



Application Note

Astra™ Machina Foundation Series eMMC Configuration

Abstract: This application note provides detailed guidelines for connecting and configuring the eMMC with the SL1620, SL1640, SL1680 and SL2610 RDK.

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1. Overview

The Astra Machina RDK (Reference Development Kit) is a versatile development platform for embedded system applications. It is equipped with a high-performance processor and a suite of peripherals to accelerate system prototyping and development. This application note provides detailed guidance on integrating and using an eMMC device with the Astra Machina RDK platform.

1.1. Scope

This document is intended for developers using the Astra Machina RDK platform to prototype systems that require eMMC for storage and boot. It provides detailed design recommendations, hardware design, and troubleshooting tips to ensure proper eMMC operation.

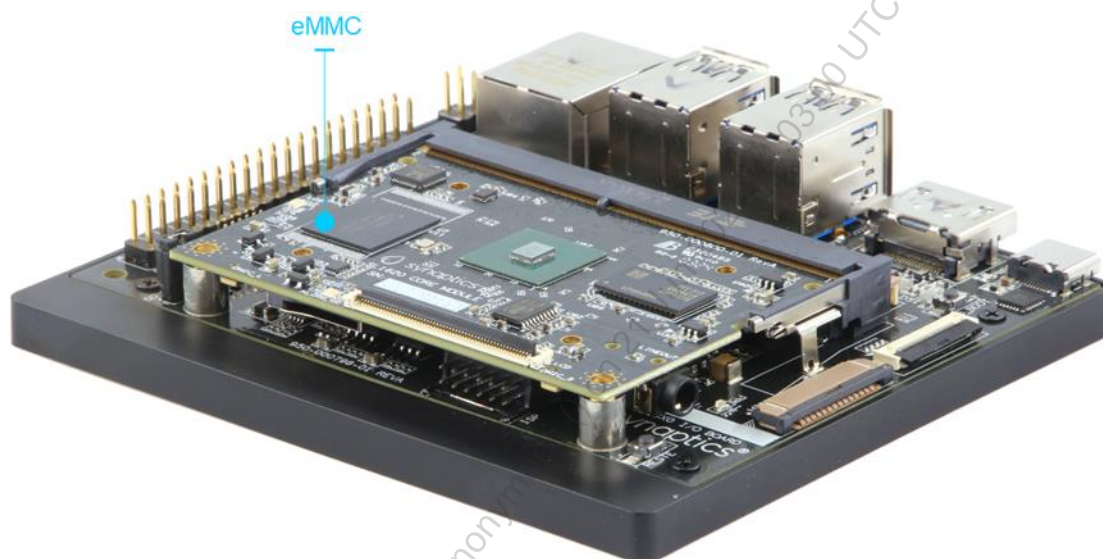


Figure 1. Overview of Astra Machina Foundation Series

The Astra Machina RDK platform supports an integrated eMMC controller compliant with JEDEC eMMC 5.1 specifications. Summary of eMMC Speed Modes:

Table 1. eMMC Speed Modes supported by Astra Machina RDK

Mode	Bus Speed	Bus Widths	Clock Frequency	I/O Voltage
Legacy Mode	25MB/s	1-bit, 4-bit, 8-bit	25MHz	1.8V
High-Speed	50MB/s	1-bit, 4-bit, 8-bit	50MHz	1.8V
DDR52	100MB/s	4-bit, 8-bit	50MHz	1.8V
HS200 (SDR)	200MB/s	4-bit, 8-bit	200MHz	1.8V
HS400 (DDR)	400MB/s	8-bit	200MHz	1.8V

1.2. Hardware Connection of eMMC on Astra RDK

1.2.1. Power supply of eMMC

The Astra Machina series SoC supports a fixed 1.8V I/O signaling voltage for eMMC. The eMMC power supply requirements.

Table 2. eMMC pin assignment with Voltage

Name	Voltage	Description
VCC	3.3V	Power supply for EMMC CORE
VCCQ	1.8V	Power supply for I/O

1.2.2. Resistors/Capacitor on eMMC Bus

- **Pull-Up resistors:** The SL16x0 eMMC controller includes internal pull-up resistors for the CMD and DATA[7:0] signals. Therefore, no external pull-up resistors are required.
- **Pull-Down resistors:**
 - Connect the eMMC RSTn signal to GND through a 4.7 k Ω resistor.
 - Connect the eMMC STRB signal to GND through a 47 k Ω resistor.
- **Series resistors:**
 - Place a 22 Ω or 33 Ω series resistor on the eMMC CLK and eMMC STRB signals.
 - Series resistors are not required on other eMMC signals.
- **Capacitor:** Place a 0.1 μ F capacitor on the eMMC RSTn pin

1.2.3. VDDI Capacitor

To prevent voltage fluctuations on the **VDDI** pin, it is recommended to place a combination of **4.7 μ F** and **0.1 μ F** decoupling capacitors in parallel.

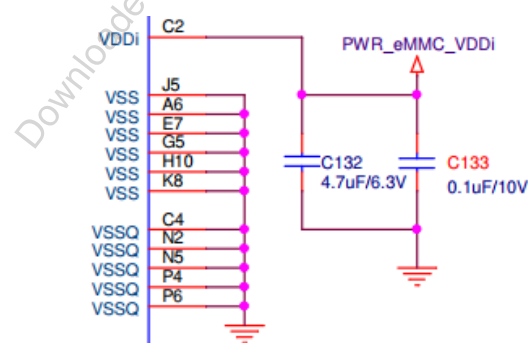


Figure 2. Capacitors on VDDI

1.3. eMMC Boot mode

The Astra Machina RDK platform is typically designed to support **eMMC Boot Mode** as defined by the JEDEC eMMC standard. Boot mode allows the system to directly load the bootloader (or firmware) from the eMMC's boot partitions, making it a common and reliable method for embedded system initialization.

