

Automotive SerDes Channel Testing

MIPI A-PHY

Harness, connector, and cable testing for Automotive SerDes devices

Introduction

Next-generation ADAS systems require camera and radar systems with increasingly high resolution. That means new requirements for speed and bandwidth. Many new features are delivered through a mix of sensors, cameras, and networks and require more and faster data with each iteration.

High-speed serializer/deserializers (SerDes) help transport the data streams, making the in-vehicle video, audio, and communication possible. The SerDes serial links' high bandwidth, reliability, and performance are key requirements in automotive applications that enable modern vehicles' advanced infotainment and driver-assistance systems (ADAS).

In-vehicle cameras and displays connect to ECUs via a SerDes connection. With MIPI A-PHY and Automotive SerDes Alliance (ASA), multiple silicon vendors use standard test methodologies and limit lines to create an interoperable ecosystem.

To help you save time and effort, Keysight offers solutions that automate the testing and validation of Automotive SerDes designs. These proven applications help ensure proper test configuration and valid, repeatable measurement results. The net result: you'll have greater confidence that your device complies with the IEEE standard, a faster development cycle, repeatability of testing, and less human error.

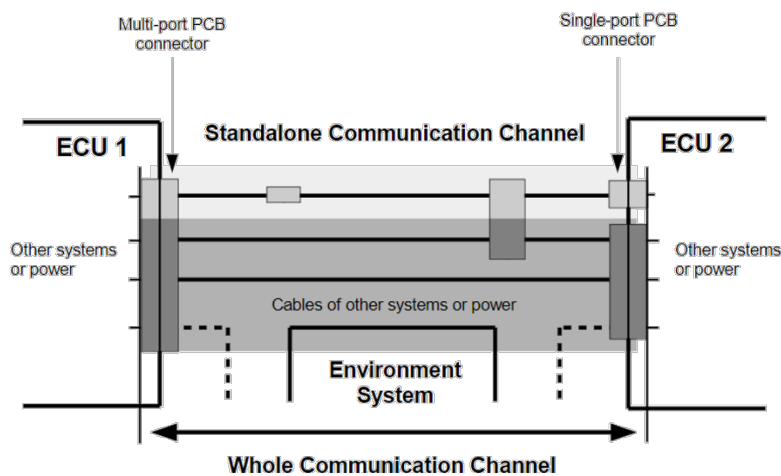


Harness and Connector Validation

The AE2000L Automotive SerDes, a channel compliance solution, provides an easy and accurate way to verify and debug MIPI A-PHY harness assemblies, cables, and/or connectors. In this case, the channel represents the complete wired connection between two transmit/receive modules with a SerDes link. The AE2000L Automotive SerDes, a channel compliance solution, verifies that information is carried to its intended destination without loss or crosstalk.

Link segment = Cabling + Inline connectors + Mating connectors

The Connector type is not standardized and will be specific to each connector vendor. The Keysight AE2000L channel compliance solution greatly simplifies automotive SerDes harness and connector compliance testing for MIPI A-PHY SerDes links.



Test Specifications

The AE2010L Automotive SerDes, channel compliance software, covers MIPI A-PHY and ASA. For additional information on each test case, please see the supported test specifications in chapter 5 of the [user guide](#).

Save Time and Take Advantage of VNA Automation

The AE2000L is an automotive SerDes channel testing solution that includes hardware, accessories, and software. The software requires three licenses to run.

- The KS8400B is the base GUI test automation software from Keysight.
- The AE6800C is the core software for channel testing.
- The AE2010L contains all the specific test cases for Automotive SerDes standards.

All three licenses are available under the AE2000L for purchase. The AE2010L channel compliance software saves you time by setting the stage for the automatic execution of required cable, connector, and harness tests. Some difficulties in performing these tests include correctly understanding the specification, configuring/ running the instrument/s, and then analyzing the measured results by comparing them to limits published in the specification. The AE2010L channel compliance software does much of this work for you.

