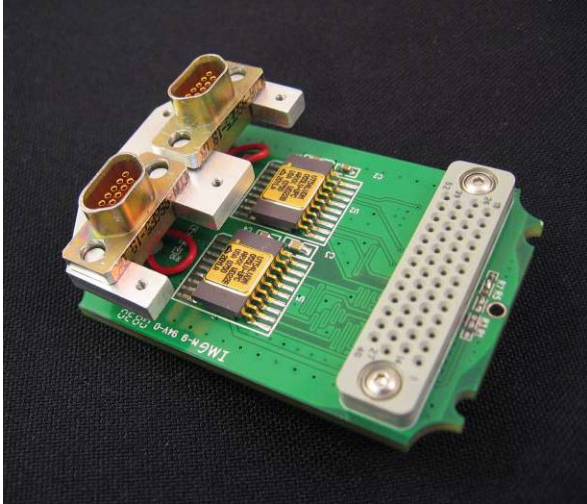


Figure 7: SpaceWire connectors and PIM PCB (left) and PIM package (right).

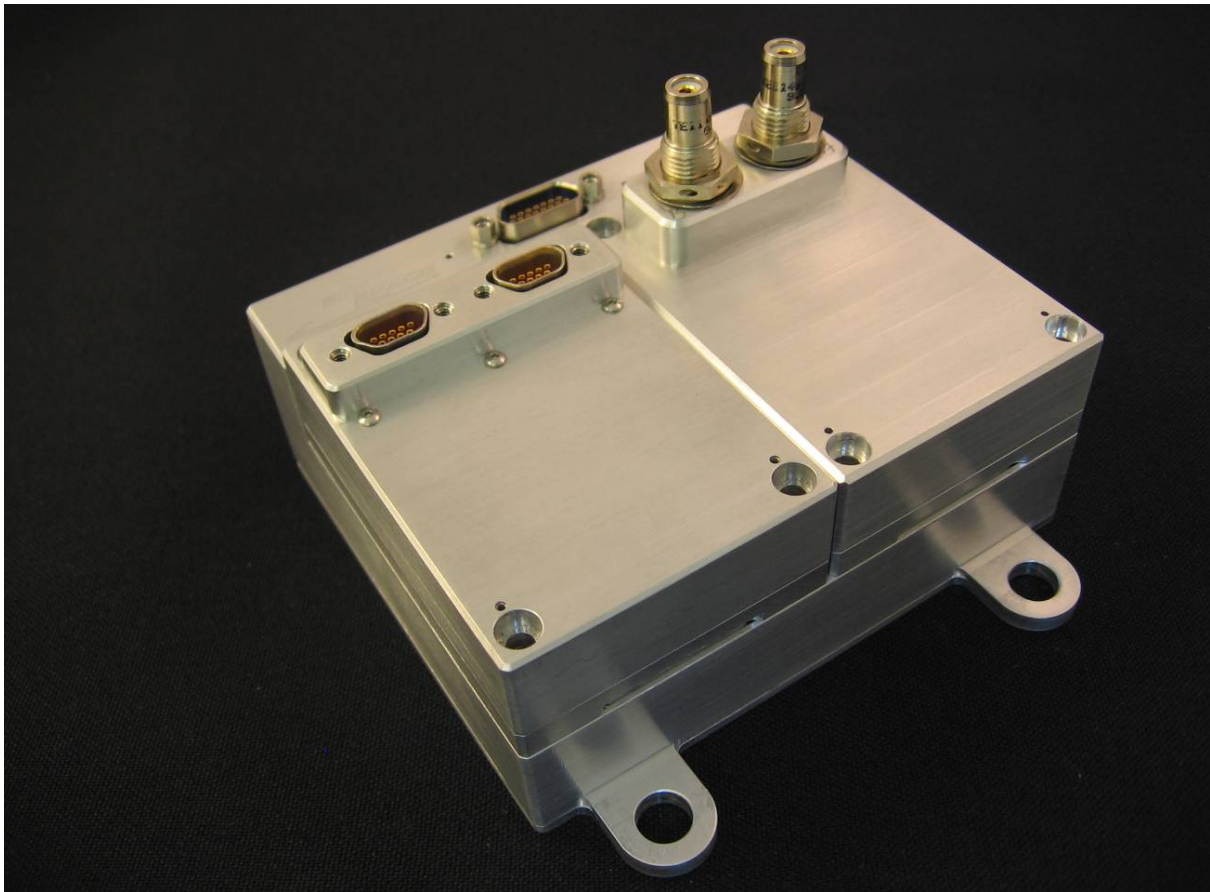


Figure 8: URTM system with SpaceWire PIM (left) and 1553 PIM (right) attached to the RPTM.

2.1.1 Mass, Power and Volume Achievements

An excellent compromise of all desired engineering goals have been met with a robust, functional solution. The final specifications are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Mass, power, and volume specs for each URTM module.

Module	Mass (grams)	Mass (oz)	Power (Watts)
RPTM	220	7.8	5.61
1553b PIM	75	2.6	0.132
SpaceWire PIM	65	2.4	0.337
1394 PIM	80	3.0	0.825

Total Volume for the URTM with SpaceWire and 1553 PIMS (excluding projections for connectors) is approximately 76mm x 37mm x 87.5mm or 3" x 1.40" x 3.44"

Power consumption for a flight application could likely be significantly reduced for the RPTM. Only the VHDL for the two protocols involved in the translation would be loaded into the Xilinx translator FPGA at run-time. In order to simplify debug of successive loads across all protocols, and since the FPGA is large enough, Sigma selected to synthesize a "superset" of VHDL for all protocols into the Xilinx FPGA and used the PIM selection bits to multiplex the appropriate circuitry internally. Note also, the Xilinx ChipScope Pro option that assisted in debug efforts utilizes internal resources, primarily memory, which has a significant impact on power consumption. Note that the additional power required for debug activities is not reflected in the in Table 1. Smaller, FIFO buffers for the various protocols and sized for a specific application or mission, can also be used to save power, provided that the system-level use of the URTM allows for such savings.

2.1.2 Design Considerations with Regard to Space Flight

The following design considerations were implemented in order to make the URTM design readily migratable to a space flight application:

- Hooks for scrubbing (Actel / Xilinx) via Slave SelectMap Interface
- Use of flight-like or flight-equivalent components
- Room in Xilinx for TMR and other SEE mitigation approaches
- Triplicated I/O on Xilinx except for bi-directional signals
- Conductively cooled mechanical design
- Double-step corners for EMI
- Outgassing holes
- Flying leads on external connectors for mechanical decoupling
- Robust interconnect with ample compliance in the "Z" direction for high vibration environments

2.1.3 Flight Components

Flight part equivalent components are available for all selected parts in existing footprints. The engineering model has been populated with a variety of flight parts and commercial parts, where a commercial part could be used in the flight footprint. One example is that 0402 sized resistors were populated on pads designed to accept an 0502 sized flight resistor component. In other cases, such as with the oscillators, a dual footprint PCB design was employed that allows for the assembly with either the flight or commercial footprint on the same PCB.

The stacked FLASH memory from 3D-Plus used in the URTM design is planned to be migrated to a TMRed version. Initial versions shall utilize an FPGA and should be available by Q4 FY09 according to the manufacturer. A flight version with an ASIC within the 3-D stack will follow shortly thereafter. The path to flight for this component was independently verified with both Space Micro as well as with 3D-Plus. The TMR'ed part is a collaboration between the two vendors.

