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NEO-M8U

u-blox M8 untethered dead reckoning module including 3D inertial sensors

Data sheet

Abstract

This data sheet describes the NEO-M8U module, which provides leading performance and continuous navigation even with poor GNSS signal conditions. It functions independently of any electrical connection to the car.

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This document applies to the following products:

Product name	Type number	ROM/FLASH version	PCN/IN reference	Product status
NEO-M8U	NEO-M8U-0-10	Flash FW 3.01 UDR 1.00	UBX-22011767, UBX-22039049	End of life
NEO-M8U	NEO-M8U-04B-00	FLASH FW 3.01 UDR 1.21	UBX-22011767, UBX-22039049	End of life
NEO-M8U	NEO-M8U-05B-00	FLASH FW 3.01 UDR 1.31	UBX-22011767, UBX-22039049	End of life
NEO-M8U	NEO-M8U-06B-00	FLASH FW 3.01 UDR 1.50	UBX-20053641, UBX-22039049	Mass production

Contents

1 Functional description

☞ For more information about the functions, see the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification [2].

1.1 Overview

The NEO-M8U module introduces u-blox's untethered dead reckoning (UDR) technology, which provides continuous navigation without requiring speed information from the vehicle. This innovative technology brings the benefits of dead reckoning to installations previously restricted to using GNSS alone, and significantly reduces the cost of installation for after-market dead reckoning applications.

The strength of UDR is particularly apparent under poor signal conditions, where it brings continuous positioning in urban environments, even to devices with antennas installed within the vehicle. Useful positioning performance is also available during complete signal loss, for example in parking garages and short tunnels. With UDR, positioning starts as soon as power is applied to the module, before the first GNSS fix is available.

The NEO-M8U may be installed in any position within the vehicle without configuration. In addition to its freedom from any electrical connection to the vehicle, the on-board accelerometer and gyroscope sensors result in a fully self-contained solution, perfect for rapid product development with reliable and consistent performance.

The intelligent combination of GNSS and sensor measurements enables accurate, real-time positioning at rates up to 30 Hz, as is needed for smooth and responsive interactive applications. Native high-rate sensor data is made available to host applications such as driving behavior analysis or accident reconstruction.

The NEO-M8U includes u-blox's latest generation GNSS receiver, which adds Galileo to the multi-constellation reception that already includes GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou and QZSS. The module provides high sensitivity and fast GNSS signal acquisition and tracking. UART, USB, DDC (I2C-compliant) and SPI interface options provide flexible connectivity and enable simple integration with most u-blox cellular modules.

u-blox M8 modules use GNSS chips qualified according to AEC-Q100 and are manufactured in ISO/TS 16949 certified sites. Qualification tests are performed as stipulated in the ISO16750 standard "Road vehicles – Environmental conditions and testing for electrical and electronic equipment".

1.2 Product features

For an overview of the product features, see the NEO-M8U product summary [5].

1.3 Performance

Parameter	Specification	
Receiver type	72-channel u-blox M8 engine GPS L1C/A, SBAS L1C/A, QZSS L1C/A, QZSS L1-SAIF, GLONASS L1OF, BeiDou B1I , Galileo E1B/C	
Accuracy of time pulse signal	RMS	30 ns
	99%	60 ns
Frequency of time pulse signal	0.25 Hz…10 MHz (configurable)	
Operational limits[1]	Dynamics	≤ 4 g
	Altitude	50,000 m
	Velocity	500 m/s
Velocity accuracy[2]		0.05 m/s
Heading accuracy[2]		1 degrees
Position error during GNSS loss[3]	< 60 s signal loss	typ. 10% distance travelled
Max navigation update rate, high navigation rate output		30 Hz
Max navigation update rate (PVT)[4]		2 Hz
Navigation latency, high navigation rate output		<10 ms
Max sensor measurement output rate		100 Hz

GNSS		GPS & GLONASS	GPS	GLONASS	BeiDou	Galileo
Time-To-First-Fix[5]	Cold start	26 s	30 s	31 s	39 s	57 s
	Hot start	1.5 s	1.5 s	1.5 s	1.5 s	1.5 s
	Aided starts[6]	3 s	3 s	3 s	7 s	7 s
Sensitivity[7] [8]	Tracking & Navigation	-160 dBm	-160 dBm	-157 dBm	-160 dBm	-154 dBm
	Reacquisition	-160 dBm	-159 dBm	-156dBm	-155 dBm	-152 dBm
	Cold start	-148 dBm	-147 dBm	-145 dBm	-143 dBm	-133 dBm
	Hot start	-157 dBm	-156 dBm	-155 dBm	-155 dBm	-151 dBm
Horizontal position accuracy	Autonomous[9]	2.5 m	2.5 m	4.0 m	3.0 m	TBC[10]
	With SBAS[11]	1.5 m	1.5 m	-	-	-
Altitude accuracy	With SBAS[12]	3.5 m	3.0 m	7.0 m	5.0 m	-

Table 1: NEO-M8U performance in different GNSS modes (default: concurrent reception of GPS and GLONASS)

[1] Configured for Airborne < 4g platform
[2] 50% at 30 m/s
[3] Typical error incurred without GNSS as a percentage of distance traveled
[4] Rates with SBAS and QZSS enabled for > 98% fix report rate under typical conditions
[5] All satellites at -130 dBm, except Galileo at -127 dBm
[6] Dependent on aiding data connection speed and latency
[7] Demonstrated with a good external LNA
[8] Configured min. CNO of 6 dB/Hz, limited by FW with min. CNO of 20 dB/Hz for best performance
[9] CEP, 50%, 24 hours static, -130 dBm, > 6 SVs
[10] To be confirmed when Galileo reaches full operational capability
[11] CEP, 50%, 24 hours static, -130 dBm, > 6 SVs
[12] CEP, 50%, 24 hours static, -130 dBm, > 6 SVs

