

W  **LC**  **ME**  **TO** **AUST**  **N**



CONNECT

2023 AUSTIN



How to get the most out of PXI VSTs

Cristian Muresan Hagau

Product Manager, RF Test



Agenda

PXI VST Refresh

New Production Introductions: PXIe-5842s

Hardware Architecture

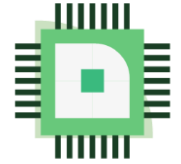
Software Tools

Platform Benefits

VST Applications

ni Talk about VST at NI Connect

Business Unit Technical Sessions



Multichannel RF
Data Recording
and Analysis
Meeting Room 19A

5G Mid-Band,
5G mmWave, or
Wi-Fi 7—Which
Technology
Will Consumers
Adopt?
Meeting Room 18B

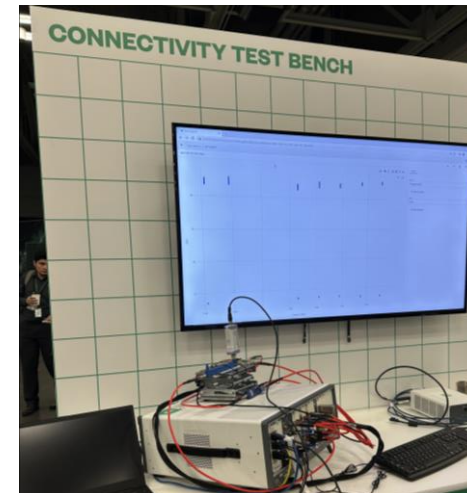
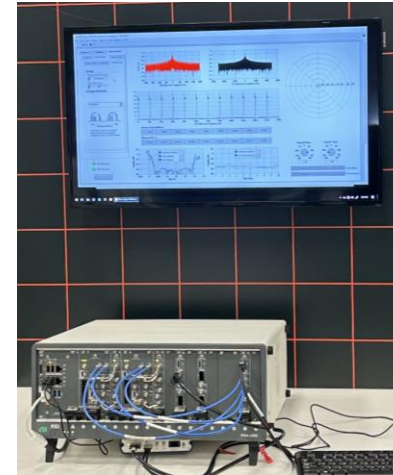
Characterizing
Digital TRMs and
ESA Systems
Meeting Room 19A

Covering the
Full Radar Test
Spectrum: From
Digital to Analog
and Component
to System
Meeting Room 19A

Validating
Satellite Datalinks
with HIL and SLE
Meeting Room 19A

Navigating
Wireless
Infrastructure
Test
Meeting Room 18B

Enabling the
6G Vision
through Test and
Measurement
Meeting Room 18B





★ 11th Anniversary! ★



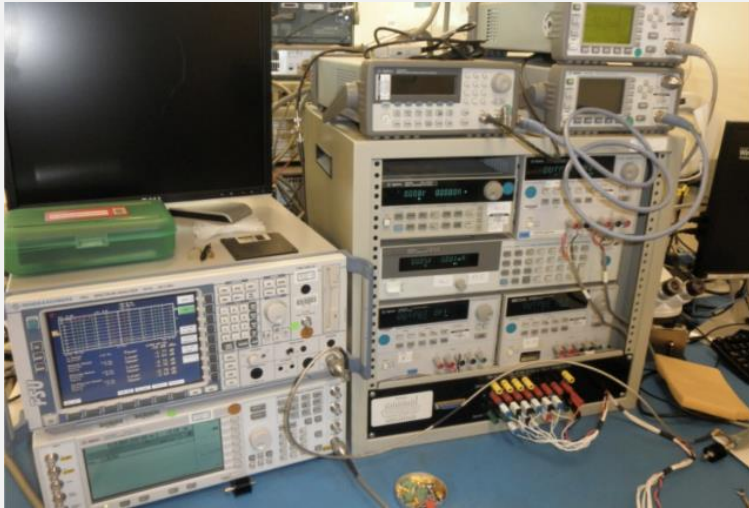
What is a PXI Vector Signal Transceiver?

The PXI Vector Signal Transceiver (VST) combines an RF and baseband vector signal analyzer and generator with a powerful FPGA and high-speed serial and parallel digital interfaces for real-time signal processing and control from baseband to mmWave.



ni Two Distinct Approaches to RF Characterization

Traditional Approach



- Familiar user experience for many engineers
- Slower measurement speed
- Expensive to upgrade or replace – even Software
- Difficult to synchronize
- Large physical footprint
- Tradeoffs between speed and accuracy

Platform-Based Approach



- Familiar measurement APIs with interactive SFPs
- Faster and FPGA-accelerated measurement speed
- Less expensive to upgrade – especially Software
- Native synchronization technologies
- Smaller physical footprint
- R&D grade accuracy with production test speed

ni PXIe-5842 | Most Versatile & Capable PXI VST in the Industry

23 GHz* VSA with up to 2 GHz Instantaneous BW
* 26.5 GHz available in Q3.2023

23 GHz* VSG with up to 2 GHz Instantaneous BW
* 26.5 GHz available in Q3.2023

PFI 0 (Trigger / Event)

High speed serial interface
MGT - 16 lanes @ 16Gbps
Full Rate IQ Data Streaming to
NI FPGA Co-processor
(Available Q3.2023)

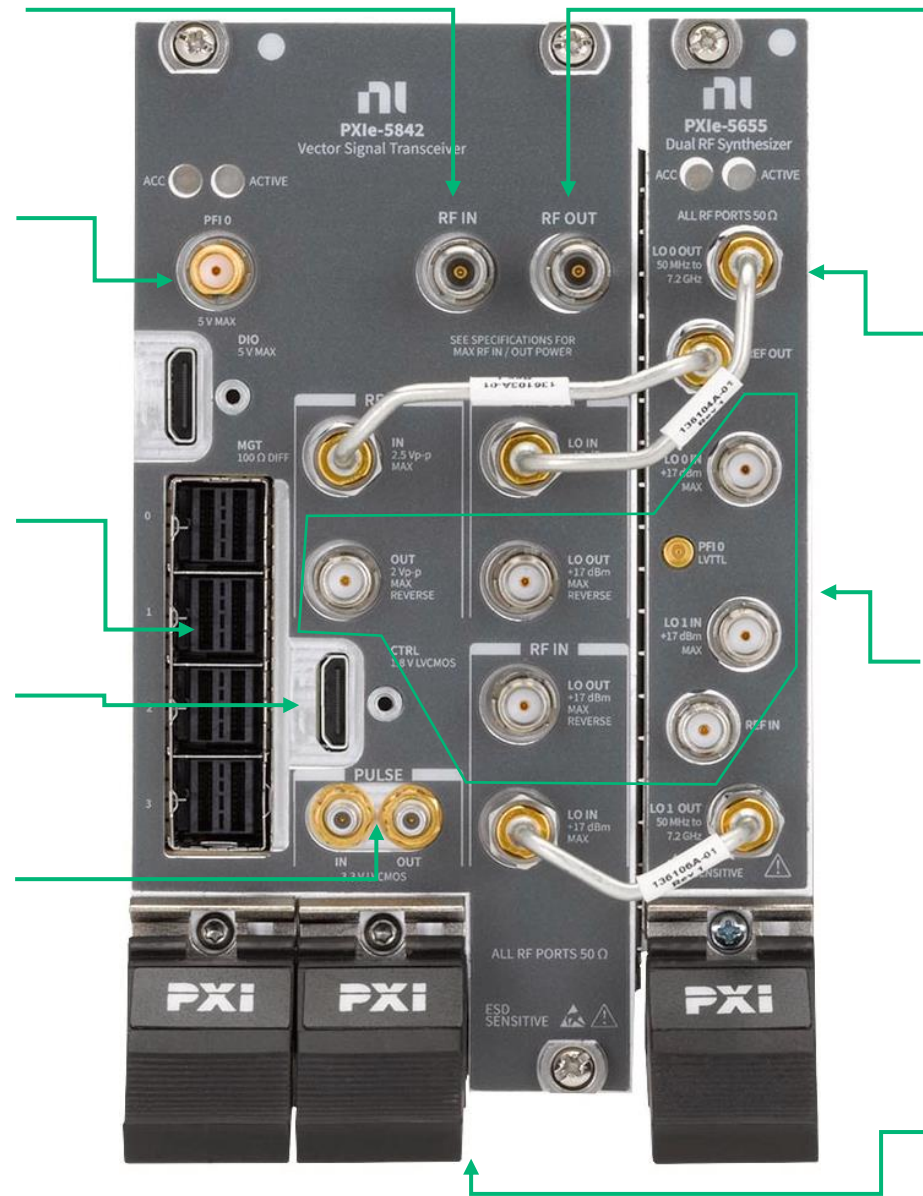
VST Extension DIO Port

Integrated RF Signal Chain Pulse Modulation
Allows for optimization of On/Off Ratio
versus pulse width
(Available Q3.2023)

High Performance Dual LO Synthesizer
Unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In (from
PXIe-5655)

Multi-Instrument Synchronization
Expand channel count with phase coherency
LO / REF-sharing and TCik sync across the PXI
backplane

Small form factor
Requires only 4 PXI slots



ni Highest Performance VST



Model Name	PXIe-5841	PXIe-5830	PXIe-5831	PXIe-5842 (new)
Frequency	9 kHz – 6 GHz	5 GHz – 12 GHz	5 GHz – 21 GHz	50 MHz – 23 GHz 30 MHz - 26.5 GHz (Q3.2023)
Bandwidth	1 GHz	1 GHz	1 GHz	Up to 2 GHz (4GHz PoC)
Slot Count	2 / 3	4	6	4
Tuning Time	380 us / 175 μs	500 μs	500 μs	230 μs
VSG Maximum Output Power (CW @ 5 GHz)	+ 20 dBm	+ 12 dBm	+ 12 dBm	+ 20 dBm
EVM (5G NR, 100 MHz, loopback @ 5.5 GHz)	-49 dB	-51 dB	-51 dB	-56 dB
Frequency Response (max BW) typ.	± 0.85 dB	± 1.1 dB	± 1.2 dB	± 0.35 dB
RF IN Average Noise Density (+0 dBm Ref Level)	-144 dBm/Hz	-142 dBm/Hz	-141 dBm/Hz	-146 dBm/Hz

ni PXIe-5842 | Configurations & Options

Scalable value at a scalable price, with no tradeoff on core performance

Q4'22 PXIe-5842 Fixed Configurations

Direction	Configuration
Analysis and Generation	8 GHz, 1 GHz BW
Analysis and Generation	12 GHz, 2 GHz BW
Analysis and Generation	23 GHz, 2 GHz BW

Q3'23 PXIe-5842 Hardware Options

Direction
Analysis and Generation
Analysis Only
Generation Only
Frequency Range
30 MHz – 8 GHz
30 MHz – 12 GHz
30 MHz – 18 GHz
30 MHz – 26.5 GHz
Bandwidth
500 MHz BW
1 GHz BW
2 GHz BW

Choose Direction

Choose Frequency Range

Choose Bandwidth

Desired Configuration

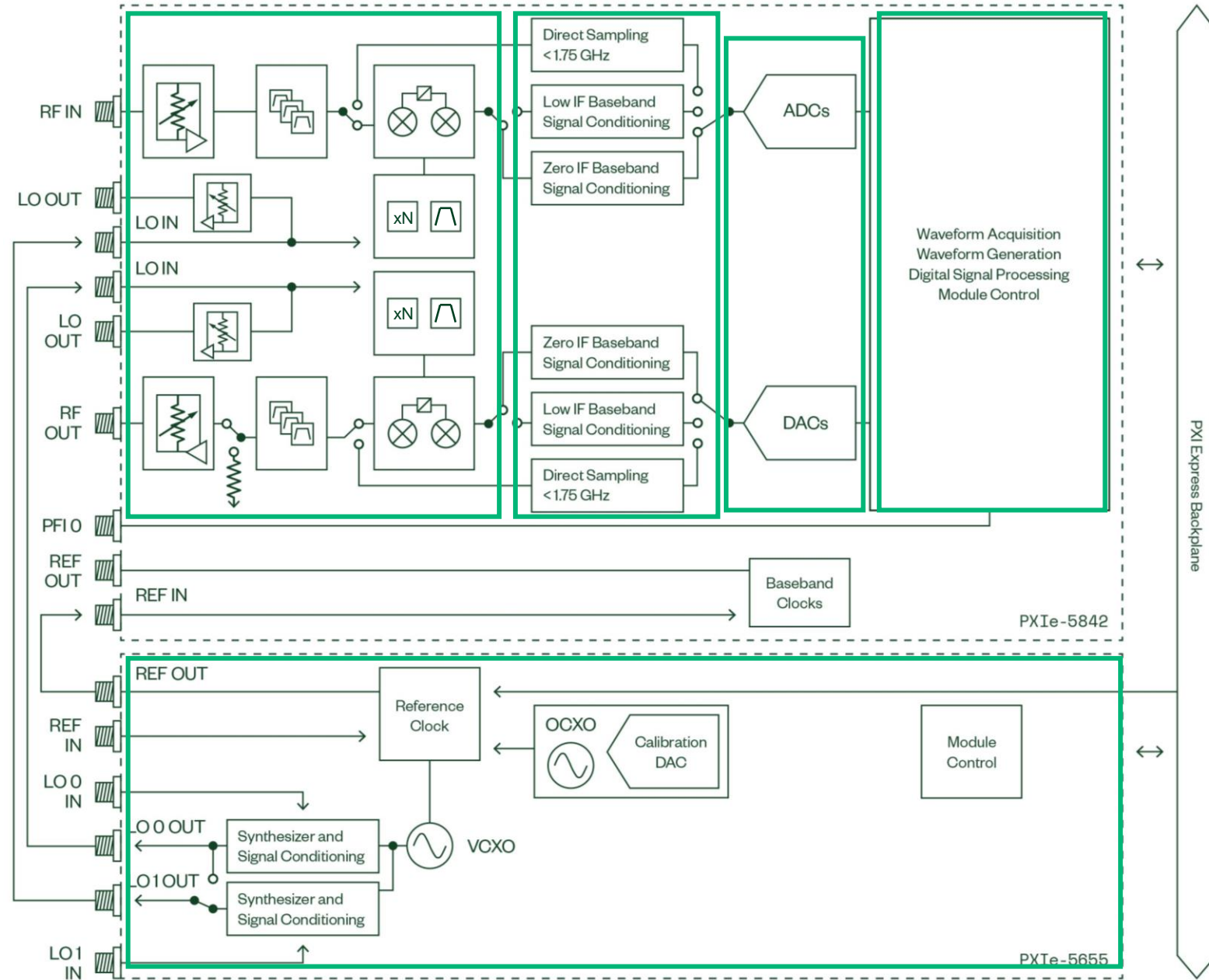




PXIE-5842 Hardware

ni Hardware Block Diagram

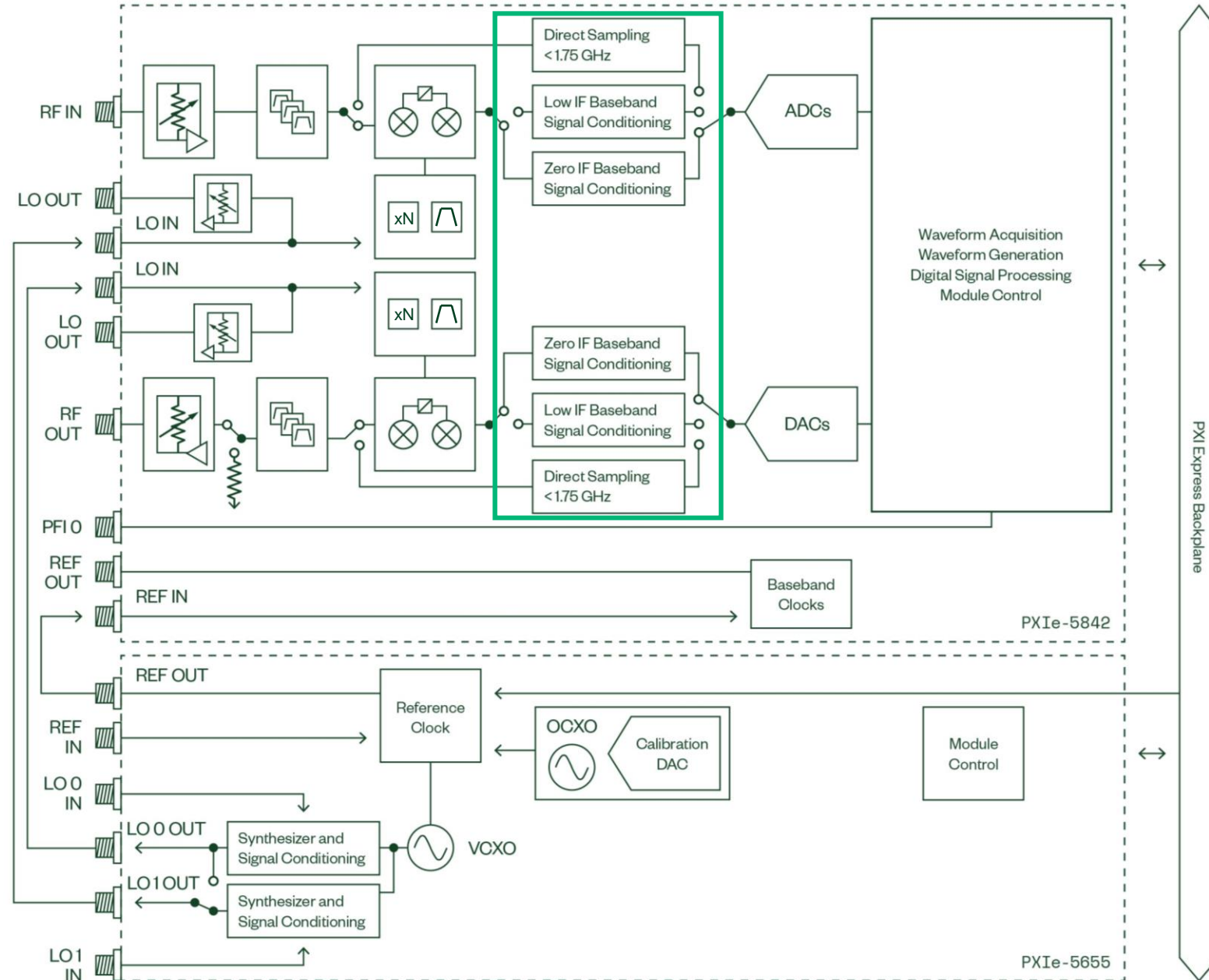
- High-Quality RF Front End
- Multiple signal conditioning paths
- High Speed Data Converters
- FPGA-based shared signal processing between generation, analysis, pulsing and data movement
- High Performance LO (PXIe-5655) with unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In



Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths:

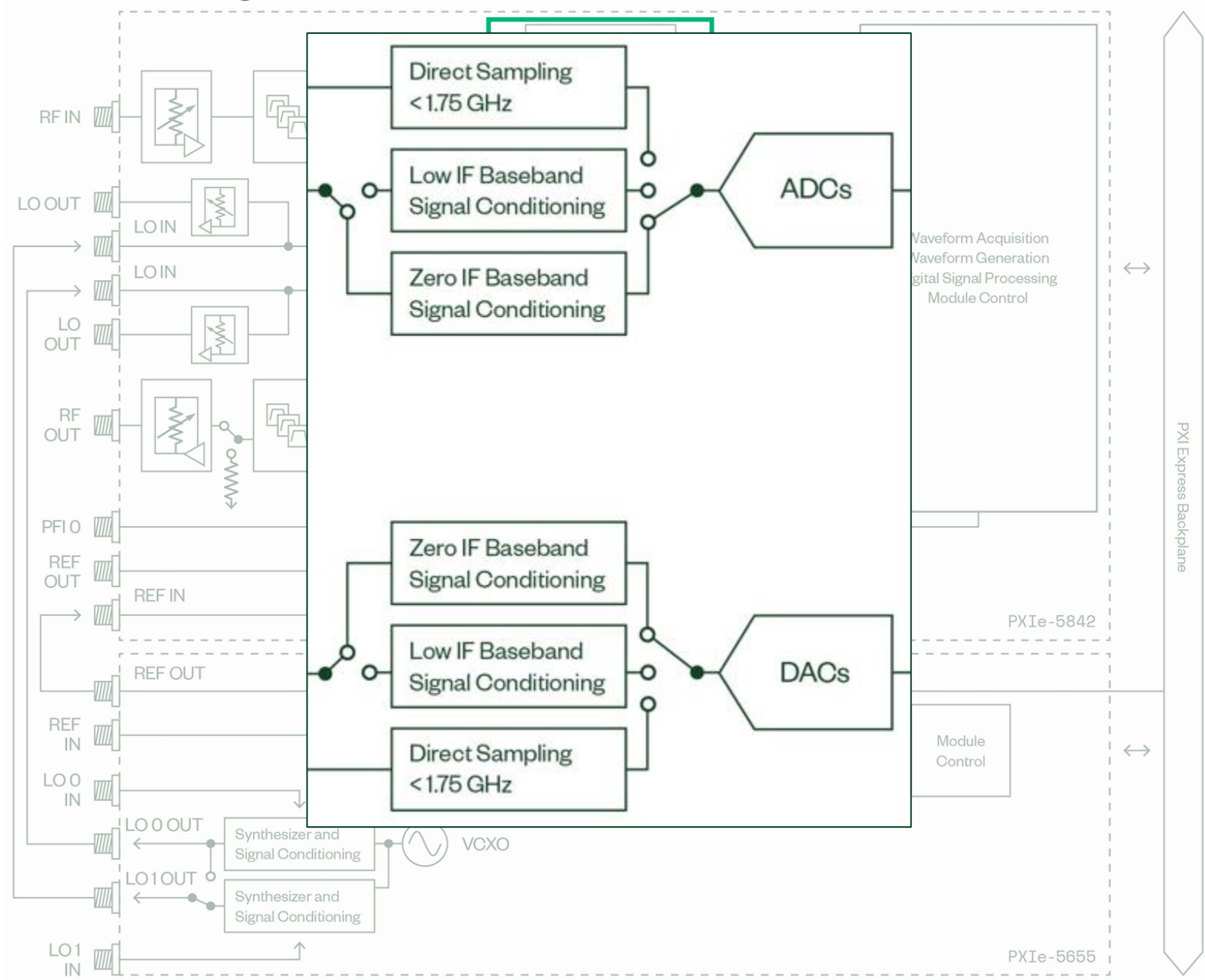
- Direct RF sampling path for center frequencies below 1.75 GHz.
- Low IF conditioning path optimized for high dynamic range.
- Zero IF conditioning path optimized for wide bandwidth signals with IBW up to 2 GHz.



Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Selected path is a function of:

- Offset Mode
- Center Frequency
 - < 1.75 GHz (Direct Sampling)
 - > 1.75 GHz (Low IF or Zero IF)
- Bandwidth
 - Low IF if:
 - BW < 600 MHz & Center Freq. < 5.25 GHz
 - BW < 900 MHz & Center Freq. > 5.25 GHz
 - Zero IF, otherwise



ni Direct Conversion

Benefits

Eliminates need for RF filters (especially switched filter)

For the same bandwidth, half sample-rate compared to super-heterodyne

Lower cost

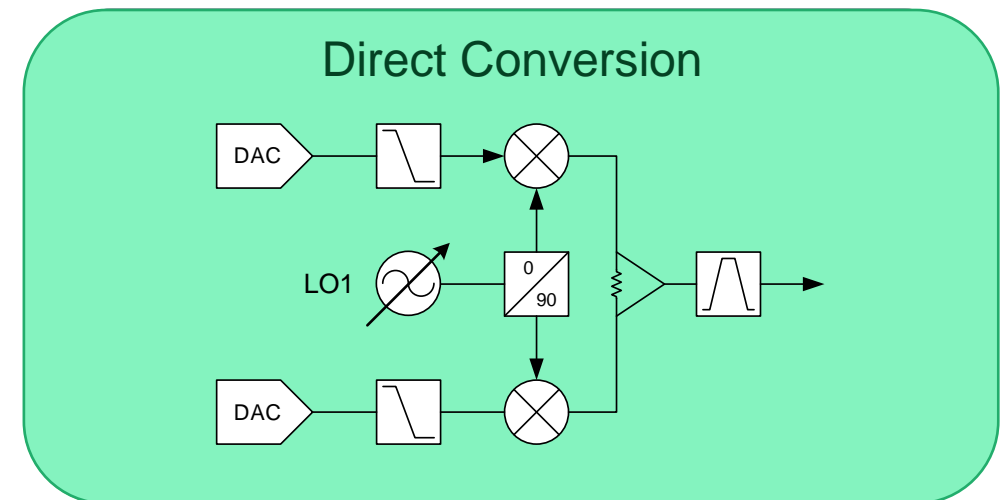
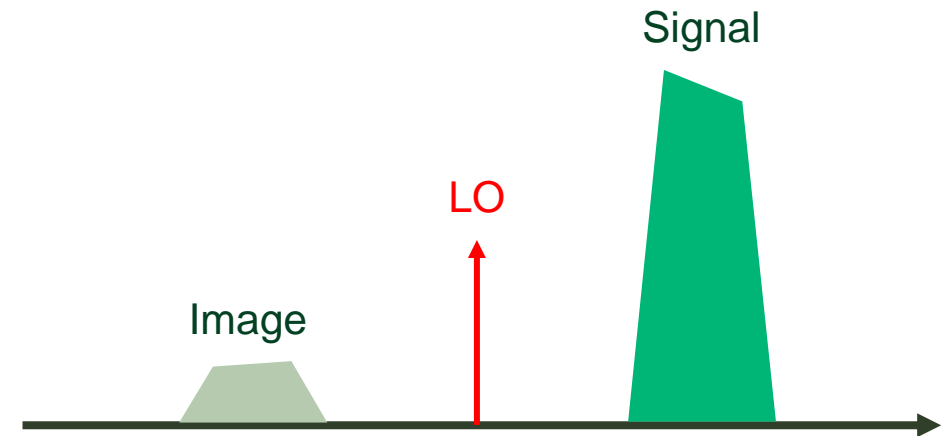
Utilizes DACs in 1st Nyquist zone (higher dynamic range)

Drawbacks

Correction of I/Q impairments

More difficult at higher frequencies

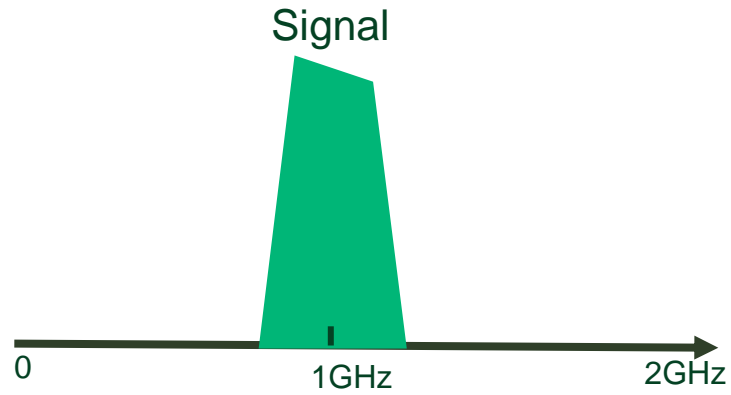
Must correct impairments over tuning range



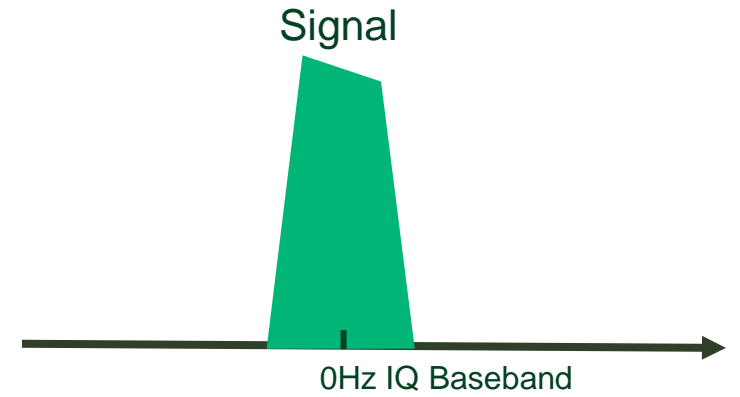
ni Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Direct Sampling

No LO Leakage / Image



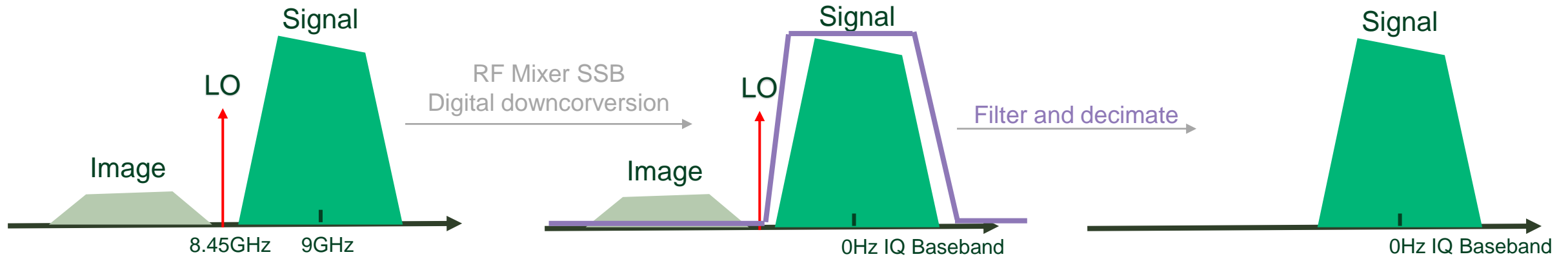
Digital downconversion →



ni Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Low IF

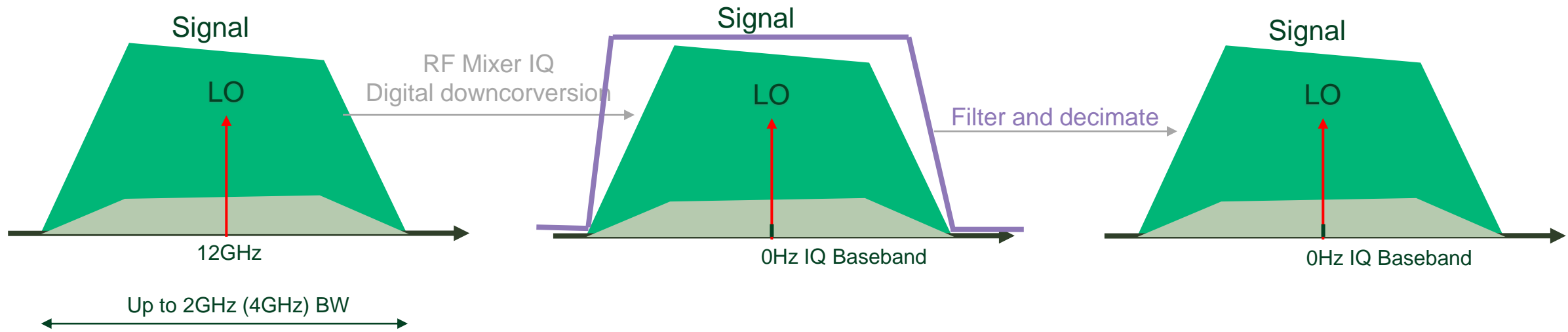
LO Offset at -550 MHz, No LO Leakage/Image



ni Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Zero IF

LO Leakage/Image in band

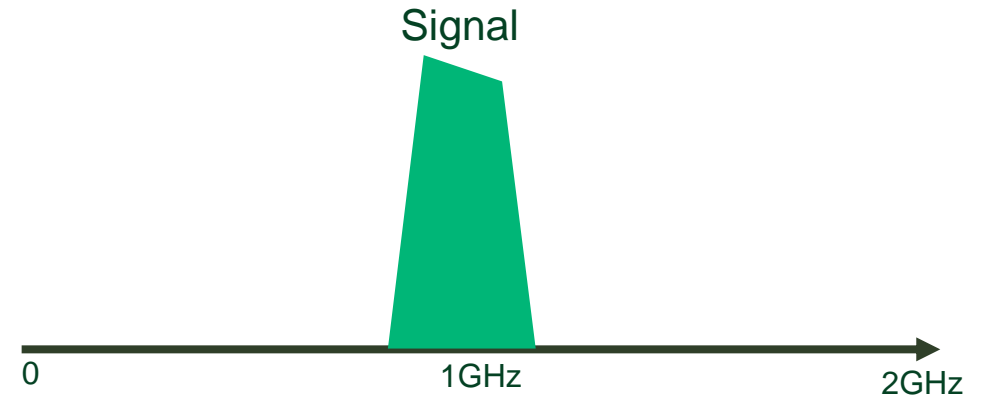


ni Multiple Signal Conditioning Paths

Direct Sampling

No LO Leakage / Image

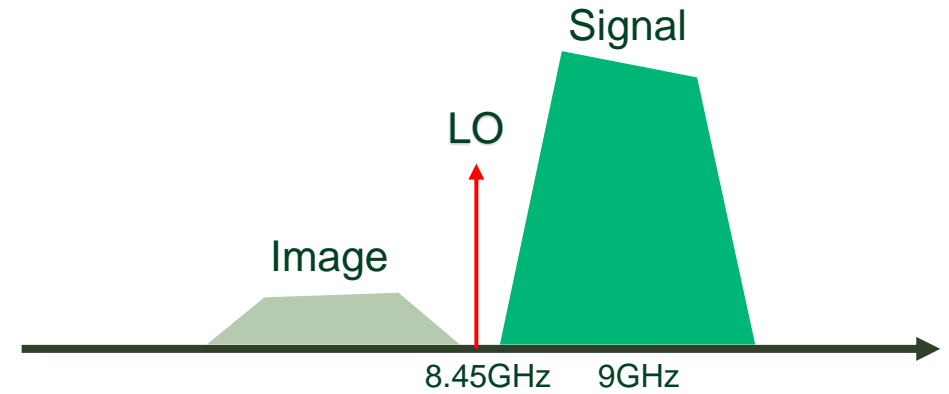
Example: 500 MHz wide signal at 1GHz Center Frequency



Low IF

LO Offset at -550 MHz, No LO Leakage/Image

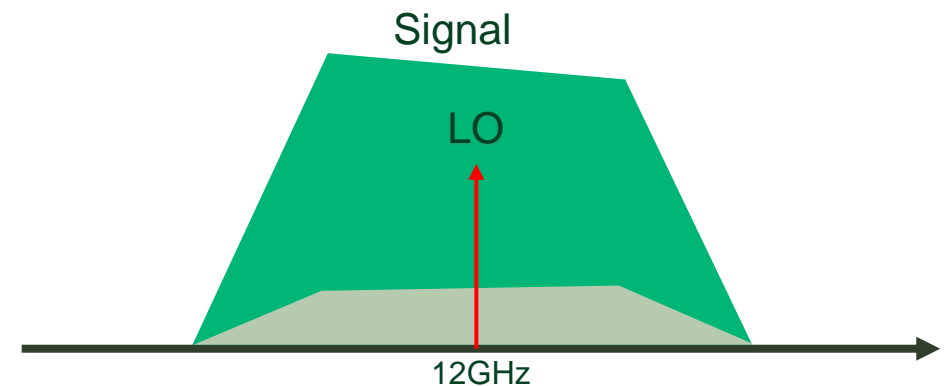
Example: 900MHz wide signal at 9GHz Center Frequency



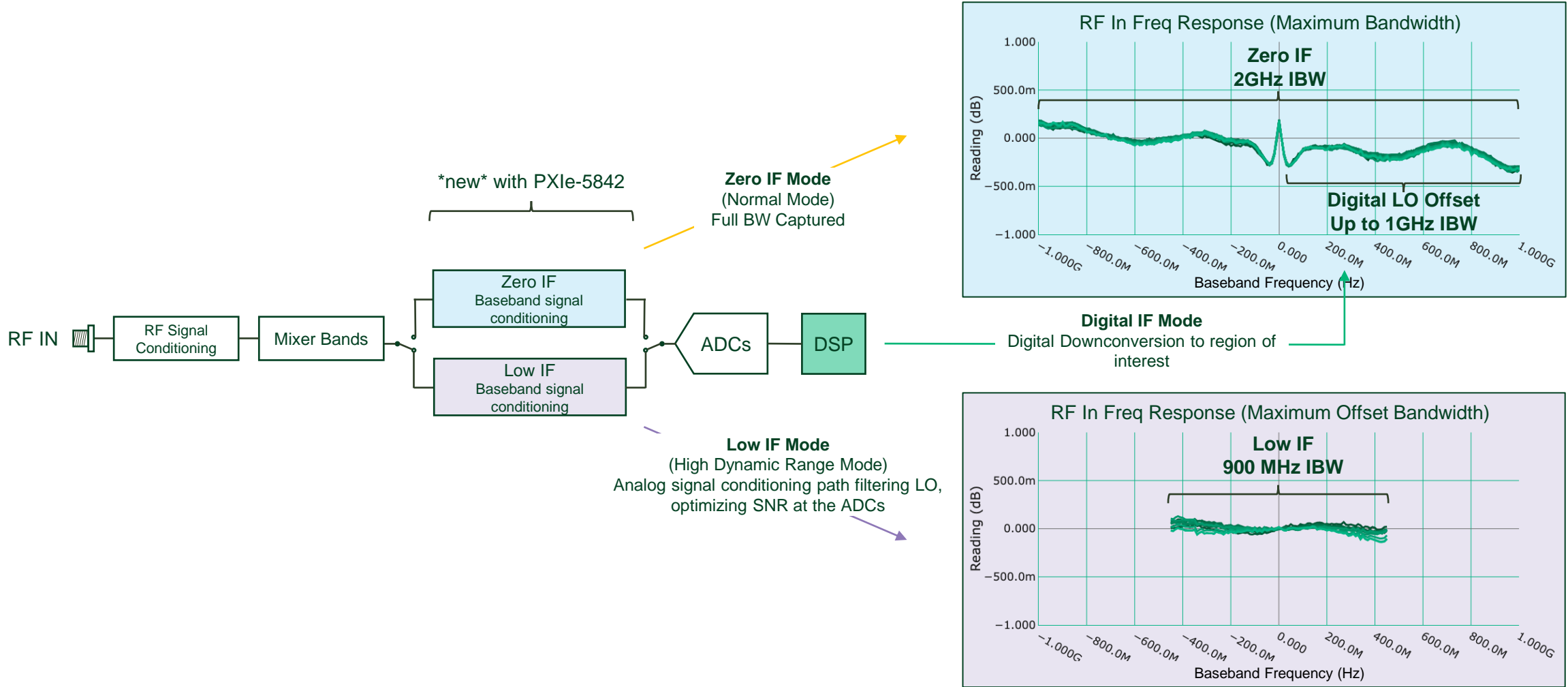
Zero IF

LO Leakage/Image in band

ni.com Example: 2 GHz wide signal at 12 GHz Center Frequency



ni Enhanced LO Offset Mode



ni PXIe-5655 - High-Performance Dual LO

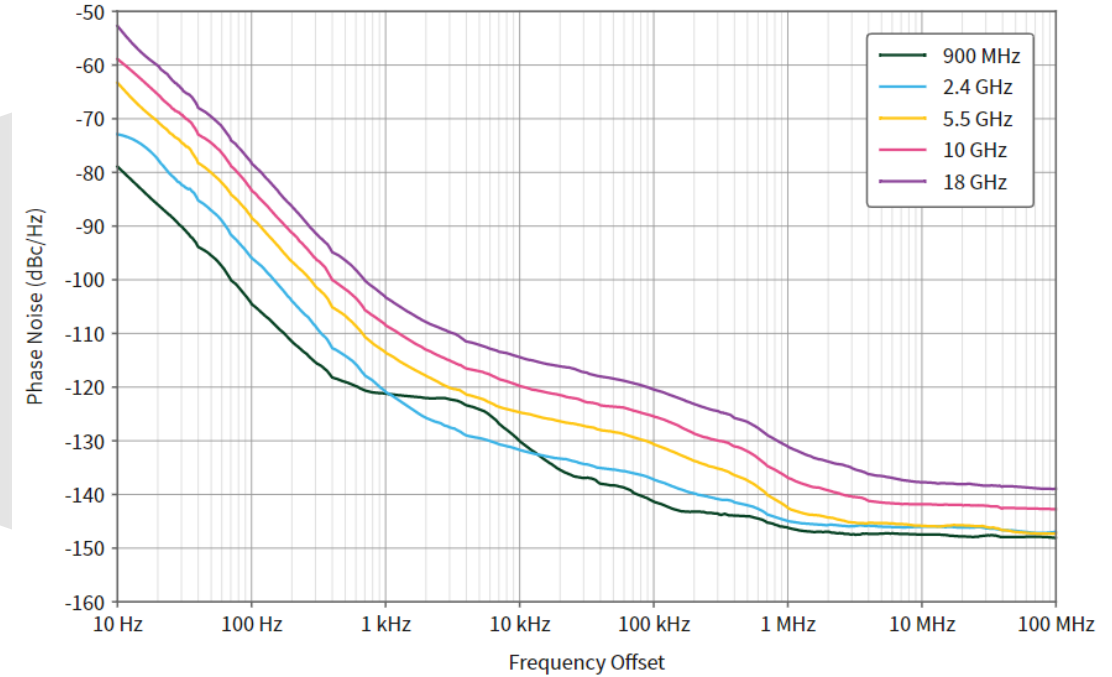
LO Out to PXIe-5842 RF OUT
Unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In

