

FUNDAMENTALS

RADIO COMMUNICATION

The History of Radio Technology

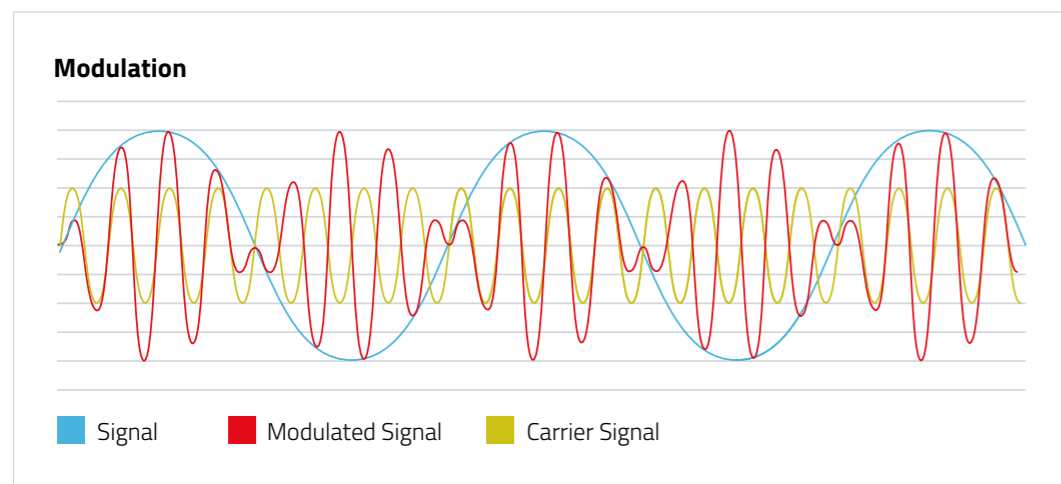
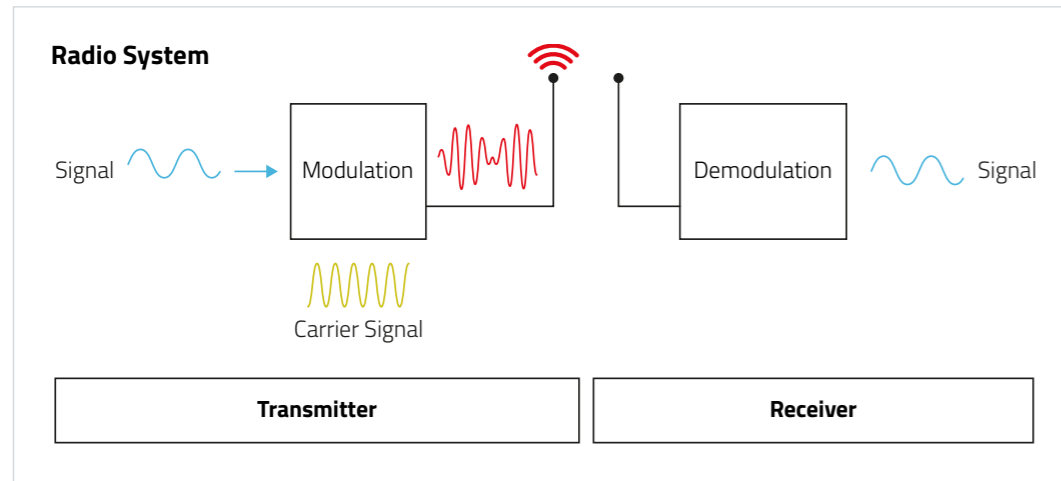
Radio technology is a wireless method of transmitting signals by means of modulated electromagnetic waves. In 1884 James Clerk Maxwell predicted the existence of radio waves, which was experimentally confirmed by Heinrich Hertz on November 11th, 1886.

There are five main key facts, which have to be considered:

1. Transmission of the Signal
2. Link Budget
3. Duty Cycle
4. Access
5. Integration of Radio Technology

1. Transmission of the Signal

For the Transmission the signal will be modulated on a carrier signal, mostly sinus with constant amplitude. Thereby the amplitude or frequency will be adopted in the rhythm of the transmitted signal. The modulated wave is radiated by an antenna and received on the otherside with an antenna too. Due to demodulation at the receiver the transmitted signal can be used.



Range Estimation

When a radio connection is planned, the given circumstances define largely the requirements for radio range, operating temperature and available space.



ANR010 Range Estimation

we-online.com/ANR010

Model 1: Friis Transmission for Free Space

Friis transmission for Free Space is a model to calculate the path loss, to estimate the range of a radio link in a free space environment. Free field condition: The first Fresnel zone is free of objects.

This model makes the assumption, that the emitted power is radiated equally in every direction (isotropic) and calculates the power loss only taking into account the decreasing power density of the wavefront with increasing distance to the origin, without any reflection, absorption or attenuation.

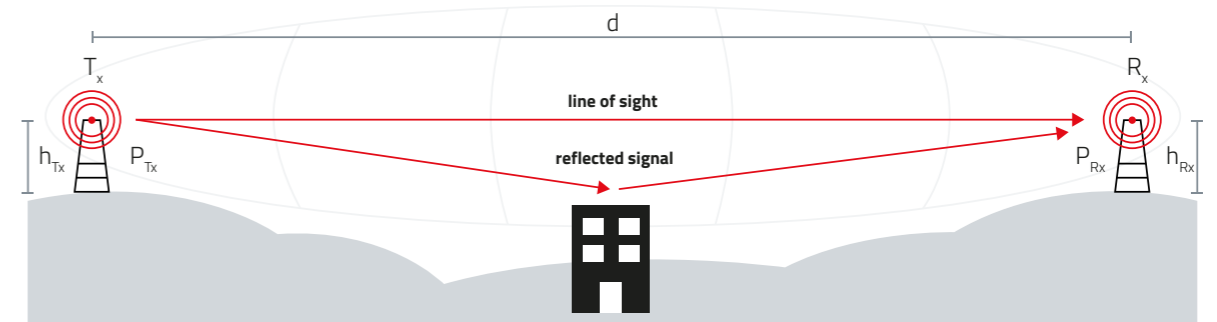


It should be known, that the lower the frequency is, the higher is the possible range of the transmission path.



