# **TRF79x0ATB NFC/HF RFID Reader Module**

# **User's Guide**



Literature Number: SLOU372 June 2013



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# TRF79x0ATB NFC/HF RFID Reader Module

This evaluation module provides directions for TRF7960A/-70A users desiring to implement a 13.56 MHz NFC/RFID reader solution using the TRF79x0A IC connected to a Texas Instruments embedded microcontroller or microprocessor development platform. Examples of such development platforms are: the MSP-EXP430F5438 board, MSP-EXP430F5529 board, the ARM® Cortex<sup>™</sup>-M3/M4-based board, or any other TI embedded microcontroller platforms with the EM socket headers populated.

This document also covers the TRF79x0ATB module as it relates to using the module for evaluation and development purposes in conjunction with Texas Instruments Embedded Development platforms. It does not cover the in-depth details of the TRF79x0A NFC/RFID IC families, as those details are well documented in the data sheets for those parts, along with application reports that can be found on the product pages (see Section 13).

FCC/IC Regulatory Compliance:

- FCC FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Part 15, Class A Compliant
- IC INDUSTRY CANADA Class A Compliant

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# 1 TRF79x0ATB Module(s) Description

The TRF79x0ATB evaluation modules are intended to allow the software application developer to get familiar with the functionalities of either of the TRF79x0A Multi-Standard Fully Integrated 13.56 MHz NFC/RFID reader ICs with the freedom to develop on their Texas Instruments Embedded microcontroller development platform of choice.

The TRF79x0ATB module is also intended to allow customer driven antenna tuning with onboard coil and customer driven antenna form factor design.

The module is hard wired for SPI communications, supports Slave Select and TRF79x0A Direct Mode 2 (default), Direct Mode 1 and Direct Mode 0 operations. The user also has access to and full control over the TRF79x0A EN2 and EN lines, allowing for design and development of ultra low power NFC/HF RFID systems.

The module has an onboard boost converter (<u>TPS61222DCKT</u>) that boosts +3.3 VDC in to +5 VDC out to TRF79x0A IC for +23 dBm (full transmitter power out) operations.

An impedance matching circuit from 4  $\Omega$  to 50  $\Omega$  is populated on the module and this is connected to a tuned 50  $\Omega$  antenna circuit, which consists of an onboard four turn coil with series and parallel passive elements (capacitors and a resistor).

Test points are available on the board for checking firmware operations with the oscilloscope or logic analyzer, impedance matching and for attaching external antenna.

Connection to Texas Instruments Microcontroller platforms are made via Samtec EM headers located on the underside of the board (Connectors P1/RF1 and P2/RF2).



Figure 1. TRF7960ATB Evaluation Module





Figure 2. TRF7970ATB Evaluation Module

# 2 TRF79x0ATB Connections and Technical Details

# Table 1. Connector P1/RF1

| Pin No | Signal Name  | Description  |
|--------|--------------|--|
| 1      | GND          | Ground   |
| 2      | N/C          |  |
| 3      | MOD          | Direct mode, external modulation input   |
| 4      | N/C          |  |
| 5      | N/C          |  |
| 6      | N/C          |  |
| 7      | IRQ          | Interrupt request (from TRF79x0A to MCU)   |
| 8      | N/C          |  |
| 9      | SYS_CLK      | Clock for MCU (optional)<br>If EN = 0 and EN2 = 1, then system clock is set to 60 kHz  |
| 10     | EN           | Chip enable input (If EN = 0, then chip is in power-down mode).  |
| 11     | N/C          |  |
| 12     | EN2          | Pulse enable and selection of power down mode. If EN2 is connected to VIN, then VDD_X is active during power down to support the MCU. Pin can also be used for pulse wake-up from power-down mode. |
| 13     | N/C          |  |
| 14     | SLAVE SELECT | Slave Select, I/O_4 (Active Low)   |
| 15     | N/C          |  |
| 16     | DATA_CLK     | Data Clock Input for MCU Communication (from MCU)  |
| 17     | N/C          |  |
| 18     | MOSI         | I/O_7, Master Out, Slave In (Data In from MCU)   |
| 19     | GND          | Ground   |
| 20     | MISO         | I/O_6, Master In, Slave Out (Data Out from TRF7960)  |