2.1.4 Key IP Cores and Components

The RPTM Xilinx On-chip IP Cores include the following:

- 1553 RT: Sital RT1553FE (Designed For 50 MHz operation)
- 1553 BC: Sital BC1553FE (Designed For 50 MHz operation)
- SpaceWire: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Space Wire Core (CD Date: 09/12/2007) Note: The SpaceWire buffer depth has been increased to 256 bytes from the original 64 bytes of the GSFC SpaceWire core. This was to better match the buffer sizes of the other interfaces while still maintaining the internal core timing and flow.
- 1394b: DAP Technologies FireLink Basic

2.1.5 Key RPTM Devices & Interfaces:

The key devices used on the RPTM card include the following:

- Oscillator: 125 MHz Dual Footprint
- Configuration Device: Actel A54SX32A-CQ84 (RT54SX32S-84CQFP) via Xilinx Slave SelectMap Interface
- Console Port: Based On RS-232 Protocol, 8N1, Baud = 115200 bps Xilinx receives commands and transmits status via Actel FPGA to UART interface
- Test Header: FTE-110-02-G-DV-P for Xilinx JTAG, mode pins, and assorted test points
- Test Header: FTE-110-02-G-DV-P for Actel JTAG and probe signals

2.1.6 Key PIM On-Card Devices & Interfaces:

The key devices used on the various PIMs include the following:

- 1553Transceiver: Aeroflex UT63M143-CCX (with Q1553-70 transformers)

- SpaceWire: Aeroflex UT54LVDM055LV-UPX LVDS Drivers / Receivers
- 1394b: TI TSB81BA3IPFPEP (or TSB81BA3D) 1394B 3-Port Cable Transceiver/Arbiter with Pulse T-1062SCT (or T-1250SCT or T-1485SCT) transformers

The RPTM card contains two FPGAs, which control all functions of the URTM. One FPGA is an Actel A54SX32A-CQ84. This part has a space-flight path to the rad tolerant RT54SX32SU family. Therefore, this device is responsible for all FLASH memory, configuration, console communications functions. For a space-flight application, it can be used to scrub the Xilinx FPGA memory during operation. The other FPGA is a Xilinx XC4VLX200-10FF1513. This part has a path to flight, as it has a footprint compatible column grid array (CGA) device in the radiation hardened Virtex-4 QPro-V family. This device performs all translation functions for the URTM. A more detailed list of high-level FPGA functions is shown below:

Actel FPGA

The main functions of the Actel FPGA are as follows:

- Provides a console (UART) interface for user command and status (from both the Actel & Xilinx FPGAs)
- Provides a command/status interface to the Xilinx in order to forward received commands and to accept status from the Xilinx FPGA
- Provides a slave SelectMap interface to the Xilinx FPGA in order to perform configuration (and in the future, readback and scrubbing, if desired).
- Provides a controller for the Flash memory stack that can identify bad blocks, perform page reads and writes, perform block erases, and interface with the SelectMap controller block.

Xilinx FPGA

The Xilinx FPGA provides all buffering functions, reader, interpreter, writer, FAT, and RAT functionality for the translation process. It interfaces to the Actel FPGA for command & status (in addition to configuration) as well as to each PIM.

Functional Flow Block Diagram

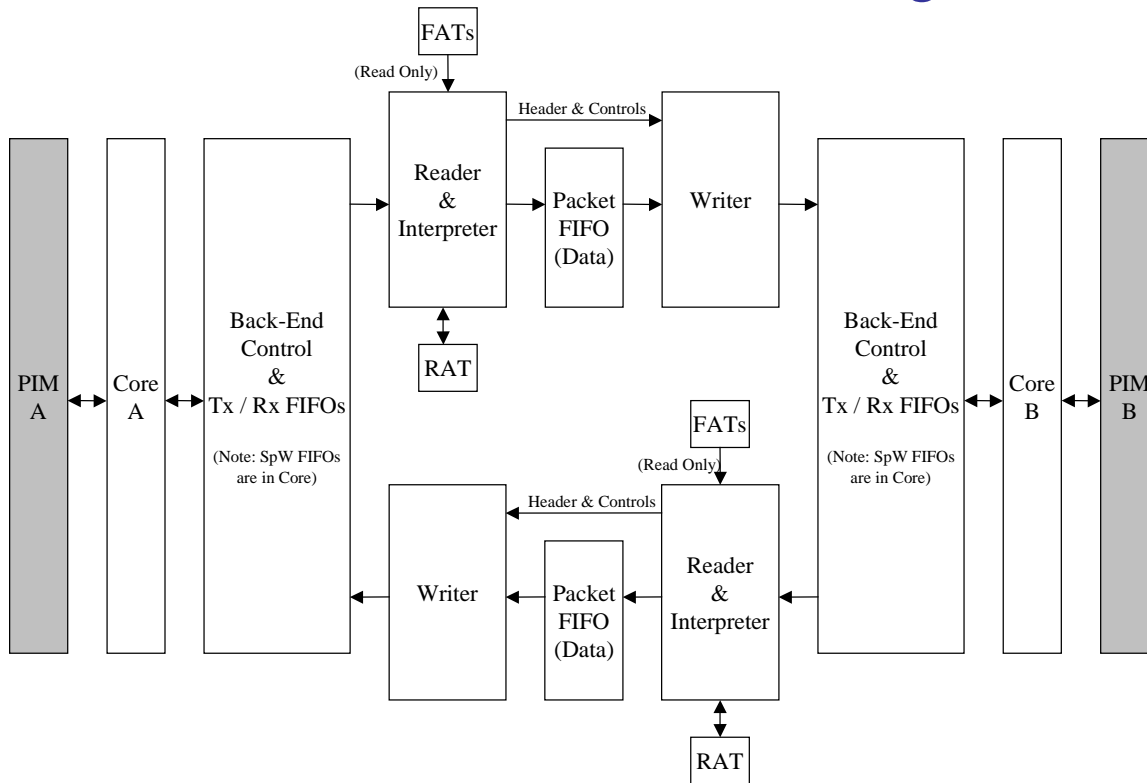


Figure 9: URTM Functional Block Diagram

The internal architecture of the Xilinx FPGA follows the Python model created for this project. As such, each protocol has a reader/interpreter module as well as a writer module. Between these modules, there is a common set of forwarding address tables (FATs) for the address and sub-address fields, return address tables (RATs) for response packet mapping, and packet FIFOs for the buffering of full packets prior to writing during the translation process. In addition, since the user can select any two of the three PIMs for use and because the PIM locations (either A or B) on the RPTM are interchangeable, there is also a level of decoding a multiplexing not shown in the diagram, which allows for this flexibility. With the extra multiplexing, internal timing is not optimal. However, for the purposes of showing interoperability among the different protocols and without constraints on the A/B PIM designation, using a “superset” FPGA load was an excellent choice.

Note that when translating from a protocol of a “smaller” data width to a protocol of a “larger” data width the URTM implements a zero-padding scheme of the translated data. For example, when translating from 1553 to 1394b, 16-bit 1553 data is translated to 32-bit 1394b data fields. If there are an odd number of 1553 data words, then zero-padding is required in order to generate a complete 1394b message.

Note also that at this time, unrecognized transactions are transmitted out of the URTM input FIFOs so as to prevent the URTM from hanging or stalling on bad data. In the future, more complex handling and flagging can be implemented. In many cases, an error bit is set in the RPTM’s Error Register. If read, this register can alert the software that a 1394b, SpaceWire, 1553BC, or 1553RT error has occurred in the given protocol’s reader or writer interface.

During debug and test, a Xilinx USB cable connected to the Xilinx JTAG signal on the test header on the RPTM was used. This allowed for the decoupling of the FLASH memory loading and the functional translation. Once positive results were observed, the FLASH memory was written via the console port as controlled by the Actel FPGA. Upon power-up, it was noted (via register read back as well as by noting the power consumption on the power supply) that the Xilinx FPGA had been properly configured.