Model 2: Two-ray Ground Reflection

The two-ray ground reflection model is applied, when transmitter and receiver are in line of sight but the first Fresnel zone is not free of objects. So the calculation considers the received power of the direct line of sight path and in addition the power of the reflection path with slight phase difference.



As long as the free space requirements are not met, it should be known, that the higher the antenna is mounted above ground, the higher is the possible range of the transmission path.



FUNDAMENTALS

RADIO COMMUNICATION

Conclusion

In a lot of cases there is the need of long distances with regard to the antenna height, so usually the two ray ground model is a good fitting estimation. Only for some special cases with the free space condition fulfilled the Friis model is useful. Having a closer look to the models there are several interesting points to mention.

The Dependency of the Frequency

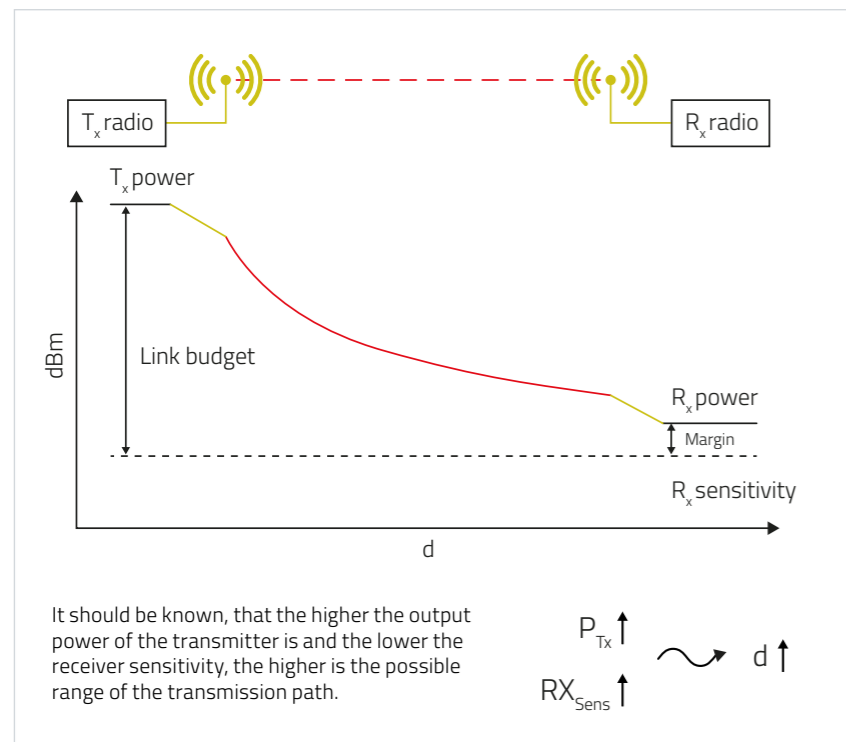
Often it is mentioned in general, that the lower the frequency is, the greater the range is. We have learned, that this is only the case when free field conditions are met. But there are other effects of the frequency, as the fact, that for higher frequencies smaller objects will cause reflections, or that for low frequencies it might be hard to find an antenna with acceptable size and efficiency.

The Influence of the Antenna Height on the Range

The higher the antennas can be placed, the longer is the range that can be reached. Placing an antenna directly above ground reduces the range so radical, a layman could hardly imagine.

2. Link Budget (power of the carrier)

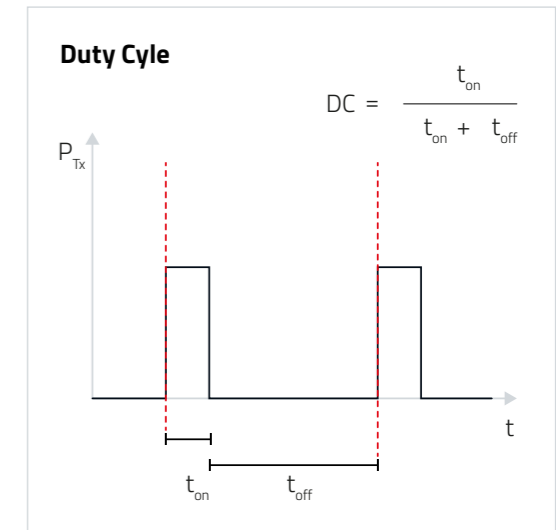
A link budget is an accounting of all of the power gains and losses that a communication signal experiences in a telecommunication system; from a transmitter, through a medium (free space, cable, waveguide, fiber, etc.) to the receiver. It is an equation giving the received power from the transmitter power, after the attenuation of the transmitted signal due to propagation, as well as the antenna gains and feedline and other losses, and amplifications of the signal in the receiver or any repeaters it passes through.



Power [dBm]	Power [watt]
- 120 dBm	1 fW
- 110 dBm	0.01 pW
- 100 dBm	0.1 pW
- 90 dBm	1 pW
- 80 dBm	10 pW
- 70 dBm	100 pW
- 60 dBm	1 nW
- 50 dBm	10 nW
- 40 dBm	100 nW
- 30 dBm	1 μW
- 20 dBm	10 μW
- 10 dBm	100 μW
- 1 dBm	794 μW
0 dBm	1 mW
1 dBm	1.26 mW
10 dBm	10 mW
20 dBm	100 mW
30 dBm	1 W
40 dBm	10 W

3. Duty Cycle

A duty cycle or power cycle is the fraction of one period in which a signal or system is active. Duty cycle is commonly expressed as a percentage or a ratio. A period is the time it takes for a signal to complete an on-and-off cycle. E.g. using a duty cycle of 10 %, means that the used transmitter is allowed to send 6 minutes in between one hour.

