

PRISM 2.5 11Mbps Wireless Local Area Network PC Card



The Intersil ISL37400M WLAN PC Card (Note 1) is a complete wireless high speed Network Interface Card (NIC) utilizing the Intersil PRISM® 2.5

Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum Wireless Transceiver chip set. It provides a complete PRISM 2.5 reference design evaluation platform of hardware and software to system providers or integrators requiring wireless data communications capability and is ideal for integration into computer platforms.

Evaluation kits include two WLAN PC cards designed to Intersil's PRISM reference design, Microsoft Windows® Driver, Local Area Network evaluation software, PRISM Transmitter Test Utilities (PTTU) software (Note 3) and documentation to get your evaluation started quickly. Supporting the IEEE 802.11 network specification for Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum DSSS signaling, the card is packaged in a PCMCIA Type II extended cover set. The card provides data rates of 1, 2, 5.5 and 11Mbps. Access Points will be available from a number of suppliers, enabling a total wireless network solution. Typical operating ranges are shown in Table 2..

TABLE 1. TYPICAL OPERATING RANGE (NOTE 2)

DATA RATE (Mbps)	INDOOR RANGE	OUTDOOR RANGE
11	120 feet (37 meters)	400 feet (122 meters)
5.5	200 feet (61 meters)	600 feet (183 meters)
2	240 feet (73 meters)	750 feet (228 meters)
1	300 feet (91 meters)	1000 feet (305 meters)

Ordering Information

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CARDS/SET
ISL37400M-EVAL	WLAN Evaluation Kit	2

Features

- FCC Certified Under Part 15 to Operate in 2.4GHz ISM Band (Approval Pending)
- Support for 11, 5.5, 2 and 1 Megabit Per Second (Mbps) Data Rates
- Supports the IEEE 802.11 Direct Sequence Specification
- Driver Supports Microsoft® Windows® 95, 98, 2000, NT, CE and LINUX®
- Supports Dual Diversity Antennas
- Advanced RAKE Receiver Design with AGC
- Provides Wireless Data Communications at Full Ethernet Speed
- Designed to Fully Support miniPCI Type 3A Defined Mechanical and Environmental Stress Conditions
- Intelligent Power Control, Including Low Power Standby Mode
- Complete Reference Design, the ISL37400M is Available to Ensure Minimum Time-to-Market

NOTES:

1. Throughout this document, all references to 'PC Card', 'WLAN adapter', 'adapter', or 'card' refer to a card assembly conforming to the mechanical size specifications of the miniPCI Type 3A.
2. The range will vary in different operating environments due to effects such as building construction.
3. At present, PTTU supports Windows 95 and 98. An upgrade is in process which will add support for NT.

Packaging



Functional Overview

The WLAN PC Card is designed to operate in the 2.4GHz ISM frequency band, channels 1 to 11, as specified by the FCC in the USA. The Card will also operate on channels 12 through 14, where permitted by local regulatory authorities. Radio equipment must be certified in a country prior to use. Refer to Table 3 for a list of countries and agencies that have approved the ISL37400M-EVAL for operation.

The Intersil PRISM Chip Set allows for high level integration for reduced size, increased throughput, improved radio performance and faster time to market. The WLAN PC card implements Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum DSSS technology providing superior noise and signal jamming immunity including less severe impact from unintentional radiators such as microwave ovens. The user can connect the PC Card in an ad-hoc peer to peer networking scheme, allowing for instant network setup in any office environment. By using an access point, the wireless LAN can be set up to allow for a greater number of users to interconnect, and to increase the coverage area. With a portal (i.e., Access Point), the wireless LAN can be easily connected into an existing wired LAN, allowing for easy expansion of the service.

Compared to the first generation PRISM II chip set, the PRISM 2.5 generation offers:

- 3.3V operation for reduced power dissipation
- Reduction in current drain for extended battery life
- Dual antenna's for use with Diversity circuits to improved multipath performance
- Higher level of chip integration and less peripheral components to reduce material costs
- Support of optional IEEE 802.11 Short Preamble for significantly increased data throughput

A complete Reference Design for the ISL37400M is available to ensure minimum time-to-market. This information contains details for manufacturing a miniPCI WLAN assembly, including Gerber PC board files, an accurate Bill of Material with component sourcing and complete mechanical drawings.

Related Literature

To learn more about what the IEEE 802.11 is, refer to:

- Tech Brief TB337, Intersil Corporation, "A Brief Tutorial on Spread Spectrum and Packet Radio"[1].

For a more detailed description of radio operation, please refer to:

- Application Note AN9951, Intersil Corporation, "ISL37400M-EVAL PRISM 2.5 11 Mb miniPCI Wireless LAN Radio Description" [2]

The HFA3841 Media Access Controller (MAC) Protocol Handler

The ISL3874 MAC/Baseband Processor and its firmware are responsible for running the IEEE 802.11 protocol in the WLAN card. This section describes the features of IEEE 802.11 that are implemented.