REF OUT to PXIe-5842
Unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In

External LO & REF IN for PXIe-5842
Expand channel count with phase coherency



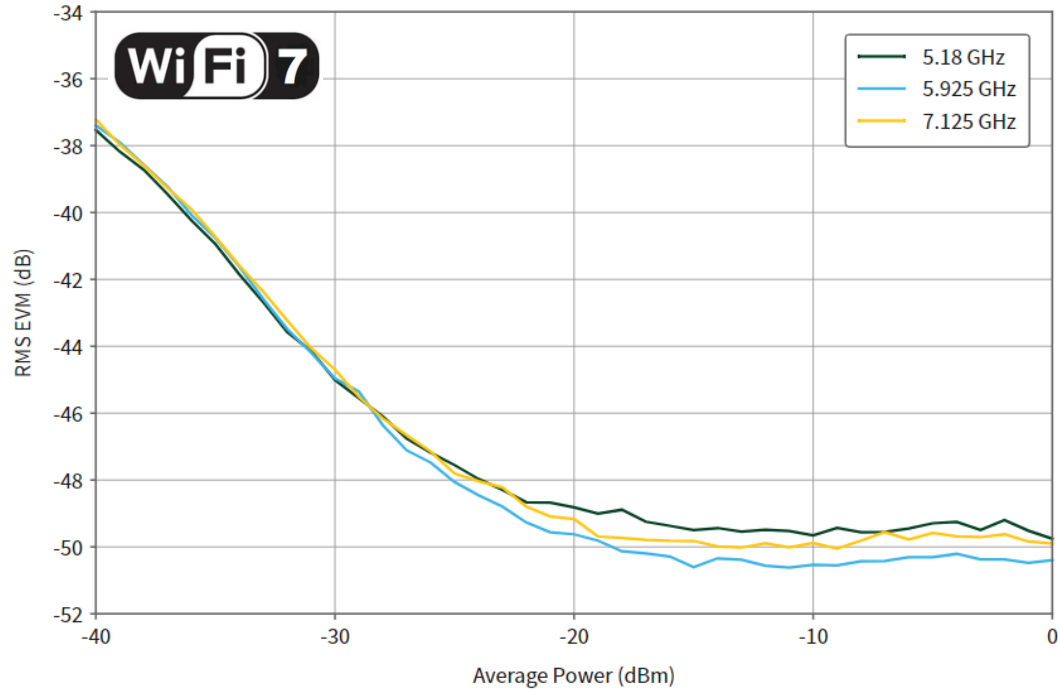
LO Out to PXIe-5842 RF IN
Unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In



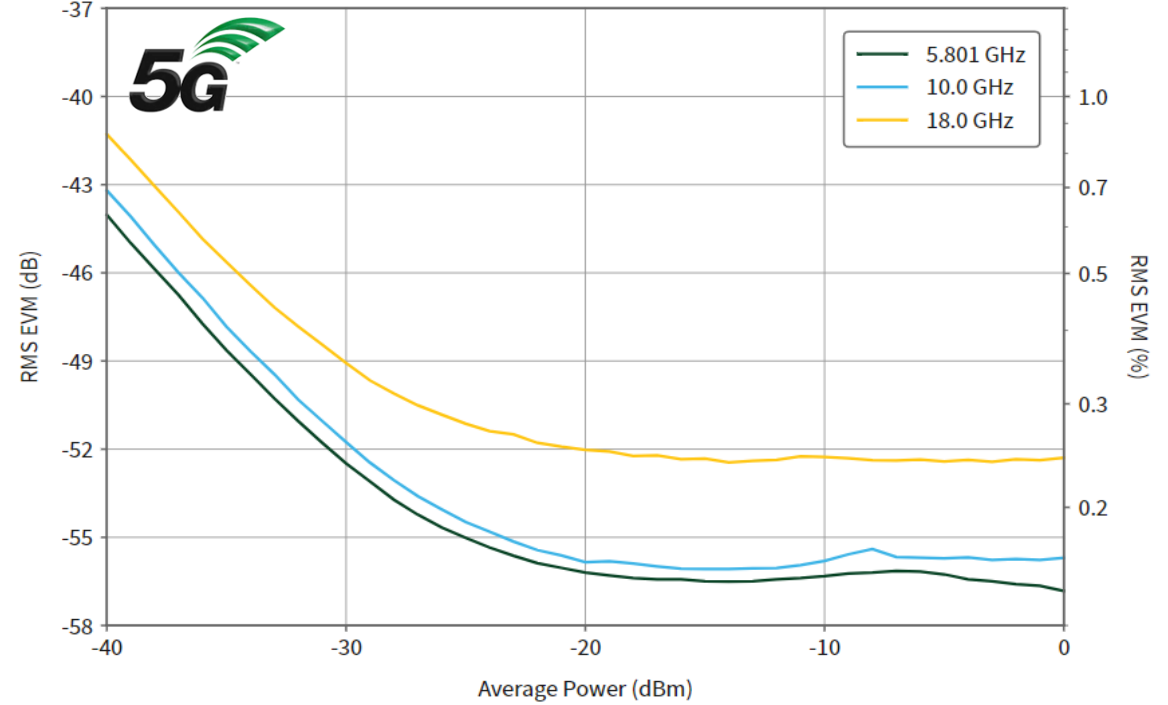
LO Sharing internal to PXIe-5655
Great performance in both independent or shared LO

ni World-class EVM Performance

Measured WLAN 802.11be 320 MHz, 4096 QAM



Measured 5G NR FR1 & FR2, 1 CC x 100 MHz

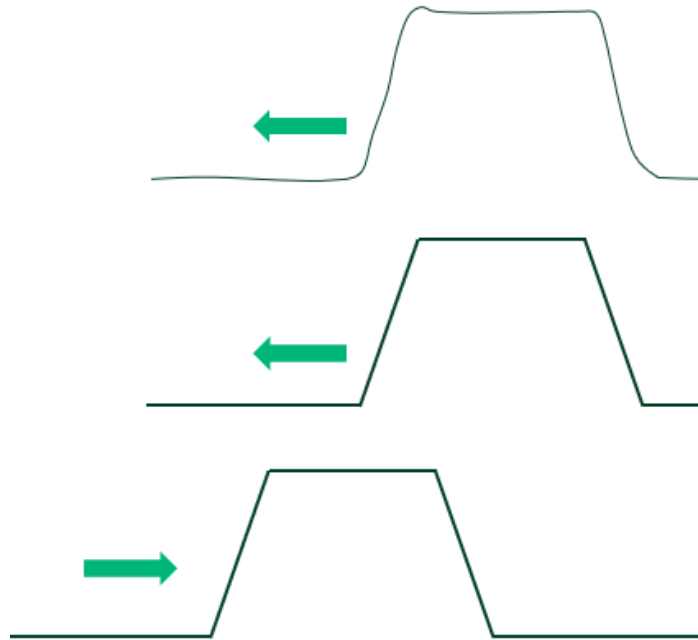


Model Name	EVM
PXIe-5842	< -49 dB
Competitor A PXI	-47 dB
Competitor A benchtop	-50 dB
Competitor B benchtop	-49.5 dB

Model Name	EVM
PXIe-5842	-55 dB
Competitor A PXI	-54 dB
Competitor A benchtop	-54 dB
Competitor B benchtop	-51.3 dB

ni Pulse modulation

- Native pulsed generation capabilities for Radar/EW applications
- Programmable on/off ratios
- Fast / Flexible pulse modes



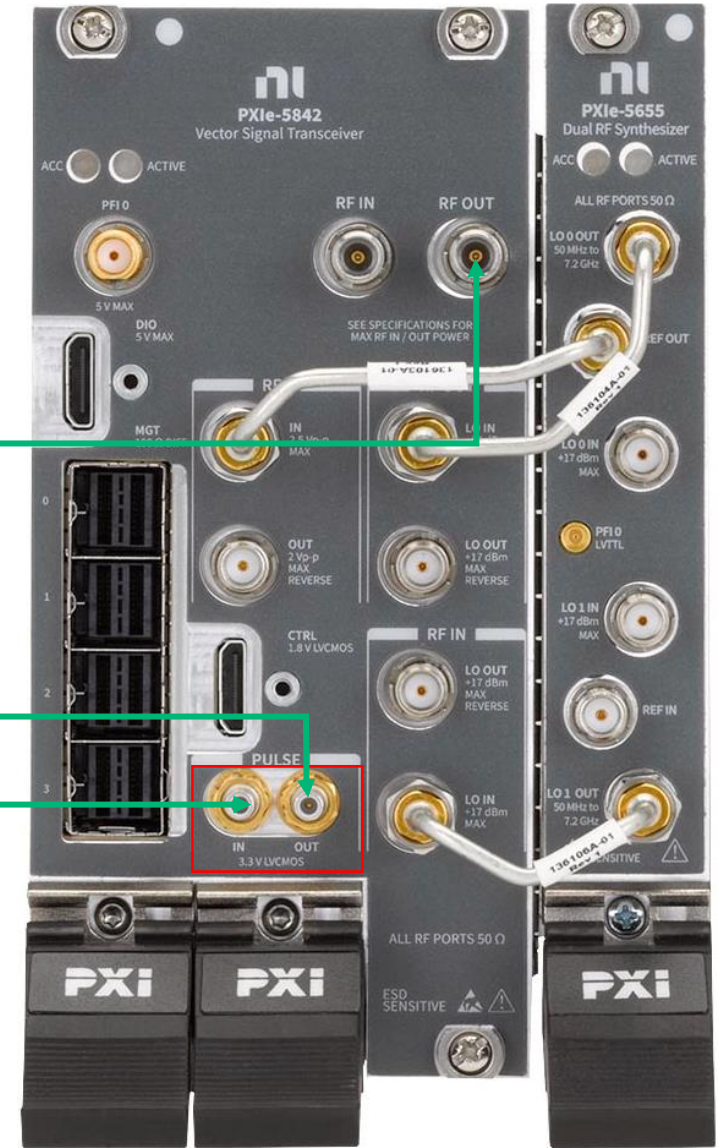
Pulsed RF Out

Pulse Out

VIDEO OUT, follows RF Out envelope

Pulse In

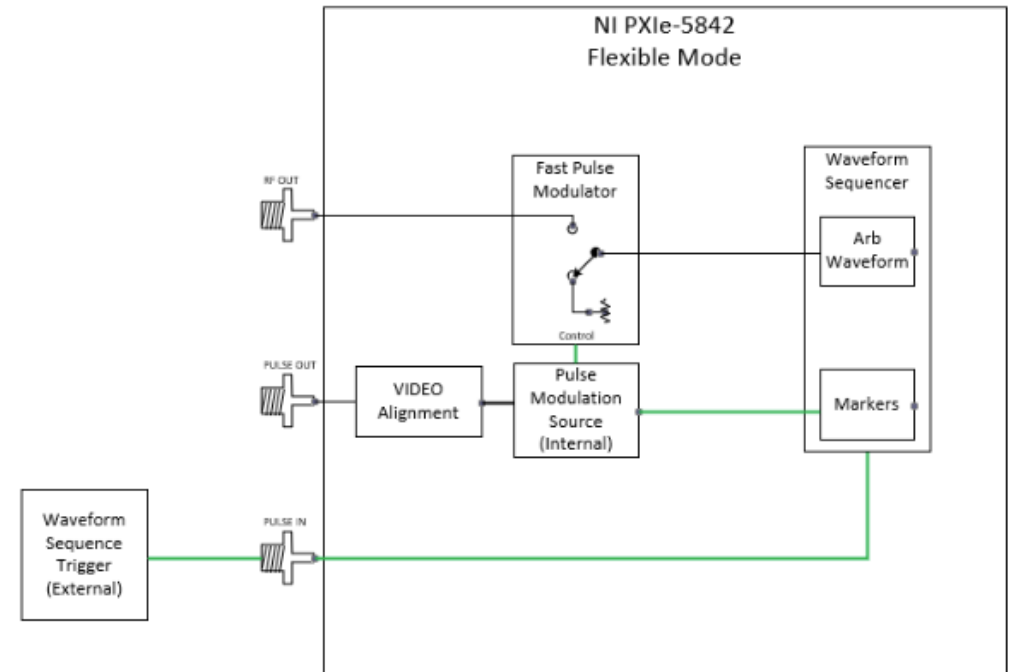
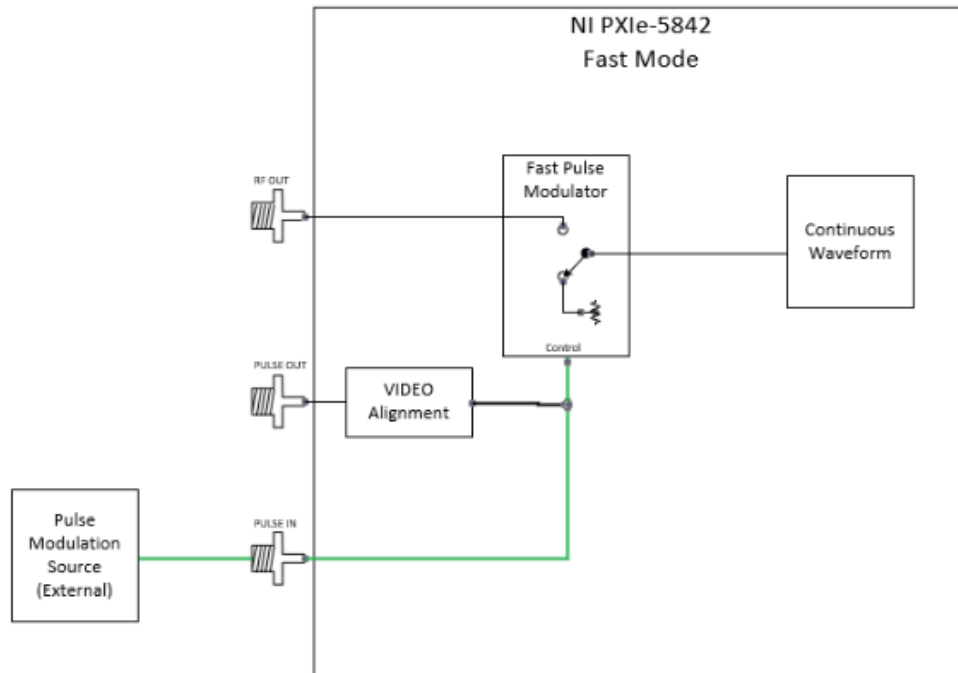
External Pulse Input for fast pulse modulation



ni Pulse Modulation

Pulse Modulation Source:

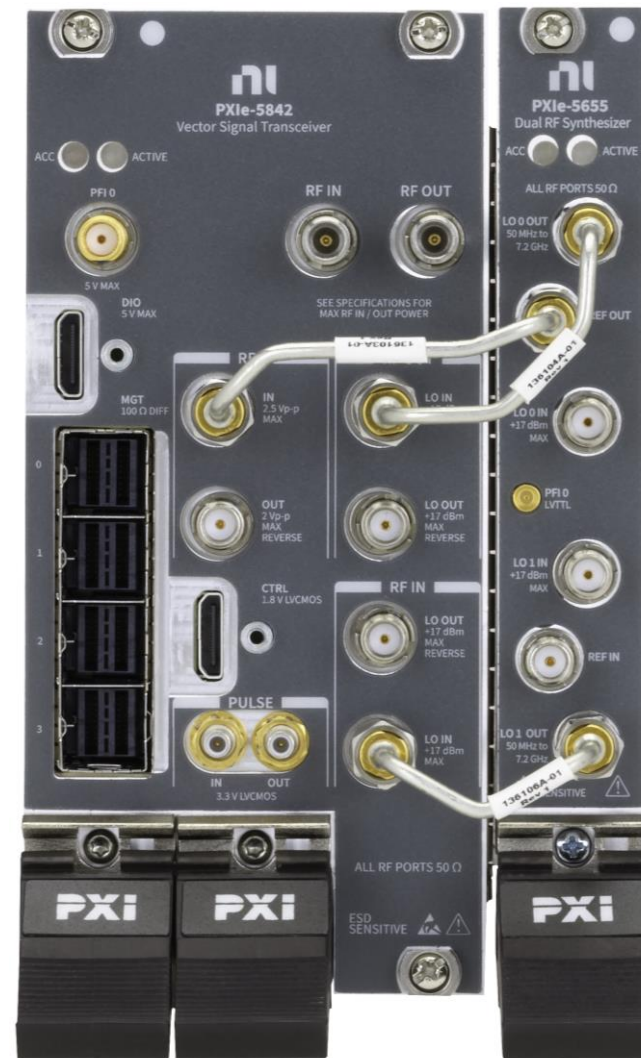
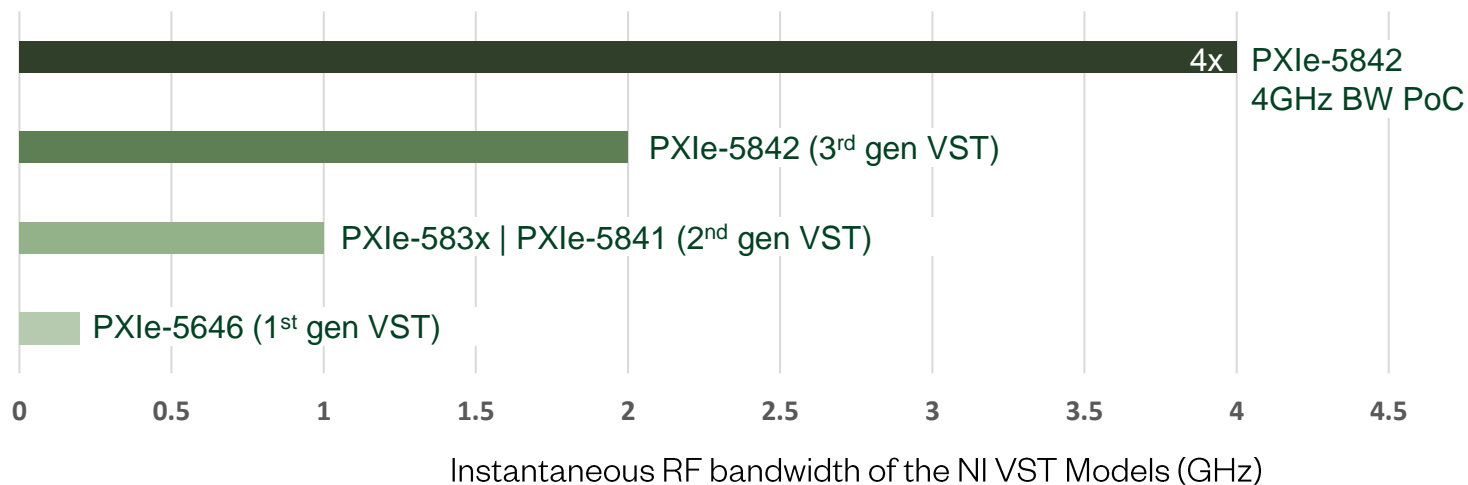
- Pulse In - fast, not waveform sample aligned
 - Lower latency
 - Lower jitter
- Marker - waveform sample aligned
 - Higher latency
 - Higher jitter





PXle-5842 23GHz, 4 GHz IBW | PoC

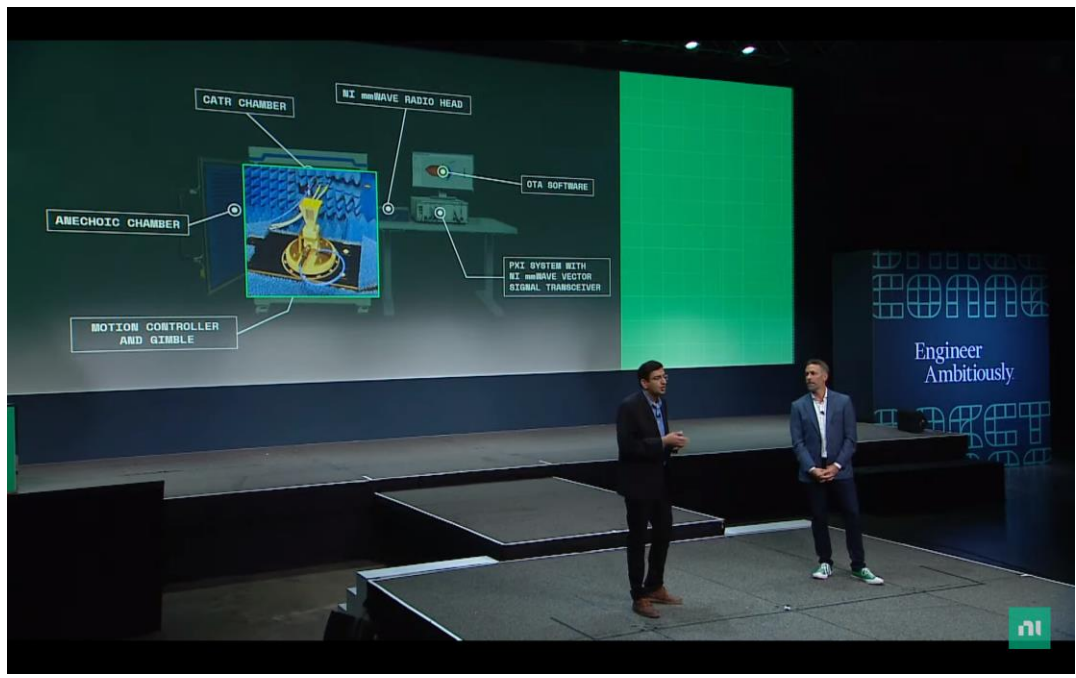
- PXle-5842 with 4 GHz IBW PoC based on standard PXle-5842 2 GHz Hardware
- Expands instantaneous bandwidth to 4 GHz (above 8.8 GHz center frequency) and provides real-time signal processing and control at constant 5 GS/s sampling rate.
- Examples available for 5G NR EVM measurements or streaming 4GHz BW to a PXle co-processor
- NI Connect Demo: 6G Sub-THz Reference Architecture





PXIE-5842 with 54GHz Frequency Extension

ni Innovation at mmWave



NI Connect 2022

Going beyond 44 GHz we have been working closely with NI as the lead user on the next generation mmwave technology that will allow us to actually enable it up to 54 GHz.