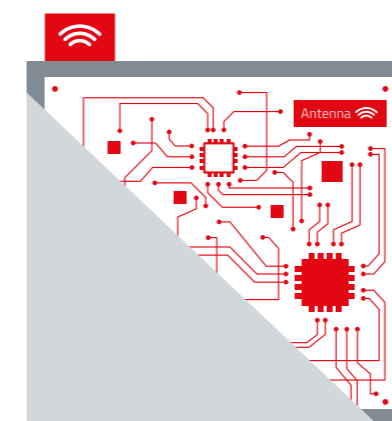


4. Polite Spectrum Access – listen before talk

When an application uses polite spectrum access, the duty cycle restrictions are loosened. Polite spectrum access encompasses two aspects: Listen Before Talk (LBT) and Adaptive Frequency Agility (AFA). LBT defines that the device must listen if the medium is already in use by a Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) check. When the medium is in use, the device must wait a random backoff interval or change the frequency before checking again. The latter is called AFA.

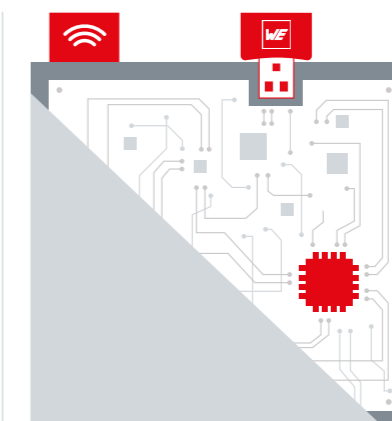
5. Integration of Radio Technology

One of the last steps before a product with integrated wireless technology can be launched on the market is the certification. Manufacturers of products with integrated RF-technology may only market these with the necessary certification. The following graphics display the three options which are available for integrating wireless technology.



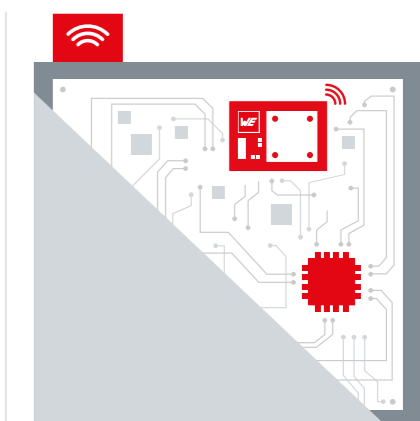
1 Device without certified radio chip and antenna

- ⊕ Flexible
- ⊖ High effort
- ⊖ High costs



2 Device with external radio dongle

- ⊕ Plugable
- ⊕ Easy integration
- ⊖ Not that flexible



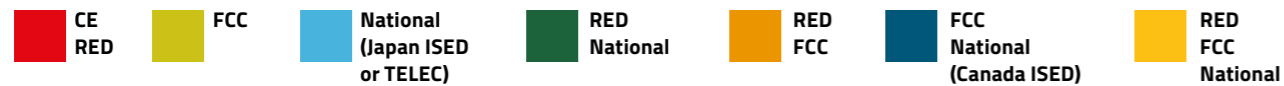
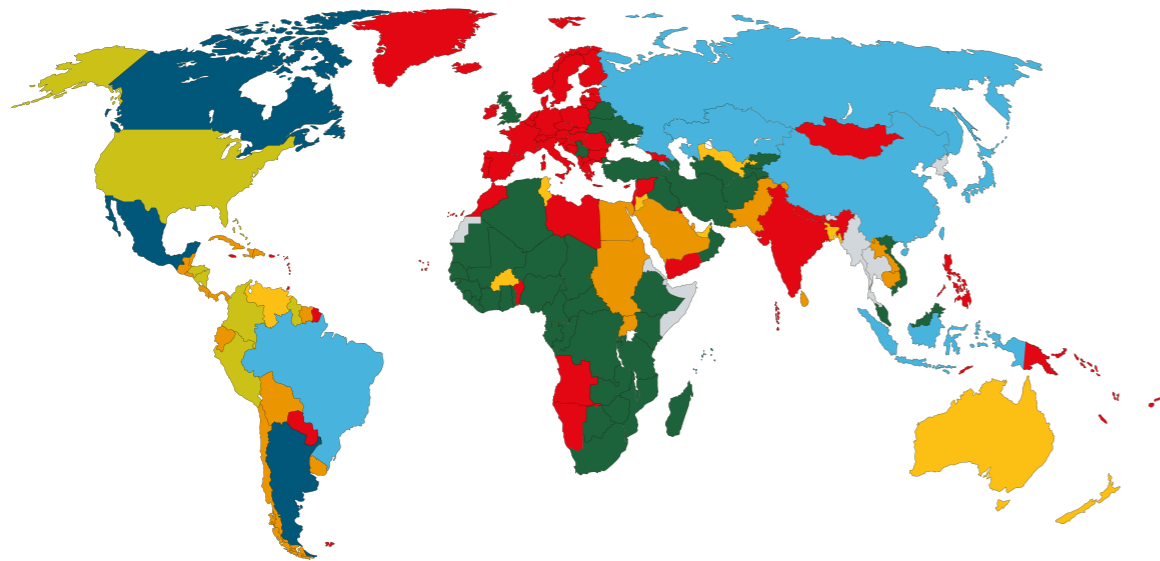
3 Device with certified radio module and antenna

- ⊕ Low design effort
- ⊕ Fully integrated
- ⊕ Low Certification effort
- ⊖ Not that flexible

CERTIFICATION & CONFORMITY

Which Certification Rules apply where?

A product that is to be launched globally must meet the certification or conformity criteria of each country it is to be marketed in. It is a kind of a prove to the authorities, that the explained facts (1), (2), (3) and (4) are compliant to regulations, laws, norms, standards and so on. There is no worldwide certification applicable to all countries. The following presents the various certification systems.



Different Certification Systems



For products distributed in the European market the CE mark is required. The manufacturer applies the CE mark after fulfilling the Radio Equipment Directive (RED). The tests may be conducted either by the manufacturer himself or by an accredited laboratory. As self declaration the manufacturer is responsible for the products conformity to legal restrictions and regulations.



For all other markets national regulations apply. For example, a product introduction in Canada or Japan require ISED or TELEC certification. Most countries are close to CE or FCC. Deadlines, requirements and measurements can differ.



In North America, however, products with wireless technology require FCC certification. A certification through an verified authority with measurements is mandatory.