## Table 2. Connector P2/RF2

| Pin No | Signal Name | Description   |
|--------|-------------|---|
| 1      | N/C         |   |
| 2      | N/C         |   |
| 3      | N/C         |   |
| 4      | N/C         |   |
| 5      | N/C         |   |
| 6      | N/C         |   |
| 7      | +3.3VDC IN  | +VDC in (to TPS61222DCKT for generation of +5 VDC)  |
| 8      | N/C         |   |
| 9      | +3.3VDC IN  | +VDC in (to TPS61222DCKT for generation of +5 VDC)  |
| 10     | N/C         |   |
| 11     | N/C         |   |
| 12     | N/C         |   |
| 13     | N/C         |   |
| 14     | N/C         |   |
| 15     | N/C         |   |
| 16     | N/C         |   |
| 17     | N/C         |   |
| 18     | ASK/OOK     | Direct mode, selection between ASK and OOK modulation (0 = ASK, 1 = OOK)<br>Also can be configured to provide the received analog signal output (ANA_OUT) |
| 19     | N/C         |   |
| 20     | N/C         |   |

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TRF79x0ATB Module Schematic

#### 3 **TRF79x0ATB Module Schematic**



This schematic drives two separate layouts. (TRF7960ATB.brd and TRF7970ATB.brd) the only difference is the А bottom side silkscreen.

#### Figure 3. TRF79x0ATB Module Schematic

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# 4 MSP-EXP430F5438 Experimenters Board

The MSP430F5438 Experimenter Board (MSP-EXP430F5438) is a development platform for the latest generation MSP430 MCUs. It features a 100-pin socket that supports the <u>MSP430F5438 data sheet</u> and other devices with similar pinouts. The socket allows for quick upgrades to newer devices or quick applications changes. It is also compatible with many TI low-power RF wireless evaluation modules such as the <u>CC2520EMK</u> and the TRF79x0ATB module discussed in this document.

The Experimenter Board helps designers quickly learn and develop using the new F5xx MCUs, which provide the industry's lowest active power consumption, more memory and leading integration for applications such as energy harvesting, wireless sensing and automatic metering infrastructure (AMI).

A TI Flash Emulation Tool, like the <u>MSP-FET430UIF</u>, is required to program and debug the MSP430 devices on the experimenter board.



Figure 4. MSP-EXP430F5438 Development Board

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Figure 5. Debug Header (RF3) Logic Analyzer Connections for Monitoring SPI Communications Between MSP430F5438A and TRF79x0A on TRF79x0ATB Module



Figure 6. Firmware Development and Debug Setup for MSP-EXP430F5438 Experimenters Board



# 5 MSP-EXP430F5529 Experimenters Board

The MSP430F5529 Experimenter Board (MSP-EXP430F5529) is a development platform for the MSP430F5529 device, from the latest generation of MSP430 devices with integrated USB. The board is compatible with many TI low-power RF wireless evaluation modules such as the TRF79xxATB modules. The Experimenter Board helps designers quickly learn and develop using the new F55xx MCUs, which provide the industry's lowest active power consumption, integrated USB, and more memory and leading integration for applications such as NFC, HF RFID, energy harvesting, wireless sensing and automatic metering infrastructure (AMI).

The MSP430F5529 device on the experimenter board can be powered and debugged via the integrated ezFET, or via TI Flash Emulation Tool, like the MSP-FET430UIF.

The TRF79x0ATB module plugs into the RF1 and RF2 headers on this MSP-EXP board (see Figure 7 and Figure 8). For logic analyzer connection during firmware debug, user can use test points on TRF79x0ATB board or pins on header J12 (see Figure 9).



Figure 7. MSP-EXP430F5529 Development Board



Figure 8. MSP-EXP430F5539 RF EVM Header Pinouts (RF1 and RF2)



Figure 9. Debug Header (J12) Logic Analyzer Connections for Monitoring SPI Communications Between MSP430F5529 and TRF79x0A on TRF79x0ATB Module

# 6 LM4F232 Evaluation Kit (EK-LM4F232)

The Tiva<sup>™</sup> C Series LM4F232 USB+CAN Development Kit is a compact and versatile evaluation platform for the Tiva C series TM4C123GH6PGE ARM Cortex-M4F-based microcontroller. The evaluation kit design highlights the TM4C123GH6PGE microcontroller integrated USB 2.0 On-the-Go/Host/Device interface, CAN, analog, and low-power capabilities.