The AE2010L channel compliance software is installed directly onto a vector network analyzer or the PC controlling the network analyzer. The AE2010L software automatically configures the VNA for the test. It provides an informative results report that includes insertion loss, crosstalk, mode conversion, and a pass/fail limit.

The software offers several features to simplify the validation of Automotive SerDes links in designs:

The AE2010L software:

- Contains step-by-step guide walks through the test selection and execution.
- Supports parallel mode execution on PXI/PXIe series VNA.
- Automatically detects the number of available ports.
- Create a test plan for those lanes selected with all the required tests.
- The test plan created will include all the required tests for the specification selected.
- Automatically sets up the network analyzer for each measurement and applies the limit lines.
- Expandable to cover proprietary limits and quickly adapt to new standards.
- Provides detailed information about each test run.
- Creates an HTML test report.
- AE2010L v1.7 or later supports E5071C ENA.

Step-by-Step

The software contains a step-by-step guide that walks through the test selection and execution, enabling you to quickly see where you are in the process with links to compatible instruments, calibration modules, setup connection diagram selections.

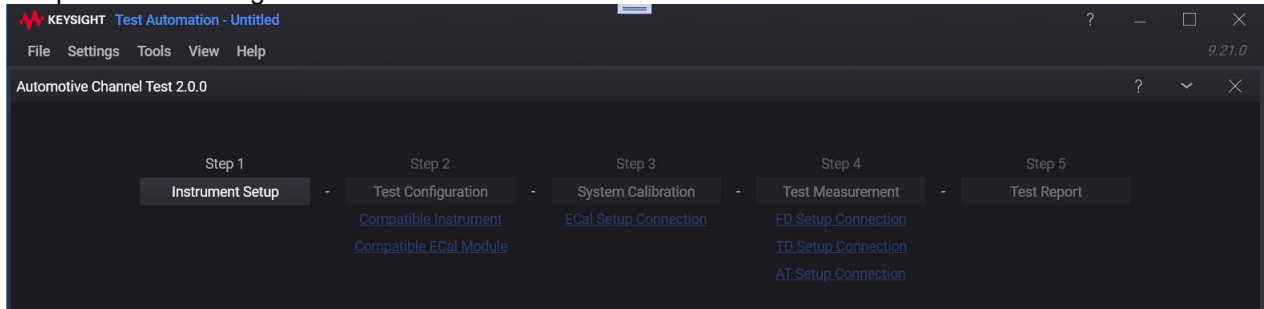


Figure 1-2. Steps are available at launch with links to configuration information, including compatible instruments based on user-configured test settings.

Test Selection

The test automation software platform lets you select which standard you would like to test with a pull-down menu. Once selected, all the relevant and correct tests and limits are prepopulated.

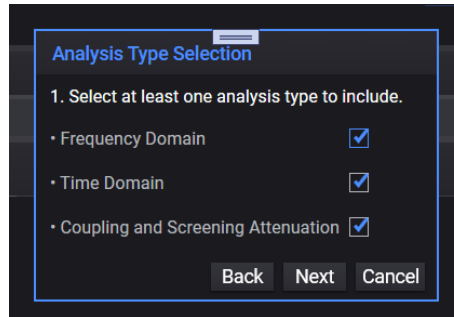
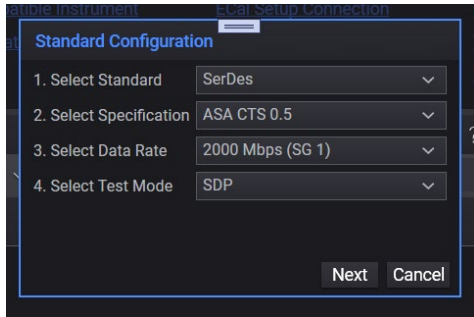


Figure 3-4. The test setup screens have specifications and analysis type selection.

Expandable

The software is expandable to the number of ports used. For example, a 3-cable bundle will need four ports for each cable, measuring each differential end, so a 3-cable example uses 12 lanes.