These, similar to other national regulations, are based on the existing certification bodies, so that only a small amount of additional testing is required. E.g. Canada or United Kingdom.

Certificate Examples



The **manufacturer** declares, that...



The **regulation body** certifies that...

Benefits of Certification and Conformity

- Be smart and ensure that your product will pass the certification process!
- Obtain assurance – Pre-certification is half the battle won and reduces the final test effort.
- Save time and money – the likelihood that the end product will pass is much greater with pre-certification.

All Würth Elektronik radio modules are either certified and / or declared for conformity. This simplifies the approval process of such a radio module within the end-application significantly.

HARDWARE

Speed up your time-to-market

Our modules are fully developed, **tested and validated**. The modules include all essential components. Running WE-ProWare radio stack on our modules ensures a reliable communication through standard protocols and proven RF performance.

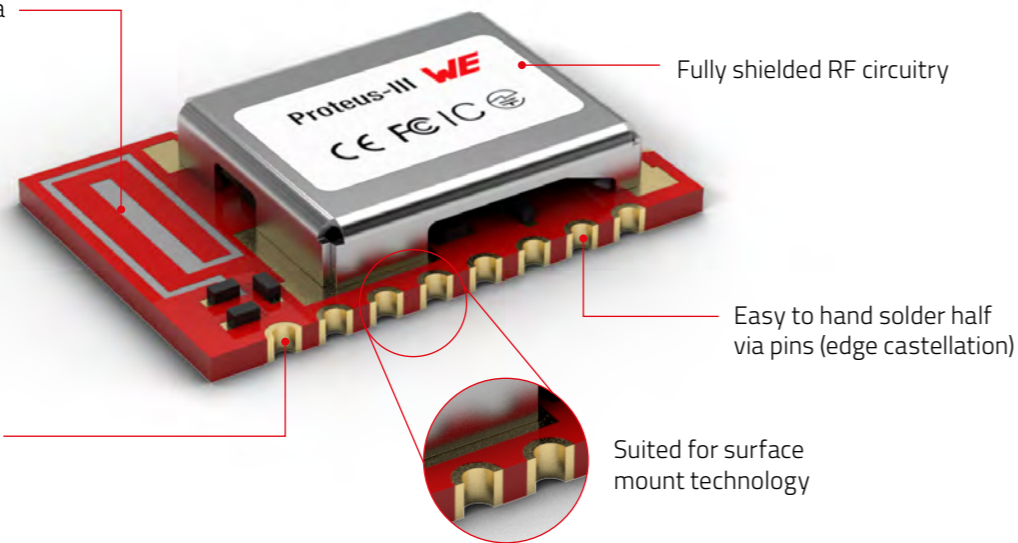
Open New Markets

One footprint for different frequencies

Most of our modules offer the **same foot print** and form factor. Make use of this feature to easily exchange modules and adapt your application to specific requirements.

Best-in-class integrated PCB antenna

Standard 50 Ohm antenna interface for an external antenna



ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Faster development with a complete RF-module
- ✓ Possibility to work with RF even if there are limited resources in man power or knowlege
- ✓ No Antenna Design necessary. Integrated antenna!
- ✓ Easy soldering, even by hand for smaller quantities in Prototype-phase or for small series
- ✓ Design in guide for all modules
- ✓ Design in support by Hardware-, Software- and Application-engineers

One Hardware Platform

Committing today on a wireless technology for tomorrow seems impossible. Würth Elektronik offers you a high degree of freedom with one radio module footprint for a lot of radio modules to expand your application with different radio protocols at any time without any layout changes. It is one quality proven hardware base, that prevents you from enormous costs of re-design in future already today.

E.g. choose between a Bluetooth®, Wirepas™ or proprietary radio module or the combined variant of proprietary and Bluetooth®.

Design Libraries

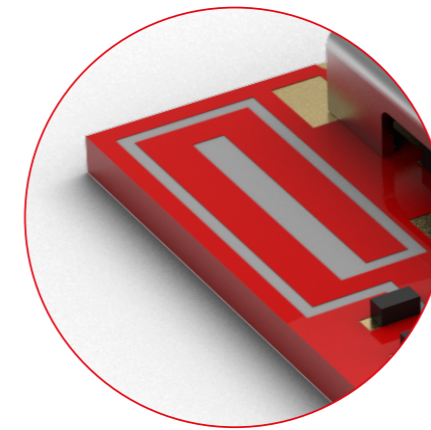
- Available for fast PCB-unbundling
- For Altium and Eagle



INTEGRATED ANTENNA MATCHING

Design based on Simulation

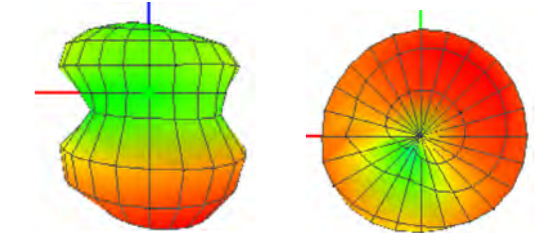
The focus of the integrated antenna is for highly miniaturised design. The design ideas are optimized by antenna simulation for best performance. Beside the commonly used parameter of antenna dimensions also the influence of the ground plane of the motherboard is considered in the simulation.



Simulation



Measurement

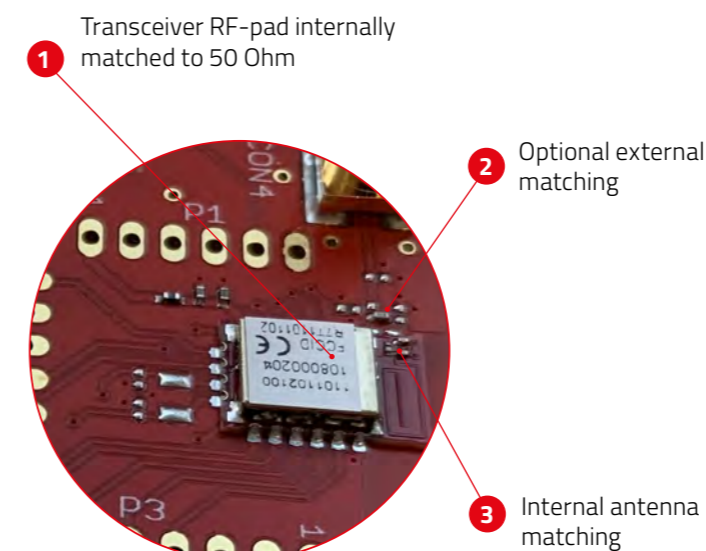


Contact our RF engineers today!

antenna.matching@we-online.com

Verification evaluation board

A second step of optimisation is the verification of the design by measuring it's radiated power and characteristics.