The evaluation kit features the TM4C123GH6PGE microcontroller in a 144-LQFP package, a color OLED display, USB OTG connector, a microSD card slot, a coin cell battery for use with the Tiva C Series low-power Hibernate mode, a temperature sensor, a three-axis accelerometer for motion detection, and easy access through holes to all of the available device signals.

The kit also includes extensive source code examples, allowing you to start building C code applications quickly.



Figure 10. EK-LM4F232 Development Platform (EM header locations on backside)



# 7 DK-LM3S9B96-EM2-TRF7960R ARM Cortex M-3 Development Board

The Stellaris® DK-LM3S9B96-EM2-TRF7960R Development Kit provides a feature-rich development platform for Ethernet, USB OTG/Host/Device, and CAN enabled Stellaris ARM Cortex-M3-based microcontrollers. Each board has an In-Circuit Debug Interface (ICDI) that provides hardware debugging functionality not only for the on-board Stellaris devices, but also for any Stellaris microcontroller-based target board. The development kit contains all cables, software, and documentation needed to develop and run applications for Stellaris microcontrollers easily and quickly. The Stellaris DK-LM3S9B96-EM2-TRF7960R Development Kit features: StellarisWare® Peripheral Library, USB Library, and Graphics Library in conjunction with ARM development tools from ARM tools partners. An EPI header to EM header interface board (DK-LM3S9B96-EM2) is needed for use with the TRF7960TB module.



Figure 11. DK-LM3S9B96-EM2-TRF7960R Development Platform



Quick Start

## 8 Quick Start

1. Plug TRF79x0ATB Module into microcontroller development platform of choice.

**NOTE:** If DK-LM3S9B96 board, remove SDRAM module and replace with DK-LM3S9B96-EM2 interface board before attempting to mount TRF79x0ATB module.

- 2. Apply power.
- 3. Load the base application firmware specific to the platform that you are working with.
- 4. Test for basic communication and functionality.
- 5. Modify and Debug code as desired for specific application or protocol.
- 6. Test for advanced functionality as implemented by modified code.

# 9 Base Application Firmware

TRF79x0ATB module base application firmware for various Texas Instruments Microcontrollers are available here:

- MSP430F23xx: <u>http://www.ti.com/litv/zip/sloc203</u> (Code Composer Studio or IAR)
- MSP430F5438A: <a href="http://focus.ti.com/docs/toolsw/folders/print/msp-exp430f5438.html">http://focus.ti.com/docs/toolsw/folders/print/msp-exp430f5438.html</a>
- MSP430F5529: http://www.ti.com/tool/nfclink
- LM4F232: http://www.ti.com/tool/ekc-Im4f232
- LM3S9B96: <u>http://www.ti.com/tool/dk-em2-7960r</u>



# 10 Mechanical and Physical Information



# 11 Antenna Tuning Details

Module antenna as shipped is tuned for 50  $\Omega$  impedance at 13.56 MHz. It has a nominal bandwidth of 1.3 MHz, which results in a quality factor of approximately 10. Module antenna circuit has a board mounted U.FL connector installed for users that want to experiment with different tuning solutions or disconnect onboard antenna and experiment with antennas of their own design or application. Below are some design and application notes for users to reference if they want to change the antenna Q factor or experiment further on their own in order to serve their particular application directly.

TRF79x0ATB coil antenna tuning details starts with calculations to produce the theoretical values shown below (and based on measurements of antenna coil on Rev B board.) The coil value nominally measures 0.95  $\mu$ H at 13.56 MHz and X<sub>L</sub> = 0.8 + j80.8 = 0.990 @ 63.4°.

To calculate the necessary values required for course resonance tuning and proper Q setting of the antenna, the following formula is used.

$$C_{RES(total)} = \frac{1}{\omega^2 L}$$
  
where  $\omega = 2\pi f$ 

(1)



Antenna Tuning Details

www.ti.com

therefore,

| $C_{RES(total)} = \frac{1}{\left(2\pi \times 13.56 \text{ MHz}\right)^2 \times 0.95 \mu H}$                                  |     |
|--|-----|
| C <sub>RES(total)</sub> = 145.157 pF   | (2) |
| The dampening resistor value can now be calculated for a desired Q value using the formula:<br>$Q = \frac{R_{PAR}}{R_{PAR}}$ | (0) |
| $2\pi tL$  | (3) |
| therefore,<br>$R_{PAR} = 2\pi fLQ$   | (4) |
| For Q = ~20 (ISO15693 operations):<br>$R_{PAR} = 1.29 k\Omega$   | (5) |
| (move to standard value of 1.3 kΩ)   |     |
| For Q = ~10 (ISO14443 and ISO15693 operations):<br>$R_{PAR} = 647 \Omega$  | (6) |

(move to standard value of 680  $\Omega$ )

Smith Chart simulation for  $R_{PAR}$  value = 1.3 k $\Omega$  reveals theoretical parallel and series capacitor values capacitor values to be 97pF and 51pF, respectively. (This is < +2% change from the calculated total cap value.)