Prior to protocol translation, the RPTM must be set up and configured properly based on the command list in URTM Console Port Command Set document. In particular, the forwarding address tables (FATs) must be setup properly. Note that there are four FATs in the URTM. These are: Address FAT A –to- B, Sub-Address FAT A-to-B, Address FAT B –to- A, and Sub-Address FAT B-to-A. The designation of “A” and “B” are dependent on the location of the PIMs – in the A or B location on the RPTM.

The translation details are extensive and are too large to incorporate into the final report. However, excellent detail is provided in the previously submitted document entitled URTM Model Diagrams 080807.pdf. In addition, the Python models (with extensive comments), contain the translation details. As a simple example to illustrate the purpose of the FATs, one might consider how the 5-bit sub-address field in the 1553RT protocol might be translated to the 8-bit address field in SpaceWire RMAP protocol. It is, in fact, the address FAT that allows for this re-mapping such that the address space of one protocol is mapped (i.e. translated) into the address space of the other protocol. High-level system software on either side of the protocol must plan for this remapping a priori and set up the URTM in advance.

2.1.7 PIM PCB Routing and PCB Build Information

The 1394b and SpaceWire PIMs PCBs achieved excellent matching of critical signals which is necessary due to the critical coupling of data and clocks and strobes. The routing reports are included in appendix A and B. The 1553 PIM routing information is included for completion, but there were no specific matched length goals for that PIM.

PCB Build Information:

Note: All boards should specify press fit connector holes as 0.028 +/- 0.002 for proper fit, per Airborn manufacturer instructions.

RPTM: 10-layer stackup as defined by gerbers, FR4, .090 thickness, blind vias layers 2 to 10, immersion gold, electrical test, controlled impedance (100 ohms diff) on layer 1 for 7 mil traces with 10 mil spacing, via in pad, filled vias, matched signal lengths

1553 PIM: 2-layer stackup as defined by gerbers, FR4, .062 thickness

1394b PIM: 6-layer stackup as defined by gerbers, FR4, .084 thickness, 110 ohm controlled impedance for all 1394 signals, electrical test, matched signal lengths

SpaceWire PIM: 4-layer stackup as defined by gerbers, FR4, .084 thickness, with 100 ohm controlled impedance (for 7 mil lines with 10 mil spacing) and electrical test, matched signal lengths (less than 5% and no more than 5mm between differential pairs and also between Data and Strobe skews).

Note that in Appendix A, Column 3 shows the simulated delays of signals. It is desired to keep the delays between differential pairs reasonably well matched. The relative skews are calculated and

presented. The color codes help to reference the appropriate signals from the top of the list of signals. The highlighting serves to separate groups of signals. In Appendix A, colors on one page of that section correspond to the colors on the second page of that same section. This helps associate the PIM signals with the mismatch calculations. In Appendix B, the signal lengths are identical to the precision of the PCB tools, so no additional analysis is necessary. The signals are effectively “perfectly matched.”

2.1.8 Software Revisions Used to Generate Design Files

The Actel software used for the URTM design is Libero version 8.3.

The Xilinx software used is ISE 10.1.02.

All license files and USB keys have been delivered to NASA.

2.1.9 Mechanical Features

The original and augmented conductive cooling designs are shown in Figure 10. The augmented design on the left includes conductive cooling for all regulators. Note that the extra aluminum for the regulators should be incorporated in the RPTM bottom panel if a new URTM case were to be machined. Note also that the heights of these are critical, and should be custom machined to match a particular RPTM PCB due to variations in lead-forming and soldering of the components to the PCB. ChoTherm was used as an interstitial material.

Outgassing holes for RPTM and each PIM have been implemented and engineered to outgas away from the mounting points. The mechanical design also incorporates an EMI enclosure with double-corner design, a robust interconnect between the RPTM and PIMs with ample compliance in the Z-direction (which is good for high vibration environments), and mechanically decoupled flying-lead connectors. These features are shown in Figure 10, Figure 11, Figure 12, Figure 13, and Figure 14.

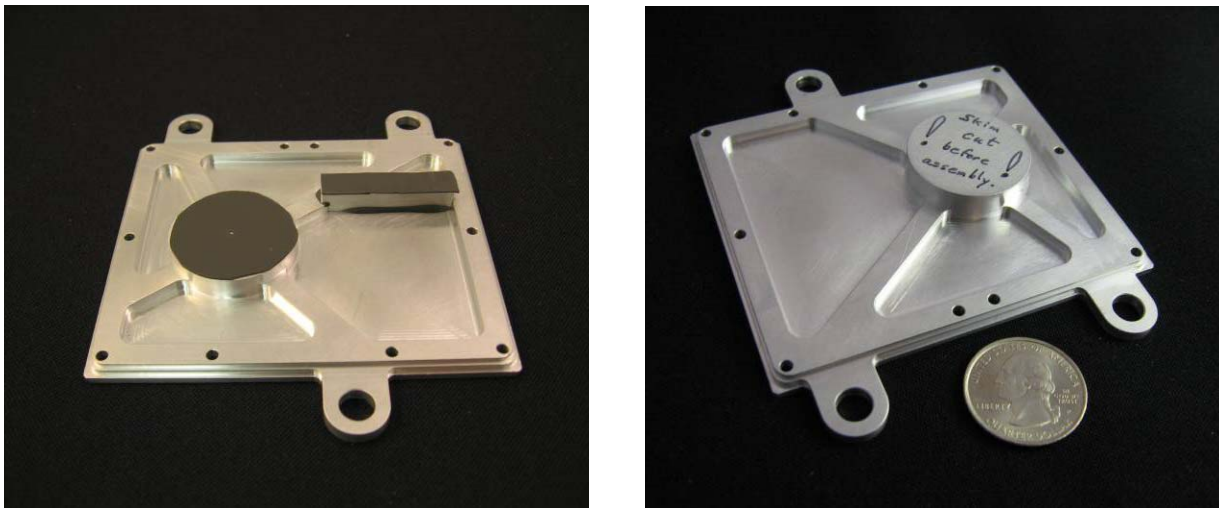


Figure 10: Conductive cooling and mounting plate underneath the URTM package.

