u-blox cellular module overview

Powerful, easy-to-integrate, comprehensive cellular modules optimize performance and cost while supporting seamless transition between 2G, 3G and 4G technologies





SARA series GSM/GPRS, UMTS/HSPA, LTE Cat M1, NB-IoT LGA modules 16.0 x 26.0 x 2.4 / 3.0 mm 24 x 26 x 2.6 mm

I ARA series LTE Cat 1 LGA modules



UMTS/HSPA(+) and CDMA LCC modules 22.4 x 33.2 x 2.6 / 2.7 mm



RPMA module LGA module 22.9 x 33.0 x 3.6 mm



TOBY series LTE Cat 1 and Cat 4 LGA modules 24.8 x 35.6 x 2.6 mm

MPCI series LTE Cat 4 (mini) PCIe modules 30 x 51 x 3.7 mm

Key features and benefits

- u-blox products are available in three grades optimized for our primary market sectors: automotive, industrial (professional) and consumer (standard).
- Support of all available cellular technologies: GSM/GPRS, UMTS/HSPA(+), CDMA, NB-IoT, RPMA, LTE Cat M1, 1, and 4
- u-blox cellular modules provide an extensive set of features accessible via AT commands to ease development of sophisticated applications
- Flexible variants to meet performance and cost requirements (e.g. global and regional variants, different feature sets)
- Seamless operation with u-blox GNSS positioning modules
- Globally available, free-of-charge and network operator independent, the CellLocate® cellular location service supports indoor positioning
- All u-blox modules are gualified according to the in-vehicle ISO16750 standard and are manufactured at ISO-TS16949 certified sites
- u-blox LGA/LCC modules (except NANO) are pin/pad compatible through u-blox's nested design concept
- Global, highly skilled technical staff provide top class support
- Comprehensive set of worldwide certifications to minimize customer's cost when accessing global markets

Product selection

u-blox cellular modules are available in different form factors and variants to provide flexibility for scaling different cellular technologies to various application and geographical requirements, such as bands support, cost, performance and level of component integration.



Cellular technology selection

M2M applications are very diverse. Different cellular technologies provide data rates ranging from low data rates suited to applications requiring the periodic transmission of few kbytes of information, up to high speed LTE, delivering extremely high data rates and well suited to those applications requiring huge amounts of data transmission (video surveillance, industrial routers, etc.). The comprehensive portfolio of u-blox cellular modules provides the right option for your product development.

Modules SARA-G300, G310, G340, G350 LISA-C200	GSM/GPRS CDMA 1xRTT	Uplink 40 kbit/s 153 kbit/s	Downlink 80 kbit/s 153 kbit/s	2G		
LISA-U200, U201, U260, U270 SARA-U201, U260, U270, U280	UMTS/HSPA	5.76 Mbit/s	7.2 Mbit/s	1	3G	
LISA-U230	UMTS/HSPA+	5.76 Mbit/s	21.1 Mbit/s			
NANO-S100	RPMA	15.6 kbit/s	31 kbit/s			
SARA-N200, N201, N210, N211, N280	NB-IoT	62.5 kbit/s	27.2 kbit/s			
SARA-R404M	LTE Cat M1	375 kbit/s	375 kbit/s			
LARA-R202, R203, R204, R211 LARA-R3121; TOBY-R200, R202	LTE Cat 1					4G
TOBY-L200, L201, L210, L220, L280 MPCI-L200, L201, L210, L220, L280	LTE Cat 4	50 Mbit/s	150 Mbit/s			



Nested design

With u-blox nested design, alternate modules can be mounted on the same PCB space as assembly options. This allows a single PCB design to be retrofitted with GSM, HSPA, CDMA or LTE u-blox technologies, thus enabling a straightforward migration between cellular technologies and module generations. This in turn protects the customer's development investment. The u-blox nested design application note provides detailed, accurate information and design guides to implement the nested design concept.



Form factor selection

The table below shows which cellular technologies are available with which form factors. The module types are shown in **bold** under the primary technology and in grey under the fall-back technology.

Form Factor	G GSM/GPRS	C CDMA	U HSPA	U HSPA+	S RPMA	N NB-IoT	R LTE Cat M1	R LTE Cat 1	L LTE Cat 4
SARA	G300, G310, G340, G350, U201, U260, U270		U201, U260, U270, U280			N200, N201, N210, N211, N280	R404M		
LARA	R211		R202					R3121, R202, R203, R204, R211	
LISA	U200, U201, U230, U260, U270	C200	U200, U201, U260, U270	U230					
NANO					S100				
ТОВҮ	L200, L210, L280 R200		R200, R202	L200, L201, L210, L220, L280				R200, R202	L200, L201, L210, L220, L280
MPCI	L200, L210, L280			L200, L201, L210, L220, L280					L200, L201, L210, L220, L280

Geographical selection

Worldwide cellular bands are extremely diverse, in particular for the latest cellular technologies where different frequency bands are allocated in different countries and adopted by different operators. The u-blox cellular portfolio offers a selection of global and regional variants to enable customers to select the most appropriate product and cost point for the target deployment market.