Impedance Matching

With the internal antenna matching the integrated antenna is perfectly matched to the evaluation board.

An external matching is optional possible to either match any antenna to the module as well as re-matching the integrated antenna to different environmental conditions.

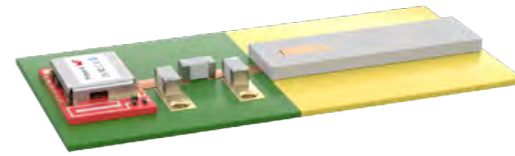
The RF pin is internally matched to 50 Ohm.

Picture: Evaluation board Thyone-I

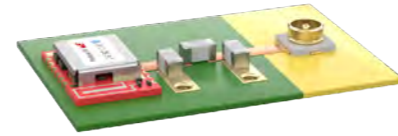
EXTERNAL ANTENNA MATCHING

Performance Optimization

The matching of an external antenna, which can be a Multilayer Chip Antenna or even a RF-connector can be a simple process when the fundamentals of impedance measurement and matching are understood and a logical iterative process is followed. Würth Elektronik is offering not just the components for a matched Antenna Network, we can also support in the process of designing. Our RF-Design engineers will assist you with antenna matching and performance optimization during the design and testing phase of your wireless product.



Radio Module with WE-MCA as antenna



Radio Module with RF-connector

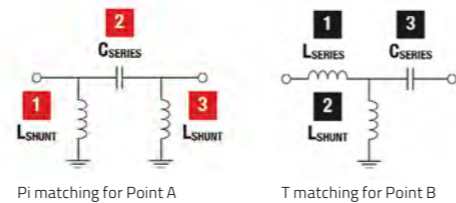
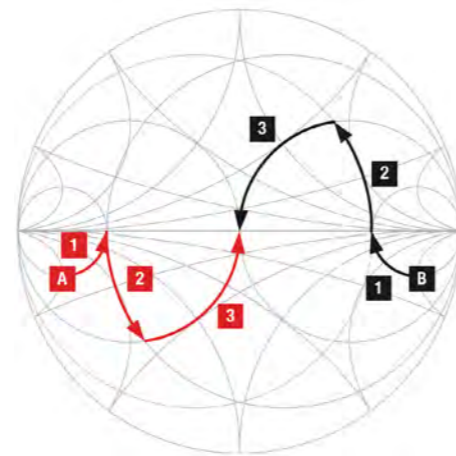
 [we-online.com/katalog/en/em/connectors/coax](https://www.we-online.com/katalog/en/em/connectors/coax)

Smith Chart

The WE-MCA Multilayer Chip Antenna has a very diverse applications portfolio when it comes to wireless data transfer on different frequencies.

With the help of the Smith chart, the antenna impedance, consisting of resistive and reactive components, can be easily represented graphically. In a perfectly matched antenna network, the impedance at the operating frequency of the antenna is in the middle of the Smith chart and therefore at 50Ω . This can be achieved by using RF inductors and/or capacitors. A pi network is particularly useful for this purpose, since it can be used very flexibly for antenna tuning at 50Ω from almost any other value.

Matching Circuit



What we can offer you

- Simulation models
- Optimize antenna performance
- Antenna selection
- Matching circuit
- Antenna placement and positioning
- Measurement of reflection loss

OUR SERVICE & SUPPORT

- ✓ Frequency range of 400-6000 MHz
- ✓ Simulation models
- ✓ Optimized antenna performance
- ✓ Antenna selection
- ✓ Wide range of RF products
- ✓ Matching circuit
- ✓ Placing and matching of the antenna
- ✓ Measurement of the reflection loss

Contact our RF engineers today!

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WÜRTH ELEKTRONIK RF COMPONENTS