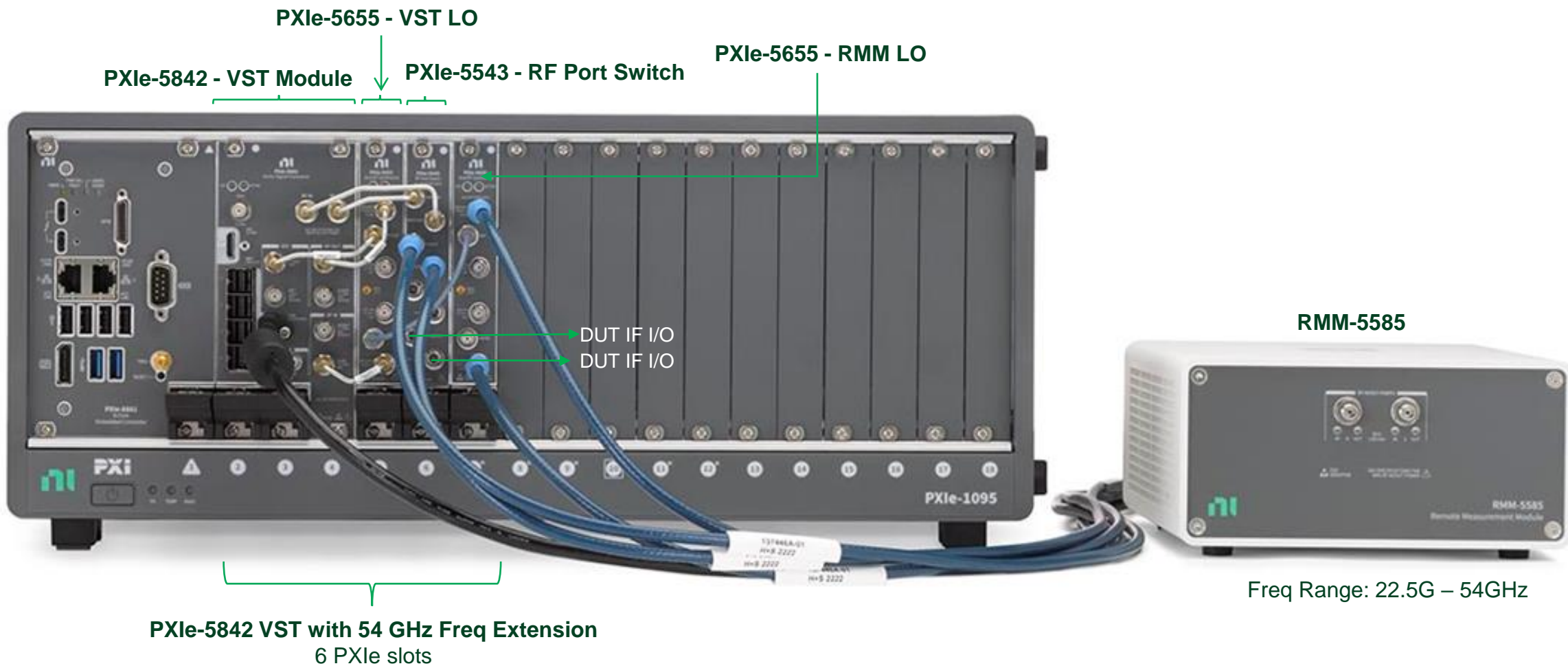
Guarav Verma - Qualcomm





PXIe-5842 with 54GHz Frequency Extension

Third-generation VST provides extended bandwidth and frequency coverage into mmWave spectrum / V band



ni PXIe-5842 with 54GHz Frequency Extension

RMM-5585 – Remote Measurement Module



Final up/down conversion stage in the remote head



Benefits:

- Higher setup flexibility
(position the head closer to the DUT)
- Higher power delivery at RF ports
(due to lower cable loss at IF frequencies compared to mmWave frequencies)

	3m mmWave	1m IF + 2m mmWave
Max Tx Power (28GHz)	+23 dBm	+17 dBm
IF cable length	n/a	1 m
mmWave cable length	3 m	2 m
mmWave cable loss	19.5 dB	13 dB
Max delivered power	+3.5 dBm	+4 dBm

ni RMM-5585 – Remote Measurement Module



Complete coverage of 3GPP FR2 – 22.5 GHz to 54GHz

2x Bidirectional RF ports for mmWave DUT connections

Simultaneous operation of RF In & Out ports on a single RMM-5585

Independent frequency tuning of RF In & Out ports on RMM-5585

IF In & Out Ports to PXle-5543 RF Port Switch
15-18 GHz range

High speed control from PXle-5842

High Performance Dual LO Synthesizer
Unique LO chains for RF Out and RF In (from PXle-5655)

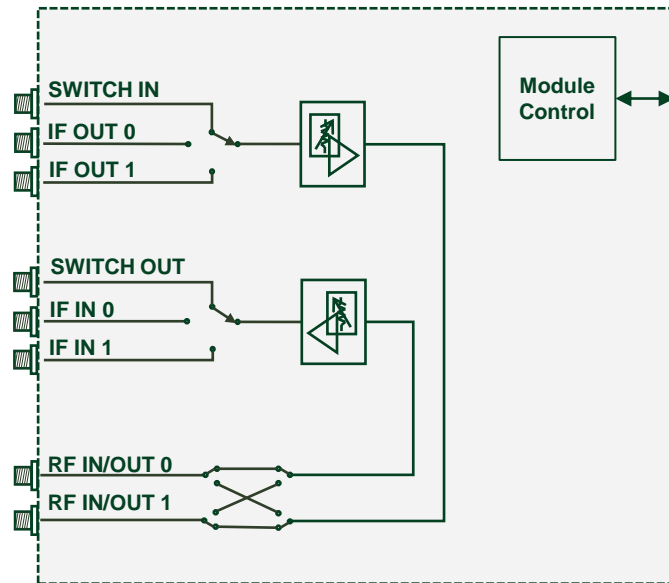


ni PXIe-5543 - RF Port Switch

Extension of PXIe-5842 RF Ports for testing IF-RF DUTs

Sold only as part of the PXIe-5842 with 54 GHz VST

Block Diagram

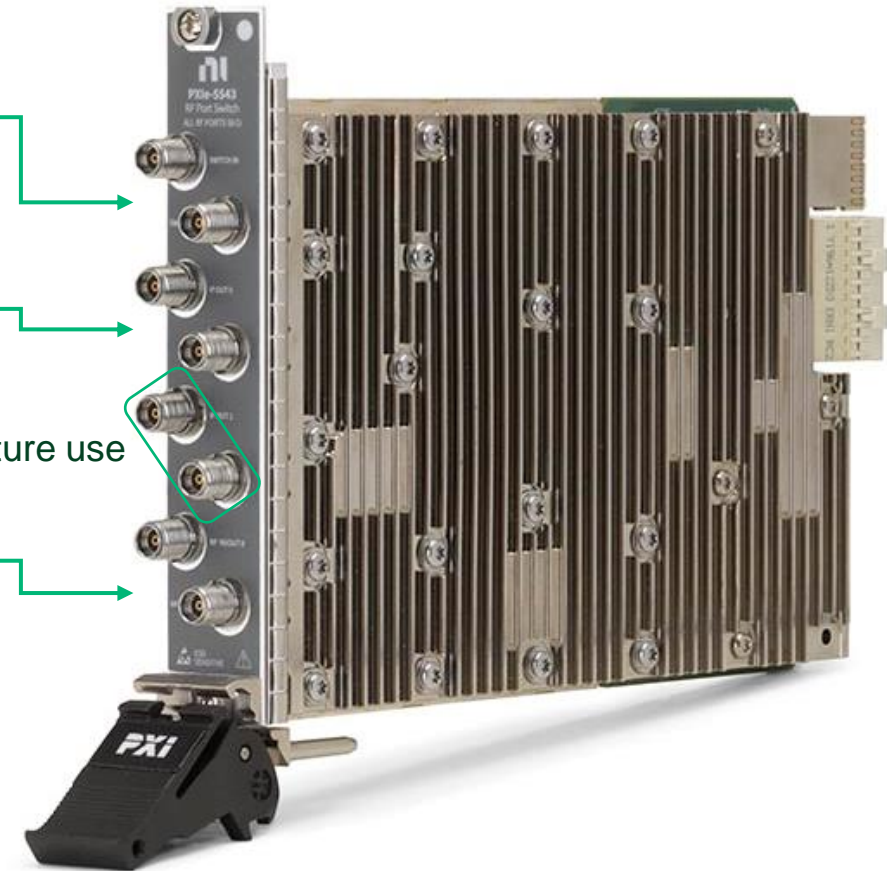


SWITCH In & Out
connections to PXIe-5842 module

IF In & Out
connections to RMM-5585

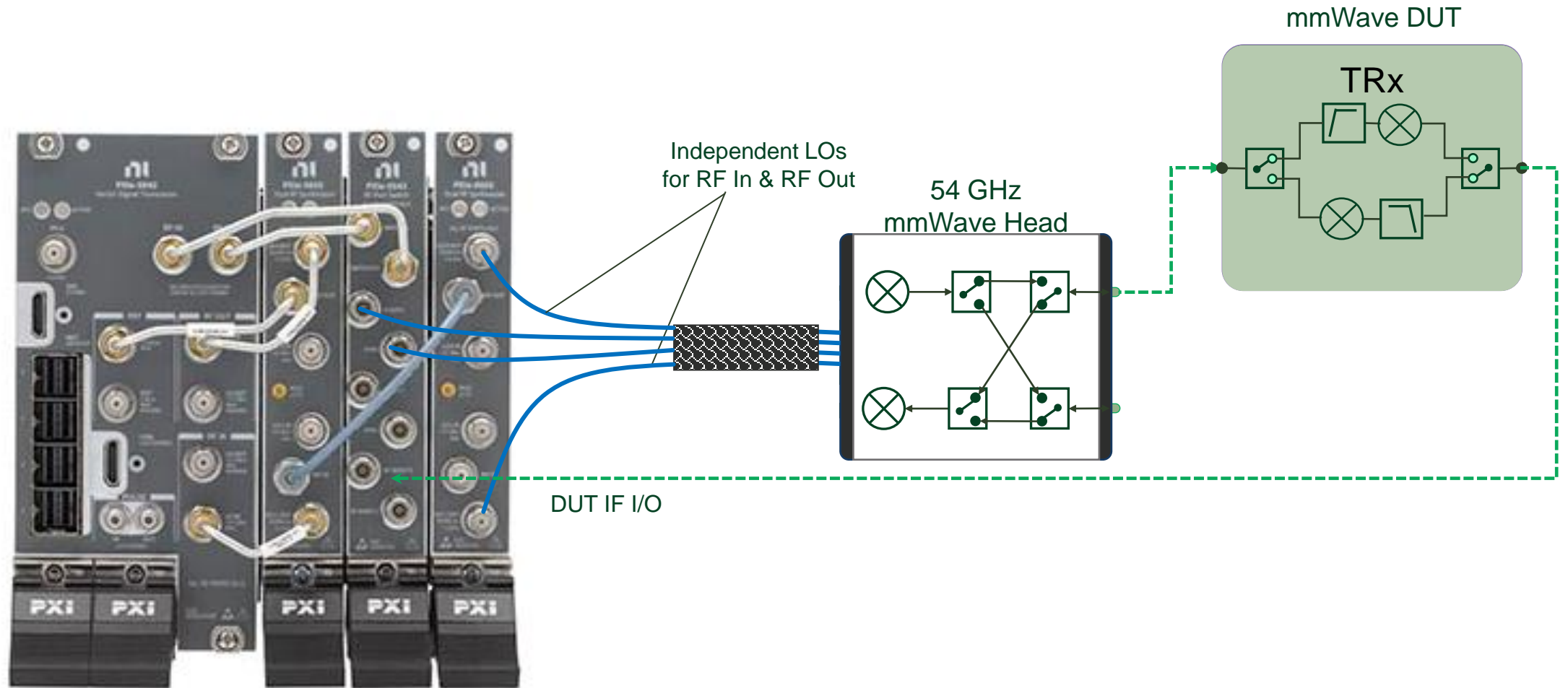
Reserved for future use

2x Bidirectional RF ports
for IF DUT connections
200 MHz – 23 GHz

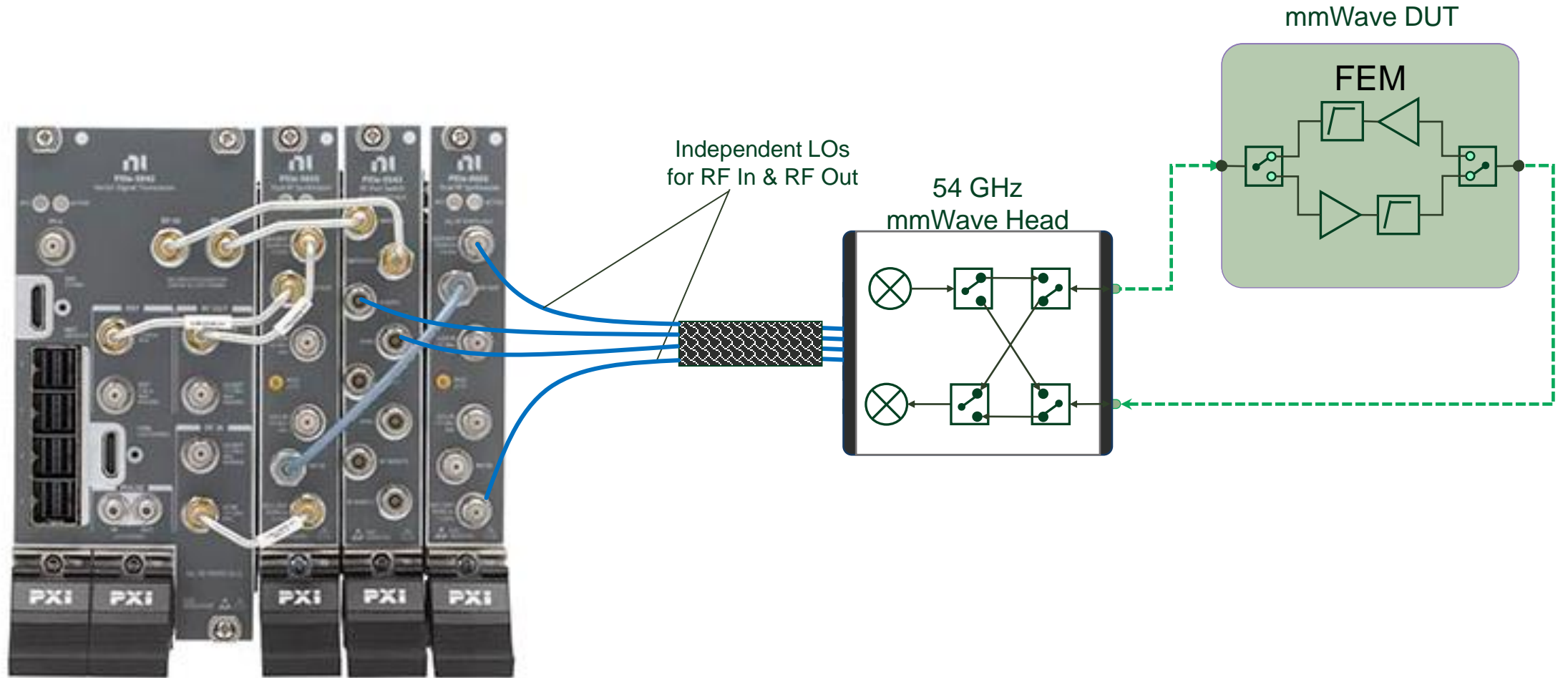


ni PXIe-5842 with 54GHz Frequency Extension | RF to IF

Bidirectional Test with Single RMM-5585



ni PXIe-5842 with 54GHz Frequency Extension | RF to RF Bidirectional Test with Single RMM-5585

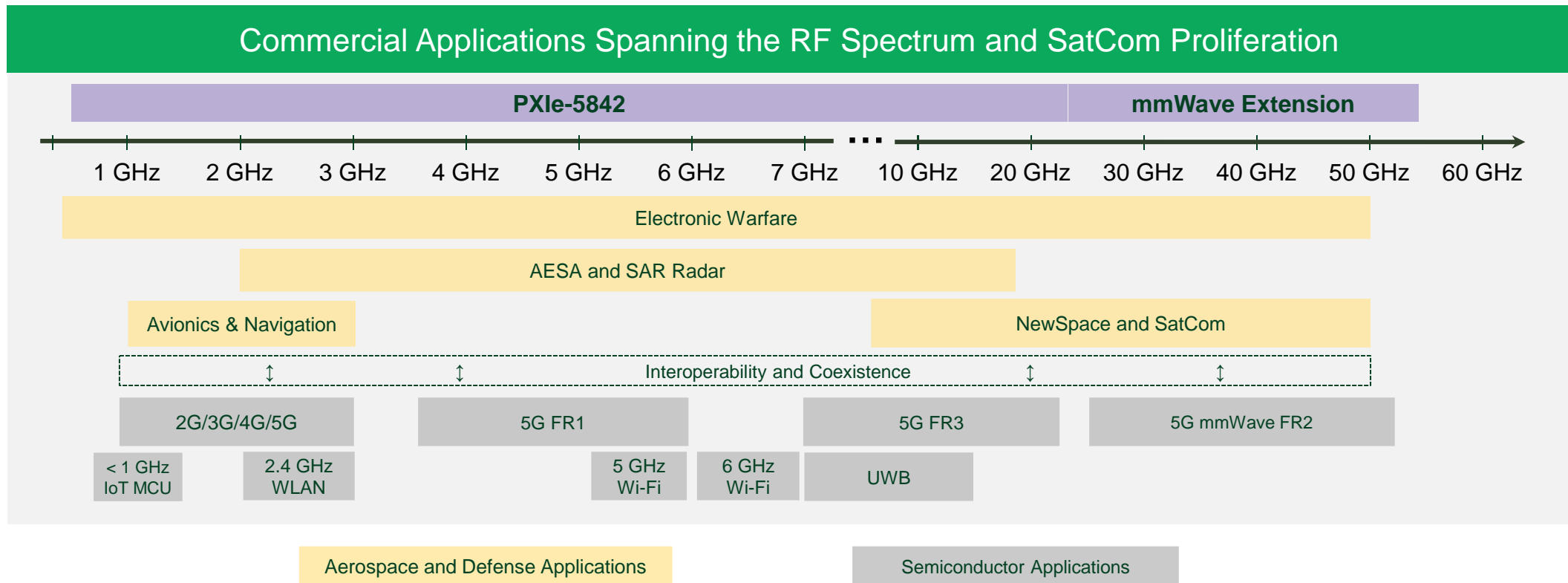


ni mmWave VST Family



Specification	PXIe-5831	PXIe-5842 (new)
RF Frequency Range	22.5 GHz – 44 GHz	22.5 GHz – 54 GHz
IF Frequency Range	5 GHz – 21 GHz	200 MHz – 23 GHz
Instantaneous Bandwidth	1 GHz	2 GHz
Number of Radio Heads	1 or 2	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Ports 	2 unidirectional	2 bidirectional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switched Ports 	Up to 32	N/A
PXI Slots	6	6
Loopback EVM (5G NR FR2) (100 MHz, 28 GHz, -30 to 0dBm Avg Power)	- 44 dB meas.	- 44 dB meas.
Leveled Output Power, CW, 28 GHz	+ 10 dBm	+ 14 dBm

ni PXIe-5842 | Extended Contiguous Frequency Coverage



- **Full coverage of Wireless Standards**

- Bluetooth, WLAN, 5G NR FR1, FR2, FR3, Ultra-Wideband (UWB), NTN and radio prototyping can now all be tested with one capable and versatile instrument.