11. Set Port Mapping									
File									
(-) VNA Port	(+) VNA Port	Mode	Logical Port	-	Logical Port	Mode	(+) VNA Port	(-) VNA Port	
1	2	Bal	1	-	2	Bal	3	4	
2	6	Bal	3	-	4	Bal	7	8	
3	10	Bal	5	-	6	Bal	11	12	

Figure 5. Port definition for 12 physical ports, shown in dark mode

System calibration

The software lists compatible instruments and ECal modules based on user-configured test settings. Step 3 is system calibration. Made more accessible, with quick reference on compatible ECal's and easy-to-follow steps for calibration.

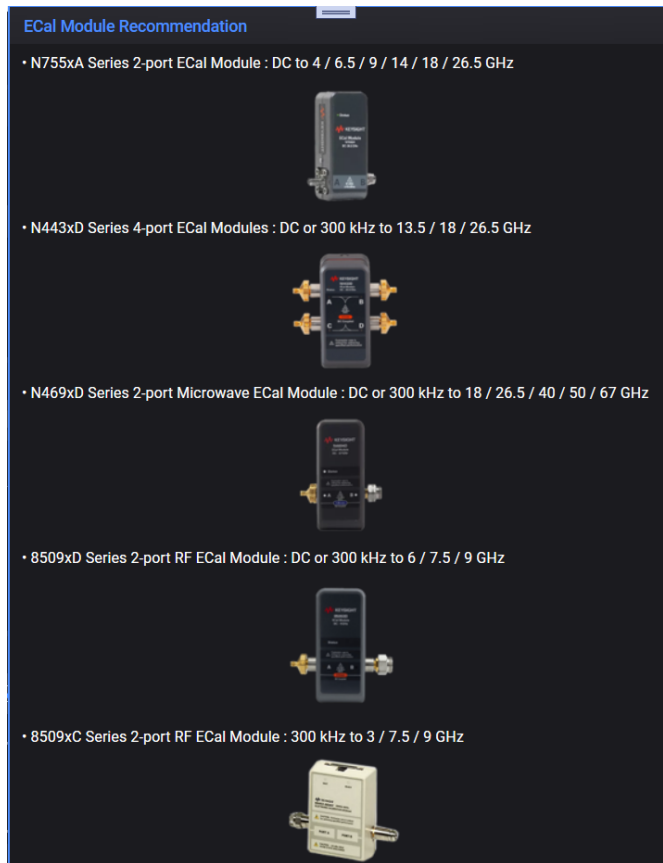
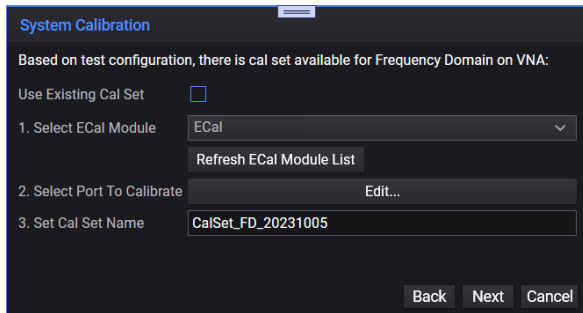
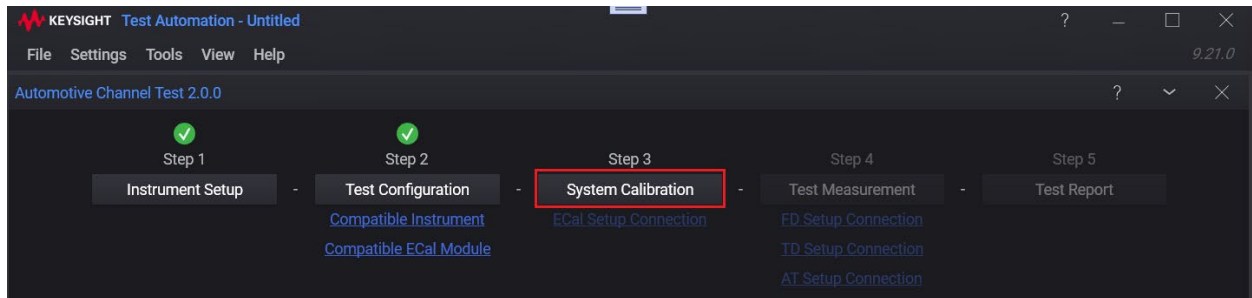


Figure 6-8. Compatible Ecals are listed based on user-configured test settings.