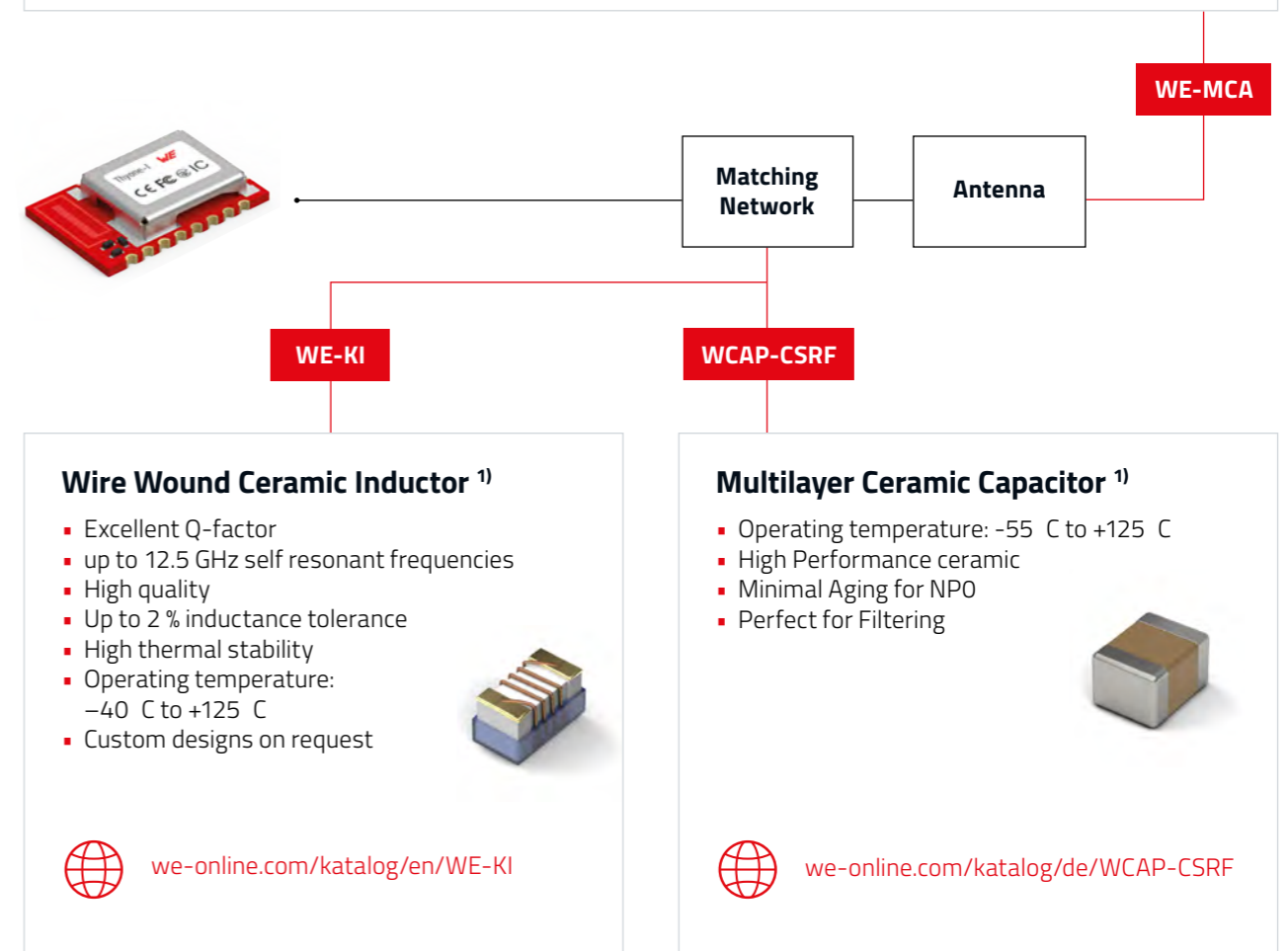
Multilayer Chip Antenna

- Extremely low profile
- Power capacity: 5 W max.
- Omni-directional
- Operating temperature: -40 C to $+85 \text{ C}$
- High gain
- Wireless communication applications: GSM, WLAN, Bluetooth,
- Home RF, IoT



Unlike custom designed PCB antennas, the WE-MCA has a consistent omnidirectional radiation pattern. This gives flexibility and variation in the positioning of the antenna in the application.

 [we-online.com/katalog/en/WE-MCA](https://www.we-online.com/katalog/en/WE-MCA)



¹⁾ Modelithics® libraries available for Advanced Design System (ADS), Genesys and also for AWR Microwave Office

AppNotes

 **WE-MCA Multilayer Chip Antenna Placement & Matching**
[we-online.com/ANP057](https://www.we-online.com/ANP057)

 **LC Filter Design With MLCCs: Why The Applied Voltage Matters**
[we-online.com/ANP062](https://www.we-online.com/ANP062)

IMPROVE YOUR DESIGN

GET RID OF NOISE

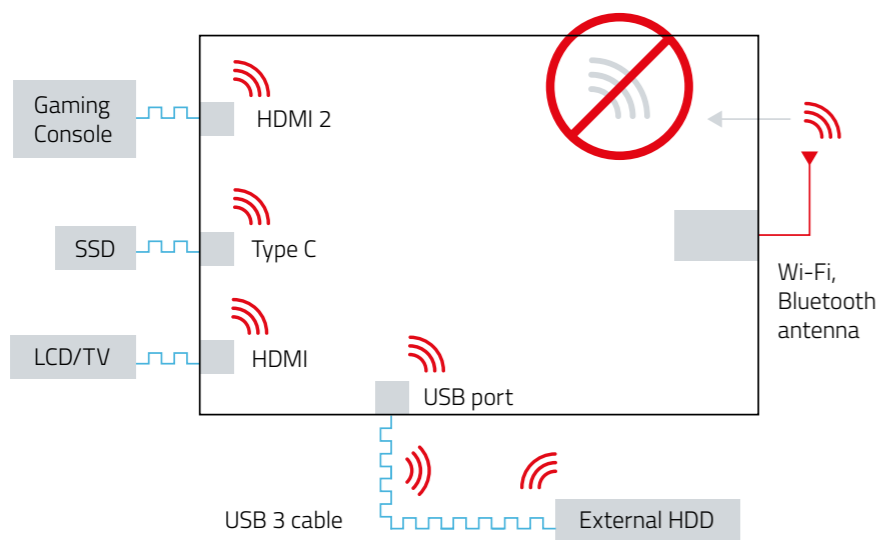
Noise at 2.4 / 5.0 GHz

Noise can interfere with the extremely sensitive wireless channels operating at 2.4 / 5.0 GHz bands. Therefore it is important to consider a holistic design of the full application.

Communication Interfaces – source of noise

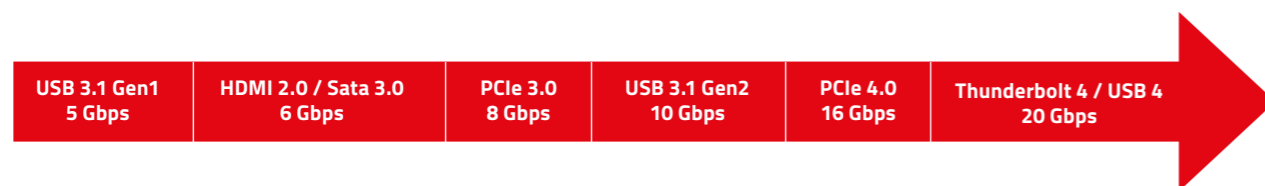
Noise can interfere with the extremely sensitive wireless channels operating at 2.4 / 5.0 GHz bands.