1.4 Block diagram

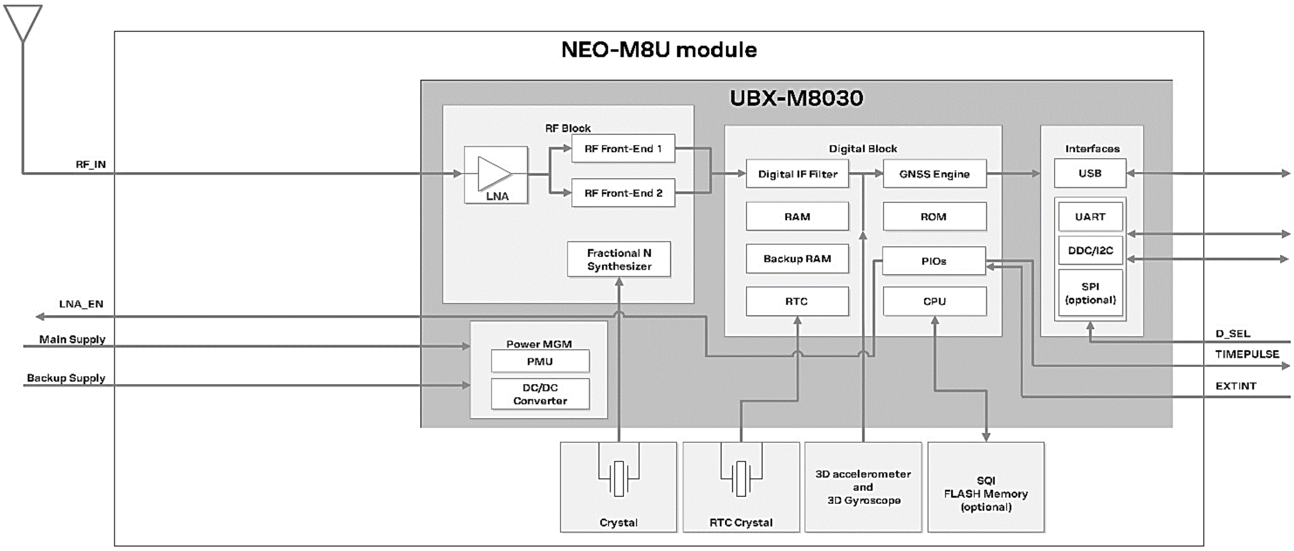


Figure 1: NEO-M8U block diagram

1.5 Supported GNSS constellations

The NEO-M8U GNSS module is a concurrent GNSS receiver which can receive and track multiple GNSS systems: GPS, Galileo, GLONASS and BeiDou. Owing to the dual-frequency RF front-end architecture, either GLONASS or BeiDou can be processed concurrently with GPS and Galileo signals providing reception of three GNSS systems. By default the M8 receivers are configured for concurrent GPS and GLONASS, including SBAS and QZSS reception. If power consumption is a key factor, then the receiver should be configured for a single GNSS operation using GPS, Galileo, GLONASS or BeiDou and disabling QZSS and SBAS.

QZSS, IMES and SBAS augmentation systems share the same frequency band as GPS and can always be processed in conjunction with GPS.

The module can be configured to receive any single GNSS constellation or within the set of permissible combinations shown below.

GPS	Galileo	GLONASS	BeiDou
•	•	–	–
•	•	•	–
•	•	–	•
•	–	•	–
•	–	–	•
–	•	•	–
–	•	–	•
–	–	•	•

Table 2 Permissible GNSS combinations (• = enabled)

☞ The augmentation systems SBAS and QZSS can be enabled only if GPS operation is configured.

☞ Galileo is not enabled as a default configuration.

1.5.1 GPS

The NEO-M8U positioning module is designed to receive and track the L1C/A signals provided at 1575.42 MHz by the global positioning system (GPS). The NEO-M8U can receive and process GPS concurrently with Galileo and with either GLONASS or BeiDou.

1.5.2 GLONASS

The NEO-M8U positioning module can receive and process GLONASS concurrently with GPS and Galileo or BeiDou. The Russian GLONASS satellite system is a fully deployed alternative to the US-based global positioning system (GPS). The NEO-M8U module is designed to receive and track the L1OF signals GLONASS provides around 1602 MHz. The ability to receive and track GLONASS L1OF satellite signals allows design of GLONASS receivers where required by regulations.

1.5.3 BeiDou

The NEO-M8U positioning module can receive and process BeiDou concurrently with GPS and Galileo together or with GLONASS. The NEO-M8U module is designed to receive and track the B1 signals provided at 1561.098 MHz by the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. The ability to receive and track BeiDou B1 satellite signals in conjunction with GPS results in higher coverage, improved reliability and better accuracy. Global coverage is scheduled for 2020.

1.5.4 Galileo

The NEO-M8U positioning module can receive and track the E1-B/C signals centered on the GPS L1 frequency band. GPS and Galileo signals can be processed concurrently together with either BeiDou or GLONASS signals, enhancing coverage, reliability and accuracy. The SAR return link message (RLM) parameters for both short and long versions are decoded by the receiver and made available to users via UBX proprietary messages.

☞ Galileo has been implemented according to ICD release 1.2 (November 2015) and verified with live signals from the Galileo in-orbit validation campaign. Since the Galileo satellite system has not yet reached Initial (IOC) nor Full Operational Capability (FOC), changes to the Galileo signal specification (OS SIS ICD) remain theoretically possible.

☞ Galileo reception is by default disabled, but can be enabled by sending a configuration message (UBX-CFG-GNSS) to the receiver.

1.6 Assisted GNSS (A-GNSS)

Supply of aiding information, such as ephemeris, almanac, approximate position and time, will reduce the time-to-first-fix significantly and improve the acquisition sensitivity. The NEO-M8U product supports the u-blox AssistNow Online and AssistNow Offline A-GNSS services, supports AssistNow Autonomous, and is OMA SUPL-compliant.

1.6.1 AssistNow™ Online

With AssistNow Online, an internet-connected GNSS device downloads assistance data from u-blox's AssistNow Online Service at system start-up. AssistNow Online is network-operator independent and globally available. Devices can be configured to request only ephemeris data for those satellites currently visible at their location, thus minimizing the amount of data transferred.

1.6.2 AssistNow™ Offline

With AssistNow Offline, users download u-blox's long-term orbit data from the internet at their convenience. The orbit data can be stored in the NEO-M8U GNSS receiver's SQI flash memory. Thus the service requires no connectivity at system start-up, enabling a position fix within seconds, even when no network is available. AssistNow Offline offers augmentation for up to 35 days.