The test automation software can also be expanded to cover customized limits using the configuration file. Within the AE2010L, a configuration file generator and editor show all the limits and enable edits to those limits.

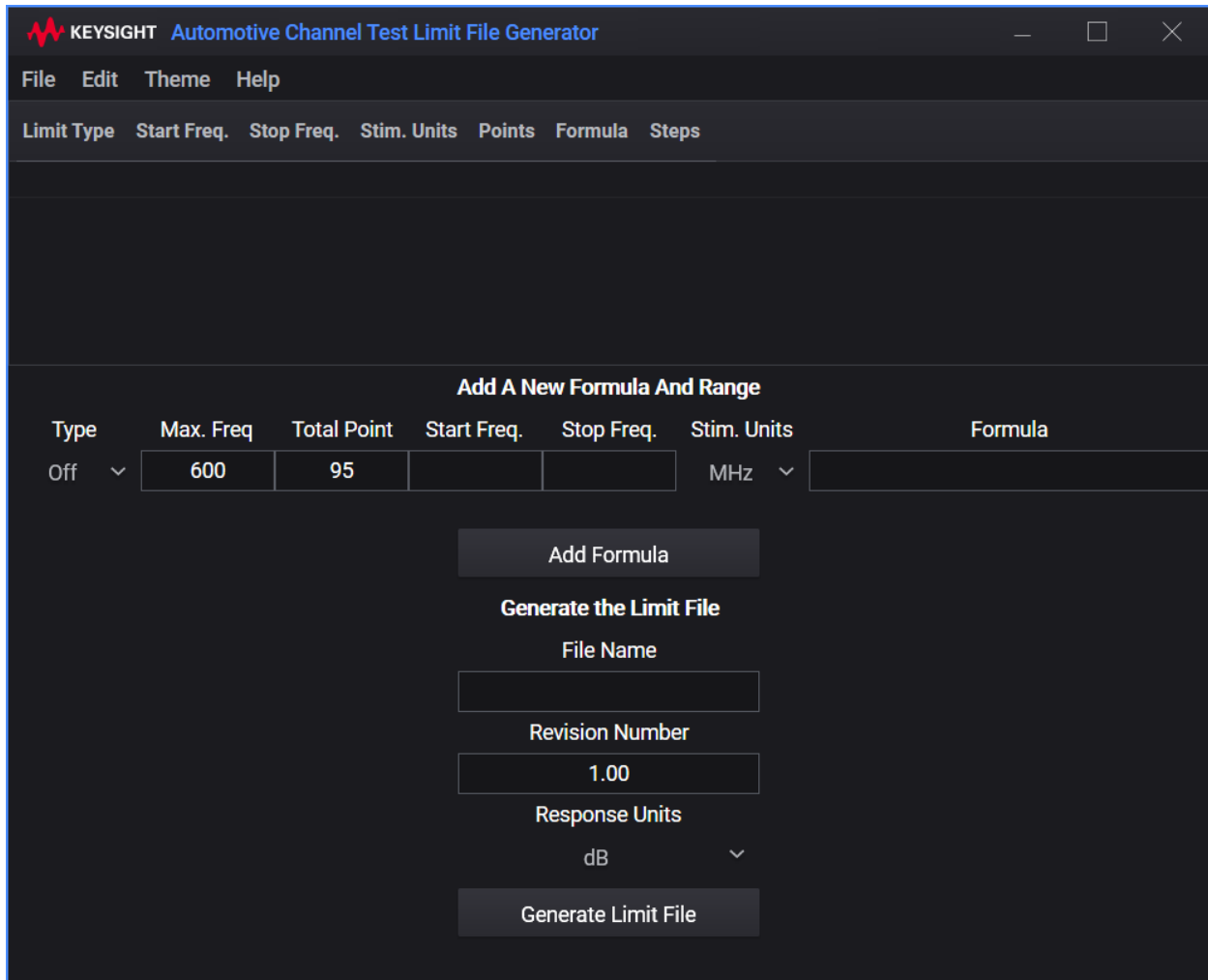


Figure 9. A limit file generator tool also allows users to create a limit file.