Smith Chart simulation for  $R_{PAR}$  value = 680  $\Omega$  (standard value) reveals theoretical parallel and series capacitor values to be 82 pF and 69 pF, respectively. (This is < +4% change from the calculated value.)





The calculations and simulations for a desired Q range of 5 to 20 results in Figure 12 and Figure 13 that indicate the required resistor and capacitance values should be populated.



Figure 12. Theoretical Parallel Resistor Value for Desired Q



Figure 13. Theoretical Capacitance Values for Resonance at Desired Q

Actual measurements on TRF79x0ATB module for high and lower Q value tuning solutions.





Higher Q Antenna Measurement Plots with Calculated Values (Q = ~20)



Lower Q Antenna Measurement Plots with Calculated Values (Q = ~10)



# 12 TRF79x0ATB Module Read Ranges







TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

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References

### 13 References

- TRF7960A Product Page: <u>http://www.ti.com/product/trf7960A</u>
- TRF7970A Product Page: <u>http://www.ti.com/product/trf7970A</u>
- TPS61222 Product Page: http://www.ti.com/product/tps61222
- TRF7960ATB Schematic, BOM and Design files: <a href="http://www.ti.com/litv/zip/sloc221">http://www.ti.com/litv/zip/sloc221</a>
- TRF7970ATB Schematic, BOM and Design files: add hyperlink
- LM4F232 Evaluation Kit: <u>http://www.ti.com/tool/ek-Im4f232</u>
- TPS61220, TPS61221, TPS61222 Low Input Voltage Step-Up Converter in 6 Pin SC-70 Package Data Sheet (<u>SLVS776</u>)
- MSP430F543x, MSP430F541x Mixed Signal Microcontroller Data Sheet (<u>SLAS612</u>)
- TRF7960A Multi-Protocol Fully Integrated 13.56-MHz RFID Reader/Writer IC Data Manual (SLOS732)
- TRF7970A Multi-Protocol Fully Integrated 13.56-MHz RFID/Near Field Communication (NFC) Transceiver IC Data Manual (<u>SLOS743</u>)
- MSP-EXP430F5529 Experimenter Board User's Guide (SLAU330)
- MSP-EXP430F5438 Experimenter Board User's Guide (SLAU263)
- Stellaris® LM3S9B96 Development Kit User's Manual (<u>SPMA036</u>)
- TI ISO15693/ISO18000-3 Inlays/Tags Parametric Search: <u>http://focus.ti.com/paramsearch/docs/parametricsearch.tsp?family=rfid&sectionId=475&tabId=2102&fa</u> <u>milyId=1352</u>
- Samtec Header and Mate Information:
  - SFM: https://www.samtec.com/technical-specifications/Default.aspx?seriesMaster=SFM
  - TFM: https://www.samtec.com/technical-specifications/Default.aspx?seriesMaster=TFM
- Smith Chart Simulation Tool (licensed copy): <u>http://www.fritz.dellsperger.net/</u>

### **EVALUATION BOARD/KIT/MODULE (EVM) ADDITIONAL TERMS**

Texas Instruments (TI) provides the enclosed Evaluation Board/Kit/Module (EVM) under the following conditions:

The user assumes all responsibility and liability for proper and safe handling of the goods. Further, the user indemnifies TI from all claims arising from the handling or use of the goods.

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For EVMs **not** subject to the above rules, this evaluation board/kit/module is intended for use for ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION OR EVALUATION PURPOSES ONLY and is not considered by TI to be a finished end product fit for general consumer use. It generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and has not been tested for compliance with the limits of computing devices pursuant to part 15 of FCC or ICES-003 rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against radio frequency interference. Operation of the equipment may cause interference with radio communications, in which case the user at his own expense will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct this interference.

