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LTE Cat.4 Click (for Europe)

PID: MIKROE-6256

LTE Cat.4 Click (for Europe) is a compact add-on board made specially for 4G M2M and IoT applications in Europe. This board features the EG95EXGA-128-SGNS, an IoT/M2M-optimized LTE Cat.4 module that meets the 3GPP Release 11 standard from Quectel. It supports multiple wireless standards, including LTE-FDD, WCDMA, and GSM, ensuring broad network compatibility. Key features include multi-band LTE support (B1/B3/B7/B8/B20/B28), RX diversity for bands B1 and B8, and multi-constellation GNSS (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou/Compass, Galileo, QZSS). It also integrates a 16-bit mono audio codec for voice functionality with support for CTIA standard headphones. Additionally, it offers a USB Type C connector for power and data transfer, AT command communication, and firmware upgrades. This Click board™ is ideal for M2M and IoT applications such as industrial routers, industrial PDAs, video surveillance, digital signage, and more.

How does it work?

LTE Cat.4 Click is based on the EG95EXGA-128-SGNS, an IoT/M2M-optimized LTE Cat.4 module from Quectel with a receive-diversity feature for European region. Adopting 3GPP Rel. 11 LTE technology delivers maximum data rates up to 150Mbps downlink and 50Mbps uplink. It supports multiple LTE bands (B1/B3/B7/B8/B20/B28), RX diversity for bands B1 and B8, as well as multi-constellation GNSS support for GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou/Compass, Galileo, and QZSS. This module is fully integrated with Internet service protocols such as TCP, UDP, and PPP, making it easy to use with extended AT commands. Based on its broad set of features, this Click board™ is suitable for a wide range of M2M and IoT applications such as industrial routers, industrial PDAs, video surveillance, digital signage, and many others.
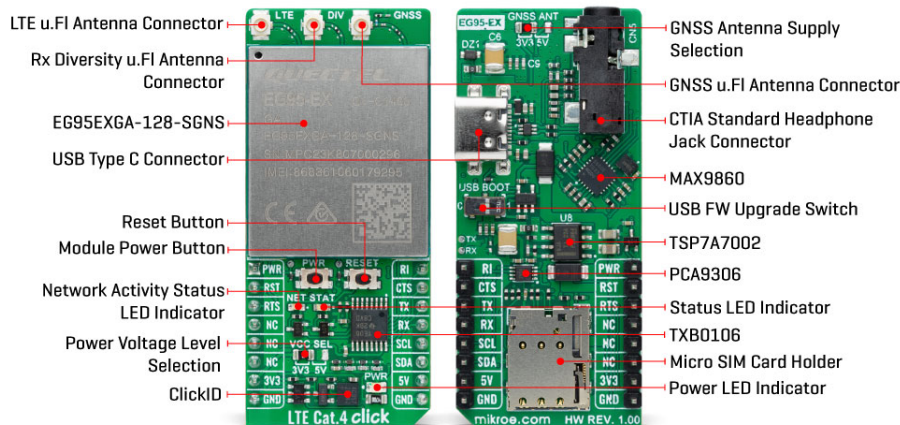
Communication between the EG95EXGA-128-SGNS and the host MCU is made through a UART interface, using standard UART RX and TX pins and hardware flow control pins (CTS/RTS/RI - Clear to Send/Ready to Send/Ring Indicator) for efficient data transfer. The module defaults to a communication speed of 115200bps, allowing for seamless data exchange over AT commands. Notably, this module version also features an audio interface, which can be accessed via the I2C interface.

The LTE Cat.4 Click audio interface operates through the MAX9860, a 16-bit mono audio voice codec configurable via the I2C interface. This setup works with a jack on the back of the board designed for CTIA standard headphones, which are commonly used in modern smartphones and feature a combined audio and microphone connector. This standard ensures compatibility with a wide range of headphones and headsets. Additionally, the audio interface supports advanced features such as echo cancellation and noise suppression, enhancing the clarity and quality of voice communications.

The LTE Cat.4 Click also includes a USB Type C connector for both power and data transfer, which is compliant with the USB 2.0 specification (slave only). This interface supports data transfer rates of up to 480Mbps, enabling AT command communication, data transmission, GNSS NMEA sentence output, software debugging, firmware upgrades, and voice-over USB. The board features a USB FW upgrade switch on the back of the board labeled USB BOOT to manage firmware upgrades. This switch has positions 0 for normal operation and 1 for firmware upgrades over USB, ensuring a straightforward upgrade process.

In addition, this Click board™ includes several additional functionalities that enhance its usability and control. The PWR button allows users to easily power the module on or off, while the RESET button provides a quick way to reset the module. These functions can also be controlled digitally via the mikroBUS™ pins PWR and RST, offering greater flexibility. Moreover, these controls have dedicated test points for easier debugging and testing. The board also features two visual indicators to provide real-time status updates. The red NET LED offers feedback on network activity: it flickers slowly when searching for a network, flickers quickly during data transfer, and remains steadily on during voice calls. The yellow STAT LED indicates the module's power status, which stays off when the module is off and turns on when the module is powered on. The board also includes DBG TX/RX interface test points for UART debug communication, simplifying the development and troubleshooting process.

The board features three u.Fl connectors for GNSS, LTE, and LTE/WCDMA RX-diversity antennas that MIKROE offers, like the LTE Flat Rotation Antenna and Active GPS Antenna combined with

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an IPEX-SMA cable for flexible and efficient connectivity options. In addition, the user can easily choose the power supply of the GNSS antenna by choosing between 3.3V and 5V on the GNSS ANT jumper. Additionally, the board is equipped with a micro SIM card holder that supports both 1.8V and 3.0V uSIM cards, ensuring compatibility with a wide range of cellular networks and allowing users to select the most appropriate service provider for their particular use case.