Test Plan per Limit Lines

The test plan will include all the required tests per the specification, including crosstalk, insertion loss, mode conversion, and more.

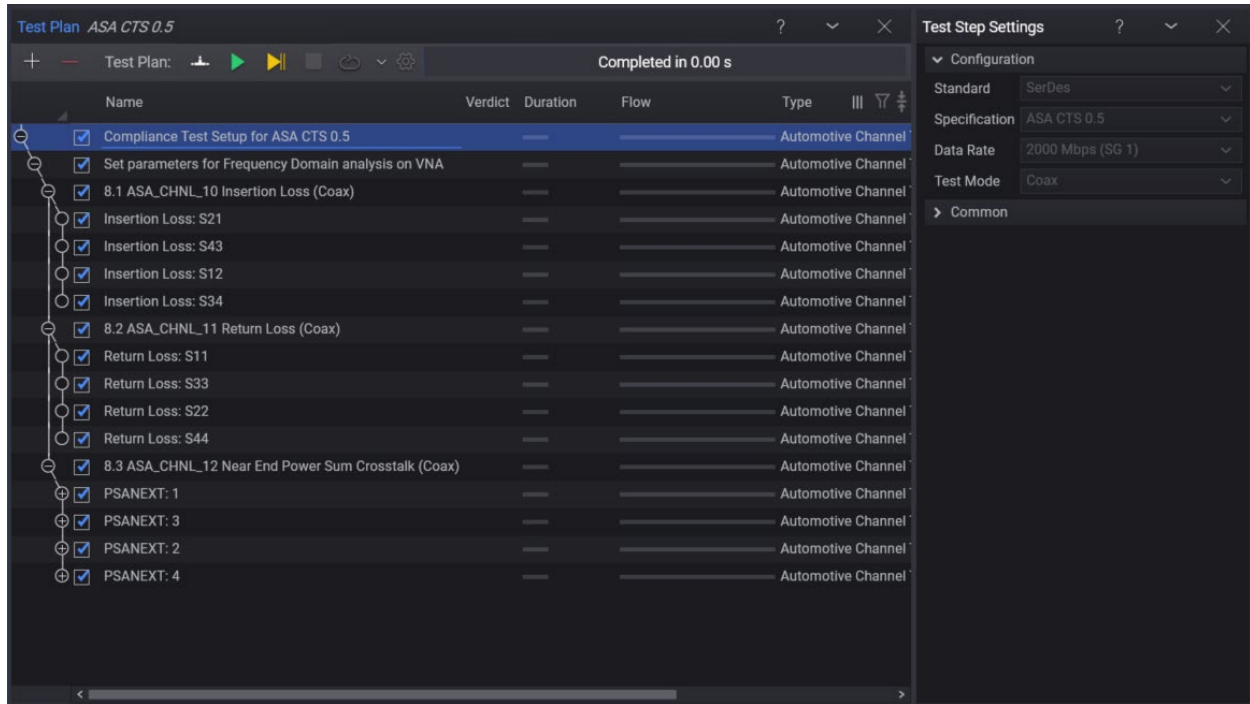


Figure 10. Test plan creation is in a list mode; select only the test you want to run.

Test Report

In addition to giving measurement results, the AE2010L Automotive SerDes Lx Compliance Software provides a report format showing whether your product passes or fails. The test automation software platform provides test results in HTML. The AE2010L displays and updates all the results online. After stopping or pausing the test, you can access any result for analysis at your convenience.

