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Skywire™ LTE CAT-M1 Embedded Cellular Modem Datasheet

NimbeLink Corp

Updated: March 2017

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1. Introduction

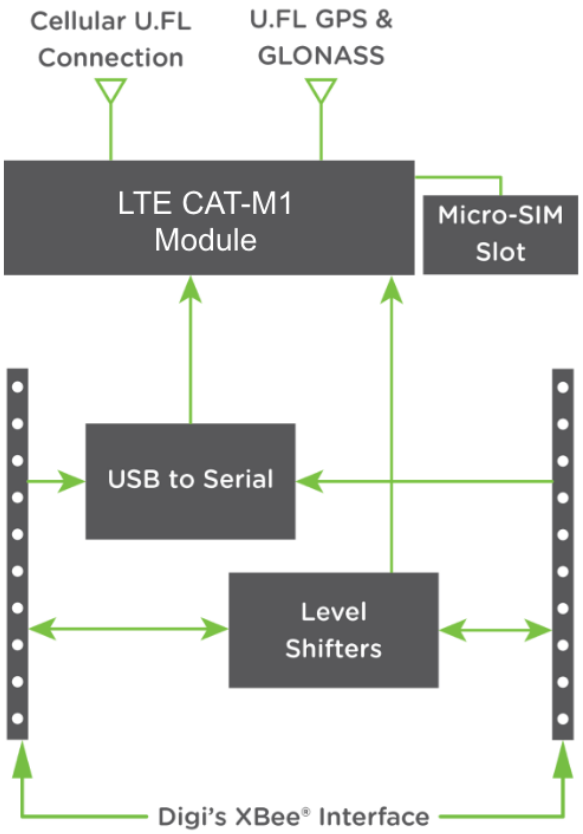
1.1 Orderable Part Numbers

Orderable Device	Firmware Revision	Operating Temp	Bands	GPS/GNSS	Network Type
NL-SW-LTE-SVZM20	TBD	-40 to +85˚C	B4, B13	No	Verizon
NL-SW-LTE-SVZM21	TBD	-40 to +85˚C	B4, B13	Yes	Verizon

1.2 Product Overview

Add robust cellular connectivity to your M2M devices with scalable radio technology with Skywire line of modems including CAT-M1 based LTE solutions. Extensive experience in designing and building embedded product solutions makes the NimbeLink Skywire™ embedded cellular modem the smallest on the market. It complies with the popular XBEE interface standard and supports multiple LTE bands minimizing costs of hardware and network access. The module is designed for volume production and is intended for OEMs to embed into end equipment designs.

1.3 Block Diagram



2. Technical Specifications

2.1 Electrical Specifications

2.1.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Signal	Maximum Rating
Main Power Supply	VCC	5.1V
I/O Voltage Reference	VREF	5.5V

2.1.2 Recommended Ratings & Module Pin out

2.1.2.1 Connectors J1 and J2

Pin	Name	Direction	Description	Min	Typical	Max	If not used
1	VCC	Input	Main Power supply	3.1V	3.8V	4.5V	Must be implemented
2	DOUT	Output	UART data out, I/O level tied to VREF	VOL: GND to 0.55V		VOH: VREF x 0.67 to VREF	Must be implemented
3	DIN	Input	UART data in, I/O level tied to VREF	VIL: GND to 0.15V		VIH: VREF-0.4V to VREF	Must be implemented
4	GND	Input	Ground Pin		0		Must be implemented
5	RESET_N	Input	Controls RESET_N input on modem, tie low for a minimum of 1uS and released to activate. Internally pulled up to VCC. Drive with open collector output. Assert only in an emergency as the module will not gracefully exit the cellular network when asserted.		VREF		No connection
6	VUSB	Input	Supply for USB interface	4.5V	5V	5.5V	No connection
7	USB_D+	I/O	USB differential Data + signal				No connection
8	USB_D-	I/O	USB differential Data - signal				No connection
9	WAKE	Input	Wakes up the modem from low power modes. Default configuration for wakeup is a low to high transition on this line	VIL: GND to 0.15V		VIH: VREF-0.4V to VREF	Tie to GND
10	GND	Input	Ground Pin		0		Must be implemented
11	GND	Input	Ground Pin		0		Must be implemented
12	CTS	Output	Modem Clear to Send hardware flow control output	VOL: GND to 0.55V		VOH: VREF x 0.67 to VREF	No connection