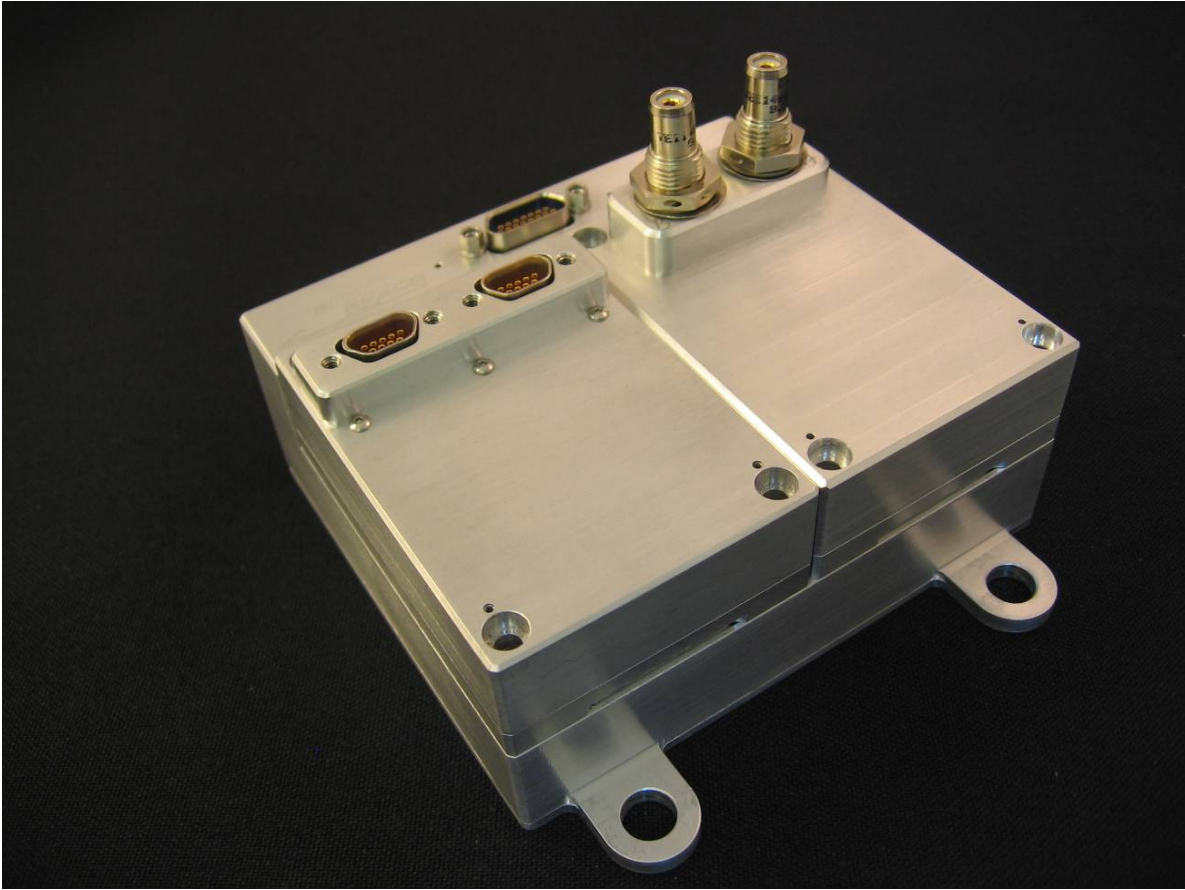


Figure 11: URTM package

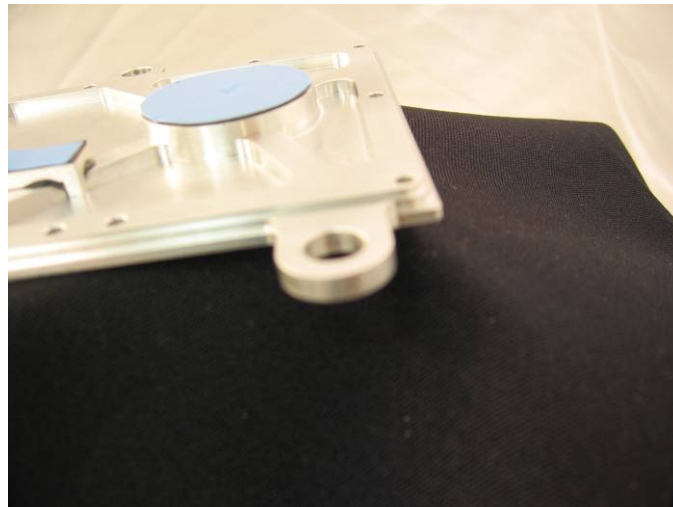


Figure 12: EMI enhanced enclosure with double corner design.

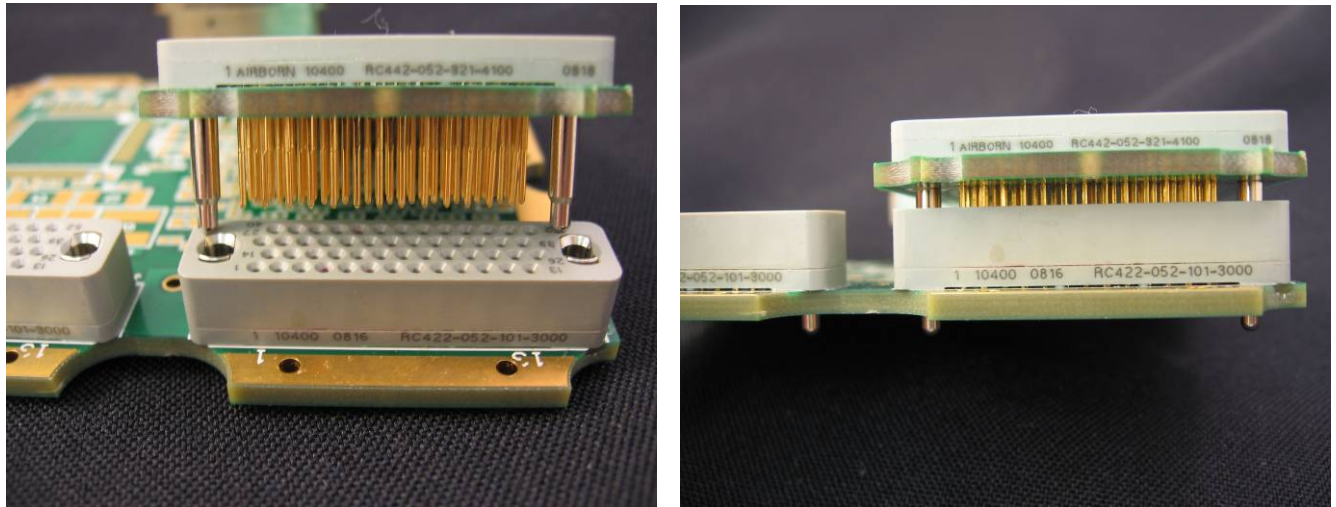


Figure 13: Robust interconnect with ample compliance in the “Z” direction for high vibration environments.



Figure 14: External Connectors are mechanically decoupled via “Flying Lead” connections for all PIM I/O as well as for the console port connector.

2.2 URTM Performance

The URTM successfully translates packets from the 1553, 1394b, and SpaceWire protocols. All of the goals regarding the protocol's bus rates have been achieved. They are as follows:

1553B: 1Mbit/sec

This was met and verified using our 1553 test equipment.

SpaceWire: 200 Mbit/sec (goal), 125 Mbit/sec (requirement)

As stated in the contract, the goal of the SpaceWire bit rate was 200 Mbits/sec with a minimum of 125 Mbits/sec. The outbound (URTM to SpaceWire) bit rate was set to 200 Mbit/sec and verified with the SpaceWire link analyzer. However, for the inbound traffic (SpaceWire Brick to URTM), the goal of 200 Mbits/sec was not met. In the SpaceWire Brick test software, options to run at 120 Mbits/sec or 140 Mbits/sec are available. The translation was not able to run at 140 Mbits/sec, but it was able to run at 120 Mbit/sec. Therefore, it was confirmed that this inbound bit rate was between 120 Mbits/sec and 140 Mbits/sec. Note, though, that the SpaceWire Brick test software does not allow the specification of 125 Mbits/sec. The 200Mbit/sec was demonstrated in that the SpaceWire Analyser has the capability to record the rates at which data is transferred. While transmitting nulls and data packets (i.e. while the link is open), the rates are shown on the bottom of the SpaceWire Analyser's graphical user interface (GUI) where there is a portion of the window indicating "A->B" and "B->A" rates. In the current FPGA which provides for all three protocols in a multiplexed, superset fashion, the timing of the SpaceWire interface has not been optimized so it is likely that improvements can be made to the inbound side of the SpaceWire interface such that the 200 Mbit/sec rate (i.e. the goal) is achievable.