- Communication interfaces radiate noise on a very broad spectrum which can interfere with the Wi-Fi signal
- This can lead to loss of the Wi-Fi signal



Signal Integrity and Increase in Data Speed of Highspeed interfaces

Signal integrity defines the quality of an electrical signal and refers to the challenges that arise due to high frequency data transmission. With the high switching speeds of the modern digital I/O interfaces, we are now able to achieve high data rates and bandwidth. At the same time, noise is a big concern for the integrity of these high frequency digital signals.



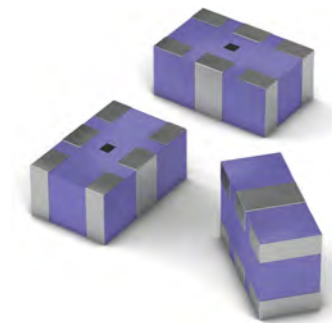
Common Mode Chokes - reduce emissions, increase noise immunity

Common mode Filters/Chokes are a very effective way of protecting the data lines against noise interference, while reducing emissions at the same time. Choosing the appropriate common mode choke for a high-speed differential interface requires knowledge about both the application and the filter itself.

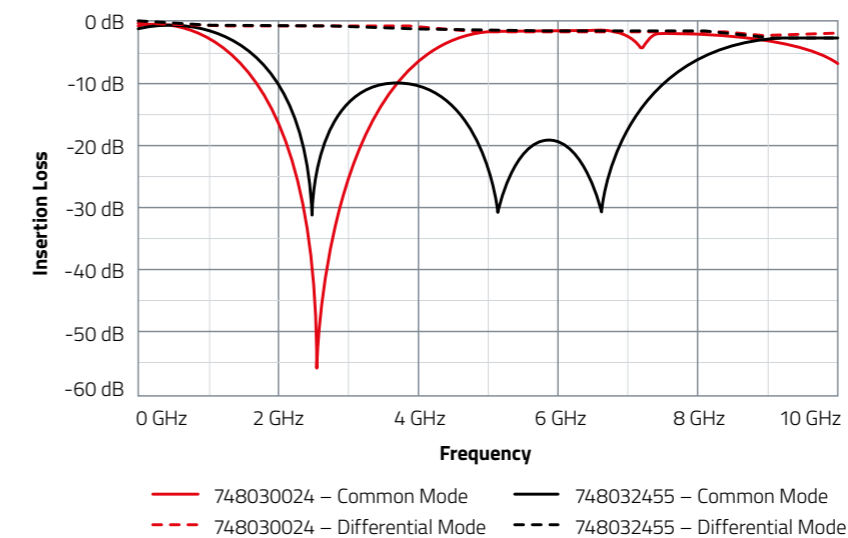
WE-CCMF

Ceramic Common Mode Filter:

- Ceramic based choke that works on the principle of the transmission line theory
- Complex inner resonant structure ensures high common mode suppression at wireless frequencies (2.4 & 5.0 GHz)
- Keeps the differential signal intact



we-online.com/katalog/en/WE-CCMF



FIRMWARE: WE-PROWARE AS OPERATING SYSTEM

EXAMPLE: BLE Module

Fully featured & "BLE qualified" software stack

SPP-like profile (TX & RX characteristic) DIS, Security Modes, Bonding, FOTA, Automatic BLE Role switch, Low Power Optimization

WE-PROWARE

Individualization of parameters to match customer applications e.g. configuration of
 → UART baudrate
 → RF output power

Fixed hardware design "RF module"
 → Small formfactor
 → Robust RF modules

EXAMPLE: Proprietary Module

Offers Easy-to-Use Command Interface among other features

More on page 74

FIRMWARE: WE-PROWARE

One solution with full flexibility

Our Firmware and radio stack WE-ProWare offers full flexibility through the possibility of using different radio profiles and/or interfaces while being an off-the-shelf software code to enter the wireless world immediately. For a simple integration we offer an API to match your needs with the offerings from the Firmware WE-ProWare

Profiles

Instead of writing software code, select options (=profiles). The usable profiles offer high flexibility in:

- Network topology
- Data rate
- Throughput
- Range
- Energy consumption

API (Application Programming Interface)

- Offers communication directly to the module
- Simple AT-Commands, well known and usable with nearly every microcontroller, regardless of its size

Radio Stack

- Bluetooth® LE Stack for easy communication with Smart Devices
- Wi-Fi Stack guarantees high data rates and IP based communication
- Proprietary stack developed for industrial and medical requirements
- LTE cellular radio stack for global connectivity

Interface

Different Interfaces available suiting every application:

- UART
- SPI
- I²C

RADIO STACK & FIRMWARE OPTIONS

The best Wireless Solution for you – You can choose between the following options:

1. STANDARD FIRMWARE

- RF Module comes with a standardized firmware
- RF Module is subject to further firmware development
- 100% verified, electrical tested and validated
- update functionality given (UART, FOTA, ...)
- packaged in Tape & Reel, ESD und MSL conform



2. BUILD YOUR OWN FIRMWARE

Get every module without WE Firmware to bring your own solution on it.

- RF Module comes without any standardized firmware
- 100% electrical testing on customer request
- RF Module will have a standard part number
- packaged in Tape & Reel, ESD und MSL conform



3. FIRMWARE FREEZE

A firmware freeze guarantees a static behaviour of the module and no change in the module at all.

- RF Module comes with a standardized firmware
- RF Module is NOT subject to further firmware development
- RF Module will have a fixed revision of the firmware e.g. 1.3.1
- RF Module will have a unique part number
- 100% verified, electrical tested and validated
- packaged in Tape & Reel, ESD und MSL conform

4. CUSTOM

A fully customized product with your dedicated application implemented on the module. This might require Würth Elektronik to offer design consultancy services and the product is not available ex stock.