- **Continuous coverage from VHF into the K band**

- Enable applications like radar target simulation, spectrum monitoring in electronic warfare and satellite communications or for parametric test of ESAs (Electronically Scanned Arrays) components commonly used in radar systems.



PXIE-5842 Software



Drivers and Doc

Same instrument drivers (RFSA, RFSG, RFmx) as other NI RF instrumentation

NI's RF instrumentation supports a breadth of programming languages: **LabVIEW, C/C++, C# .NET**

What you get with NI's best-in-class APIs:

- Well Documented API
- Shipped Examples
- Help Documentation

The screenshot shows the NI PXIe-5842 documentation website. It features a dark green header with the product name and a search bar. The main content area is divided into sections with a left-hand navigation menu. The sections shown are:

- Specifications Introduction**: 25 GHz, 2 GHz Bandwidth, RF PXI Vector Signal Transceiver. Last Updated: 2022-11-09. Tags: Specifications, PXIe-5842.
- PXIe-5842 Getting Started**: 25 GHz, 2 GHz Bandwidth, RF PXI Vector Signal Transceiver. Last Updated: 2022-11-09. Tags: Getting Started, PXIe-5842.
- PXIe-5842 Product Overview**: 25 GHz, 2 GHz Bandwidth, RF PXI Vector Signal Transceiver. Last Updated: 2022-11-09. Tags: Getting Started, PXIe-5842.
- PXIe-5842 Usage**: 25 GHz, 2 GHz Bandwidth, RF PXI Vector Signal Transceiver. Last Updated: 2022-11-10. Tags: Feature Usage, PXIe-5842.
- What is the PXIe-5842?**: 25 GHz, 2 GHz Bandwidth, RF PXI Vector Signal Transceiver. Last Updated: 2022-11-10. Tags: Feature Usage, PXIe-5842.

The 'What is the PXIe-5842?' section includes a table of constituent modules:

Instrument	Constituent Modules
PXIe-5842 VST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PXIe-5842 ▪ PXIe-5655

[PXIe-5842 Usage](#)



Getting started

Interactive SFP

Unified environment for multiple modular instruments:

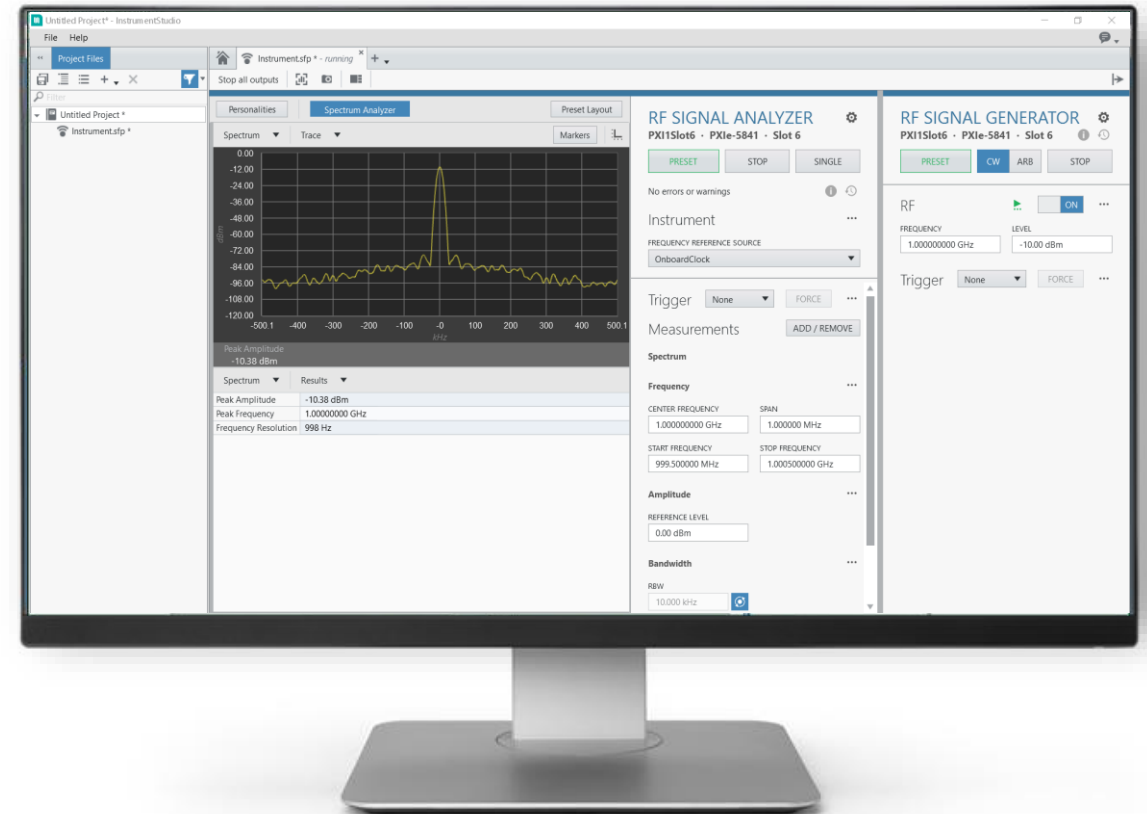
- Oscilloscopes
- Waveform Generators
- SMUs
- Digital
- RF instruments

Export configurations to code

Monitor and debug automated test systems

InstrumentStudio™ Software

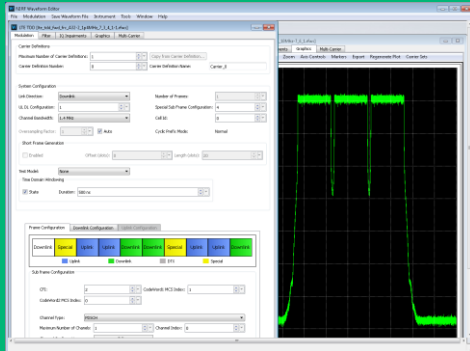
Interactive Application Software



ni RFmx Application Software

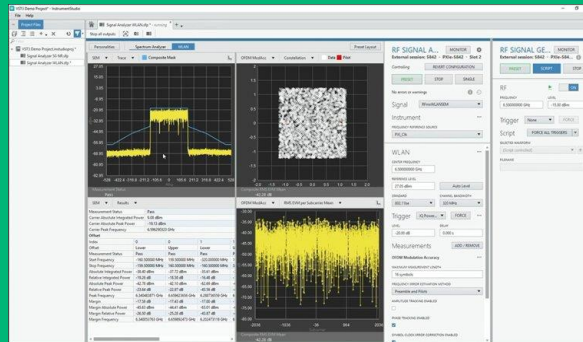
A set of interoperable software applications that optimize NI RF instrumentation for general-purpose, cellular, connectivity, and aerospace/defense test applications.

GENERATE



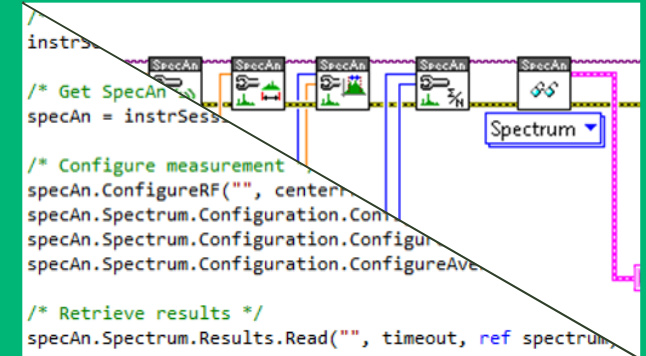
RFmx Waveform Creator

MEASURE



RFmx Soft Front Panel in InstrumentStudio

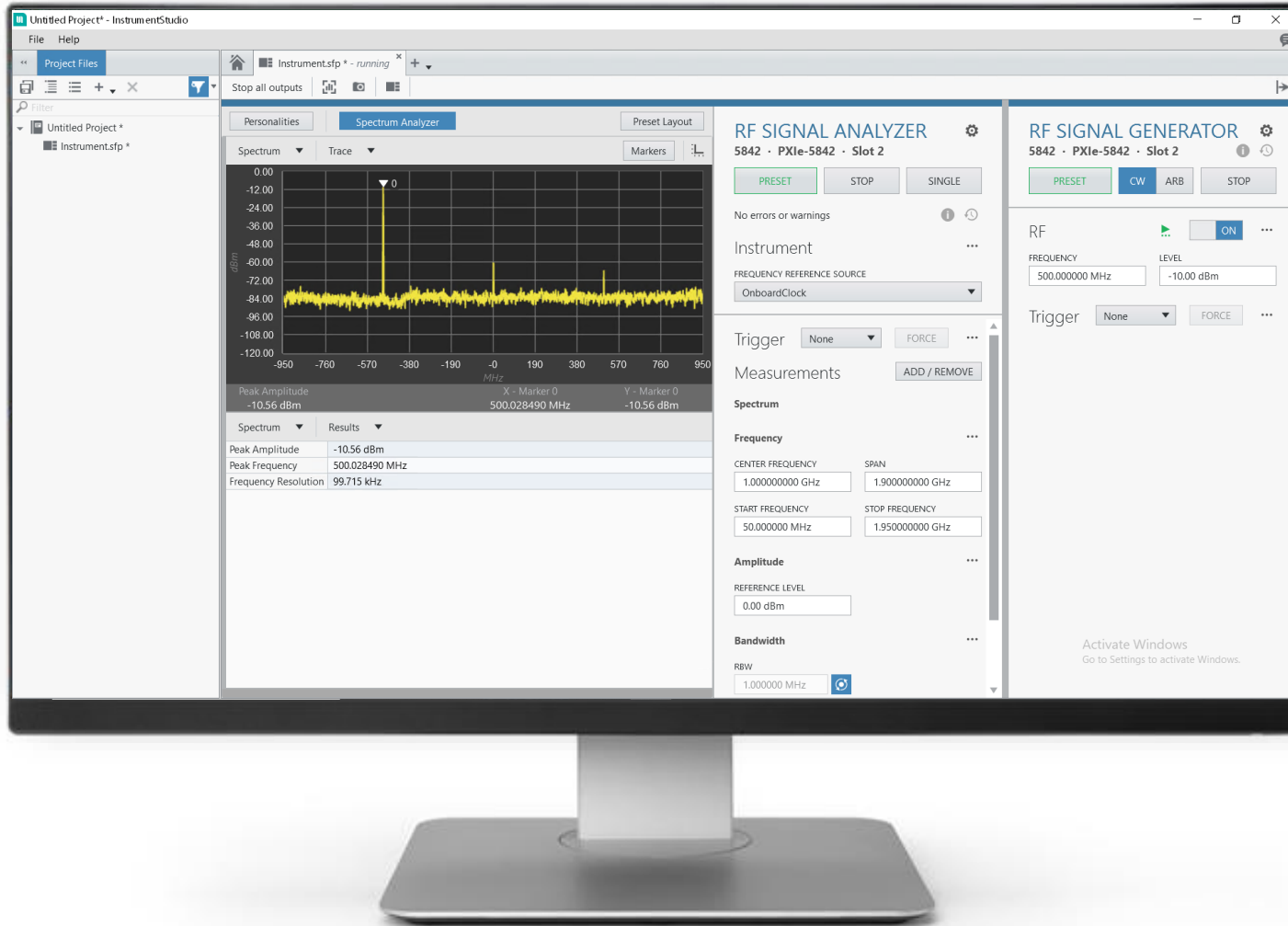
AUTOMATE



RFmx API

RFmx in Instrument Studio

Signal generation and measurement for general-purpose, cellular, connectivity, and aerospace/defense test applications.

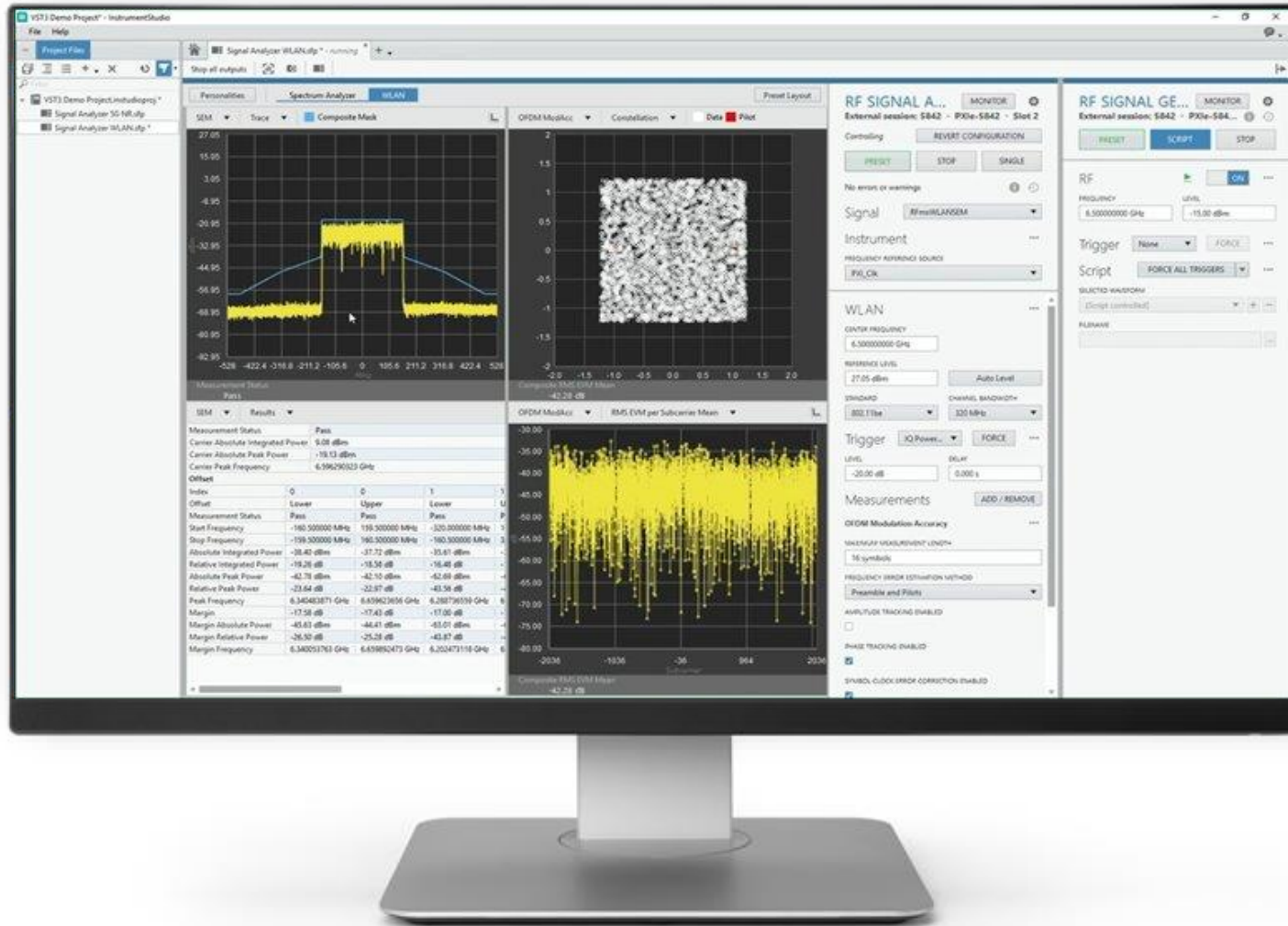


Common spectral measurements—Gain insight into a wide range of general-purpose signals quickly and easily. Perform conventional spectrum analysis and interact with a variety of modulated signals.

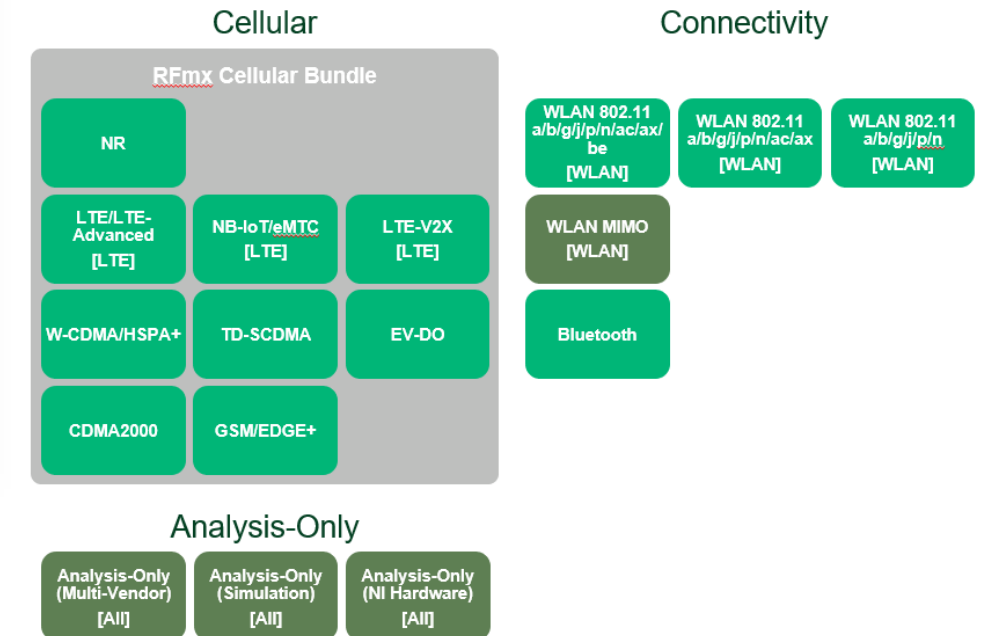
- Spectrum Analysis
- Intermodulation
- Harmonics
- Phase Noise
- Noise Figure
- Adjacent Channel Power
- Channel Power
- Transmit Power
- Occupied Bandwidth
- ...

RFmx in Instrument Studio

Signal generation and measurement for general-purpose, cellular, connectivity, and aerospace/defense test applications.



Standard Compliant Measurements—Test multiple wireless standards for cellular, connectivity and IoT signals. Select the personality of RFmx for your specific application and testing needs.