			ΕN	/IEA	۱			Ν	lort	h Ar	neri	ica			S	. An	neri	ca				APA	с		
Modules	G	U	S	Ν	R	L	G	С	U	S	Ν	R	L	G	U	S	Ν	R	L	G	U	S	Ν	L	
SARA-G300, G340	•																			Δ					
SARA-G310, G350	•						•							•						Δ					
SARA-U201	•	•					•		•					•	•					Δ	٠				
SARA-U260							•		•					•	•										
SARA-U270	•	٠																		Δ	٠				
SARA-U280									•						•										
LISA-U200, U201, U230	•	•					•		•					•	•					Δ	٠				
LISA-U260							•		•					•	•										Key:
LISA-U270	•	•																		Δ	٠				• = Supported
LISA-C200								•																	• = Supported in most, but not all, countri of the region $\Delta = \text{GSM/GPRS not}$ supported in Japan or Korea
NANO-S100			•							•						•						•			
SARA-N200				0																			0		
SARA-N201																							0		
SARA-N210				0																					
SARA-N211				•																					\blacklozenge = Special firmware
SARA-N280																	o						0		version for Japan
SARA-R404M												0													Korea is available some variants; re
LARA-R3121					•																				product docume
LARA-R202									•			•													J = Japan only
LARA-R203, R204												•													
LARA-R211	•				•																				
TOBY-R200	•	•					•		•			•		•	•					•	•				
TOBY-R202									•			•													
TOBY-L200, MPCI-L200							•		•				•	•	•				•						
TOBY-L201, MPCI-L201									•				•		•				•						
TOBY-L210, MPCI-L210	•	•				•														Δ	٠			•	
TOBY-L220, MPCI-L220																					J			J	
TOBY-L280, MPCI-L280														•	•				•	Δ	•			•	



GNSS integration

u-blox's unrivalled core competence in cellular and GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) technologies brings strong synergies between the two subsystems, both often required together in today's sophisticated applications.

A u-blox GNSS module can be connected to the cellular module via a dedicated I²C port. GNSS-related commands are tunneled, allowing the host processor to fully control both subsystems through a single serial interface and user friendly AT commands.

Taking it a step further, the LARA-R3121 module integrates u-blox's leading GNSS technology (based on the u-blox 8 platform) allowing the module to deliver high performance satellite positioning alongside data connectivity.

u-blox cellular modules have the integrated u-blox AssistNow client, giving applications access to the free u-blox assisted GNSS service with no integration effort on the host processor.

The immediate benefits for customers are:

- Better GNSS performance and faster TTFF
- No resources required on customer's microcontroller
- No software integration on microcontroller required

Cellular module Serial Interface MCU UART

Typical solution

Cellular location: CellLocate®

Although GNSS is a widespread technology, GNSS positioning is not always possible, particularly in shielded environments such as indoors, enclosed park houses, or when a GNSS jamming signal is present. Augmenting GNSS receiver data with mobile network cell information provides a level of redundancy that can benefit numerous applications. CellLocate[®] is u-blox's cellular augmentation solution, which is embedded in its cellular modules. This cellular positioning technology enables stand-alone location estimation based on surrounding GSM/CDMA/UMTS cell information in conjunction with GNSS positioning data to improve and augment positioning.

eCall / ERA GLONASS

Most u-blox cellular modules operating in Europe support the eCall/ERA GLONASS service. u-blox provides know-how and ability to support design-in requirements of GPS/GLONASS and cellular subsystems, comprehensive software support, certification of the wireless modem, forward compatibility with future technologies, as well as the ability to deliver highquality automotive-grade components in high-volume. u-blox cellular modules in combination with u-blox GPS/GLONASS receivers represent the ideal solution for the easy and fast development of eCall/ERA Glonass ready devices.

Cellular modules supporting eCall/ERA GLONASS:

- SARA-G340, SARA-G350
- SARA-U201, SARA-U270
- LISA-U200, LISA-U201, LISA-U270

The compatibility table shows u-blox cellular module synergies with GNSS modules.

