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The Mini Coax connector system is a multi line RF interconnection for board-to-backplane applications. The Mini Coax allows transmission of radio frequency signals up to 2.5 GHz per line. Moreover this connector system is compact, ruggedised and provides total mating reliability due to its closed entry. The compact size (a 10 coaxial line connector is as small as a PC's enter key) and excellent crosstalk features propel this connector system for high end equipment within cellular telecom infrastructure.

The modules are available in metric sizes 1.00, 1.25and 1.50 SU (SU = System Unit = 25 mm) for both cable harnesses and pcb's with 2 to 10 coaxial lines. The angled daughtercard modules and the straight backplane modules are press-fitted with simple tooling. The straight modules are delivered with an inserted plastic cap that protects the coaxial contacts against dust and dirt as well as being used as an upper press-in tool. So an easy and safe flat rock process is guaranteed.

In addition to the coax modules an angled power connector with press-in termination is available. It is assembled in the same board drillings as the coaxial configuration and can be loaded up to 15 A working current at 70  $^{\circ}$ C.

Customer specific cable assemblies utilising different modules are manufactured on request. An extensive accessory and tooling range compliments the wide product range.

Both connector types (Mini Coax and *har-bus® HM*) are made for simultaneous use on the same board (see Fig. 2).







Fig. 4: Signal path of an analog RF signal from Rx to Tx

Tx: Transceiver

Number of contacts	:	2, 4, 6, 8 or 10 c	oaxial contacts		
Dielectric withstanding Voltage U <sub>r.m.s.</sub> Power	:	$\leq$ 1000 V (for 60s) $\leq$ 40 W (at 2.5 GHz)			
DC-contact resistance Centre contact Ground contact	:	$\leq 12 \text{ m}\Omega$ $\leq 6 \text{ m}\Omega$			
Insulation resistance	:	$\geq$ 5000 M $\Omega$			
Nominal impedance	:	50 Ω			
Frequency range	:	0 – 2.5 GHz			
Return loss* (see Fig. 11)	:	$\geq 22~dB^{1)}~(0~\ldots~2.5~GHz)$ equal to VSWR $\leq 1.17$			
Insertion loss (see Fig. 10)	:				
Crosstalk attenuation (see Fig. 12)	:	35 dB / 50 dB / 70 dB <sup>2)</sup> (0 2.5 GHz) depending on distances between adjacent contacts			
Mating cycles	:	max. 500			
Recommended configuration of plated through holes	:	Tin-lead plated PCB (HAL) acc. DIN EN 60 352-5	Hole Cu Sn Plated hole	1.15 <sup>±0.025</sup> mm min. 25 μm max. 15 μm 0.94-1.09 mm	
		Chemical tin-plated PCB	Hole Cu Sn Plated hole	1.15 <sup>±0.025</sup> mm min. 25 μm min. 0.8 μm	
		Au / Ni plated PCB	Hole Cu Ni Au	1.15 <sup>±0.025</sup> mm min. 25 μm 3-7 μm 0.05-0.12 μm	
			Plated hole	1.00-1.10 mm	
		Silver plated PCB	Cu	min. 25 μm	
			Ag Plated bole	0.1-0.3 μm 1.00-1.10 mm	
		OSP copper plated PCB	Hole	1.15 <sup>±0.025</sup> mm	
			Cu Plated bole	min. 25 μm	
			PCB board thickness	:≥1,6 mm	
Mating force	:	$\leq$ 5 N/line			
Withdrawal force	:	> 1 N/line			
Grid pattern	:	4.40 x 6.25 mm (within a twin x between twins)			
Stack height	:	9.5 mm			
Mating distance	:	12.5 15 mm			
Wiping length	:	2.5 mm			
Acceptable radial mating offset	:	max. ± 1.5 mm			
Temperature range	:	– 55 °C + 125 °C			
Moulding material	:	Liquid Cristal Polymer (LCP), UL 94-V0			
Contact surface Contact zone	:	Au			
Termination area Centre pin	:	Au			
Ground pin	:	Ni			

\* Reference: short contact

<sup>1)</sup> Data of a separate Mini Coax mated connector pair including the press-in terminations to pcb <sup>2)</sup> Data of Mini Coax connector pair including the whole test board environment (see Fig. 6)

Mini Coax connector integrated in test boards

Transmission characteristics of a connector can only be measured within its typical environment. The environment for a board-to-board connector is generally a pcb (printed circuit board). The approach to determine the transmission characteristics of the connector itself is to measure the complete arrangement with special calibration techniques and to remove the parameters of the connector. The performance of the test board is responsible for the accuracy of the parameters on the connector itself.



Fig. 5: Cross-section of a trace of the test board

The signal integrity of a test board is mainly influenced by the characteristic impedance, losses of pcb traces and the design of micro vias. It's obvious that the pin in hole of the connector and the vias have to be considered as one. This means that the thickness, material and the amount of layers of the pcb have to be taken into consideration for the characterisation of a board-to-board connector.

Fig. 6 shows the test boards with the integrated Mini Coax connector. The test boards are executed in stripline technology with a characteristic impedance of 50  $\Omega$ . To connect the test boards with the cables of the measurement instrument, SMA connectors are used.

For high speed digital applications the main parameters are defined in the time-domain, like reflection loss, rise-time degradation, eye-opening etc. For RF-applications like in radio base stations or broadcasting services the frequency-domain is the preferred point-of view in order to characterise the systems and the components in regards to return loss, insertion loss, crosstalk, linearity etc.



Fig. 6: Test boards with implemented Mini Coax connector



connector and the components on the evaluation board. Significant areas in the signal path are indicated with the characters A...G and T for traces on the board.

Figure 7 shows the signal path given by the Mini Coax The signal path was measured with a Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR) to determine the discontinuities of the arrangement (Fig. 8).

> Figure 9 shows the equivalent circuit of the signal path with grouped elements for the Mini Coax connector. The parameters had been extracted from the measured TDR profile.











#### Insertion and return loss







To extract the parameters of the connector itself the method of gating was selected. This eliminates the effects of SMA launchers. The test launchers reduce the performance of transmission characteristics due to their discontinuities.

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### Near-end crosstalk of the Mini Coax modules



Fig. 12: Near-end crosstalk of several contact configurations

Even for the shortest distance of 4.40 mm crosstalkvalues better than 30 dB can be achieved for frequencies of 2.5 GHz and above.



Fig. 13: Measured configurations [mm]



#### Straight modules



Mini Coax

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#### Angled modules





#### Cable assemblies



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Power modules up to 15 A



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