1.6.3 AssistNow™ Autonomous

AssistNow Autonomous provides aiding information without the need for a host or external network connection. Based on previous broadcast satellite ephemeris data downloaded to and stored by the GNSS receiver, AssistNow Autonomous automatically generates accurate satellite orbital data ("AssistNow Autonomous data") that is usable for future GNSS position fixes. The concept capitalizes on the periodic nature of GNSS satellites: their position in the sky is basically repeated every 24 hours. By capturing strategic ephemeris data at specific times over several days, the receiver can predict accurate satellite ephemeris for up to six days after initial reception.

u-blox's AssistNow Autonomous benefits are:

- Faster fix in situations where GNSS satellite signals are weak
- No connectivity required
- Compatible with AssistNow Online and Offline (can work stand-alone, or in tandem with these services)
- No integration effort; calculations are done in the background, transparent to the user.

☞ For more details see the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification [2] and the MGA Services User Guide [4].

1.7 Augmentation systems

1.7.1 Satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS)

The NEO-M8U positioning module supports SBAS. These systems supplement GPS data with additional GPS augmentation data within defined service areas. The systems broadcast augmentation data via satellite and this information can be used by GNSS receivers to improve the resulting precision. In some cases SBAS satellites can be used as additional satellites for ranging (navigation), further enhancing precision and availability.

1.7.2 QZSS

The Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) is a regional navigation satellite system that transmits additional GPS L1 C/A signals for the Pacific region covering Japan and Australia. NEO-M8N positioning module is able to receive and track these signals concurrently with GPS signals, resulting in better availability especially under challenging signal conditions, for example, in urban canyons.

1.7.3 QZSS L1S SLAS

QZSS SLAS (sub-meter level augmentation service) is an augmentation technology which provides correction data for pseudoranges of GPS and QZSS satellites. With the QZSS SLAS enabled, u-blox receivers autonomously select the most suitable ground monitoring stations (GMS) based on the user's location. The correction stream of this GMS will then be applied to the measurements in order to improve the position accuracy.

1.7.4 IMES

The Japanese indoor messaging system (IMES) is used for indoor position reporting using low-power transmitters which broadcast a GPS–like signal. NEO-M8N module can be configured to receive and demodulate the signal to provide an in-door location estimate.

☞ This service is authorized and available only in Japan.

☞ IMES reception is disabled by default.

1.7.5 Differential GPS (D-GPS)

The use of differential-GPS data improves GPS position accuracy using real time data from a nearby reference receiver or network. The NEO-M8U receiver supports D-GPS only with dead reckoning disabled (using message UBX-CFG-NAVX5). D-GPS starts on receipt of valid data according RTCM 10402.3: "RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR DIFFERENTIAL GNSS". RTCM cannot be used together with SBAS or dead reckoning and is applicable only to GPS signals in the NEO-M8U. The RTCM implementation supports the following RTCM 2.3 messages:

Message type	Description
1	Differential GPS corrections
2	Delta differential GPS corrections
3	GPS reference station parameters
9	GPS partial correction set

Table 3: Supported RTCM 2.3 messages

1.8 Broadcast navigation data

The NEO-M8U can output all the GNSS broadcast data upon reception from tracked satellites. This includes all the supported GNSS signals plus the augmentation services SBAS, QZSS and IMES.

The L1- SAIF signal provided by QZSS can be enabled for reception via a GNSS configuration message.

1.9 Untethered dead reckoning (UDR)

u-blox's proprietary untethered dead reckoning (UDR) solution uses an inertial measurement unit (IMU) included within the module. IMU data and GNSS signals are processed together, achieving accurate and continuous positioning in GNSS-hostile environments (for example, urban canyons) and useful positioning even in case of complete GNSS signal absence (for example, tunnels and parking garages).

The NEO-M8U combines GNSS and IMU measurements and calculates position solutions at rates of up to 2 Hz. These solutions are reported in standard NMEA, UBX-NAV-PVT and related messages. A new High navigation rate output message (UBX-HNR-PVT) extends these results with IMU-only data to deliver accurate, low-latency position solutions at rates of up to 30 Hz.

Dead reckoning allows navigation to commence as soon as power is applied to the module (that is, before a GNSS fix has been established) and given all of the following conditions:

- The vehicle has not been moved without power applied to the module.
- At least a dead-reckoning fix was available when the vehicle was last used.
- A back-up supply has been available for the module since the vehicle was last used.

☞ The save-on-shutdown feature can be used in case no back-up supply is available. All information necessary will be saved to flash and read from the flash upon restart. For more details, see the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description / Protocol Specification [2].

For post-processing applications sensor data is available from messages UBX-ESF-MEAS and UBX-ESF-RAW (high rate). Each message includes the time of measurement.

1.10 Odometer

The odometer provides information on travelled ground distance (in meters) using position and velocity measurements from the combined GNSS/DR navigation solution. For each computed traveled distance since the last odometer reset, the odometer estimates a 1-sigma accuracy value. The total cumulative ground distance is maintained and saved in the BBR memory.

☞ The odometer feature is disabled by default.

1.11 Data logging

The u-blox NEO-M8U receiver can be used in data logging applications. The data logging feature enables continuous storage of position, velocity and time information to an onboard SQI flash memory. It can also log the distance reported by the odometer. The information can be downloaded later from the receiver for further analysis, or for conversion to a mapping tool.

1.12 Geofencing

The u-blox NEO-M8U module supports up to four circular geofencing areas defined on the Earth's surface using a 2D model. Geofencing is active when at least one geofence is defined, the current status can be found by polling the receiver. A GPIO pin can be nominated to indicate status to, for example, wake up a host on activation.

1.13 Message integrity protection

The NEO-M8U provides a function to detect third party interference with the UBX message stream sent from receiver to host. The security mechanism "signs" nominated messages via a subsequent UBX message. This message signature is then compared with a signature generated by the host to determine if the message data has been altered.