Compatibility Table											
Model	u-blox 7	u-blox 8	u-blox M8								
SARA-G300, G310											
SARA-G340, G350	•	•	•								
SARA-U2	•	•	•								
LISA-U2	•	•	•1								
LISA-C2	•	•	•								
NANO-S1											
SARA-N2	•2	•2	•2								
LARA-R2	• ²	• ²	• ²								
TOBY-R2	• ²	• ²	• ²								
LARA-R3121		• ³									
TOBY-L2											
MPCI-L2											

Firmware version 03
Future firmware version

3) integrated in the cellular module



u-blox optimized solution



Hybrid positioning based on mobile cell visibility



Vehicle emergency call concept



Why choose a u-blox cellular module?

Module form factor consistency

u-blox adheres to a core design philosophy: maintain form factor and software compatibility between different cellular technologies to allow customers to easily upgrade their products or create product variants. Our customers benefit: they can protect their investments by developing a single PCB that can host different cellular modules using the same footprint.

Technology ownership

In-house cellular expertise at u-blox, as well as our end-to-end management of the entire module manufacturing processes and the availability of the protocol stack source code, give us full control over features, quality and production. This enables us to react quickly to customer requirements and to offer our customers exactly the right feature set, cellular technology options, smooth upgrade path, excellent and highly competent support, technology know-how, and a clearly defined and transparent product roadmap extending years into the future.

First class technical support

u-blox provides effective customer support through all the stages of development. This is possible through our global technical support network with excellent and highly competent local support and our top class technical documentation. Software and hardware design review allow our customers to proceed smoothly through product development and deployment, thus achieving the shortest time to market.

Automotive quality and reliability

- u-blox design-centers and manufacturing sites adhere to the industry's strictest standards: ISO/TS 16949, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO/IEC 80079-34 quality standards
- Stringent product change notification process with advanced notification. Smooth end-of-life
- In-house reliability and test equipment
- Our modules are ISO 16750 qualified, automotive endof-life (ELV) compliant
- Zero defect strategy (e.g. testing of functions within tolerance, ongoing reliability tests, X-Ray inspection)
- Fully qualified performance and component selection

Evaluation kits: take the next step!

u-blox is a reliable supplier

- Lowest ppm level during customer production and in the field
- Very short delivery lead time due to multiple well-stocked locations
- Flexible, responsive delivery for small, medium and high volume shipment
- Financially solid company
- Fast and convenient availability of samples and kits samples and pre-production quantities can be purchased directly from our online shop:
 www.u-blox.com/en/online-shop.html

u-blox provides comprehensive, easy-to-use evaluation kits and tools for gaining familiarity with cellular products, evaluating functionality, and performance. Each cellular evaluation kit also includes a u-blox GNSS module.

- m-center: powerful cellular module evaluation software for Windows; free-of-charge from u-blox
- EVK-G31/G35: evaluation kits for SARA-G3 series GSM/GPRS modules
- EVK-C20: evaluation kit for LISA-C200 series CDMA 1xRTT module
- EVK-U26/U27: evaluation kits for SARA-U260/SARA-U270 series UMTS/HSPA GSM/GPRS modules
- EVK-U20/U23: evaluation kits for LISA-U2 series UMTS/HSPA GSM/GPRS modules
- EVK-U201SARA: evaluation kit for SARA-U201 UMTS/HSPA GSM/GPRS module
- EVK-S10NANO: evaluation kit for NANO-S100 RPMA module
- EVK-N2xx: evaluation kits for SARA-N2 series NB-IoT (LTE Cat NB1) modules
- EVK-R404M: evaluation kit for SARA-R404M LTE Cat M1 module
- EVK-R2xx: evaluation kits for TOBY-R2 and LARA-R2 series LTE Cat 1 modules
- EVK-R3121: evaluation kit for LARA-R3121 LTE Cat 1 modules
- EVK-L20/L21/L22/L23/L24: evaluation kits for TOBY-L2 series LTE Cat 4 UMTS/HSPA GSM/GPRS modules
- **C030 application board**: NB-IoT and 2G/3G mbed-enabled IoT starter kit with a SARA-N211 or SARA-U201 cellular module and a MAX-M8Q GNSS module. Powered by an integrated ARM® mbed[™] compatible Cortex-M4 host MCU.
- **C027 application board**: Internet of Things evaluation kit with a LISA-U2, LISA-C2, or SARA-G3 cellular module and a MAX-M8Q GNSS module. Based on ARM Cortex-M3 CPU, supported by extensive ARM mbed resources.

Contact us!

For more information, please contact the u-blox sales representative nearest you: www.u-blox.com/en/contact-us.html For support information, visit our website at www.u-blox.com/en/support-section.html