The functions supported by the STA (station) Firmware are:

- CSMA/CA (Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance) with Random Backoff
- WEP Security
- Short/Long Preamble with multirate
- RTS/CTS Handshake (Ready To Send/Clear To Send) and NAV Management (Network Allocation Vector)
- MAC Level Acknowledgments (Media Access Control)
- Re-Transmission of Unacknowledged Frames
- Duplicate Detection and Rejection
- Broadcast and Multicast Frames
- Fragmentation and Re-Assembly
- Power Management (Planned)
- Timestamp Synchronization
- DCF (Distributed Coordination Function)
- PCF (Point Coordination Function)
- Beacon Generation in an Ad-Hoc Network
- Probe Response Generation in an Ad-Hoc Network

Card Information Structure

The standard Intersil WLAN PC Card will be supplied with information embedded in the CIS shown in Table 2. It should be noted that in most systems this information is displayed when the card is inserted. Customization of the CIS for specific customer requirements is available upon request, to enable customer information to be displayed when the card is inserted.

TABLE 2. CIS EMBEDDED INFORMATION

FUNCTION NAME	CONTENT
Manufacturer's ID	00
Function ID	Network Adapter
Product Revision	1
Manufacturer	Intersil Corporation
Product	HFA3841
PROG	
LOT	

IEEE 802.11 International Agreement and Frequency Assignments

The IEEE 802 LAN committee has forged an international agreement providing for wireless data communication standards for the frequency range of 2.4GHz to 2.4835GHz, as allocated by the FCC in the USA, and in the 2.471GHz to 2.497GHz frequency range, as specified by the regulatory authority in Japan. These standards are designed to focus the industry to develop highly integrated, low cost, interoperable WLAN equipment, of which the ISL37400M-EVAL is a prime example.

In the U.S., there are 11 channels specified by the FCC in the 2.412GHz to 2.462GHz range. In Japan, one channel at 2.484GHz is authorized. The ETSI (European) regulatory body conforms to the USA (FCC) channel assignments with the exception that channels 12 and 13 are also allowed. Some countries in Europe, notably France and Spain have unique channel restrictions.

Although information contained in Table 3 is deemed to be accurate, local regulatory authorities should be consulted before using such equipment.

The available channels of operation in the 2.4GHz to 2.4835GHz and 2.471GHz to 2.497GHz ranges are as follows:

TABLE 3. IEEE 802.11 CHANNELS

CHANNEL NUMBER	CHANNEL FREQUENCY	GEOGRAPHIC USAGE
1	2412MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
2	2417MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
3	2422MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
4	2427MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
5	2432MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
6	2437MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
7	2442MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
8	2447MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
9	2452MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKK
10	2457MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKKFR, SP
11	2462MHz	US, CA, ETSI, MKKFR, SP
12	2467MHz	ETSI, FR
13	2472MHz	ETSI, FR
14	2484MHz	MKK

KEY:

US = United States, CA = Canada, ETSI = European countries (except France and Spain), FR = France, SP = Spain, MKK = Japan

The ISL37400M is shipped with USA-compliant firmware. In order to ensure regulatory-compliant channel usage in a particular country, special geographic-specific firmware is available for customer production assemblies which restricts channel usage. Examples include ETSI-compliant firmware, etc. Since the end user does not have the ability to alter this firmware, regulatory compliance is ensured.

Agency and Regulatory Body Approvals

The WLAN PC Card will comply to the standards shown in Table 4:

TABLE 4. COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

COUNTRY	APPROVAL	NOTES
USA	FCC part 15, Sec. 15.247, Sec. 15.107 and 15.109	Approval pending for Intentional Radiators Computer Peripheral
Canada	ICAN RSS-210	Designed for compliance
Europe	ETSI 300.328 Nov 96 EMC prETS 300.826	Designed for compliance
Japan	MKK	Designed for compliance

FCC Information to user

This product does not contain any user serviceable components and is to be used with approved antennas only. Any product changes or modifications will invalidate all applicable regulatory certifications and approvals.

FCC Electronic Emission Notices

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
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

FCC Radio Frequency Interference statement

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 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 instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

Operation of this equipment in a residential area cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

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.

Export restrictions

This product or software contains encryption code which may not be exported or transferred from the US or Canada without an approved US Department of Commerce export license.

FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure

The EIRP was measured for the lower, middle and highest frequencies used by the transmitter. The results in Table 5 are based on a safe distance between antenna and operator of 8 inches. The equipment therefore fulfills the requirements on power density for general population / uncontrolled exposure and therefore complies with the requirements of FCC part 15.247 (b) (4) and FCC OET Bulletin 65 incl. supplements A, B and C.

TABLE 5. Power Density Calculation

	Ch.1	Ch.6	Ch.11
Measured EIRP (mW)	66.1	67.6	64.6
Calculated Power Density (mW/cm ²)	0.052	0.053	0.051

WARNING! Any changes or modifications of equipment not expressly approved by Intersil could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

3.3V miniPCI Interface Standard

CAUTION: This assembly is designed to operate with a supply voltage of 3.3V in laptop computers supporting the dminiPCI standard. As such, it is mechanically keyed to prevent improper insertion in laptops. Do not therefore force engagement of the card in the miniPCI slot of the laptop.