1.14 Spoofing detection

Spoofing means that a malicious third party tries to control the reported position via a fake GNSS broadcast signal. This may result in reporting incorrect position, velocity or time. To combat this, the NEO-M8U module includes spoofing detection measures to alert the host when signals appear to be suspicious. The receiver combines a number of checks on the received signals looking for inconsistencies across several parameters.

1.15 TIMEPULSE

A configurable time pulse signal is available with the NEO-M8U module.

The TIMEPULSE output generates pulse trains synchronized with GPS or UTC time grid with intervals configurable over a wide frequency range. Thus it may be used as a low frequency time synchronization pulse or as a high frequency reference signal.

☞ The NEO-M8U time-pulse output is configured using messages for "TIMEPULSE2." This pin has a secondary function during start-up (initiation of "SAFEBOOT" mode for firmware recovery) and should not normally be held LOW during start-up.

1.16 Protocols and interfaces

Protocol	Type
NMEA 0183 V4.0 (V2.1, V2.3 and V4.1 configurable)	Input/output, ASCII
UBX	Input/output, binary, u-blox proprietary
RTCM	Input, messages 1, 2, 3, 9

Table 4: Available protocols

All protocols are available on UART, USB, DDC (I2C compliant) and SPI. For specification of the various protocols see the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification [2].

1.17 Interfaces

A number of interfaces are provided for data communication. The embedded firmware uses these interfaces according to their respective protocol specifications.

1.17.1 UART

The NEO-M8U module includes one UART interface, which can be used for communication to a host. It supports configurable baud rates. For supported baud rates see the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification [2].

☞ Designs must allow access to the UART and the **SAFEBOOT_N** function pin for future service, updates and reconfiguration.

1.17.2 USB

A USB interface, which is compatible to USB version 2.0 FS (Full Speed, 12 Mbit/s), can be used for communication as an alternative to the UART. The pull-up resistor on pin **USB_DP** is integrated to signal a full-speed device to the host. The **VDD_USB** pin supplies the USB interface. The u-blox USB (CDC-ACM) driver supports Windows Vista plus Windows 7 and 8 operating systems. A separate driver (CDC-ACM) is not required for Windows 10 which has a built-in USB-serial driver. However, plugging initially into an internet-connected Windows 10 PC will download the u-blox combined sensor and VCP driver package.

USB drivers can be down-loaded from the u-blox web site, www.u-blox.com.

1.17.3 SPI

The SPI interface is designed to allow communication to a host CPU. The interface can be operated in slave mode only. The maximum transfer rate using SPI is 125 kB/s and the maximum SPI clock frequency is 5.5 MHz, see Figure 3. Note that SPI is not available in the default configuration because its pins are shared with the UART and DDC interfaces. The SPI interface can be enabled by connecting **D_SEL** (Pin 2) to ground (see section 3.1).

1.17.4 Display Data Channel (DDC)

An I2C-compliant DDC interface is available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules. The interface can be operated in slave mode only. The DDC protocol and electrical interface are fully compatible with Fast-Mode of the I2C industry standard. Since the maximum SCL clock frequency is 400 kHz, the maximum transfer rate is 400 kb/s.

1.18 Clock generation

1.18.1 Oscillators

The NEO-M8U GNSS module uses a crystal-based oscillator.

1.18.2 Real-time clock (RTC) and hardware backup mode

The RTC can be maintained by a secondary 32-kHz oscillator using an RTC crystal. If the main supply voltage is removed, a battery connected to **V_BCKP** allows the RTC to continue to run with very low power consumption. The same supply also maintains a static back-up memory for current configuration information, recent ephemeris, location and auxiliary data necessary to ensure the fastest re-acquisition when the primary power supply is restored.

☞ Dead reckoning before the first GNSS fix requires that the RTC has been enabled and powered since the previous fix.

1.19 Power management

u-blox M8 technology offers a power-optimized architecture with built-in autonomous power saving functions to minimize power consumption at any given time. In addition, a high-efficiency DC/DC converter is integrated for lower power consumption and reduced dissipation.

1.19.1 Power control

A separate battery backup voltage may be applied to the module to retain the current state of the receiver and sustain a low-power real time clock (RTC) while the main supply is removed. This enables fast acquisition and navigation based on dead reckoning before the first GNSS-based fix.

Alternatively, a configuration command (UBX-CFG-PWR) can be issued to stop the receiver in a similar way to hardware backup mode (see section 1.18.2) while the main supply remains active. This mode is referred to as software backup mode; current consumption in this mode is slightly higher than in hardware backup mode. The receiver will then restart on the next edge received at its UART interface (there will be a delay before any communication is possible).

See Table 10 for current consumption in backup mode.

1.20 Antenna

To achieve the best performance, u-blox recommends using an active antenna[13] or an external LNA with this module.

Parameter	Specification	
Antenna Type		Active or passive antenna
Active Antenna Recommendations	Minimum gain Maximum gain Maximum noise figure	15 dB (to compensate signal loss in RF cable) 50 dB[14] 1.5 dB

Table 5: Antenna specifications for the NEO-M8U module

The antenna system should include filtering to ensure adequate protection from nearby transmitters. Select antennas placed closed to cellular or Wi-Fi transmitting antennas carefully.

☞ For guidance on antenna selection see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1].

[13] For information on using active antennas with NEO-M8U modules, see the NEO-M8U Hardware Integration Manual [1].
[14] Gain above 20 dB should be avoided unless interference in the band 1463 MHz to 1710 MHz is adequately controlled.