#### General Statement for EVMs including a radio

User Power/Frequency Use Obligations: This radio is intended for development/professional use only in legally allocated frequency and power limits. Any use of radio frequencies and/or power availability of this EVM and its development application(s) must comply with local laws governing radio spectrum allocation and power limits for this evaluation module. It is the user's sole responsibility to only operate this radio in legally acceptable frequency space and within legally mandated power limitations. Any exceptions to this are strictly prohibited and unauthorized by Texas Instruments unless user has obtained appropriate experimental/development licenses from local regulatory authorities, which is responsibility of user including its acceptable authorization.

#### For EVMs annotated as FCC – FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Part 15 Compliant

#### Caution

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 interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

#### FCC Interference Statement for Class A EVM devices

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

#### FCC Interference Statement for Class B EVM devices

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- · Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

#### For EVMs annotated as IC – INDUSTRY CANADA Compliant

This Class A or B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

#### Concerning EVMs including radio transmitters

This device complies with Industry Canada licence-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

#### Concerning EVMs including detachable antennas

Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.

This radio transmitter has been approved by Industry Canada to operate with the antenna types listed in the user guide with the maximum permissible gain and required antenna impedance for each antenna type indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe A ou B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

Les changements ou les modifications pas expressément approuvés par la partie responsable de la conformité ont pu vider l'autorité de l'utilisateur pour actionner l'équipement.

#### Concernant les EVMs avec appareils radio

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Industrie Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes : (1) l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et (2) l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.

#### Concernant les EVMs avec antennes détachables

Conformément à la réglementation d'Industrie Canada, le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante.

Le présent émetteur radio a été approuvé par Industrie Canada pour fonctionner avec les types d'antenne énumérés dans le manuel d'usage et ayant un gain admissible maximal et l'impédance requise pour chaque type d'antenne. Les types d'antenne non inclus dans cette liste, ou dont le gain est supérieur au gain maximal indiqué, sont strictement interdits pour l'exploitation de l'émetteur.

#### [Important Notice for Users of EVMs for RF Products in Japan]

#### This development kit is NOT certified as Confirming to Technical Regulations of Radio Law of Japan

If you use this product in Japan, you are required by Radio Law of Japan to follow the instructions below with respect to this product:

- Use this product in a shielded room or any other test facility as defined in the notification #173 issued by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on March 28, 2006, based on Sub-section 1.1 of Article 6 of the Ministry's Rule for Enforcement of Radio Law of Japan,
- 2. Use this product only after you obtained the license of Test Radio Station as provided in Radio Law of Japan with respect to this product, or
- 3. Use of this product only after you obtained the Technical Regulations Conformity Certification as provided in Radio Law of Japan with respect to this product. Also, please do not transfer this product, unless you give the same notice above to the transferee. Please note that if you could not follow the instructions above, you will be subject to penalties of Radio Law of Japan.

#### Texas Instruments Japan Limited (address) 24-1, Nishi-Shinjuku 6 chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

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#### EVALUATION BOARD/KIT/MODULE (EVM) WARNINGS, RESTRICTIONS AND DISCLAIMERS

For Feasibility Evaluation Only, in Laboratory/Development Environments. Unless otherwise indicated, this EVM is not a finished electrical equipment and not intended for consumer use. It is intended solely for use for preliminary feasibility evaluation in laboratory/development environments by technically qualified electronics experts who are familiar with the dangers and application risks associated with handling electrical mechanical components, systems and subsystems. It should not be used as all or part of a finished end product.

Your Sole Responsibility and Risk. You acknowledge, represent and agree that:

- 1. You have unique knowledge concerning Federal, State and local regulatory requirements (including but not limited to Food and Drug Administration regulations, if applicable) which relate to your products and which relate to your use (and/or that of your employees, affiliates, contractors or designees) of the EVM for evaluation, testing and other purposes.
- 2. You have full and exclusive responsibility to assure the safety and compliance of your products with all such laws and other applicable regulatory requirements, and also to assure the safety of any activities to be conducted by you and/or your employees, affiliates, contractors or designees, using the EVM. Further, you are responsible to assure that any interfaces (electronic and/or mechanical) between the EVM and any human body are designed with suitable isolation and means to safely limit accessible leakage currents to minimize the risk of electrical shock hazard.
- 3. You will employ reasonable safeguards to ensure that your use of the EVM will not result in any property damage, injury or death, even if the EVM should fail to perform as described or expected.
- 4. You will take care of proper disposal and recycling of the EVM's electronic components and packing materials.

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