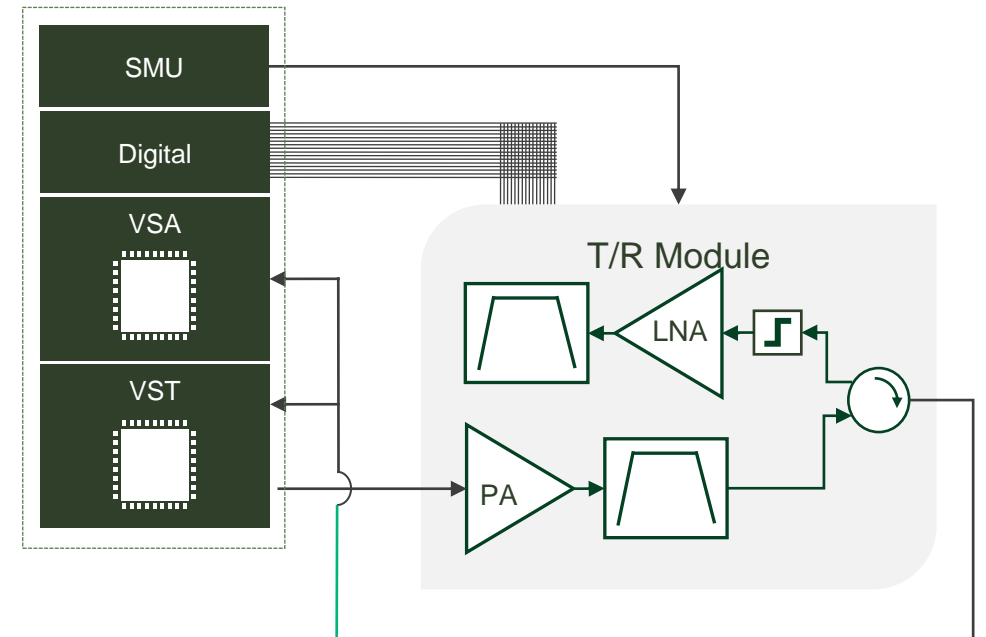
ni RFmx Pulse

Create pulse waveforms and perform common pulse measurements

Features:

- RFmx Waveform creation integration
- RFmx Pulse Soft Front Panel
- RFmx Pulse API
- Pulse types: Trapezoidal, Raised Cosine, Custom Profile, Custom IQ
- Modulation: BPSK, QPSK, LFM, AM/FM step, Barker code
- Measurements
 - Rise Time, Fall Time, Pulse Width
 - Droop, Overshoot, Ripple
 - Pulse Stability
- Target DUTs: RFIC and MMIC: Discrete components (PA, LNA, filter, circulator), transmit/receive modules (TRM), phased arrays (AESA, PESA)

Typical Application

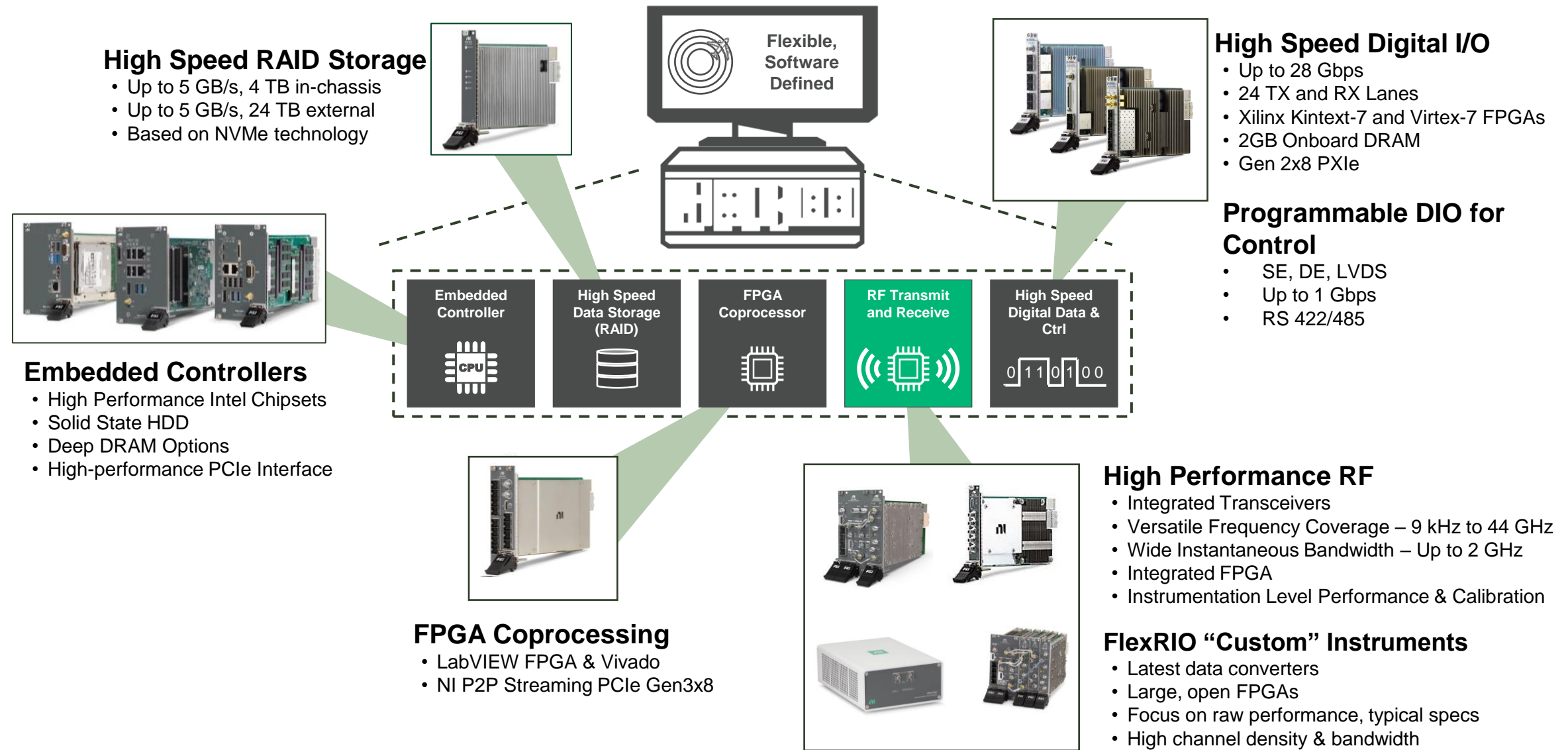


RF parametric test on radar/EW discrete components and devices

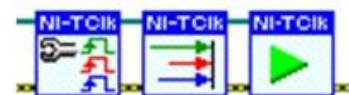
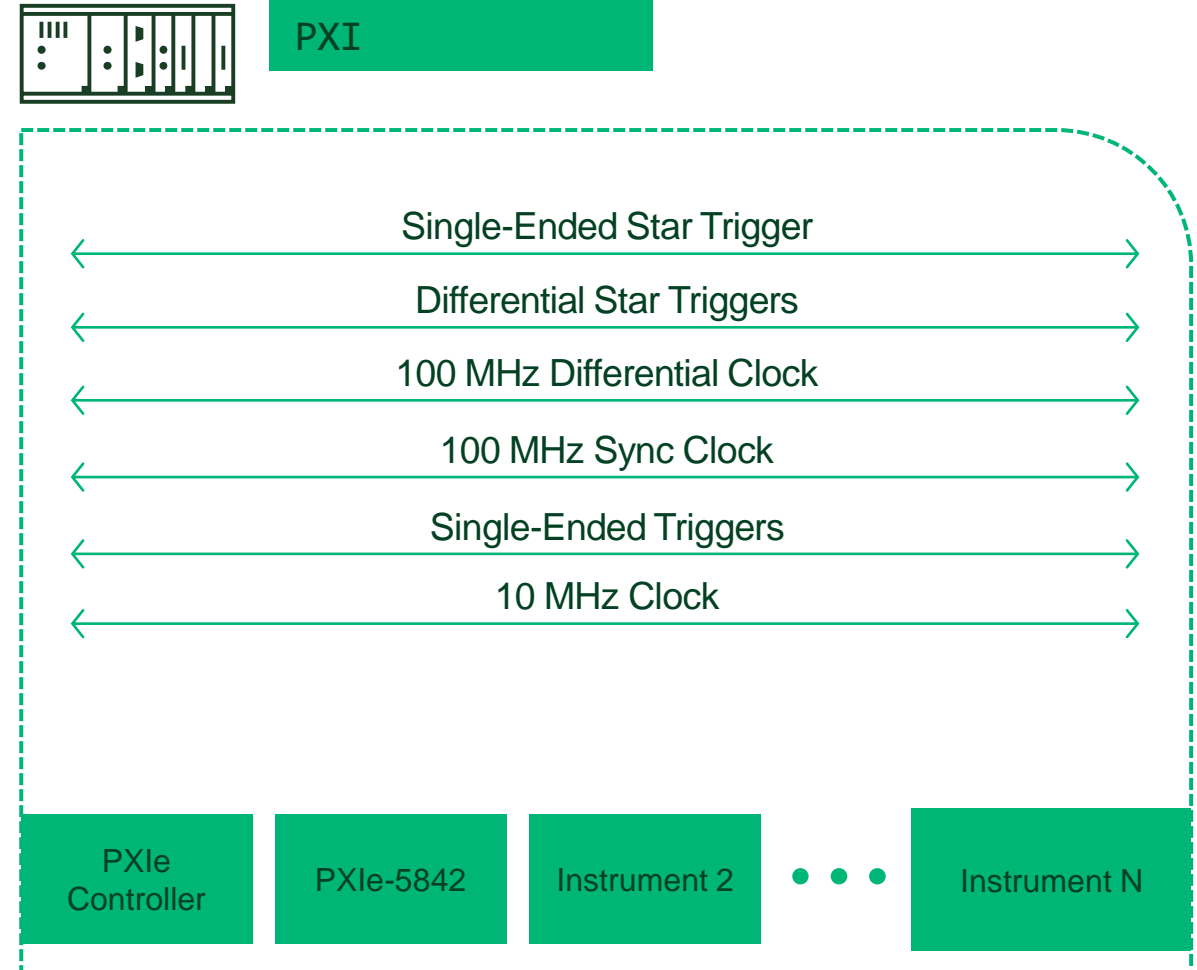
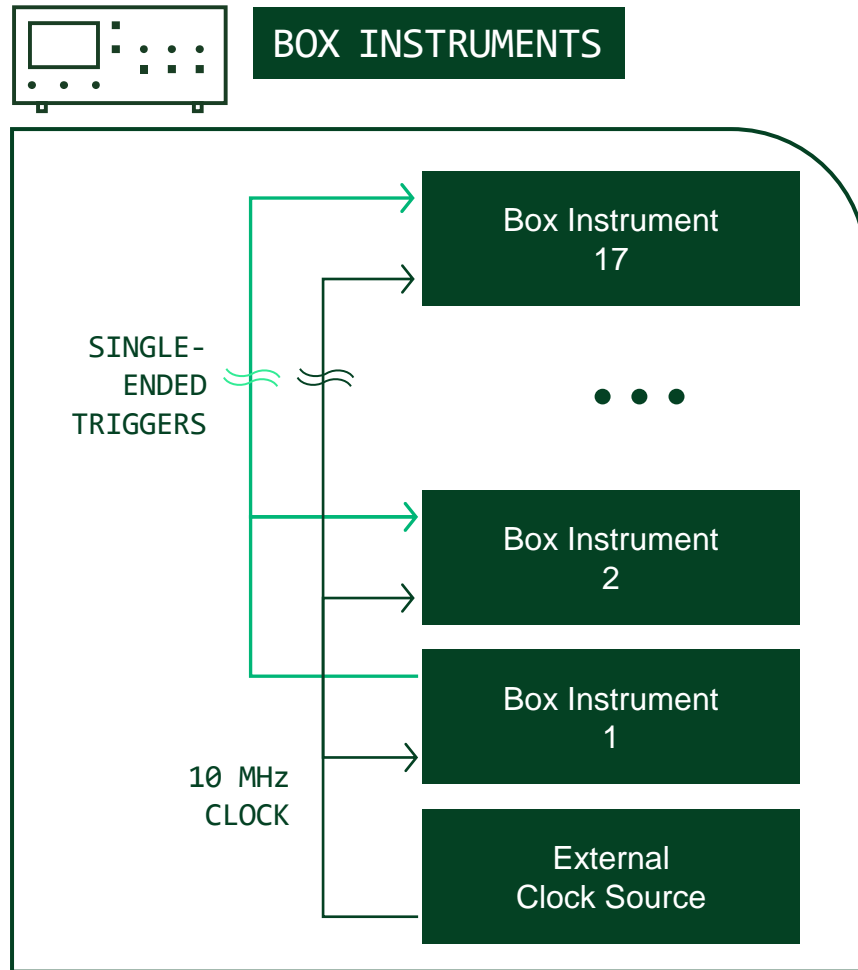


PXI Platform benefits

NI Modular Hardware Platform – Product Portfolio



ni Advanced Timing and Synchronization with PXI



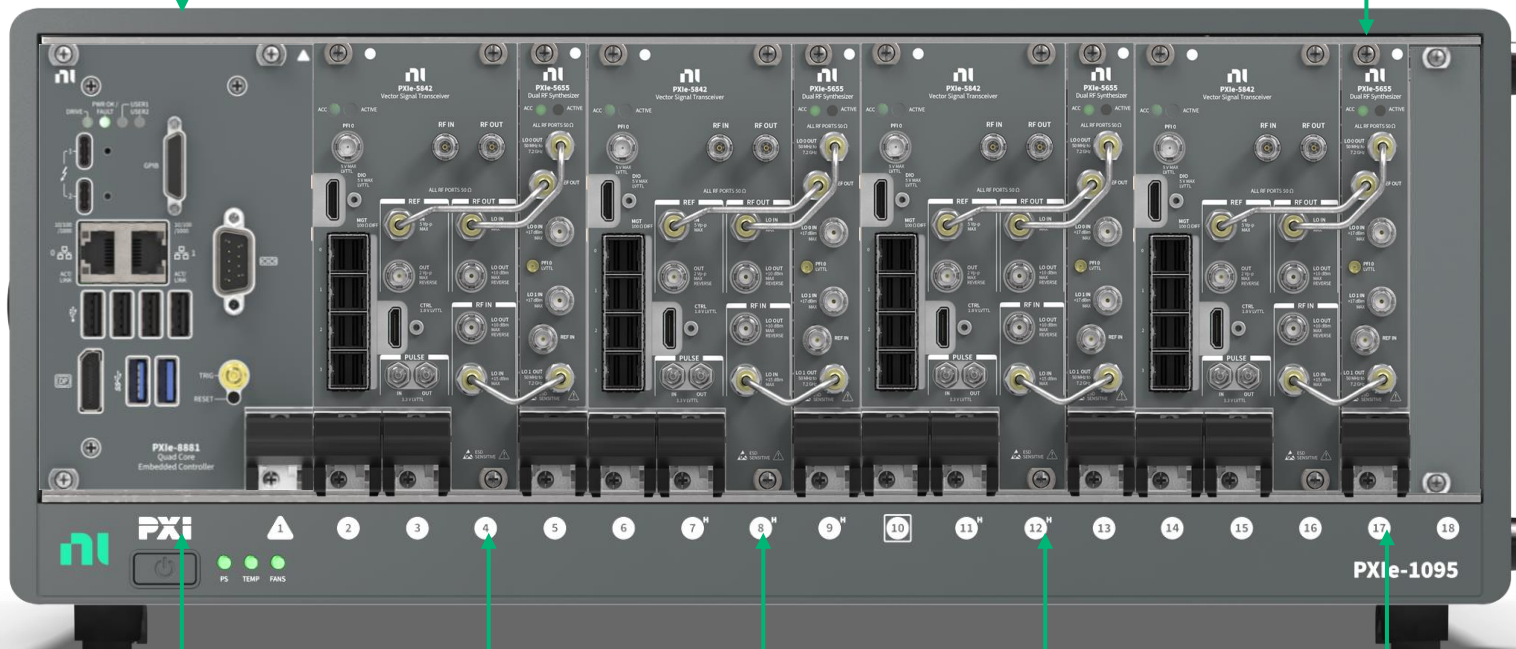
Multi-Channel synchronization

Synchronize up to 4 VST's in a single 18-slot chassis

TClk sync
across the PXI
backplane

Shared LOs for
Phase-coherent
MIMO Configurations

Typical 4x4 MIMO
Configuration



Simplified Reference
Clock and Trigger
Distribution

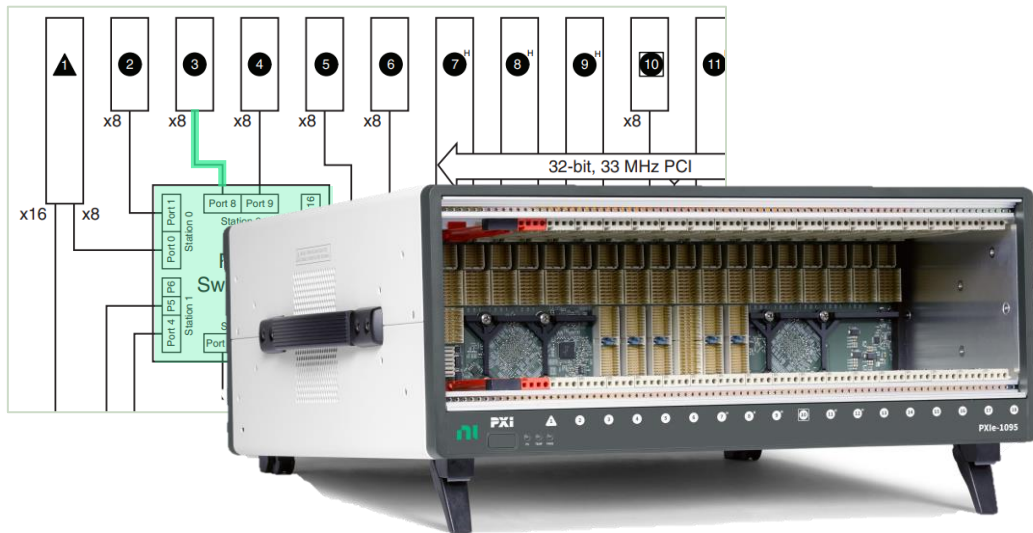
ni FPGA Data Streaming

NI Peer-to-Peer (P2P)

- Point-to-point across PXI the backplane
- Up to 6.75 GB/s bidirectional
- Up to 1 GHz BW streaming
- <1 μ s latency w/ PCIe Gen3 x8

Front-Panel High-Speed Serial (Q3.2023)

- Leverages FPGA Multigigabit Transceivers (MGTs)
- Up to 30 GB/s bidirectional
- Full BW streaming
- Lower latency





MGT Data streaming

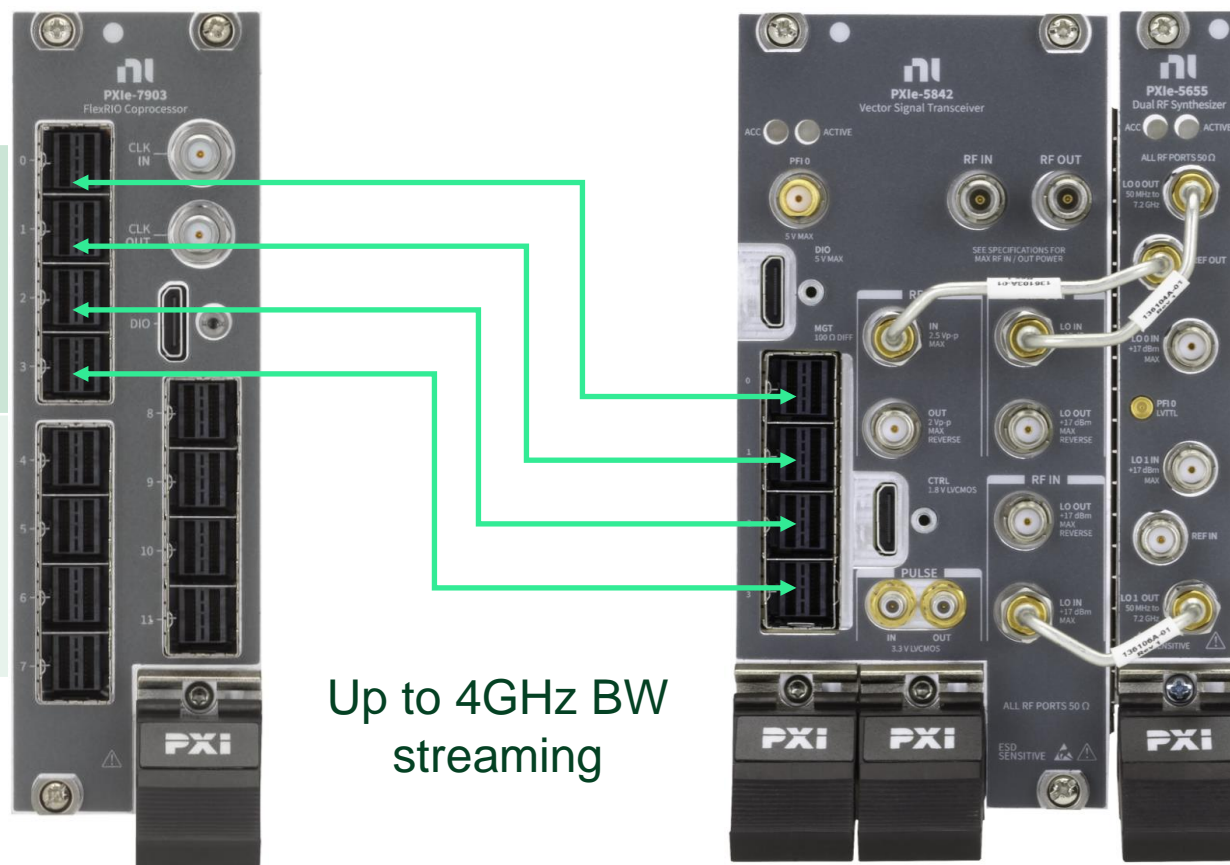
Stream data to NI PXIe-7903 FPGA co-processor through Multi-Gigabit Transceiver (MGT) ports with 4 mini-SAS HD x4 cables.