- RF Module comes with a custom firmware
- RF Module will have a unique part number
- 100% electrical testing on customer request
- packaged in Tape & Reel, ESD und MSL conform
- we can upload your Firmware in our production process to the WE Hardware

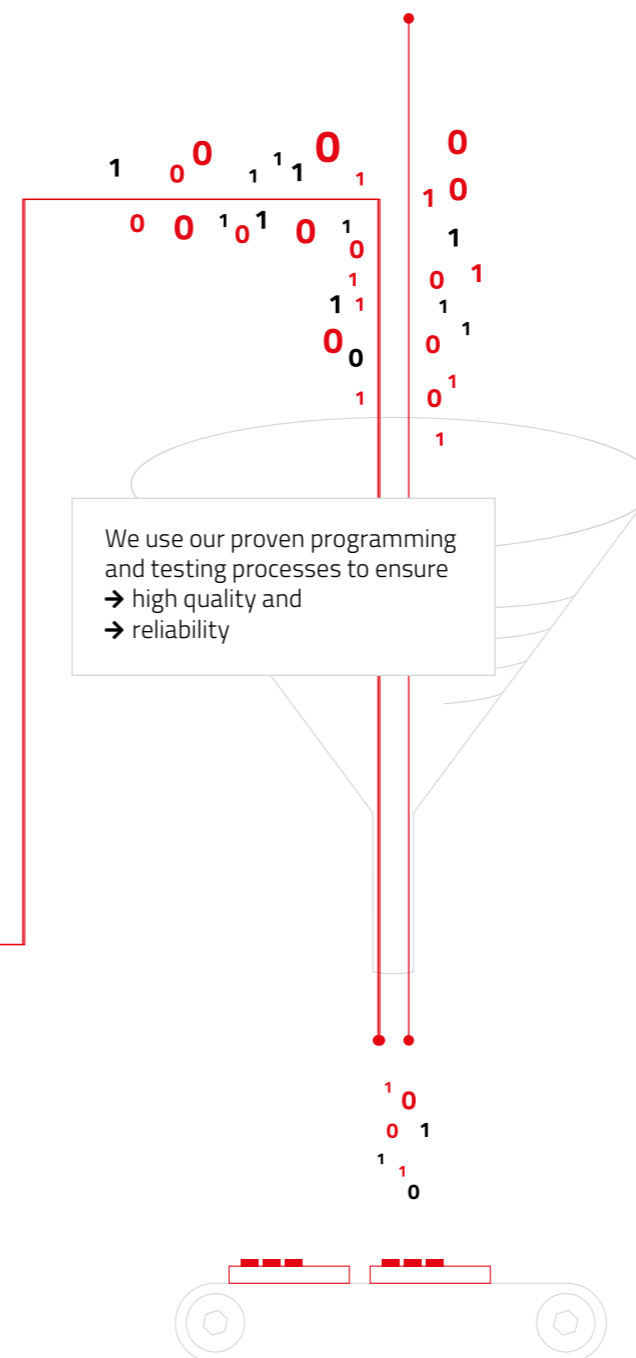


A special service for every customer:

5. INDIVIDUALIZED ADAPTION (USER SETTINGS)

We align our standard firmware to your requirements which simplifies your production process.

- RF Module comes with a standard firmware
- User Settings adaptations defined by customer
- Continuous & further firmware development only on customer request
- Individualized Adaption (User Settings)
- Firmware freeze on customer request
- RF Module will have a unique part number
- 100% verified and electrical tested
- packaged in Tape & Reel, ESD und MSL conform



Exemplary UserSettings

Setting	Calypso	Proteus
Advertising timing		✓
Beacon options		✓
Connection timing		✓
Device Name		✓
Device Information Service Options/Fields		
High Throughput mode on/off		
Profile Options (Base UUID)		✓
Scan options		✓
Long Range Connect		
WLAN country (EU, US, JP)	✓	
WLAN mode (STA, P2P/wifi direct)	✓	
WLAN P2P Parameters	✓	
WLAN Policy (Power, Connection)	✓	
WLAN Provisioning Parameters *	✓	
SNTP Time Servers	✓	
WLAN STA Profile(s)	✓	
Radio TX Power	✓	✓
Security options	✓	✓
Sniffer mode on/off		
StaticPasskey (128 bit)		✓
UART data rate		✓
UART data rate+parity	✓	
UART flow control on/off (RTS/CTS)		✓
OpMode (Command or Transparent UART)		✓
Clear Channel Assessment/Listen before Talk		
GPIO control		
UART data rate		
satellite system selection		
Protocol (NMEA or OSP)		
update rate (typ. 1Hz)		
Firmware description (e.g. Customer name)		
Secure Boot Key	✓	
Image Authentication Key	✓	✓

Do you have a need for one of the mentioned customizations? Get in contact with us. We will find out, what fits best for you! Contact your local sales or email to: wireless-sales@we-online.com

WIRELESS GUIDE



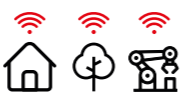



How to find the suiting product?

This Wireless Guide will help you to find a solution for your application! Answer the following questions, as far as you can and with the information in the last pages, you will be able to take a decision.



If there is any need of support: Contact us!

wireless-sales@we-online.com

1. Region	2. Range	3. Environment	4. Data	5. Energy	6. Interface
					
In which region will the application run or should be used in the future?	What range do you need to cover in your application?	In which environment will your application be used?	How much data has to be transmitted? Which data rate is required?	What about power consumption? How much energy is available? How long should a battery last?	Communication to...?
<input type="checkbox"/> Europe <input type="checkbox"/> North America <input type="checkbox"/> South America <input type="checkbox"/> Asia <input type="checkbox"/> worldwide <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 15 m <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 50 m <input type="checkbox"/> 50 - 100 m <input type="checkbox"/> 100 - 500 m <input type="checkbox"/> 500 m - 2 km <input type="checkbox"/> 2 km - 10 km <input type="checkbox"/> >10 km	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Home Automation <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Very low data rate (up to 1 kbps) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle data rate (up to 100 kbps) <input type="checkbox"/> High data rate (>100 kbps) <input type="checkbox"/> Very high data rate (>500 kbps)	<input type="checkbox"/> Long term battery powered <input type="checkbox"/> Battery powered <input type="checkbox"/> Main powered <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart Device (Mobile, Tablet) <input type="checkbox"/> PC, Server, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Device of own development <input type="checkbox"/> Special communication interface (Wirepas, wM-Bus, CAN-Bus, ...) <input type="checkbox"/> Mesh (Wirepas, Bluetooth® Mesh, Closed Mesh) <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