1394b: 800 Mbits/sec (goal), 400 Mbit/sec (requirement)

The 800 Mbits/sec rate was achieved with both a commercial 1394b connector initially populated on the 1394b PIM and later, with a military style 38999-type connector. The commercial connector was then removed from the PIM.

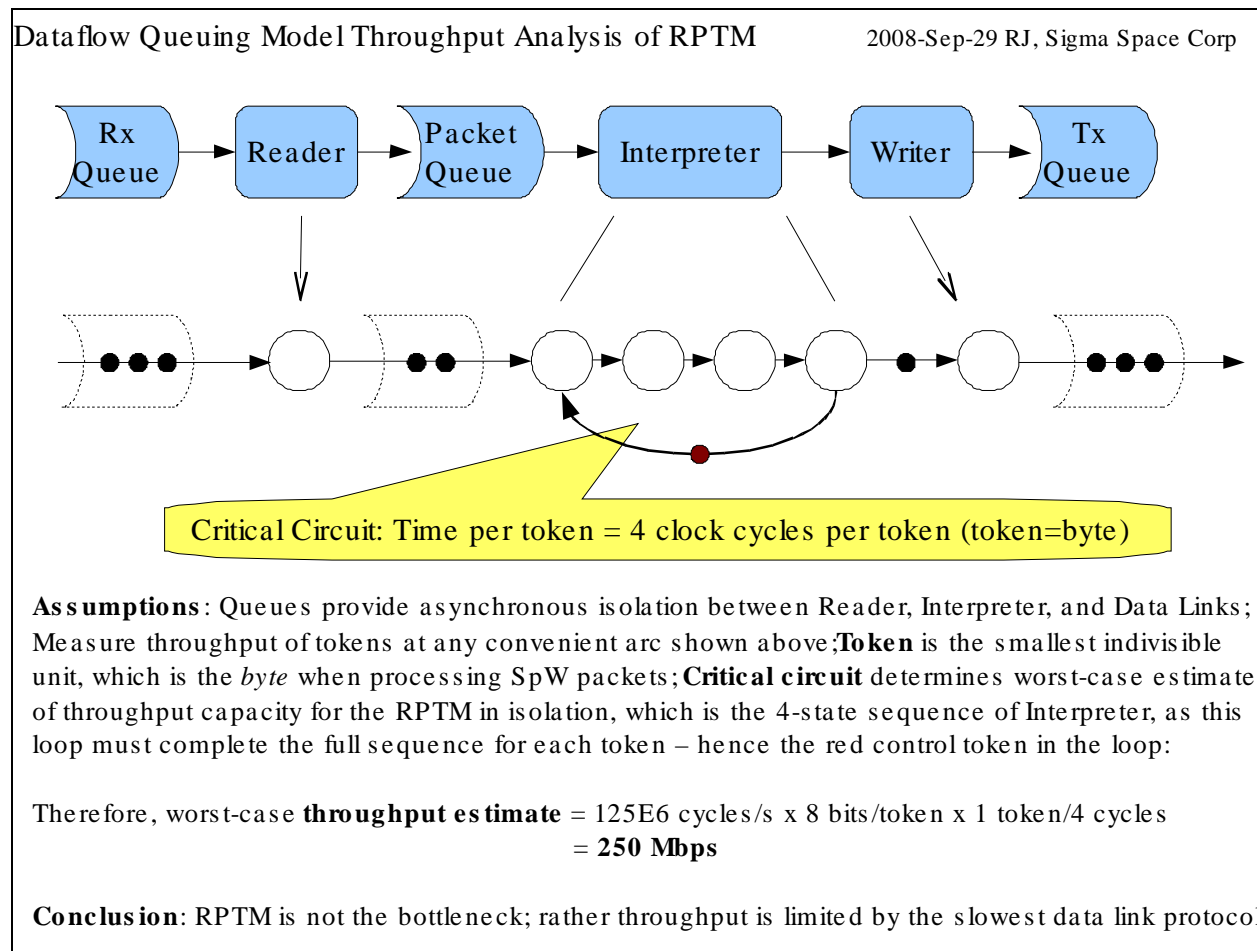
Currently, streaming / isochronous packets between 1394b and SpaceWire are not supported. While the VHDL to perform such translation has been written, no testing or debugging of this packet translation has been performed. It should be noted that the URTM modeling allows for isochronous 1394b streams to be translated to SpaceWire RMAP data packets. Strictly speaking, SpaceWire does not allow for streaming packets, since it is not part of a recognized standard. However, the URTM models make a provision for this to be accomplished by exploiting the Protocol ID standard for the benefit of mapping this type of packet to/from 1394b streams packets.

2.2.1 Throughput

There is no stated goal for throughput in the statement of work for this contract but rather a minimum and goal for each protocol's bit rate. A throughput analysis was added per the COTR's request to see the URTM is a potential bottleneck for the three protocols selected in this work. All contractual goals for protocol translation would still be met even if the URTM was a bottleneck. However, the translation would simply need to pause the faster of the two data paths and send shorter bursts of data rather than longer back-to-back packets of data.

Each protocol was tested with its own unique piece of test equipment, each with its own constraints in terms of number of "back to back" and "at-speed" repetitive burst capabilities. No custom unifying software was developed in this contract that could compare data that was sent by one protocol tester to data that passed through the URTM and was received by another protocol tester. Such software would be essential to perform a hardware-based throughput analysis.

A throughput analysis has been conducted on the SpaceWire interface, since it provides the *smallest token*, hence smallest pipe, and the slowest throughput. For 1553 and 1394, the same process has a data path that is two times (1553) or four times (1394) wider, making the SpaceWire translation the potential bottleneck.



In conclusion, a model of the RPTM throughput shows that the minimum throughput capacity is about 250 Mbps and that the RPTM *is not* the bottleneck; the bottleneck is the slowest data link.

2.2.2 Translation Performance

The transactions shown in Table 2 have been exercised. Some combinations could not be exercised due to our test setup during this research project. For example, testing the SpaceWire or 1394b to 1553 when the PIM was a 1553RT did not occur. In such a case, the URTM can only respond to a 1553BC out on the bus. For this to occur, the test setup would need to be a closed loop system wherein the BC could send a command to the SpaceWire or 1394b device via the URTM. The SpaceWire or 1394b device would then respond in a timely manner via the URTM. In the future, more at-speed, rigorous testing should be performed.

Table 2: URTM Transactions Exercised

Tester	Core	Core	Tester
RT, Sends Write Response	1553BC	SpW	Receives Write Response
RT, Sends Read Response	1553BC	SpW	Receives Read Response
RT, Sends Write Response	1553BC	1394b	Receives Write Response
RT, Sends Read Response	1553BC	1394b	Receives Read Response
BC, Sends Write Command	1553RT	SpW	Receives Write Command
BC, Sends Write Command	1553RT	1394b	Receives Write Command
SpW Sends Write Command	SpW	1553BC	RT, Receives Write Command
SpW Sends Read Command	SpW	1553BC	RT, Receives Read Command
SpW Sends Write Command	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives Write Quadlet Command
SpW Sends Write Command	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives Write Block Command
SpW Sends Read Command	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives Read Block Command
SpW Sends Read Response	SpW	1553RT	BC, Receives Read Response
SpW Sends Write Response	SpW	1553RT	BC, Receives Write Response
SpW Sends Read Response	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives Read Block Response
SpW Sends Write Response	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives Write Response
SpW Sends RMW Response	SpW	1394b	1394b Receives RMW Response
1394b Sends Write Quadlet Command	1394b	1553BC	RT, Receives Write Quadlet Command
1394b Sends Write Block Command	1394b	1553BC	RT, Receives Write Block Command
1394b Sends Read Block Command	1394b	1553BC	RT, Receives Read Block Command
1394b Sends Write Quadlet Command	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Write Quadlet Command
1394b Sends Write Block Command	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Write Block Command
1394b Sends Read Block Command	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Read Block Command
1394b Sends Lock (RMW) Command	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Lock (RMW) Command
1394b Sends Write Response	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Write Response
1394b Sends Read Quadlet Response	1394b	SpW	SpW Receives Read Response