2 Pin definition

2.1 Pin assignment

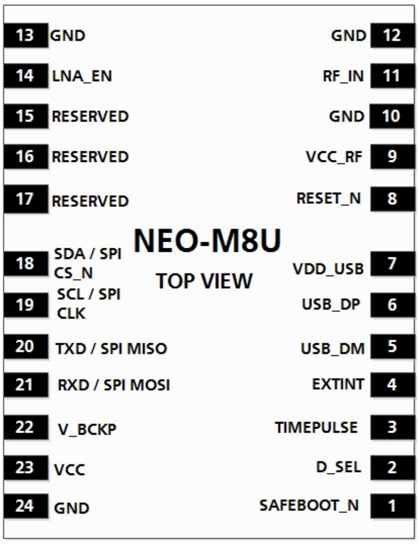


Figure 2: Pin assignment

No.	Name	I/O	Description
1	SAFEBOOT_N	I	SAFEBOOT_N, test-point for service use (leave OPEN)
2	D_SEL	I	Interface select
3	TIMEPULSE	I/O	Time pulse (disabled by default), do not pull low during reset Note: configured using TIMEPULSE2 messages (see section 1.15)
4	EXTINT	I	Externa interrupt pin
5	USB_DM	I/O	USB data
6	USB_DP	I/O	USB data
7	VDD_USB	I	USB supply
8	RESET_N	I	RESET_N
9	VCC_RF	O	Output voltage RF section
10	GND	I	Ground
11	RF_IN	I	GNSS signal input
12	GND	I	Ground
13	GND	I	Ground
14	LNA_EN	O	Antenna control
15	Reserved	-	Reserved
16	Reserved	-	Reserved
17	Reserved	-	Reserved
18	SDA / SPI CS_N	I/O	DDC data if D_SEL =1 (or open) / SPI chip select if D_SEL = 0
19	SCL / SPI CLK	I/O	DDC clock if D_SEL =1(or open) / SPI clock if D_SEL = 0
20	TXD / SPI MISO	O	Serial port if D_SEL =1(or open) / SPI MISO if D_SEL = 0
21	RXD / SPI MOSI	I	Serial port if D_SEL =1(or open) / SPI MOSI if D_SEL = 0
22	V_BCKP	I	Backup voltage supply
23	VCC	I	Supply voltage
24	GND	I	Ground

Table 6: Pinout of NEO-M8U

☞ Pins designated Reserved should not be used. For more information about pinouts see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1].

2.2 Pin name changes

Selected pin names have been updated to agree with a common naming convention across u-blox modules. The pins have not changed their operation and are the same physical hardware but with updated names. The table below lists the pins that have a changed name along with their old and new names.

No	Previous name	New name
14	ANT_ON	LNA_EN
20	TxD SPI MISO	TXD / SPI MISO
21	RxD SPI MOSI	RXD / SPI MOSI

Table 7: Pin name changes

3 Configuration management

Configuration settings can be modified with UBX configuration messages. The modified settings remain effective until power-down or reset. Settings can also be saved in the battery-backed RAM, flash or both using the UBX-CFG-CFG message. If settings have been stored in the battery-backed RAM then the modified configuration will be retained as long as the backup battery supply is not interrupted. Settings stored in the flash memory will remain effective even after power-down and do not require backup battery supply.

3.1 Interface selection (D_SEL)

At startup Pin 2 (**D_SEL**) determines which data interfaces are used for communication. If **D_SEL** is set high or left open, UART and DDC become available. If **D_SEL** is set low, that is, connected to ground, the NEO-M8U module can communicate to a host via SPI.

PIN #	D_SEL="1" (left open)	D_SEL ="0" (connected to GND)
20	UART TX	SPI MISO
21	UART RX	SPI MOSI
19	DDC SCL	SPI CLK
18	DDC SDA	SPI CS_N

Table 8: Data interface selection by D_SEL

4 Electrical specification

☞ The limiting values given are in accordance with the Absolute Maximum Rating System (IEC 134). Stress above one or more of the limiting values may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only and operation of the device at these or at any other conditions above those given in the characteristics sections of the specification is not implied. Exposure to these limits for extended periods may affect device reliability.

☞ Where application information is given, it is advisory only and does not form part of the specification. For more information see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1].

4.1 Absolute maximum rating

Parameter	Symbol	Condition	Min	Max	Units
Power supply voltage	VCC		–0.5	3.6	V
Backup battery voltage	V_BCKP		–0.5	3.6	V
USB supply voltage	VDD_USB		–0.5	3.6	V
Input pin applied DC voltage	Vin		–0.5	VCC+0.5	V
	Vin_usb		–0.5	VDD_USB	V
	Vrfin		0	6	V
DC current through any digital I/O pin (except supplies)	Ipin			10	mA
VCC_RF output current	ICC_RF			100	mA
Input power at RF_IN	Prfin	source impedance = 50 Ω, continuous wave		15	dBm
Storage temperature	Tstg		–40	85	°C

Table 9: Absolute maximum ratings

⚠ Stressing the device beyond the “Absolute Maximum Ratings” may cause permanent damage. These are stress ratings only. The product is not protected against overvoltage or reversed voltages. If necessary, voltage spikes exceeding the power supply voltage specification, given in Table 9, must be limited to values within the specified boundaries by using appropriate protection diodes.

4.2 Operating conditions

☞ All specifications are at an ambient temperature of 25 °C. Extreme operating temperatures can significantly impact the specification values. Applications operating near the temperature limits should be tested to ensure the specification.

Parameter	Symbol	Min	Typical	Max	Units	Condition
Power supply voltage	VCC	2.7	3.0	3.6	V	
Supply voltage USB	VDD_USB	3.0	3.3	3.6	V	
Backup battery voltage	V_BCKP	1.4		3.6	V	
Backup battery current	I_BCKP		15		μA	V_BCKP = 1.8 V, VCC = 0 V
SW backup current	I_SWBCKP		30		μA	VCC = 3 V
Input pin voltage range	Vin	0		VCC	V	
Digital IO Pin Low level input voltage	Vil	0		0.2*VCC	V	
Digital IO Pin High level input voltage	Vih	0.7*VCC		VCC	V	
Digital IO Pin Low level output voltage	Vol			0.4	V	Iol = 4 mA
Digital IO Pin High level output voltage	Voh	VCC–0.4			V	Ioh = 4 mA
Pull-up resistor for RESET_N	Rpu		11		kΩ	
USB_DM, USB_DP	VinU	Compatible with USB with 27 Ω series resistance				
VCC_RF voltage	VCC_RF		VCC–0.1		V	
VCC_RF output current	ICC_RF			50	mA	
Receiver Chain Noise Figure[15]	NFtot		3		dB	
Operating temperature	Topr	–40		85	°C	

Table 10: Operating conditions

☞ Operation beyond the specified operating conditions can affect device reliability.

4.3 Indicative current requirements

Table 11 lists examples of the total system supply current for a possible application.

