GS-EVB-IMS3-665xxB-GS
GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS
GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B-GS
High Power IMS 3 Evaluation Platform

Technical Manual

Visit www.gansystems.com for the latest version of this technical manual.
**DANGER**

DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD WHEN IT IS ENERGIZED AND ALLOW ALL COMPONENTS TO DISCHARGE COMPLETELY PRIOR HANDLING THE BOARD.

HIGH VOLTAGE CAN BE EXPOSED ON THE BOARD WHEN IT IS CONNECTED TO POWER SOURCE. EVEN BRIEF CONTACT DURING OPERATION MAY RESULT IN SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH.

Please sure that appropriate safety procedures are followed. This evaluation kit is designed for engineering evaluation in a controlled lab environment and should be handled by qualified personnel ONLY. Never leave the board operating unattended.

**WARNING**

Some components can be hot during and after operation. There is NO built-in electrical or thermal protection on this evaluation kit. The operating voltage, current, and component temperature should be monitored closely during operation to prevent device damage.

**CAUTION**

This product contains parts that are susceptible to damage by electrostatic discharge (ESD). Always follow ESD prevention procedures when handling the product.
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1 Overview

1.1 Introduction

This horizontal Insulated Metal Substrate (IMS3) evaluation platform can be used to evaluate the electrical and thermal performance benefits of GaNPX® bottom-side cooled E-modes in high power applications. The optimized thermal and electrical designs provide an excellent reference for implementing a low cost, high performance design.

1.2 Features and Benefits

• Improved heat transfer
• Increased power density
• Reduced system cost
• High thermal conductivity (7.0 W/mK)

1.3 Applications

• Automotive: 3.3kW-22kW on board charger, DC/DC, 3-Φ inverter, high power wireless charger
• Industrial: 3-7kW Photovoltaic Inverter and Energy Storage System (ESS), Motor Drive / VFD
• Server/Datacenter: 3kW Server ACDC power supply.
• Consumer: Residential Energy Storage System (ESS)

1.4 Contents

As referred to Figure 1, the GS-EVB-IMS3-665xxB-GS includes the following hardware in Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B 3 kW Half Bridge Daughter Power Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B 6 kW Half Bridge Daughter Power Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 IMS3 daughter power boards with heatsinks
A suitable heatsink is included for lower power applications. For higher power applications additional heatsinking may be required. To prevent device damage, ensure adequate heatsinking through design and by monitoring the component temperatures during operation.

To assemble a heatsink, apply thermal grease to the heatsink / IMS board interface before screwing the units together. Enough thermal grease should be applied so that a small amount extrudes on all four sizes as the screws are tightened. Wipe the assembly clean.

The ordering information is listed in Table 2 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART NUMBER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>POWER LEVEL</th>
<th>GaN E-mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B</td>
<td>650 V GaN High Power IMS3 Half Bridge</td>
<td>3 kW</td>
<td>GS66508B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B</td>
<td>650 V GaN High Power IMS3 Half Bridge</td>
<td>6 kW</td>
<td>GS66516B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Technical Specifications of IMS 3 Half Bridge Daughter Power Board

2.1 On-board GaN E-mode Transistors

Using this platform, power designers can evaluate the performance of GaN Systems’ E-mode transistors in high power, high-efficiency applications. The IMS3 half-bridge daughter power board is populated with GaN Systems’ GS66516B (bottom-side cooled GaN E-mode transistor, rated at 650 V / 25 mΩ) or GS66508B (bottom-side cooled GaN E-mode transistor, rated at 650 V / 50 mΩ), as shown in Figure 2. The embedded GaNpx® SMD package has the following features:

- Large power source/thermal pad for improved thermal dissipation.
- Bottom-side cooled packaging for conventional PCB or advanced IMS/Cu inlay thermal design.
- Ultra-low inductance for high-frequency switching.

![Figure 2 GS66516B and GS66508B GaNpx® packaged GaN E-mode transistors](image)

The IMS3 half-bridge daughter power board is designed for users to gain hands-on experience in the following ways:

- Evaluate the GaN E-mode transistors performance in any half-bridge-based topology, over a range of operating conditions.
- Use as a thermal and electrical design reference of the GS66516B or GS66508B GaNpx® package in demanding high-power and high-efficiency applications.