13	ON_STATUS	Output	Signal drives high indicating the modem is on and ready for commands. (It can be idle, or in sleep mode)	0		1.8V	No connection
14	VREF	Input	Voltage reference for off board I/O signals. This signal drives the input voltage side of an onboard buffer which converts all external I/O voltage from VREF range to 1.8V range to drive the onboard modem module.	1.65V	1.8V or 3.3V	5.5V	Must be implemented
15	GND	Input	Ground Pin		0		Must be implemented
16	RTS	Input	Modem Request to Send hardware flow control input	VIL: GND to 0.15V		VIH: VREF-0.4V to VREF	Tie to GND
17	GPS_RX	Input	UART GPS data in, I/O level tied to VREF	VIL: GND to 0.15V		VIH: VREF-0.4V to VREF	Must be implemented
18	GPS_TX	Output	UART GPS data out, I/O level tied to VREF	VOL: GND to 0.55V		VOH: VREF x 0.67 to VREF	Must be implemented
19	RING	Output	Signal wakes up a host processor when there is incoming traffic on the network	VOL: GND to 0.55V		VOH: VREF x 0.67 to VREF	Must be implemented
20	ON_OFF	Input	Modem PWR_ON is active low Internally pulled up to internal I/O rail with resistor. Do not use any external pull ups. **Note:** If you want modem to turn on automatically when power is applied, permanently tie this signal to GND.	0		1.8V	Must be implemented.

2.1.2.2 Connectors J3, X1, X2

Connector Designator	Description	Connector Location
J3	Micro SIM Connector	Bottom Side of Module
X1	Primary Antenna Connection	Topside of Module
X2	GPS/GNSS Antenna Connection	Topside of Module

2.2 Mechanical Specifications

2.2.1 Mechanical Characteristics

Parameter	Typical	Unit
Dimensions (excluding pin height, for solder to board applications)	29.0 x 33.60 x 6.63	mm
Dimensions (including pin height, for board to board connector applications)	29.0 x 33.60 x 10.73	mm
Weight	0.3	oz
Connector Insertion/Removal	hundreds	Cycles

2.2.2 Mating Connectors

Connector Designator	Manufacture	Populated on Module	Recommended Mate	Mate Manufacture
J1, J2	3M	951110-2530-AR-PR	950510-6102-AR	3M
			Acceptable alternate: NPPN101BFCN-RC	Sullins Connector Solutions
J3	Molex	786463001	Micro SIM Card	Micro SIM Card
X1, X2	Hirose	U.FL-R-SMT(10)	CAB.011	Taoglas

2.2.3 Device Placement

⚠ Make sure the Skywire™ is installed in the correct orientation; failure to do so will damage the device and void the warranty.

2.3 Environmental Specifications

Parameter	Min	Typical	Max	Unit	Note
Operating Temperature	-30	25	+60	˚C	
Extended Temperature*	-40	25	+85	˚C	
Operating Humidity	20		90	%	Non-condensing

** Transmit power limited during Extended Temperature operation*

3. Important Design Considerations

3.1 PWR_ON Signal

To conserve power, the Skywire modem does not automatically start up when power is applied. The baseboard design must supply a means to assert the PWR_ON signal low. The signal is level sensitive. After asserting the PWR_ON signal, software must wait for device to boot up before attempting to communicate with the Skywire Modem. To make module automatically start when power is applied, tie PWR_ON signal to GND permanently.

3.2 Power Supply Requirements

The module will regularly consume high amounts of current on the Main Power Supply (VCC), up to 500mA during active transmits and receives. The baseboard power supply should be designed to support peak currents up to 1 Amp. A 100uF capacitor should be placed near the VCC pin on the module to ensure ample energy is available, with a low inductance path to the VCC pin. For example power supply designs, there are multiple references available. See the NimbeLink Skywire™Development Kit schematic for a switching regulator example.

3.3 Serial Communications

The Skywire Modem can communicate over UART for AT commands and PPP interface. The USB interface is only provided as a path for firmware update and is not available for issuing AT commands. There is a second UART available for communication with GPS/GNSS.

3.4 LED

TBD

3.5 GPIO Control

TBD

4. Mounting Guidelines

The Skywire™ embedded cellular modem supports multiple connection methods, the two primary methods are board to board connectors and soldering directly to the baseboard.

4.1 Board to Board connectors approach

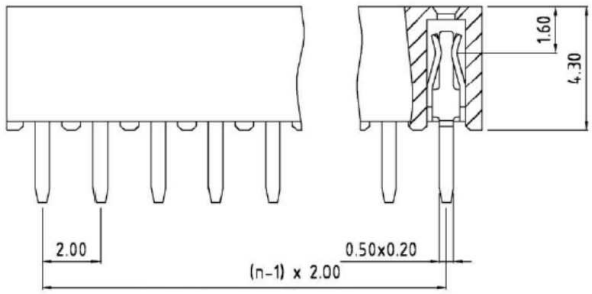
The XBEE form factor calls for two, 10 pin, 2mm pitch female receptacles.