2.2.3 Test Software

At this time, all URTM testing has been performed with the test equipment purchased under the project, coupled with a custom console interface software program that provides URTM specific needs such as access to the FLASH memory, tracking and management of bad memory blocks, and convenient access to URTM registers. No custom, high level software was written to perform closed-loop, testing. Rather, packet transmission via one protocol tester has been exercised with the resulting packet reception observed by the other protocol tester. In all cases, the packet transmission / reception tests have been run in a single, one-at-a-time mode. Additionally, where possible, back-to-back, "high rate" (limited only by the tester itself) transmission & reception testing has been performed. For example, in the case of the 1553 tester, when tester is acting as a 1553 bus controller (BC) and the URTM has the 1553 PIM acting as a remote terminal (RT), continuous packets to the SpaceWire or 1394b interfaces can be sent. Since 1553 is the slowest interface, running at 1 Mbit/sec, there are no concerns as continuous packets are sent to the 800 Mbit/sec 1394b interface or the 200 Mbit/sec SpaceWire interface. Likewise, when testing the 1394b

interface, any number from 1 to 999 packets can be sent to the 1553 or SpaceWire interfaces. However, in this case, 1394b is the fastest interface. It is not a fair test to send nearly continuous, or long burst data to the 1 Mbit/sec 1553 interface; sending to the SpaceWire interface is also questionable since its bus rate is 1/4 of the 1394b rate. In the case of the SpaceWire tester, since the RMAP protocol is being used, a method in which to send continuous or large burst RMAP packets was not determined. Using the SpaceWire tester's CUBA software, a "batch" file of commands was generated and set, but this was generated via a copy-and-paste approach, and therefore, cannot be without bounds. In this case, six back-to-back RMAP packets were sent as fast as possible via the tester, and they were successfully translated to the 139b protocol.

The transmitted packets were manually compared by visually checking that the transmitted command and data were correctly translated and received. When the counter was updated by the receiving test equipment, one could confirm that a valid packet was received. This means that all headers, data fields of proper length (as per the header information), and valid checksums (such as CRCs) were all generated by the URTM and sent to this receiving test equipment. That is, the headers, data payload, and error correction fields were all valid for the given packet. Since there was no closed-loop software to analyze all transmitted data and compare this data to received data for large data sets, the transmit counters and receive counters provided by the test equipment allowed for the validation that the total number of expected packets were sent and received properly.

2.2.4 FPGA Utilization and Timing Performance

The FPGA utilization for the Xilinx XC4VLX200-10FF1513, bitstream version load number 0x59 (identified by the Scratchpad Register default value) is shown in Table 3 below.

Device Utilization Summary				[-]
Logic Utilization	Used	Available	Utilization	Note(s)
Number of Slice Flip Flops	6,031	178,176	3%	
DCM autocalibration logic	42	6,031	1%	
Number of 4 input LUTs	10,365	178,176	5%	
DCM autocalibration logic	24	10,365	1%	
Logic Distribution				
Number of occupied Slices	9,065	89,088	10%	
Number of Slices containing only related logic	9,065	9,065	100%	
Number of Slices containing unrelated logic	0	9,065	0%	
Total Number of 4 input LUTs	10,996	178,176	6%	
Number used as logic	9,568			
Number used as a route-thru	631			
Number used as 16x1 RAMs	56			
Number used for Dual Port RAMs	640			
Number used as Shift registers	101			
Number of bonded IOBs				
Number of bonded	282	960	29%	
IOB Flip Flops	15			
Number of BUFG/BUFGCTRLs	13	32	40%	
Number used as BUFGs	12			
Number used as BUFGCTRLs	1			
Number of FIFO16/RAMB16s	76	336	22%	
Number used as RAMB16s	76			
Number of DCM_ADVs	6	12	50%	

Table 3: Xilinx FPGA Utilization

The Xilinx FPGA routed completely. Three timing violations were flagged as failed. Two of the three violations had to do with the asynchronous clock-crossing boundary within the SpaceWire core where the 200 MHz data-strobe clock and the back-end's 125 MHz clock interact. Per the core's literature, the use of multiple clocks is allowed, since the core should handle the interfacing properly. Likely, the constraint should be marked as a false path, but at this time, this has not been investigated further. The third issue was a clock skew issue on the 200 MHz rising/falling edges. As above, this has not been researched further, but by marking false paths properly, and by optimizing the constraints, the failed path can likely be removed.

The utilization of the Actel A54SX32S FPGA is shown in Table 4.

SEQUENTIAL	Used: 742 Total: 1080 (68.70%)
COMB	Used: 1432 Total: 1800 (79.56%)
LOGIC	Used: 2174 Total: 2880 (75.49%) (seq+comb)
IO w/ Clocks	Used: 52 Total: 59
CLOCK	Used: 2 Total: 2
HCLOCK	Used: 1 Total: 1

Table 4: Actel FPGA Utilization

The Actel FPGA routed completely and met all timing requirements. In a flight application, there would likely be additional logic added to perform the function of a scrubber for the Xilinx FPGA. Note that depending on the encoding of the various state machines within the Actel FPGA, significant utilization resources were observed. For example, the utilization ranged from approximately 68% to 79% depending if a one-hot encoding or gray encoding was selected. At this time, such encoding has not been optimized but could be optimized in the future.

3 Lessons Learned

3.1 Models

Independent validation of functionality via higher-level modeling has again proven useful and has also reduced the number of functional, logical, and control errors that would otherwise have dominated the debug effort.

3.2 ChipScope Pro

The ChipScope Pro tool is extremely useful for large, multi-core, system-on-a-chip type designs. It functions as a virtual logic analyzer with triggering capability, to see busses, control signals, and user selected nets. The use of the tool saved many weeks of integration time on the URTM project.

4 Future Work

4.1 Robustness Improvements

The URTM was tested in a manual mode, not a closed-loop, rigorously tested setting. Before being used in a "real" application, such testing is essential. This kind of testing should be comprised of both small and large packets that are transferred via the URTM in a back-to-back, "at-speed" manner and with different types of packet formats intermingled.

Other improvements that would provide robustness would be to make the URTM more resistant to problems and exceptional behavior. One way to accomplish this would be to employ automatic flushing of FIFOs when illegal packets are received by the URTM along with more error reporting.

4.2 Multi-split Transaction Handling

The address forwarding/return table was implemented in its more basic form. As is, the URTM supports only one virtual circuit between source and sink at a time, though in both directions (full duplex). Multiple virtual circuits in a given direction is not supported at this time because the "transaction label" is not stored and properly managed with the addressing within the forward/return tables. The design is well understood and documented in the presentation packages, just not implemented in favor of working on more challenging problems. Future work in this area can easily support multiple split transactions.

4.3 SpaceWire Protocol

4.3.1 Path Addressing for SpaceWire

SpaceWire packets can be routed by either logical addressing or path addressing. The preferred approach is path addressing because it puts the complexity of routing with the routers, as opposed to all of the network nodes (end points). This was our preferred approach as well for this URTM prototype. Supporting path addressing is straightforward, only requiring a more complex management of the forward/return address tables.