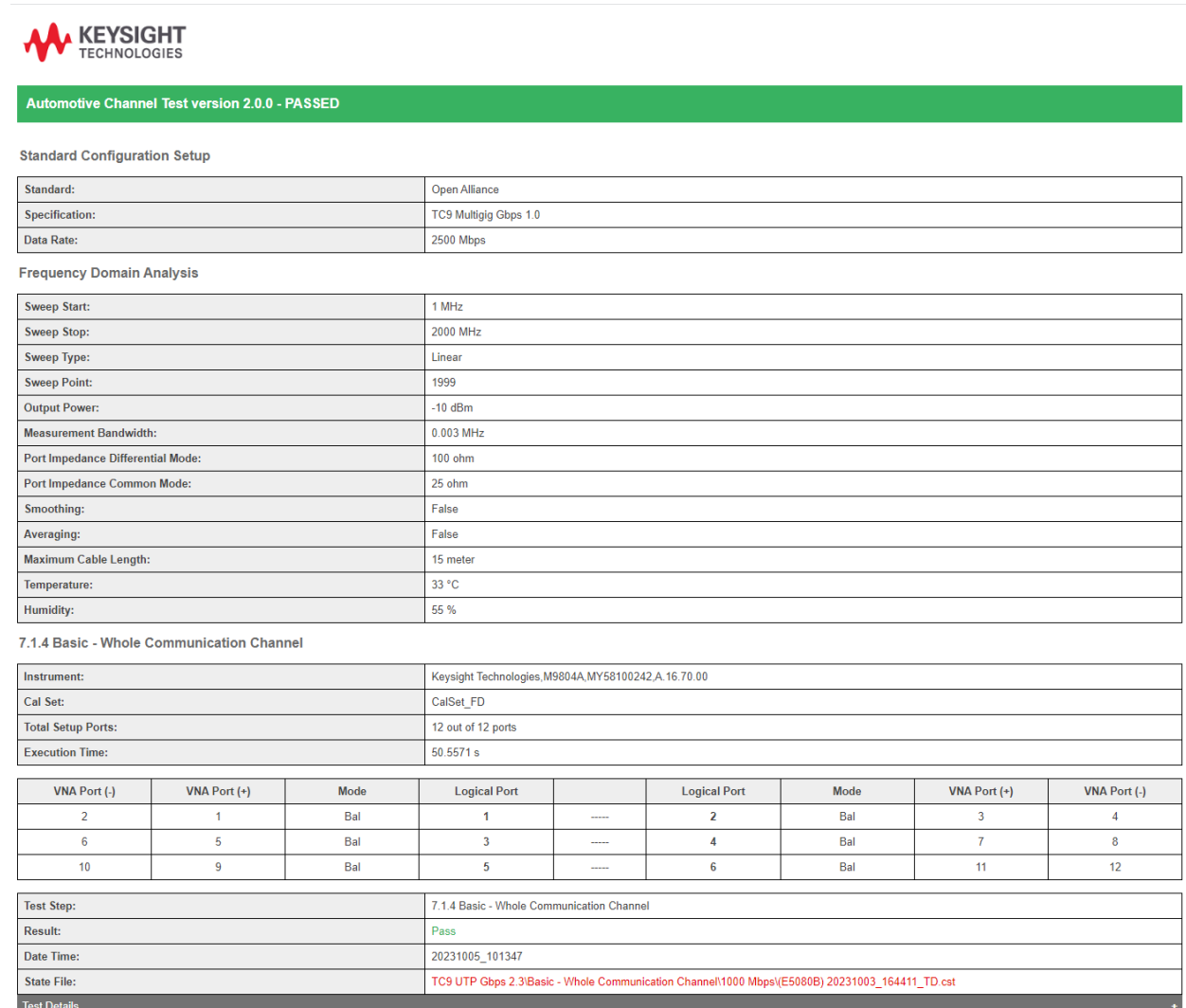


Figure 7. Test results

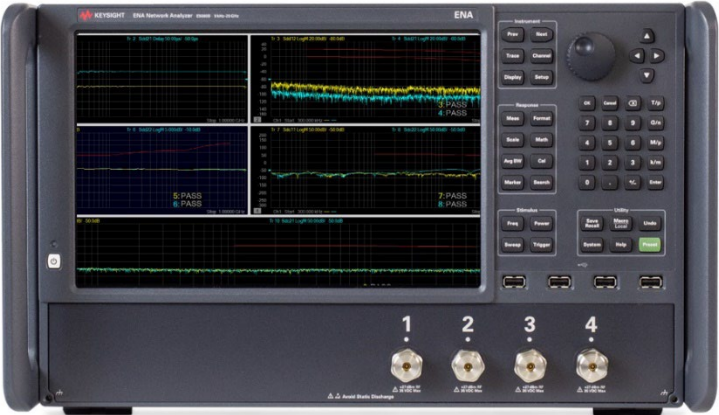
Requirements: Instruments & Accessories

Instruments

The AE2010L software runs on a separate computer and controls the instruments. The primary hardware on which the solution is built can be any of the following three different VNA options.



M9019A 18-slot PXIe chassis with up to 50 ports; with any combination of 6-port M9804A (option 600), 4-port M9804A (option 400) or 2-port M9804A (Option 200)



E5080B 2- or 4-port 9 kHz to 53 GHz VNA



P502xA/B or P9382B Streamline series 4-port 100kHz to 53 GHz or 6-port 9 kHz to 20 GHz VNA

Minimum requirements

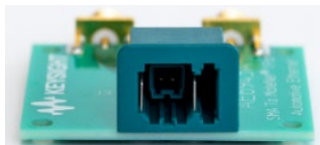
Install the AE2010L software on a computer that controls a Keysight vector network analyzer (VNA). Additional hardware is required depending on the specification. The table below captures the specifications' minimum requirements and lists the equipment Keysight offers for that measurement type.

Min. instrument requirement	Supported Keysight models