Permanent damage may occur if operated outside of the specified limits listed in this document.

References

For Intersil documents available on the internet, see web site <http://www.intersil.com/>
Intersil AnswerFAX (321) 724-7800.

- [1] *TB337 Tech Brief*, Intersil Corporation, "A Brief Tutorial on Spread Spectrum and Packet Radio", AnswerFAX document No. 82337.
- [2] *AN9951 Application Note*, Intersil Corporation, "ISL37400M-EVAL PRISM 2.5 11 Mb miniPCI Wireless LAN Radio Description"

Further information can be found in the following:

- Intersil PRISM 2.5 datasheets, web home page, <http://www.intersil.com/design/prism/ser-p25-11mbps.asp>
- IEEE 802.11 Standards Project (available from the IEEE, New York, USA).

Absolute Maximum Ratings

Supply Voltage -0.3V to 4.0V (Max)
 Storage Temperature (Note 4) -20°C to 85°C

Operating Conditions

Temperature Range $0^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T_A \leq 70^{\circ}\text{C}$
 Supply Voltage Range 3.0V to 3.6V

Caution: These are the absolute maximum ratings for the PC Card product. Exceeding these limits could cause permanent damage to the card.

NOTE:

- All temperature references refer to ambient conditions.

Electrical Specifications Test Conditions: Supply Voltage (V_{CC}) = 3.3V, Ambient Temperature (T_A) = 25°C, Unless Otherwise Specified

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
CURRENT CONSUMPTION						
Initializatoin Current	I_{CC}		-	145	180	mA
Average Current (With Power Saving Mode) (Note 5)	I_{CC}		-	TBD	-	mA
Continuous Transmit Mode	I_{CC}		-	325	380	mA
Continuous Receive Mode	I_{CC}	Receiving Valid Packets	-	200	225	mA
Standby (Note 5)	I_{CC}		-	TBD	-	mA
PC CARD LOGIC LEVELS						
Input HIGH Voltage	V_{IH}	$V_{CC}=\text{Max, Min}$	$0.7V_{CC}$	-	-	V
Input LOW Voltage	V_{IL}	$V_{CC}=\text{Min, Max}$	-	-	$0.3V_{CC}$	V
Output HIGH Voltage	V_{OH}	$I_{OL} = 2\text{mA}, V_{CC}=\text{Min}$	$0.9V_{CC}$	2.6	-	V
Output LOW Voltage	V_{OL}	$I_{OL} = 2\text{mA}, V_{CC}=\text{Min}$	-	0.05	$0.1V_{CC}$	V
Input Leakage Current	I_I	$V_{CC}=\text{Max, Input}=0\text{V or }V_{CC}$		0.100	1.0	μA
PC CARD LOADING CAPACITANCE						
Input Capacitance	C_{IN}		-	5	10	pF
Output Capacitance	C_{OUT}		-	5	10	pF
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS						
Vibration	Vib	10 to 2000Hz, $V_{CC} = 0$	-	-	15	G
Shock	Shock		-	-	50	G
Drop	Drop		-	-	75	cm
Torque	T	10^0 Max	-	-	1.236	N-m
ESD	ESD	Non-Operating	-	-	1500	V
X-RAY	X-RAY		-	-	10	Roentgen
UV	UV	Wavelength 254nm	-	-	15K	$\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$
Humidity	RH	Method 106E Mil-Std 202	-	-	98	%
EMI	EMI		-	-	1K	Oersted
RF SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS						
Transmitter Power Output	P_{out}		-	+11.5	-	dBm
EIRP	EIRP	@ -30 dB Side Lobes	-	16	-	dBm

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Receive Sensitivity	RX_S	5.5Mbps, 8% PER	-	-88	-	dBm
		11Mbps, 8% PER	-	-84	-	dBm
Maximum Receive Level	RX_MAX	PER <8%	-4	-	-	dBm
Third Order Intercept Point (Input)	IIP3_90	-90 dBm input	-	TBD	-	dBm
	IIP3_25	-25 dBm input	-	TBD	-	dBm
Carrier Suppression	TX_sup	Test Mode	-	-42.5	-	dB
Image Rejection	IR	PER <8%	-	60	-	dB
IF Rejection	IFR	PER <8%	60	66.5	-	dB
Adjacent Channel Rejection	ACR	PER <8% (Note 6)	-	60	-	dB
Data Rate (Physical Layer)	Rate		-	1, 2, 5.5 and 11	-	Mbps

NOTES:

- Refer to Application Note "PRISM Power Management Modes" AN9665 [5].
- The adjacent channel measurement is carried out on two channels separated by 25MHz (5 channels).

All Intersil products are manufactured, assembled and tested utilizing ISO9000 quality systems.

Intersil Corporation's quality certifications can be viewed at website www.intersil.com/design/quality

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