To boot from the eMMC device, both the Astra Machina **processor** and the **eMMC device** must be properly configured in **eMMC Boot Mode**.

- SL16x0 Boot Strap pin: Configure Boot_SRC[1:0] pins to 2'b10 for eMMC Boot mode.

BootSrc[1:0]	TYPE
2'b00	SPI-Secure Boot
2'b01	ROM boot from NAND default
2'b10	ROM boot from EMMC
2'b11	SPI-Clear Boot

- SL261x Boot Strap pin: Configure Boot_SRC[1:0] pins to 2'b10 for eMMC Boot mode too.

BootSrc[1:0]	TYPE
2'b00	ROM boot from USB2
2'b01	ROM boot from xSPI_NOR
2'b10	ROM boot from EMMC default
2'b11	ROM boot from xSPI_NAND

Figure 3. Boot mode of Astra Machina processor

- eMMC EXT_CSD register:
 - EXT_CSD[177] for Boot partition config.
 - EXT_CSD[179] for Bus Width and Speed Mode config.
 - For more information, see JESD84-B51.

1.4. Internal Pull-Up resistors Control

The **eMMC controller** of the **SL16x0 SoC** includes built-in internal pull-up resistors for the eMMC bus signals. The configuration and control of these resistors can be managed using the registers listed in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. eMMC Internal Pull-Up/Dn resistor register

Name	Register Address	Description	Recommended Value
CMDPAD_CNFG	0x304[4:3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0x0 (DISABLED): Pull-up and pull-down functionality disabled 0x1 (PULLUP): Weak pull up enabled 0x2 (PULLDOWN): Weak pull down enabled 0x3 (ILLEGAL): Should not be used 	0x1
DATPAD_CNFG	0x306[4:3]		0x1
CLKPAD_CNFG	0x308[4:3]		0x0
STBPAD_CNFG	0x30A[4:3]		0x2

Note: SL16x0: EMMC_REG_BASE is 0xF7AA0000, SL261x: EMMC_REG_BASE is 0xF7A00000.

1.5. Delay-Line Tuning

The **eMMC controller** of the **Astra Machina SoC** supports the **Tuning Function** for both **Read** and **Write** operations. This ensures reliable high-speed data transfers in modes such as **HS200** and **HS400** by calibrating the signal timing for optimal performance.

1.5.1. Read Tuning

In **HS200** and **HS400** modes, the host adjusts the **sampling point** to reliably receive data. During initialization, the host sends **CMD21** (Tuning Command) to the eMMC device, which responds with a tuning pattern. The host performs the tuning sequence to find the optimal sampling point, ensuring reliable high-speed communication.

1.5.2. Write Tuning

The Astra Machina processor provides an eMMC_CLK TX Delay Line Adjustment function for all speed modes. This feature ensures optimal timing alignment for high-performance eMMC operation.

The register in [Table 4](#) is used to configure the eMMC_CLK TXDLY.

Table 4. eMMC CLK TXDLY register

Name	Register Address	Description
SDCLKDL_DC	0x31E[6:0]	Drives eMMC CLK DelayLine's Delay Code input.

Note: SL16x0: EMMC_REG_BASE is 0xF7AA0000, SL261x: EMMC_REG_BASE is 0xF7A00000.

Table 5 lists the recommended **TXDLY** settings for the **eMMC_CLK** signal based on the speed mode.

Table 5. eMMC CLK TXDLY Recommended Setting

Board	eMMC Speed Mode					
	Identical	Legacy	HS-SDR	HS-DDR	HS200	HS400
SL1680_RDK	40	40	40	40	40	20
SL1640_RDK	40	40	40	40	40	20
SL1620_RDK	40	40	40	40	40	20
SL261x_RDK	40	40	40	40	40	20

1.6. PCB Layout Guidelines

- Minimize the length of the CLK, CMD, and DAT traces to reduce signal latency and interference.
- Use controlled impedance routing for high-speed signals (CLK, CMD), typically 50ohm Single-End.
- Match trace lengths for CLK, CMD, DAT0-DAT7 to ensure proper signal timing in high-speed modes.
- Avoid crossing noisy components (e.g., switching power regulators) with high-speed signal traces.

2. References

- *Astra Machina™ Foundation Series Quick Start Guide* (PN: 511-001404-01)
- *SL1620 Embedded IoT Processor Electrical Specification Datasheet* (PN: 505-001428-01)
- *SL1640 Embedded IoT Processor Electrical Specification Datasheet* (PN: 505-001415-01)
- *SL1680 Embedded IoT Processor Electrical Specification Datasheet* (PN: 505-001413-01)
- *SL2610 Product Line of Embedded Processor Datasheet* (PN: 505-001501-01)
- *Embedded Multi-Media Card (eMMC) Electrical Standard (5.1)* (JESD84-B51)

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3. Revision History

Revision	Description
A	Initial release.
B	Minor update to correct trademarked items..
C	Minor update to trademarked items.
D	Added eMMC for SL2610.

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