4.3.2 Time Codes for SpaceWire

The SpaceWire protocol has special packets called "time codes" that support a distributed time synchronization algorithm. This is most important for distributed computer systems at the end points. There is little benefit of having a URTM bridge process time codes, as it does not currently keep time. However, applications in the future may have a need to have time synchronization between the two networked bridged by a URTM. This would require that the URTM process time codes and synchronize its time with the SpaceWire network so that it could, in turn, synchronize nodes on the bridged network.

4.4 IEEE 1394 Protocol

4.4.1 Asynchronous Stream Packets

The URTM currently implements asynchronous transaction packets and is set up to support isochronous stream packets. This allows the best, seamless translation between the (three) targeted protocols. There is a third 1394 packet type called the asynchronous stream packet. It is essentially a combination of the former two packets: asynchronous stream packets are isochronous packets that

are transmitted in the asynchronous arbitration period. Asynchronous stream packets can be incorporated straightforwardly in future developments.

4.4.2 SAE AS56453 Protocol

The AS5643 protocol, sometimes referred to as “Mil-Std-FireWire,” uses full use of asynchronous stream packets, primarily, and only the other two packet types secondarily. So, once asynchronous stream packets are implemented, AS5643 protocol can be incorporated. Doing so would also require some lightweight, higher-level protocol on top of the data link layer where the URTM currently operates. The AS5643 protocol is normally implemented in software above the data link layer, which is hardware. AS5643 can most likely be accommodated in software, too, by making use of the MicroBlaze embedded microprocessor. MicroBlaze even supports C software development on a Linux OS. Of course, space applications requiring SEE mitigation would require that the MicroBlaze be replicated in a voting scheme. This is likely possible within the current FPGA resource availability and margins.

4.5 Time-Triggered Ethernet Protocol

The time-triggered Ethernet protocol, or TTE, could support interesting and useful applications in embedded industrial, automotive, and aerospace systems. Sigma Space has studied the feasibility of integrating the TTE in the existing URTM concept, architecture, and design. The technical aspects considered were limited in scope and detail to be high level, conceptual, logical, temporal, and physical. Salient features of the TTE specification and the prior art of implementation were considered that most impact the URTM design. Our conclusion is that integrating the TTE protocol would be straightforward. Indeed, it is anticipated that the task would be easier than the work required to accommodate IEEE 1394, and much cheaper, too. TTE technology already enjoys inexpensive, commercially available hardware and software suitable for prototyping, hosting, and testing. Backwards compatibility with standard Ethernet hardware and software tools would also facilitate and reduce the cost of test equipment, drivers, IP cores, programming and debugging environments, and demonstration systems. TTE would, therefore, make a nice addition to the URTM protocol suite. A full report on this protocol has been delivered to NASA LaRC under separate cover.

5 Appendix A: 1394 PIM Routing Report

Pim 1394
Ruoted report

NET	Ruoted Length (mils)	dealy(ns)	Net Class	Port#
TPA2_N	653.69	0.093	TP_BUS	2
TPA2_P	584.75	0.083	TP_BUS	2
TPB2_N	886.95	0.126	TP_BUS	2
TPB2_P	882	0.125	TP_BUS	2
TPA1_N	750.63	0.107	TP_BUS	1
1394_RX1_N	314.96	0.045	1394_CON	1
TPA1_P	775	0.110	TP_BUS	1
1394_RX1_P	286.94	0.041	1394_CON	1
TPB1_N	495.06	0.070	TP_BUS	1
1394_TX1_N	647.78	0.092	1394_CON	1
TPB1_P	523.91	0.074	TP_BUS	1
1394_TX1_P	619.72	0.088	1394_CON	1
TPA0_N	808.44	0.115	TP_BUS	0
1394_RX0_N	329.98	0.047	1394_CON	0
TPA0_P	837.79	0.119	TP_BUS	0
1394_RX0_P	302.64	0.043	1394_CON	0
TPB0_N	487.13	0.069	TP_BUS	0
1394_TX0_N	683.12	0.097	1394_CON	0
TPB0_P	516.89	0.073	TP_BUS	0
1394_TX0_P	654.95	0.093	1394_CON	0
TPBIAS0	475.83	0.068	TP_BIAS	
TPBIAS1	467.89	0.066	TP_BIAS	
TPBIAS2	289.93	0.041	TP_BIAS	
TPA2_RTN	322.99	0.046	TP_BIAS	
TPB0_T	176.21	0.025	TP_BIAS	
TPB1_T	245.36	0.035	TP_BIAS	
TPB2_T	192.06	0.027	TP_BIAS	
+3_3V	2301.39	0.327	POWER	
+1_95VP	411.96	0.058	POWER	
+3_3VA	581.75	0.083	POWER	
+1_95V	2221.55	0.315	POWER	
+3_3VP	251.89	0.036	POWER	
VCC_OSC	597.26	0.085	POWER	
BUS_PWR	184.81	0.026	POWER	
PIM_KEY0	248.28	0.035	PIM_KEY	
PIM_KEY1	128.62	0.018	PIM_KEY	
PIM_KEY2	175.05	0.025	PIM_KEY	
PIM_KEY3	235.42	0.033	PIM_KEY	
DGND	1936.28	0.275	GND	
SHELL	170.95	0.024	GND	
CGND	866.74	0.123	GND	
PHY_DATA2	288.26	0.041	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA7	390.96	0.055	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA1	353.01	0.050	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA0	270.36	0.038	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA3	299.85	0.043	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA4	382.25	0.054	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA5	428.93	0.061	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_DATA6	360.13	0.051	DATA_BUS_FPGA	
PHY_RESET	528.07	0.075	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_PCLK	220.11	0.031	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_LPS	521.81	0.074	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_LINKON	113.81	0.016	CTRL_FPGA	
PCLK	95.02	0.013	CTRL_FPGA	
LKON	151.93	0.022	CTRL_FPGA	
LCLK	204.75	0.029	CTRL_FPGA	
1394_BMODE	345.99	0.049	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_CTL0	255.6	0.036	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_CTL1	337.98	0.048	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_LCLK	125.71	0.018	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_LREQ	333.11	0.047	CTRL_FPGA	
PHY_PINT	400.6	0.057	CTRL_FPGA	
CLK_98MHZ_18	127.45	0.018	CLK_98MHZ	
OSC_98MHZ	297.98	0.042	CLK_98MHZ	
PC2	461.53	0.065	1394_CONFIG	
PC1	457.52	0.065	1394_CONFIG	
PC0	457.99	0.065	1394_CONFIG	
DS1	412.53	0.059	1394_CONFIG	
DS0	493.09	0.070	1394_CONFIG	
R0	176.12	0.025	1394_CONFIG	

Diff Pair Mismatch(mils)	Diff Pair Mismatch(ns)	RX to TX mismatch (mils)	RX to TX mismatch (ns)
68.94	0.010	63.99	0.009
4.95	0.001		
3.65	0.001	4.44	0.001
-0.79	0.000		
-2.01	0.000	-0.42	0.000
-1.59	0.000		

6 Appendix B: SpaceWire PIM Routing Report

Pim Space Wire
Ruoted report

NET	Ruoted Length (mils)	Net Class	Match Lengh Group
R_RXS-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_RXD-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_RXD+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_RXS+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_RXD+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_RXD-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_RXS+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_RXS-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_TXD+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_TXD-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_TXS+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
P_TXS-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_TXD+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_TXD-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_TXS+	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
R_TXS-	514.41	100_OHM_DIFF	MLNetGroup2
PSTROBE_TX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
PDATA_RX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
PDATA_TX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
PSTROBE_RX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
RDATA_RX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
RDATA_TX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
RSTROBE_RX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
RSTROBE_TX	1383.91	DATA_FPGA	MLNetGroup1
+3_3V	4475.18	POWER	
DGND	0		
PIM_KEY0	116.02		
PIM_KEY1	126.38		
PIM_KEY2	113.95		
PIM_KEY3	124.31		
PTXOE	1076	DATA_FPGA	
RTXOE	1400.35	DATA_FPGA	