Summary:

- FlexRIO Co-processor and High-Speed Serial Instrument
- Largest, highest-performance FlexRIO FPGA
- High-speed streaming interface to one or more VST instruments

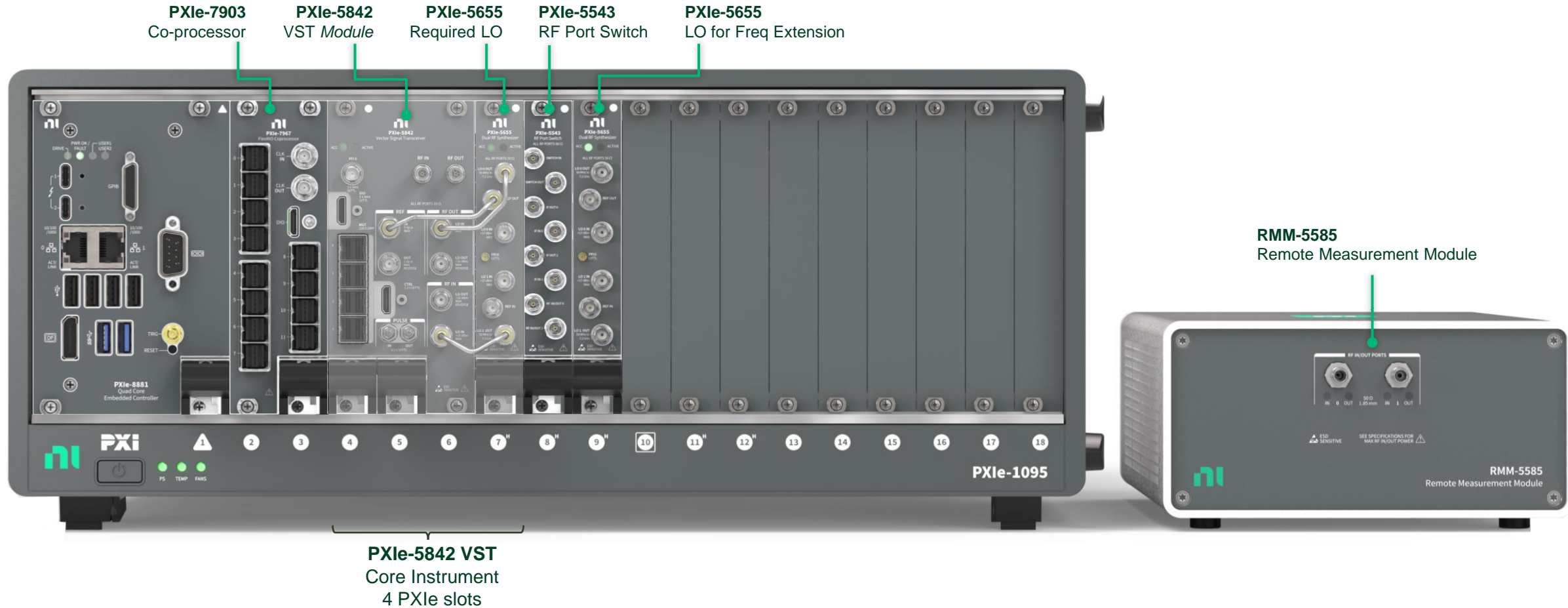
Key features:

- VU11P FPGA
- 12 miniSAS zHD Connectors
- Initial protocol support: 100 GbE, Aurora(for VST)
- Memory: ~25GB/s per Bank; 2 10GB Density per Bank



ni PXIe-5842 | Core Functionality Expansion

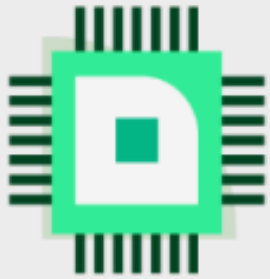
Expand the core capabilities of the PXIe-5842 VST through additional platform elements





Applications for the VST

VST Target Applications



**Semiconductor
and Electronics**



Transportation



**Aerospace, Defense,
and Government**



**Portfolio
Business**

Semiconductor
Production Test

Semiconductor Device
Validation

Real-time Spectrum
Monitoring

Record and Playback

IoT Device Test

Semiconductor Test
System (STS)

Wireless Infrastructure
Test

MMIC / TRM
Validation & Test

RADAR System Level
Validation

Advanced Wireless
Research

Telemetry and Datalink
Validation

SATCOM

Accelerate Validation of RF Front-ends

NI's Modular Validation Lab Bench with DC, Digital, Analog, and RF instruments

Sweep frequency, power, and output load – **no programming**

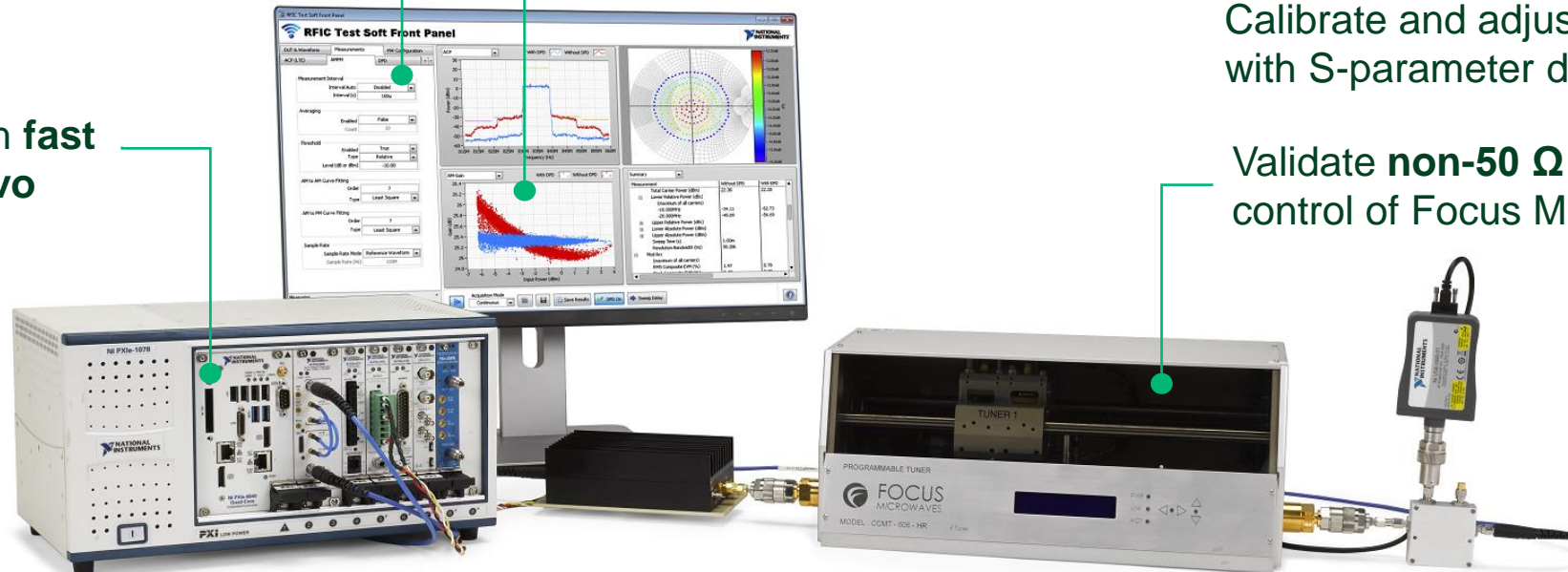
Run fast and easy DUT Control with MIPI, SPI, and other digital protocols

Get accurate measurements with **fast output power servo**

Linearize wideband PAs with built-in, state-of-the-art **DPD algorithms**

Calibrate and adjust pathlosses with S-parameter de-embedding

Validate **non-50 Ω** operation with control of Focus Microwaves tuners





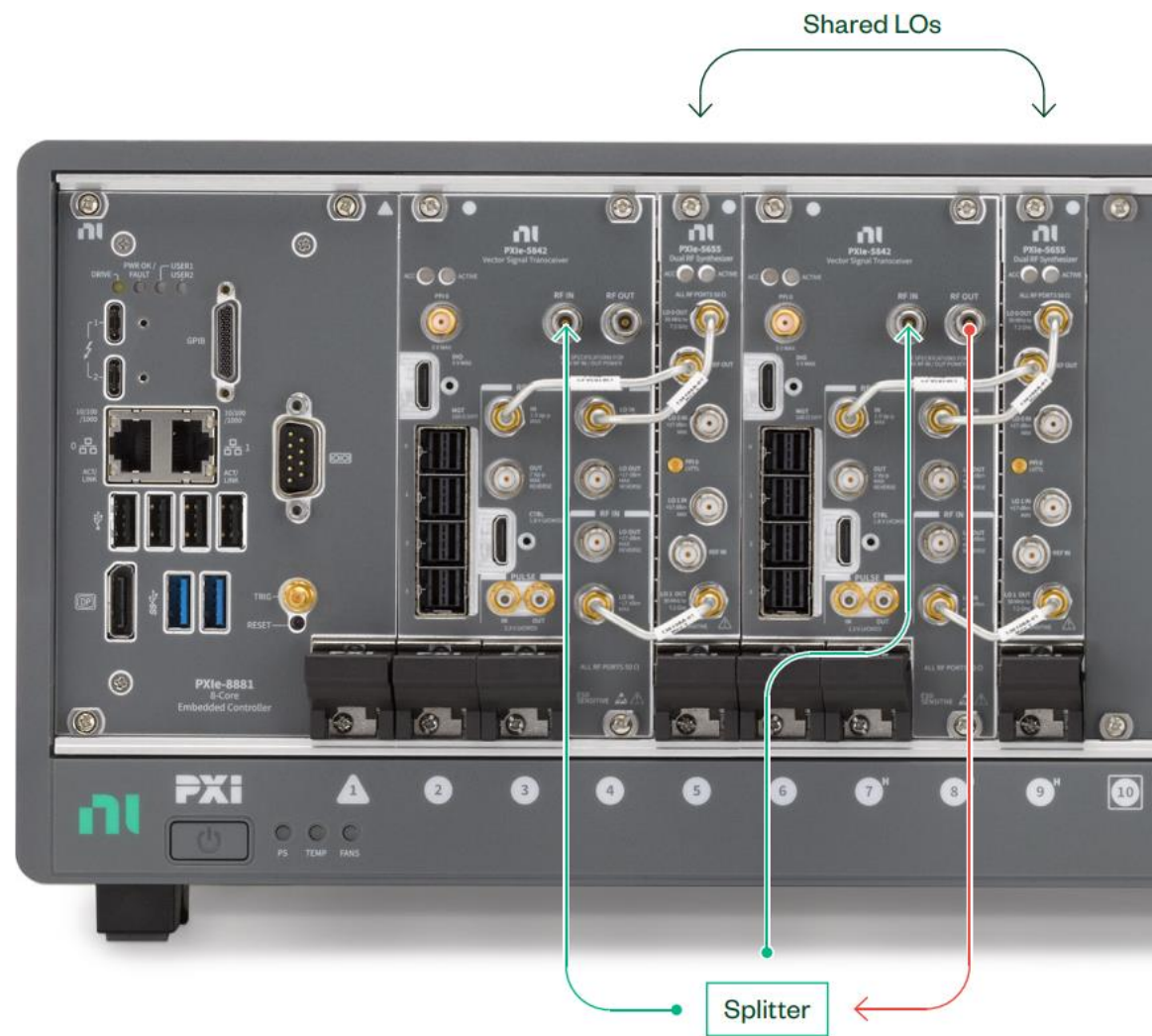
NI's Patented Cross-Correlation Wideband EVM Technique

Ultimate EVM performance

Stimulus Signal : PXIe-5842

Measurement VSAs: PXIe-5842

*Cabling not shown



ni Cross-correlation for EVM

NI's patented cross-correlation algorithms can help achieve ~ 3 dB improvement in EVM

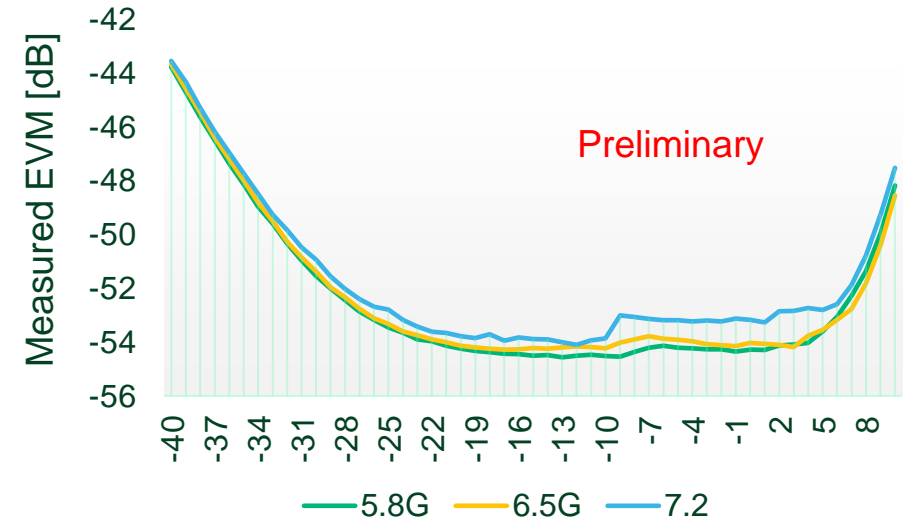
- On top of best-in-class EVM performance from the PXIe-5842
- Available for WLAN and 5G (single carrier uplink) waveforms
- Patent: [US10841019B1](#)

PXIe-5842 cross correlation EVM loopback, measured*

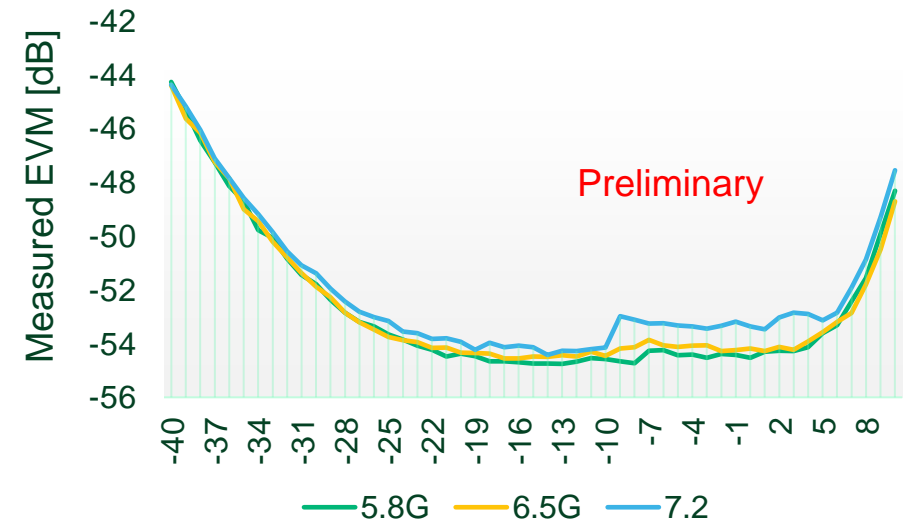
-57 dB	Wi-Fi 7, 80 MHz bandwidth, 6 GHz
-53 dB	Wi-Fi 7, 320 MHz bandwidth, 6 GHz
-59 dB	5G NR, 100 MHz bandwidth, 5.5 GHz

*approximate values

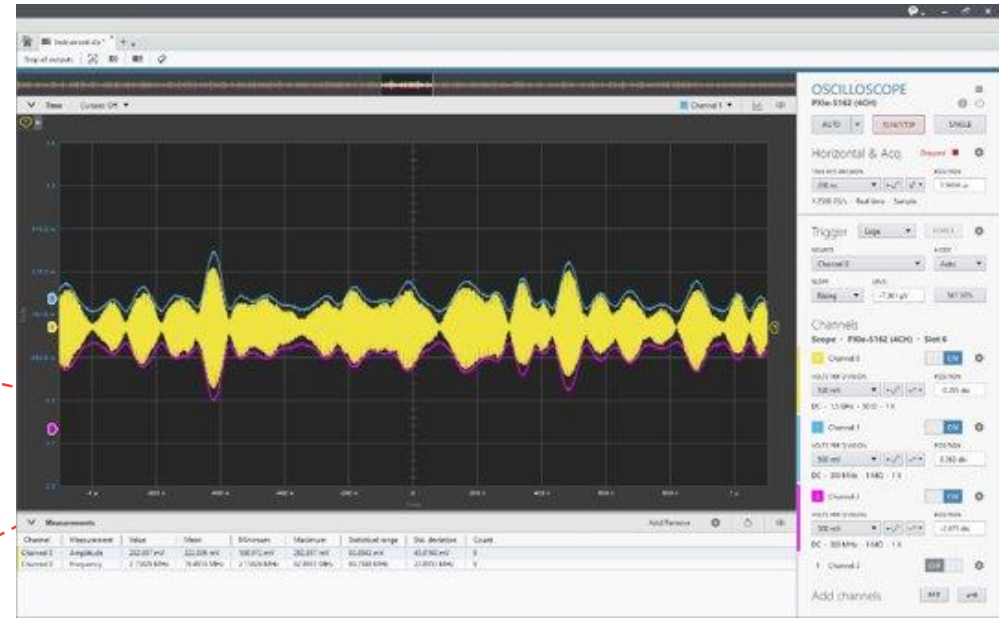
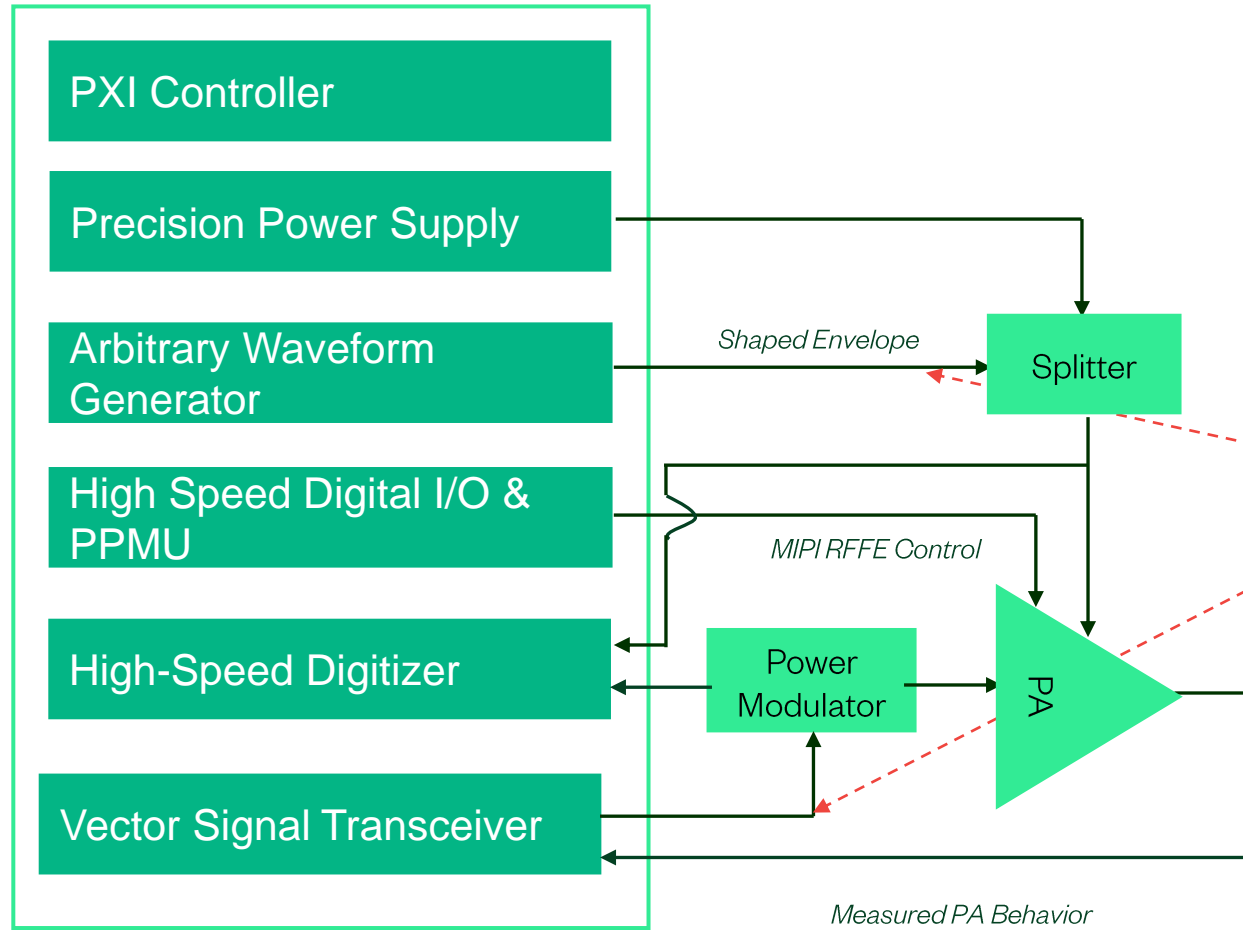
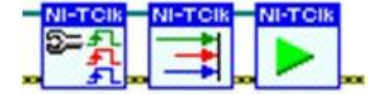
Normal with 500 iterations