Network analyzer (VNA) with a start and stop frequency range of 300 kHz – 1 GHz (100 and 1000BASE-T1), 4-port configuration, and a calibration kit.	M980xA series, P5022A/B series, P9382B, E5080B
Network analyzer (VNA) with a start and stop frequency range of 1 MHz – 5.6 GHz (2.5/5/10GBASE-T1), 4-port configuration, and a calibration kit with a start and stop frequency range.	

Accessories

Adapters and fixtures help convert SMA to some of the more standard automotive interfaces. Choose from multiple Ecals options, including 2- and 4-port models.

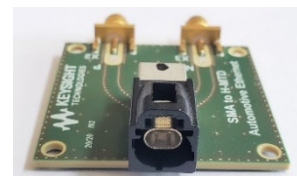
Model number	Description	Used for what purpose
AE6942A	SMA to Molex/Mini-50 adapter board AE6942A	Conversion from SMA to automotive interface
AE6943A	SMA to MATEnet adapter board AE6943A	
AE6960A	SMA to H-MTD adapter board AE6960A	
N755xA	RF Electronic calibration module, 2-Port DC to 4 / 6.5/ 9/ 14/ 18/ 26.5 GHz	Compatible Ecal modules
N443xD	RF Electronic calibration module, 4-Port 300 kHz to 13.5/ 18/ 26.5 GHz	
N469xD	Microwave Electronic calibration module, 2-Port DC to 18/ 26.5/ 40/ 50/ 67 GHz	
8509xD	RF Electronic calibration module, 2-Port DC to 6/ 7.5/ 9 GHz	
8509xC	RF Electronic calibration module, 2-Port 300 kHz to 3/ 7.5/ 9 GHz	