☞ Values in Table 11 are provided for customer information only as an example of typical power requirements. Values are characterized on samples, actual power requirements can vary depending on the FW version used, external circuitry, number of SVs tracked, signal strength, type of start as well as time, duration and conditions of test.

Parameter	Symbol	Typ. GPS & GLONASS	Typ. GPS / QZSS / SBAS	Max	Units	Condition
Max supply current [16]	Iccp			67	mA	
Average supply current [17, 18]	Icc	29	23		mA	Estimated at 3 V

Table 11: Indicative power requirements at 3.0 V

☞ For more power requirements information, see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1].

[15] Only valid for the GPS band
[16] Use this figure to determine maximum current capability of power supply. Measurement of this parameter with 1 Hz bandwidth.
[17] Acquisition and tracking use this figure to determine required battery capacity
[18] Simulated GNSS constellation using power levels of -130 dBm. VCC = 3.0 V

4.4 SPI timing diagrams

To avoid incorrect operation of the SPI, the user needs to comply with certain timing conditions. The following signals need to be considered for timing constraints:

Symbol	Description
SPI CS_N (SS_N)	Slave select signal
SPI CLK (SCK)	Slave clock signal

Table 12: Symbol description

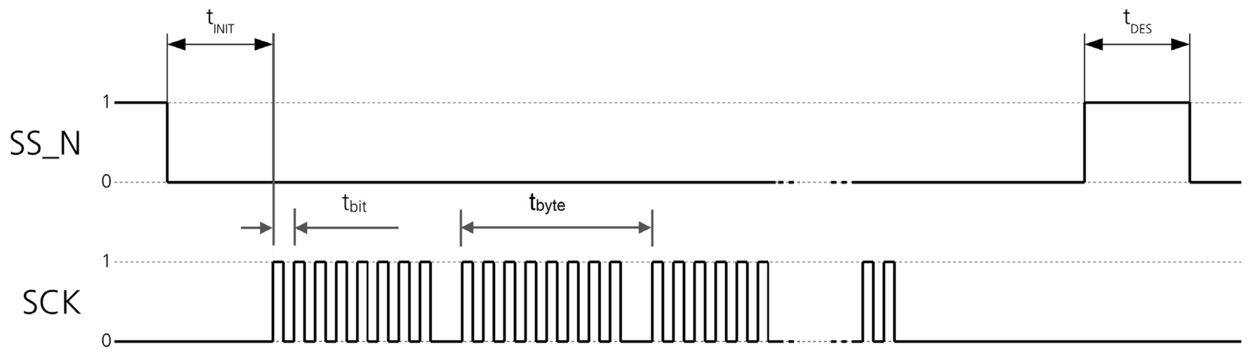


Figure 3: SPI timing diagram

4.4.1 Timing recommendations

The recommendations in Table 13 are based on a firmware running from flash memory.

Parameter	Description	Recommendation
t_{INIT}	Initialization time	>10 µs
t_{DES}	Deselect time	1 ms
t_{bit}	Minimum bit time	180 ns (5.5 MHz max bit frequency)
t_{byte}	Minimum byte period	8 µs (125 kHz max byte frequency)

Table 13: SPI timing recommendations

☞ The values in Table 13 result from the requirement of an error-free transmission. By allowing just a few errors and disabling the glitch filter, the bit rate can be increased considerably.

4.5 DDC timing diagrams

The DDC interface is I2C Fast Mode compliant. For timing parameters consult the I2C standard.

☞ The maximum bit rate is 400 kb/s. The interface stretches the clock when slowed down when serving interrupts, so real bit rates may be slightly lower.

5 Mechanical specifications

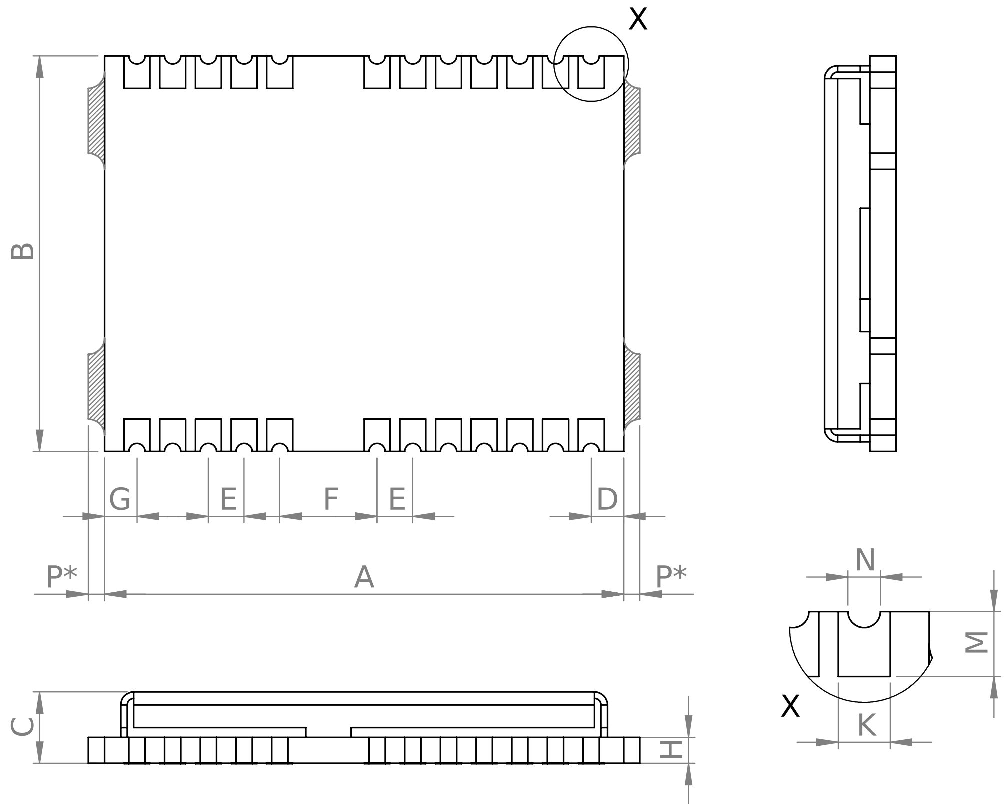


Figure 4 NEO M8U mechanical drawing

Symbol	Min. [mm]	Typ. [mm]	Max. [mm]	
A	15.9	16.0	16.1	
B	12.1	12.2	12.3	
C	2.2	2.4	2.6	
D	0.9	1.0	1.1	
E	1.0	1.1	1.2	
F	2.9	3.0	3.1	
G	0.9	1.0	1.1	
H	-	0.82	-	
K	0.7	0.8	0.9	
M	0.8	0.9	1.0	
N	0.4	0.5	0.6	
P*	0.0	-	0.5	The de-paneling residual tabs may be on either side (not both).
Weight		1.6 g		

Table 14 NEO M8U mechanical dimensions

☞ The mechanical picture of the de-paneling residual tabs (P*) is an approximate representation. The shape and position of the residual tab may vary.