2.2 IMS3 Board Thermal Design

An IMS3 power daughter board assembly uses metal as the PCB core, to which a dielectric layer and copper foil layers are bonded, as shown in Figure 3. The metal PCB core is often aluminum. The copper foil layers can be single or double-sided. An IMS3 board offers superior thermal conductivity to standard FR4 PCB. It’s commonly used in high-power, high current applications where most of the heat is concentrated in a small footprint SMT device.

As high-speed Gallium Nitride power devices are adopted widely, the industry is trending away from through-hole packaging (TH), towards surface-mount packaging (SMT). Traditional TH devices, such as the TO-220, are no longer the appropriate choice because their high parasitic inductance and capacitance negate the performance benefits offered by GaN E-mode transistors. SMT packaging, such as PQFN, D2PAK, and GaN Systems’ GaNpx®, by comparison, offer low inductance and low thermal impedance, enabling efficient designs at high power and high switching frequency.
Thermal management of SMT power transistors must be approached differently than TH devices. TO packages are cooled by attaching them to a heatsink, with an intermediary Thermal Interface Material (TIM) sheet for electrical high voltage insulation. The traditional cooling method for SMT power devices is to use thermal vias tied to multiple copper layers in a PCB. The IMS3 board presents designers with another option which is especially useful for high power applications. The IMS 3 board has a much lower junction to heatsink thermal resistance ($R_{thJ-HS}$) than FR4 PCBs, for efficient heat transfer out of the transistor. As well, assembly on an IMS3 board has lower assembly cost and risk than the TH alternative. The manual assembly process of a TO package onto a heatsink is costly and prone to human error.

Table 3 compares 2 different design approaches for cooling discrete SMT power devices. While the cost is lower for an FR4 PCB cooling with thermal vias, the IMS 3 board offers the best performance for thermal management. Figure 4 provides a quantitative comparison of the thermal resistance for the 2 design options. The IMS3 board clearly comes out ahead.

Table 3 Performance comparison of 2 thermal design options for SMT power devices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FR4 PCB Cooling with Vias</th>
<th>IMS PCB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thermal resistance</strong></td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical Insulation</strong></td>
<td>Use TIM</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advantages</strong></td>
<td>• Standard process</td>
<td>• Electrically isolated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Layout flexibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design challenges</strong></td>
<td>• High PCB thermal resistance</td>
<td>• Usually layout limited to 1 layer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Parasitic inductance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Coupling capacitances to the metal substrate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following additional measures are taken to optimize the design further.

- The IMS3 evaluation platform is implemented as a two-board assembly. The gate drive circuitry is assembled on the GS-EVB-HDB-IMS, a multi-layer FR4 PCB motherboard. This includes the gate driver ICs, an isolated push-pull power supply to power the driver IC, and DC decoupling capacitors. The GaN E-mode transistors are mounted to the IMS3 half-bridge daughter power boards (GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS and GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B-GS). This approach addresses the shortcomings of implementing the design on a single layer IMS board.
- While a large copper area is preferred to maximize heat spreading and handle high current, the area of copper at the switching node (high dv/dt) needs to be minimized to reduce the parasitic coupling capacitance to the metal substrate. An IMS3 board with a thicker dielectric layer (100um) is chosen on this design to further reduce this effect.
2.3 IMS3 Half Bridge Board Design

The IMS3 half-bridge daughter power board is populated with the following components:

- **Q1 and Q2:** GS66516B or GS66508B in a half-bridge configuration.
  - 6kW GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B-GS: Q1/Q2 GS66516B.
  - 3kW GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS: Q1/Q2 GS66508B.

- **J1, J2, J3:**
  - Connector Header Surface Mount 12 position 0.050” (1.27mm) (Samtec Inc., P/N: FTS-106-02-F-DV).
  - These terminals are designed to carry the main current and gate signals.
3 Compatible Driver Motherboard Options

The IMS3 half bridge daughter power board can be used in both half bridge and full bridge configuration. The IMS3 half bridge daughter power board are compatible with two different driver motherboards, as shown in Figure 6. The ordering options are listed in Table 4 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFIGURATION</th>
<th>DRIVER MOTHERBOARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Half Bridge</td>
<td>GS-EVB-HBBB-IMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Half Bridge / Full Bridge</td>
<td>GSP665HPMB-EVBIMS2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6 Compatible driver motherboards
The ordering information are listed in Table 5 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART NUMBER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS-EVB-HBDB-IMS650V</td>
<td>650 V Universal Half Bridge Isolated Driver Motherboard for IMS2 &amp; IMS3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSP665HPMB-EVBIMS2</td>
<td>650 V Universal High-Power Dual Half Bridge / Full Bridge Driver Motherboard for IMS2 &amp; IMS3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information related to the driver mother boards about their:
- Features and Benefits
- Applications
- Technical Specifications (design overview, gate driver circuit, 5V input and external PWM signals input, temperature monitoring hole, installation of IMS half-bridge daughter power board, and DC link decoupling capacitors)
- Schematics and BoM