AE6943A SMA to MATEnet adapter board



AE6942A SMA to Mini-50 adapter board



AE6960A SMA to H-MTD adapter board

Ordering Information

Notes	Description	Part number
Software		
Required	Test Automation Platform, Developer's System	KS8400B
Required	Channel compliance core software	AE6800C
Required	Automotive SerDes Channel Compliance Test Software	AE2010L
Software is required but specific to the VNA selected order stand-alone or through the hardware.		
Required with PXIe VNA	Time domain analysis for PXI M980xA VNA	S95010B
Required with Bench VNA	Time domain analysis for Bench E5080B VNA	S96010B
Required with Portable VNA	Time domain analysis for Portable P5022B/P9382B VNA	S97010B
Required with more than one PXI	Multiport calibrated measurements software for M980xA VNA	S95551B
Required with more than one portable	Multiport calibrated measurements software for P5022B/P9382B VNA	S97551B
Hardware selections¹		
Choose either Bench, PXIe, or Portable VNA		
Bench VNA	E5080B 9 kHz to 9 GHz opts 490, 181, 182, S96010B (TD)	E5080B
Portable VNA	USB 9GHz, 4-port P5022B opt 400, S97010B (TD)	P5022B
	Thunderbolt 9GHz, 4-port P9382B opt 400, S97010B (TD)	P9382B
Required for more than one USB/Thunderbolt VNA, Qty 1	Jumper cables for multiport configuration of USB or Thunderbolt	Y1701A-002
PXIe - high channel 9 or 20 GHz	PXIe chassis and filler panels; 18-slot ²	M9019A
Required for mainframe	PXIe embedded controller with memory, windows OS	M9037A
VNA modules mix and match for the required number of ports	PXIe Vector Network Analyzer, 6-port, 9 kHz to 9 GHz	M9802A-600
	PXIe Vector Network Analyzer, 4-port, 9 kHz to 9 GHz	M9802A-400
	PXIe Vector Network Analyzer, 2-port, 9 kHz to 9 GHz	M9802A-200
Required Order one less than the number of PXI modules	Jumper cables for multiport configuration of M9080XA	Y1730A-002
Ecal ³	Ecal 9 GHz, N7552A 2-port option 3FF	N7552A
	Coax cable, 3.5 mm (m) to 3.5 mm (f), 26.5GHz, 1 m use with E5080B option 490 ⁴	N9910X-708
Required x the number of ports tested	Coax cable, 3.5mm (m) to 3.5 mm (m), 26.5 GHz, 1 m use with portable VNA P5022B/P9382B and M980xA	Y1740A-100
	Adapter, N(m) to 3.5 mm(m) adapter – use with E5080B option 490	N9910X-849
Optional one or more depending on DUT connectivity	SMA to MATENet adapter boards	AE6943A
	SMA to Molex/Mini-50 adapter board	AE6942A
	SMA to H-MTD adapter board	AE6960A

1 A VNA is required to run the software and for these tests, you can choose any VNA that meets the min configuration on page 12 – those listed here are available for ordering convenience.

2 The 18-slot mainframe can fit six 2-slot modules or 14 single-slot modules, a max of 24 ports.

3 An Ecal is required for the VNA this is a suggestion. Other options are available for higher bandwidth or number of ports.

4 E5080B option 490 will also need a N9910X-849 adapter.

For example,

Below are two examples: one for a low-cost, single cable, portable option, and another for a single cable benchtop.

A configured order for automated compliance of 4-ports at 9 GHz portable VNA	A configured order for automated compliance 4-port 9 GHz benchtop VNA (to measure 1 cable)
Qty (1) AE6800C	Qty (1) AE6800C
Qty (1) AE2010L	Qty (1) AE2010L
Qty (1) KS8400B	Qty (1) KS8400B
Qty (1) P9382B option 400	Qty (1) E5080B option 490
Qty (1) S97010B	Qty (1) N755A option 3FF
Qty (4) Y1740A-100	Qty (4) Y1740A-100
Qty (1) N7552A option 3FF	Qty (4) N9910X-849
	Qty (1) S96010B

Conclusion

Learning or remembering how to use a VNA can be frustrating and take time. With the AE2010L, Keysight has done much of the work for you. The software can be used with three different platforms of VNA depending on what kind of cable, bundle of cables, connectors, or harness assemblies you are testing.

Keysight's AE2010L automotive SerDes software ensures signal quality requirements with conformance testing for the channel. Built on functional and multipurpose hardware – [E5080B](#), [PXI M980xA](#), or [Streamline Series USB Vector Network Analyzers](#) – which are also invaluable tools in the lab for design verification and validation beyond Automotive channels.

Learn more at www.keysight.com/find/AE2000L



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