☞ When designing the component keep-out area, note that the de-paneling residual tabs can be on either side of the module (not both).

☞ For information about the paste mask and footprint, see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1].

6 Reliability tests and approvals

6.1 Reliability tests

☞ The NEO-M8U module is based on AEC-Q100 qualified GNSS chips.

Tests for product family qualifications are according to ISO 16750 "Road vehicles – environmental conditions and testing for electrical and electronic equipment", and appropriate standards.

6.2 Approvals

Products marked with this lead-free symbol on the product label comply with Directive 2002/95/EC and Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the Restriction of Use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS).

All u-blox M8 GNSS modules are RoHS-compliant.

7 Product handling and soldering

7.1 Packaging

To enable efficient production, production lot set-up and tear-down, the NEO-M8U GNSS modules are delivered as hermetically sealed, reeled tapes. For more information see the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

7.1.1 Reels

The NEO-M8U GNSS modules are deliverable in quantities of 250 pcs on a reel. The NEO-M8U receivers are shipped on reel type B, as specified in the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

7.1.2 Tapes

The dimensions and orientations of the tapes for NEO-M8U GNSS modules are specified in Figure 5.

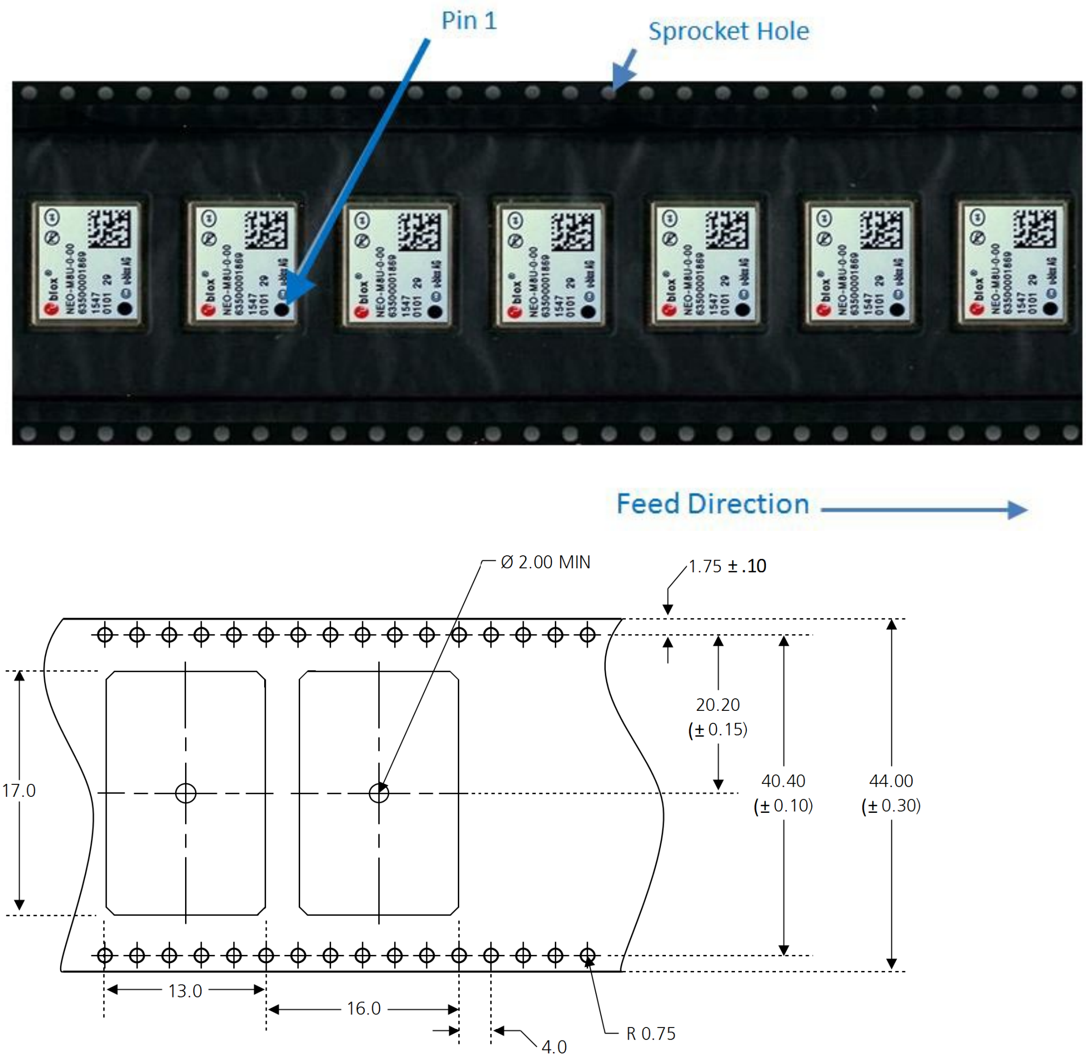


Figure 5: Dimensions and orientation for NEO-M8U modules on tape

7.2 Shipment, storage and handling

For important information regarding shipment, storage and handling see the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

7.2.1 Moisture sensitivity levels

The moisture sensitivity level (MSL) relates to the packaging and handling precautions required. The NEO-M8U modules are rated at MSL level 4.

☞ For MSL standard see IPC/JEDEC J-STD-020, which can be downloaded from www.jedec.org.