This Click board™ can operate with both 3.3V and 5V logic voltage levels selected via the VCC SEL jumper. Since the EG95EXGA-128-SGNS module operates at 3.8V, logic-level translators, the TXB0106 and PCA9306, are also used for proper operation and an accurate signal-level translation. This way, both 3.3V and 5V capable MCUs can use the communication lines properly. Also, this Click board™ comes equipped with a library containing easy-to-use functions and an example code that can be used as a reference for further development.

Specifications

Type	4G LTE,GSM/LTE
Applications	Ideal for European M2M and IoT applications such as industrial routers, industrial PDAs, video surveillance, digital signage, and more
On-board modules	EG95EXGA-128-SGNS - IoT/M2M-optimized LTE Cat.4 module from Quectel
Key Features	Support of LTE-FDD/WCDMA/GSM, multi-band LTE support (B1/B3/B7/B8/B20/B28), RX diversity for bands B1 and B8, multi-constellation GNSS (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou/Compass, Galileo, QZSS), 16-bit mono audio codec compatible with CTIA standard headphones, echo cancellation and noise suppression, USB Type C connector for power and data transfer, software debugging, firmware upgrades, UART communication, visual status indicators (NET and STAT LEDs), several test points, micro SIM card holder, and more
Interface	I2C,UART,USB
Feature	ClickID
Compatibility	mikroBUS™
Click board size	L (57.15 x 25.4 mm)
Input Voltage	3.3V or 5V

Pinout diagram

This table shows how the pinout on LTE Cat.4 Click corresponds to the pinout on the mikroBUS™ socket (the latter shown in the two middle columns).

Notes	Pin	mikro™ BUS		Pin	Notes

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Module Power-ON	**PWR**	1	AN	PWM	16	**RI**	Ring Indicator
Reset / ID SEL	**RST**	2	RST	INT	15	**CTS**	UART CTS
UART RTS / ID COMM	**RTS**	3	CS	RX	14	**TX**	UART TX
	NC	4	SCK	TX	13	**RX**	UART RX
	NC	5	MISO	SCL	12	**SCL**	I2C Clock
	NC	6	MOSI	SDA	11	**SDA**	I2C Data
Power Supply	**3.3V**	7	3.3V	5V	10	**5V**	Power Supply
Ground	**GND**	8	GND	GND	9	**GND**	Ground

Onboard settings and indicators

Label	Name	Default	Description
LD1	PWR	-	Power LED Indicator
LD2	NET	-	Network Activity Status LED Indicator
LD3	STAT	-	Module Operational Status LED Indicator
JP1	VCC SEL	Left	Power Voltage Level Selection 3V3/5V: Left position 3V3, Right position 5V
JP2	GNSS ANT	Left	GNSS Antenna Supply Selection 3V3/5V: Left position 3V3, Right position 5V
T1	PWR	-	Module Power-ON Button
T2	RESET	-	Module Reset Button
SW1	USB BOOT	Right	USB FW Upgrade Switch 0/1: Left position 0, Right position 1
TP1-TP2	TX-RX	-	Debug UART Interface Test Points
TP3	PWR	-	Module Power-ON Test Point
TP4	RESET	-	Module Reset Test Point

LTE Cat.4 Click electrical specifications

Description	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Supply Voltage	3.3	-	5	V
LTE Frequency Range	700	-	2700	MHz
GNSS Frequency Range	1559	-	1609	MHz
GNSS Sensitivity (Cold Start)	-	-146	-	dBm
GNSS TTFF (Cold Start)	-	34.6	-	sec
GNSS Accuracy (Open Sky)	-	<2.5	-	m

Software Support

We provide a library for the LTE Cat.4 Click as well as a demo application (example), developed using MIKROE compilers. The demo can run on all the main MIKROE development boards.

Package can be downloaded/installed directly from NECTO Studio Package Manager (recommended), downloaded from our LibStock™ or found on MIKROE github account.

Library Description

This library contains API for LTE Cat.4 Click driver.

Key functions

- ltecat4_set_sim_apn This function sets APN for sim card.

- ltecat4_send_sms_text This function sends text message to a phone number.

- ltecat4_send_cmd This function sends a specified command to the click module.

Example Description

Application example shows device capability of connecting to the network and sending SMS or TCP/UDP messages, answering incoming calls, or retrieving data from GNSS using standard "AT" commands.

The full application code, and ready to use projects can be installed directly from NECTO Studio Package Manager (recommended), downloaded from our LibStock™ or found on MIKROE github account.

Other MIKROE Libraries used in the example:

- MikroSDK.Board
- MikroSDK.Log
- Click.LTECat4

Additional notes and informations

Depending on the development board you are using, you may need USB UART click, USB UART 2 Click or RS232 Click to connect to your PC, for development systems with no UART to USB interface available on the board. UART terminal is available in all MIKROE compilers.

mikroSDK

This Click board™ is supported with mikroSDK - MIKROE Software Development Kit. To ensure proper operation of mikroSDK compliant Click board™ demo applications, mikroSDK should be downloaded from the LibStock and installed for the compiler you are using.

For more information about mikroSDK, visit the official page.

Resources

mikroBUS™

mikroSDK

Click board™ Catalog

Click boards™

ClickID

Downloads

MAX9860 datasheet

LTE Cat.4 click (for Europe) example on Libstock

LTE Cat.4 click 2D and 3D files v100

Quectel EG95 series datasheet

EG9x AT Commands

LTE Cat.4 click schematic v100

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