Please refer to driver mother boards technical manuals on [https://gansystems.com/evaluation-boards/](https://gansystems.com/evaluation-boards/)
4 Operation Modes

The IMS3 EVB half-bridge daughter power boards can be configured into different topologies and operation modes with the two driver motherboards, as shown below:

Table 6 Half bridge configurations operation mode using GS-EVB-HBDB-IMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Double Pulse Test</th>
<th>Half Bridge LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to the Evaluation Board/Kit Important Notice on page 21
Table 7: Dual half bridge/full bridge configurations operation mode using GSP665HPMB-EVBIMS2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HALF BRIDGE</th>
<th>FULL BRIDGE</th>
<th>BOOST MODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DOUBLE PULSE TEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>FULL BRIDGE LLC</strong></td>
<td><strong>SYNCHRONOUS BOOST DC/DC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SYNCHRONOUS BUCK DC/DC</strong></td>
<td><strong>PHASE SHIFT FULL BRIDGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TOTEM POLE PFC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HALF BRIDGE LLC</strong></td>
<td><strong>FULL BRIDGE INVERTER</strong></td>
<td><strong>INTERLEAVED TOTEM POLE PFC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINGLE PHASE HALF BRIDGE INVERTER</strong></td>
<td><strong>DUAL ACTIVE BRIDGE</strong></td>
<td><strong>DUAL ACTIVE BRIDGE (with 2 mother boards)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagram:**

- Gate Driver
- DC Power Source
- Vdc+
- Vdc-
- PHA
- PHB
- PGND
- CO
- RL
- LO
- L
- C
- L1
- L2
- Vdc
5 Test Results

5.1 Double Pulse Test (GS-EVB-HBDB-IMS + GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS)

- Test condition: $V_{DS} = 400V$, $I_D = 30A$, $V_{GS} = +6V/-3V$, $L = 37\mu H$, No RC Snubber, $T_J = 25^\circ C$
- Measured peak $V_{DS} = 630V$ and $92\ V/\text{ns}$ peak $dV/dt$
- Reliable hard switching with GS66508B is achieved at full rated current

![Double pulse test setup](image1)

Figure 7 Double pulse test setup schematics

![Double pulse test setup](image2)

Figure 8 Double pulse test setup
Figure 9  Double pulse test waveforms (400V/30A)
5.2 Boost Configuration Test (GS-EVB-HBDB-IMS + GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS)

- Test condition: $V_{IN} = 400V$, $f_{sw}=10kHz$, $P_o=0.8kW$, $T_{AMB} = 25^\circ C$.
- Device case temperature 72°C

![Schematic Diagram](image.png)

Figure 10  Boost configuration test setup schematics

![Test Setup Image](image.png)

Figure 11  Boost configuration test setup
Figure 12 Boost configuration test thermal measurement result

Figure 13 Test waveforms (400Vin, 10kHz, Po=0.8kW)

Ch#1 (blue): Drain-source voltage, 100V/div
Ch#4 (green): Inductor current, 5A/div
6  GS-EVB-IMS3-665xxB-GS Schematics and BoM

GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS schematics  GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B-GS schematics

GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B-GS assembly drawing  GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B-GS assembly drawing
### Bill of Materials (BOM)

**GS-EVB-IMS3-66508B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Designator</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Manufacturer Part Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FTS-106-02-X-DV</td>
<td>CONN HEADER SMD 12POS 1.27MM</td>
<td>J1, J2, J3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Samtec Inc.</td>
<td>FTS-106-02-F-DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS66508B</td>
<td>GAN TRANS E-MODE 650V 30A</td>
<td>Q1, Q2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GS-EVB-IMS3-66516B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
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<th>Designator</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
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<td>J1, J2, J3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>FTS-106-02-F-DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS66516B</td>
<td>GAN TRANS E-MODE 650V 60A</td>
<td>Q1, Q2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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