Fast Convergence



NI Tightly synchronized envelope generation to test ET performance



ni Testing Solutions from Lab to Production that

Accelerate Time to Market

Validation & Characterization
Production speed & density in the lab



Same
Instruments

Same
Measurement
Science

Same Software

High Volume Manufacturing
Lab-grade measurements in production



Industry-leading portfolio of compact high-performance instruments

ni Semiconductor Production Test Offerings

	1. Custom In-House Tester	2. Augment Existing Tester	3. NI STS
NI Offering	PXI, LabVIEW, TestStand	PXI, LabVIEW, TestStand,	PXI in STS (test head), cabling, calibration accessories, PXI, LabVIEW, TestStand
Integration	Customer, or Partner	Customer, or Partner	Last mile integration: NI, customer or partner



ni OTA Validation Reference Architecture

Support for PXIe-5842 with 54 GHz Frequency Extension

- 2 GHz instantaneous bandwidth, 2 bidirectional ports
- Simplified configuration with 1 remote measurement module – 1 instrument, 1 connection

BOJAY Chamber support up to 50 GHz

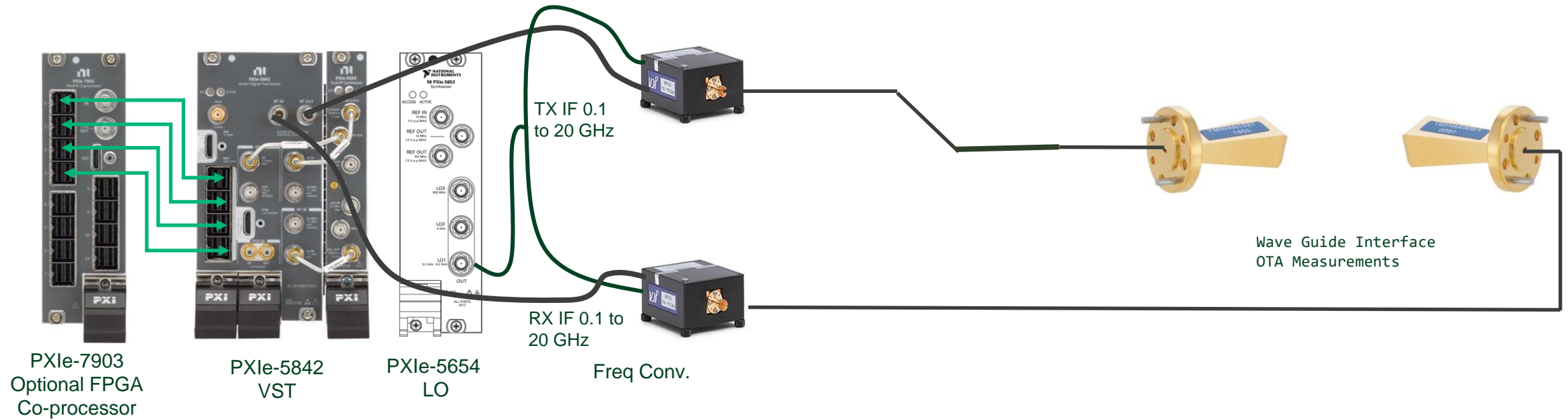
- New antenna required to upgrade from 44 GHz to 50 GHz
- BJ-8019-NI and BJ-8019-NI-B chambers



ni Advanced Research

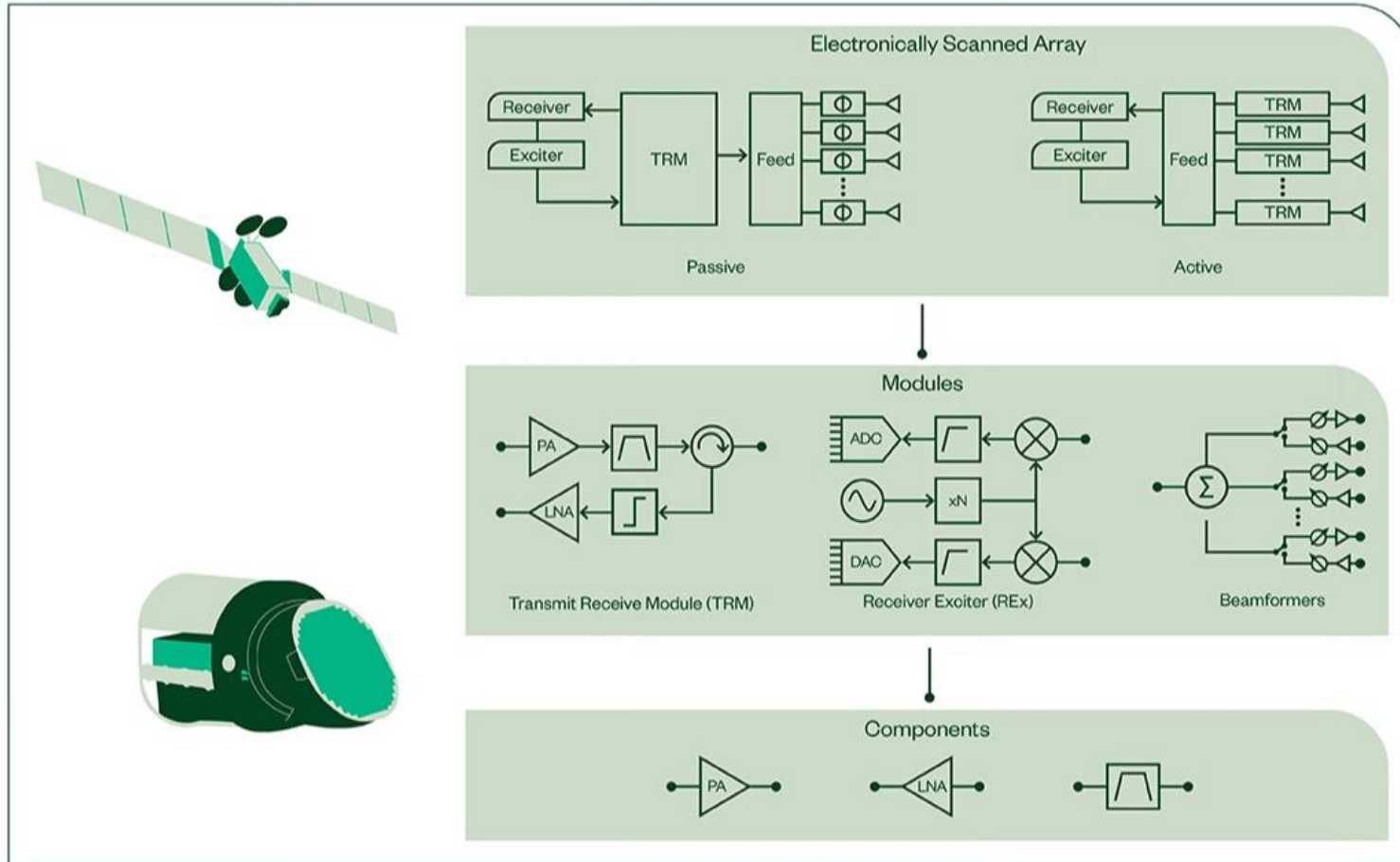
6G Sub-THz Reference Architecture

- RF measurements for sub-THz RFICs and devices
- Real-time data streaming & FPGA based processing



Simplified Setup

ni Electronically Scanned Array Characterization



Pulsed RF Measurements



Key Measurement Capabilities

- Power and phase stability
- Network analysis and S-parameters
- Pulse profile and stability
- Power added efficiency
- Spectral analysis
- Phase noise



Multichannel RF Record & Playback Solution

2023 Q3

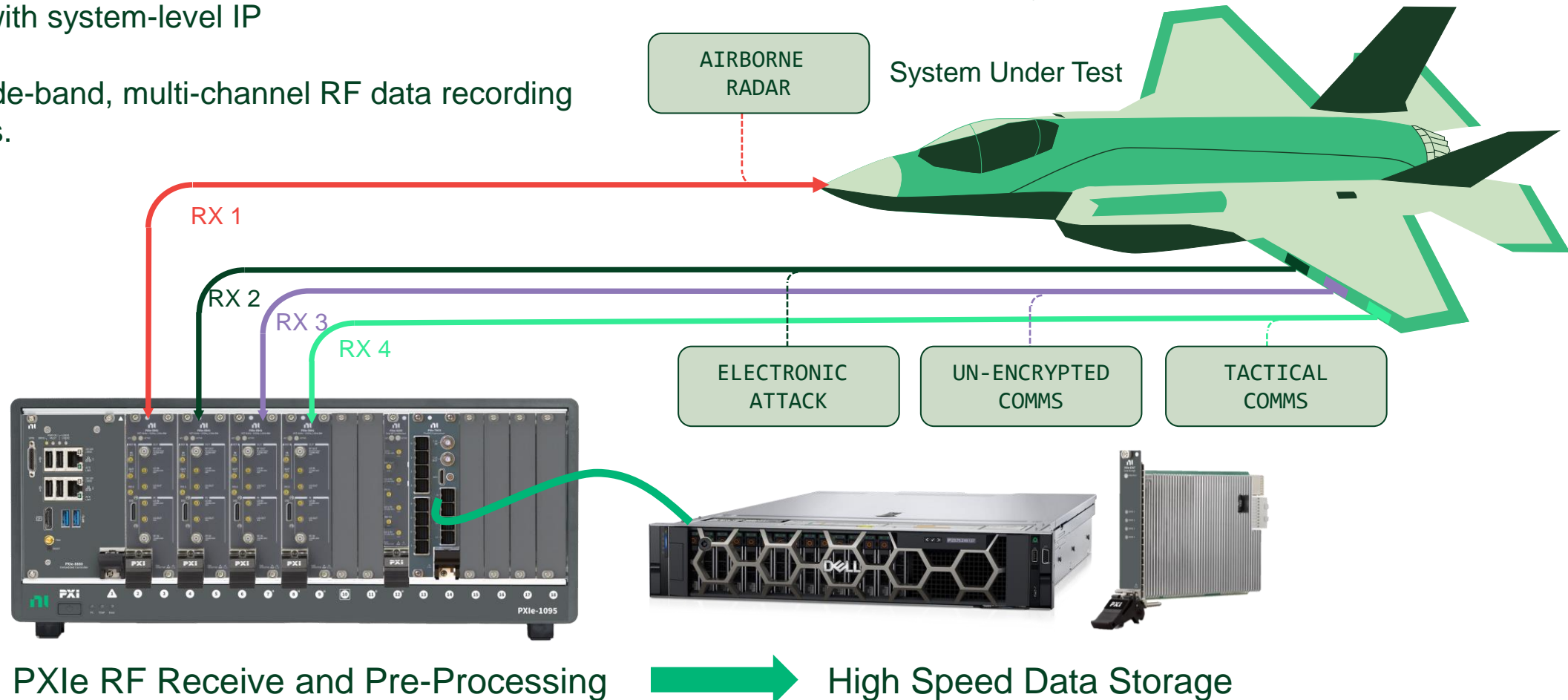
What is the NI Multichannel RF Record and Playback Solution?

- Configuration of RF Modules, Digital Interfaces, FPGA Coprocessors with external servers & data storage combined with system-level IP

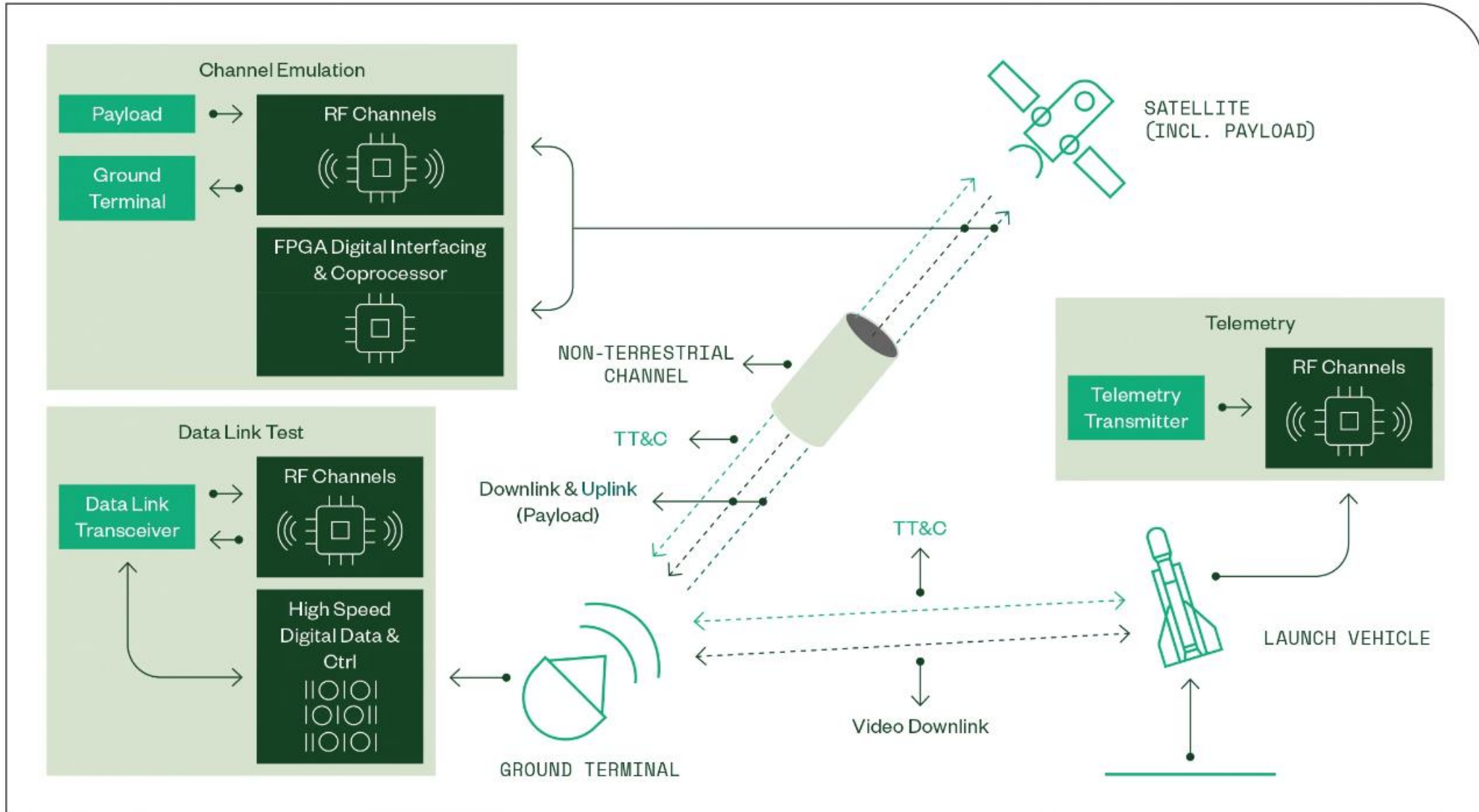
Enables wide-band, multi-channel RF data recording applications.

Features

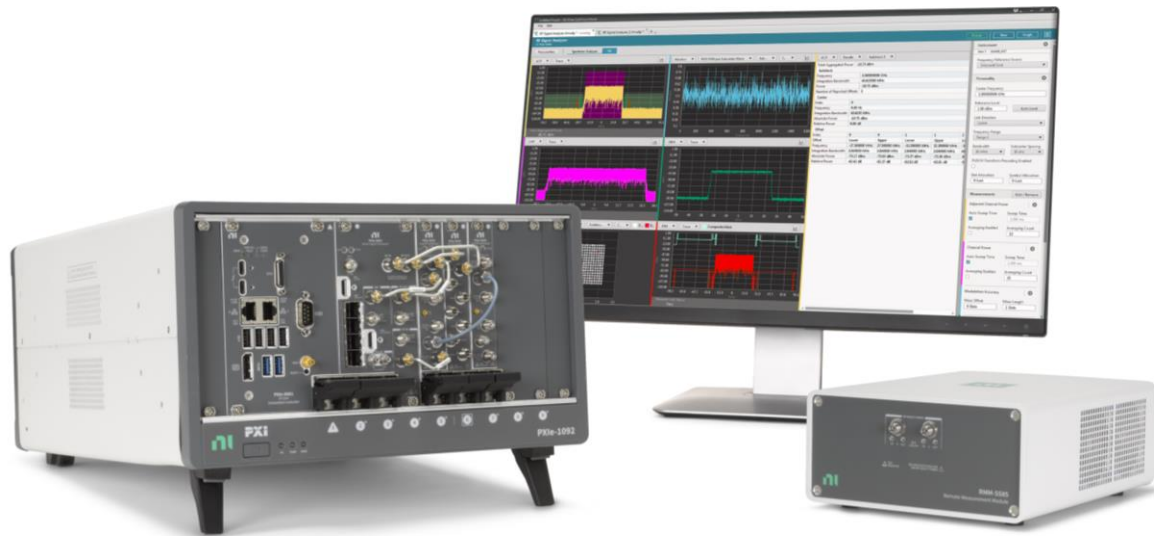
- Wideband Data Recording to Disk Over 100 GbE
- Multi-Channel Phase-Alignment & Synchronization
- In-Line Data Analysis with FPGA Coprocessor



ni Satellite Communications and Telemetry Validation Solution



ni Conclusion



- VST product family: wide range of capabilities
- Unique RF Capabilities in the PXI platform
- Will continued to evolve and improve over time to fit customer needs
- VST is a core instrument for a lot of Solutions in Aerospace and Defense or Semiconductor & Electronics applications

Overall, the PXI VST is a powerful and versatile instrument that combines the functionality of a vector signal analyzer and vector signal generator, offering engineers and researchers a comprehensive tool for RF signal generation, analysis, and testing within a modular and scalable platform.



Next Steps

Learn more and keep up to date
with the latest NI solutions at:

ni.com/VST

ni.com/semiconductor

ni.com/aerospace-defense