7 Appendix C: 1553 PIM Routing Report

PIM1553

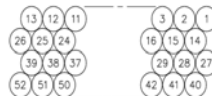
Routed report

No Matched Length signals required for
1553

NET	Routed Length (mils)	Net Class	Match Lengh Group	
TXRX_B_N	1715.26	0	0	0
TXRX_B	1509.24	0	0	0
TXRX_A_N	1806.08	0	0	0
TXRX_A	1743.44	0	0	0
S_BUSB_P	347.12	0	0	0
S_BUSB_N	232.86	0	0	0
S_BUSA_P	235.86	0	0	0
S_BUSA_N	344.26	0	0	0
S8B	170.36	0	0	0
S8A	167.36	0	0	0
S7B	170.36	0	0	0
S7A	172.77	0	0	0
S5B	171.36	0	0	0
S5A	169.01	0	0	0
S4B	171.18	0	0	0
S4A	167.36	0	0	0
PIM_KEY3	147.09	0	0	0
PIM_KEY2	136.73	0	0	0
PIM_KEY1	126.38	0	0	0
PIM_KEY0	116.02	0	0	0
DGND	359.57	0	0	0
1553_TX_INH_B	964.54	0	0	0
1553_TX_INH_A	1163.39	0	0	0
1553_TX_B_N	1026.89	0	0	0
1553_TX_B	1163.58	0	0	0
1553_TX_A_N	1360.47	0	0	0
1553_TX_A	1184.95	0	0	0
1553_PLUS_B	2488.09	0	0	0
1553_PLUS_A	2139.28	0	0	0
1553_MINUS_B	2188.71	0	0	0
1553_MINUS_A	2017.45	0	0	0
1553_BUSB_P	193.21	0	0	0
1553_BUSB_N	347.28	0	0	0
1553_BUSA_P	193.21	0	0	0
1553_BUSA_N	342.83	0	0	0
+3_3V	4267.23	0	0	0

8 Appendix D: PIM Pinout Table

URTM: RPTM/ PIM Interface Connector Mapping: 52 Pins



Conn Position	Pin #	1553 PIM RC442-052-321-4100	SpWPIM RC442-052-321-4100	1394 PIM RC442-052-321-4100	RPTM RC422-052-101-3000	RPTM Input/Output
Outer	1	+3.3V	+3.3V	+3.3V	+3.3V	Power
Outer	2		SPW_RSTROBE_TX		SPW_RSTROBE_TX	Output
Outer	3		SPW_RTXOE		SPW_RTXOE	Output
Outer	4	NOGND	SPW_RDATA_RX	NOGND	SPW_RDATA_RX	Input
Outer	5		SPW_RDATA_TX		SPW_RDATA_TX	Output
Outer	6	PIM_KEY3	PIM_KEY3	PIM_KEY3	PIM_KEY3	Input
Outer	7	PIM_KEY2	PIM_KEY2	PIM_KEY2	PIM_KEY2	Input
Outer	8	PIM_KEY1	PIM_KEY1	PIM_KEY1	PIM_KEY1	Input
Outer	9	PIM_KEY0	PIM_KEY0	PIM_KEY0	PIM_KEY0	Input
Outer	10	1553_MINUS_B	NOGND	NOGND	1553_MINUS_B	Input
Outer	11	1553_TX_A_N			1553_TX_A_N	Output
Outer	12	1553_PLUS_A	NOGND	NOGND	1553_PLUS_A	Input
Outer	13	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Inner	14		SPW_PTXOE		SPW_PTXOE	Output
Inner	15	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Inner	16	NOGND	SPW_RSTROBE_RX	NOGND	SPW_RSTROBE_RX	Input
Inner	17	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Inner	18	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Inner	19	1553_TX_B			1553_TX_B	Output
Inner	20	1553_TX_B_N			1553_TX_B_N	Output
Inner	21	1553_TX_INH_B			1553_TX_INH_B	Output
Inner	22	1553_PLUS_B	NOGND	NOGND	1553_PLUS_B	Input
Inner	23	1553_TX_A			1553_TX_A	Output
Inner	24	1553_TX_INH_A			1553_TX_INH_A	Output
Inner	25	1553_MINUS_A	NOGND	NOGND	1553_MINUS_A	Input
Inner	26			+1.95V	+1.95V	Power
Inner	27	+3.3V	+3.3V	+3.3V	+3.3V	Power
Inner	28	NOGND	SPW_PDATA_RX	NOGND	SPW_PDATA_RX	Input
Inner	29	NOGND	SPW_PSTROBE_RX	NOGND	SPW_PSTROBE_RX	Input
Inner	30			1394_PHY_LPS	1394_PHY_LPS	Output
Inner	31	NOGND	NOGND	1394_PHY_PINT	1394_PHY_PINT	Input
Inner	32			1394_PHY_LREQ	1394_PHY_LREQ	Output
Inner	33	NOGND	NOGND	1394_PHY_PCLK	1394_PHY_PCLK	Input
Inner	34			1394_PHY_CTL1	1394_PHY_CTL1	BiDir
Inner	35			1394_PHY_DATA1	1394_PHY_DATA1	BiDir
Inner	36	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Inner	37			1394_PHY_DATA4	1394_PHY_DATA4	BiDir
Inner	38			1394_PHY_DATA5	1394_PHY_DATA5	BiDir
Inner	39	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Outer	40	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Outer	41		SPW_PDATA_TX		SPW_PDATA_TX	Output
Outer	42		SPW_PSTROBE_TX		SPW_PSTROBE_TX	Output
Outer	43			1394_PHY_RESET	1394_PHY_RESET	Output
Outer	44	NOGND	NOGND	1394_PHY_LINKON	1394_PHY_LINKON	Input
Outer	45			1394_PHY_LCLK	1394_PHY_LCLK	Output
Outer	46			1394_PHY_CTL0	1394_PHY_CTL0	BiDir
Outer	47			1394_PHY_DATA0	1394_PHY_DATA0	BiDir
Outer	48			1394_PHY_DATA2	1394_PHY_DATA2	BiDir
Outer	49			1394_PHY_DATA3	1394_PHY_DATA3	BiDir
Outer	50	GND	GND	GND	GND	GND
Outer	51			1394_PHY_DATA6	1394_PHY_DATA6	BiDir
Outer	52	NOGND	NOGND	1394_PHY_DATA7	1394_PHY_DATA7	BiDir

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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14. ABSTRACT This report describes the Universal Reconfigurable Translation Module, or URTM. The URTM was developed by Sigma Space Corporation for NASA in order to translate specific serial protocols, both logically and physically. At present, the prototype configuration has targeted MIL-STD-1553B (RT and BC), IEEE 1394b (Firewire), and ECSS-E-50-12A (SpaceWire). The objectives of this program were to study the feasibility of a configurable URTM to translate serial link data as might be used in a space-flight mission and to design, develop, document, and deliver an engineering prototype model of the URTM with a path to spaceflight. By simply connecting two of the three Physical Interface Modules (PIM) on either end of the RPTM (Reconfigurable Protocol Translator Module), the URTM then self configures via a library of interface translation functions, thereby allowing the two data links to communicate seamlessly.						
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