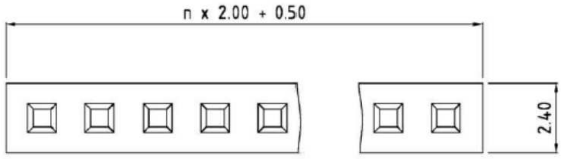
There are many connector manufacturers that can be used; below is one readily available product:

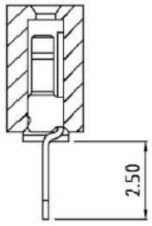
Manufacturer: 3M Alternate: Sullins Connector Solutions

Part Number: 950510-6102-AR Alternate P/N: NPPN101BFCN-RC

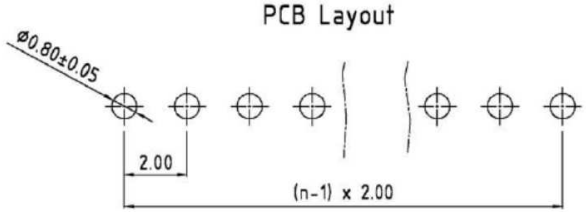
Typical part drawing and footprint information:





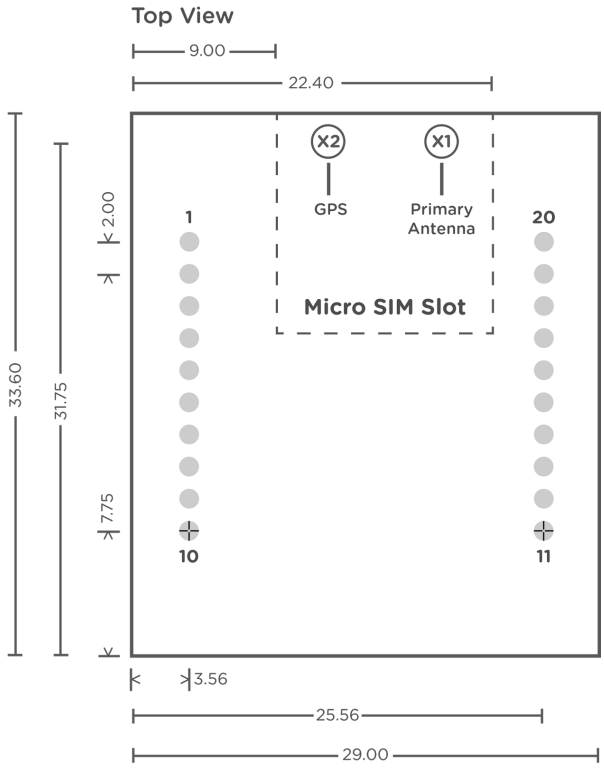


PCB Layout



4.2 Solder to Board connection approach

The module can be soldered directly to a PCB. The PCB should be designed with two rows of ten, 0.8mm plated thru holes spaced 2mm apart. The two rows should be 22mm apart. See drawing for recommended footprint. Measurements are in millimeters. U.FL locations are marked with circles, X1 and X2 on top side of board, J3 is Micro SIM card slot on bottom side of board.



5. Antenna Considerations

5.1 Primary Antenna Requirements

Designers should review latest VZM20Q Hardware User Guide to ensure the information is up to date.

PRIMARY ANTENNA REQUIREMENTS	
Frequency Range	Depending on the frequency bands provided by the network operator, the customer shall use the most suitable antenna for those bands
Bandwidth	LTE B4(1700): 445MHz LTE B13(700c): 41MHz
Impedance	50 ohm
Input Power	>24dB

5.2 Recommended Antennas

Type	Manufacturer	Part Number
Primary Cellular	Taoglas[1]	TG.30.8113

Note 1: U.FL to SMA adapter required.

For applications not using the recommended antennas developers will need to ensure that the selected antenna(s) must meet the following gain requirements:

Frequency	Max Gain (dBi)
700 MHz Band	TBD
1700 MHz Band	TBD

6. Certifications

6.1 Carrier Specific

NL-SW-LTE-SVZM Verizon OD Certified

6.2 Geography Specific

Federal Communications Commission (FCC47) part 22, 24

Complies with FCC47 Part 15 Class B Radiated and Conducted Emissions

7. Federal Regulatory Licensing

7.1 Export Control Classification Number (ECCN)

ECCNs are five character alpha-numeric designations used on the Commerce Control List (CCL) to identify dual-use items for export control purposes. An ECCN categorizes items based on the nature of the product, i.e. type of commodity, software, or technology and its respective technical parameters.

NL-SW-LTE-SVZM (and all Skywire Modems): 5A992.c

7.2 Harmonized Tariff Schedule Code

HTS Code: 8517.62.0010

8. End Product Labeling Requirements

Device Uses Approved Radio: NL-SW-LTE-SVZM

Contains FCC ID:TBD and IC ID: TBD

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interferences, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.