☞ For more information regarding MSL see the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

7.2.2 Reflow soldering

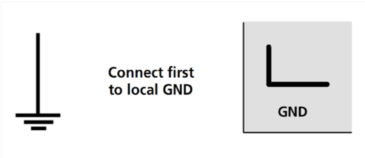
Reflow profiles are to be selected according to u-blox recommendations (see the NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual [1]).

7.2.3 ESD handling precautions

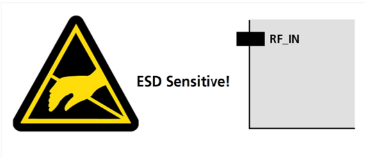
⚠ NEO-M8U modules are Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD). Observe precautions for handling! Failure to observe these precautions can result in severe damage to the GNSS receiver!

GNSS receivers are Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD) and require special precautions when handling. Exercise particular care when handling patch antennas, due to the risk of electrostatic charges. In addition to standard ESD safety practices, take the following measures into account whenever handling the receiver:

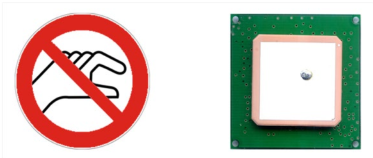
- Unless there is a galvanic coupling between the local GND (that is, the work desk) and the PCB GND, the first point of contact when handling the PCB must always be between the local GND and PCB GND.



- Before mounting an antenna patch, connect ground of the device.
- When handling the RF pin, do not come into contact with any charged capacitors and be careful when contacting materials that can develop charges (such as patch antenna ~10 pF, coax cable ~50-80 pF/m, soldering iron).



- To prevent electrostatic discharge through the RF input, do not touch any exposed antenna area. If there is any risk that such exposed antenna area is touched in a non-ESD protected work area, implement proper ESD protection measures in the design.



- When soldering RF connectors and patch antennas to the receiver's RF pin, make sure to use an ESD safe soldering iron (tip).

8 Default messages

Interface	Settings
UART Output	9600 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit. Configured to transmit both NMEA and UBX protocols, but only the following NMEA (and no UBX) messages have been activated at start-up: GGA, GLL, GSA, GSV, RMC, VTG, TXT.
USB Output	Configured to transmit both NMEA and UBX protocols, but only the following NMEA (and no UBX) messages have been activated at start-up: GGA, GLL, GSA, GSV, RMC, VTG, TXT. USB power mode: Bus powered.
UART Input	9600 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit, Autobauding disabled. Automatically accepts following protocols without need of explicit configuration: UBX, NMEA, RTCM. The GNSS receiver supports interleaved UBX and NMEA messages.
USB Input	Automatically accepts following protocols without need of explicit configuration: UBX, NMEA. The GPS receiver supports interleaved UBX and NMEA messages. USB power mode: Bus powered.
DDC	Fully compatible with the I2C industry standard, available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules, operated in slave mode only. Default messages activated. NMEA and UBX are enabled as input messages, only NMEA as output messages. Maximum bit rate 400 kb/s.
SPI	Allow communication to a host CPU, operated in slave mode only. Default messages activated. SPI is not available in the default configuration.
TIMEPULSE	Disabled

Table 15: Default messages

☞ Refer to the u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description Including Protocol Specification [2] for information about further settings.

9 Labeling and ordering information

9.1 Product labeling

The labeling of u-blox M8 GNSS modules includes important product information. The location of the NEO-M8U product type number is shown in Figure 6.

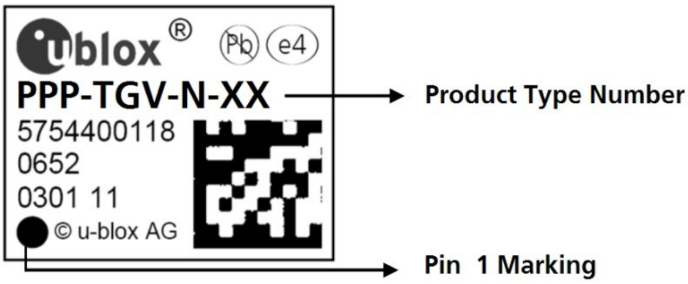


Figure 6: Location of product type number on the u-blox NEO-M8U module label

9.2 Explanation of codes

Three different product code formats are used. The **Product Name** is used in documentation such as this data sheet and identifies all u-blox M8 products, independent of packaging and quality grade. The **Ordering Code** includes options and quality, while the **Type Number** includes the hardware and firmware versions. Table 16 shows the structure of these three different formats.

Format	Structure
Product Name	PPP-TGV
Ordering Code	PPP-TGV-N
Type Number	PPP-TGV-N-XX

Table 16: Product code formats

The parts of the product code are explained in Table 17.

Code	Meaning	Example
PPP	Product Family	NEO
TG	Platform	M8 = u-blox M8
V	Variant	Function set (A-Z), T = Timing, L = ADR, U = UDR, etc.
N	Option / Quality Grade	Describes standardized functional element or quality grade 0 = Default variant, A = Automotive
XX	Product Detail	Describes product details or options such as hard- and software revision, cable length, etc.

Table 17: Part identification code

9.3 Ordering codes

Ordering no.	Product
NEO-M8U-05B	u-blox M8 GNSS LCC module untethered dead reckoning and on-board sensors, 12.2 x 16 mm, 250 pcs/reel

Table 18: Product ordering codes for NEO-M8U module

☞ Product changes affecting form, fit or function are documented by u-blox. For a list of Product Change Notifications (PCNs) see our website.

Related documents

[1] NEO-M8U Hardware integration manual, UBX-15016700
[2] u-blox 8 / u-blox M8 Receiver Description including Protocol Specification, UBX 13003221
[3] u-blox Package Information Guide, UBX-14001652
[4] MGA Services User guide, UBX-13004360
[5] NEO-M8U Product summary, UBX-15013483

☞ For regular updates to u-blox documentation and to receive product change notifications, register on our homepage (www.u-blox.com).

Revision history

Revision	Date	Name	Comments
R01	17-Feb-2016	amil	Objective Specification
R02	01-Jun-2016	ghun/amil	Advance Information Updated Section 2 for Pin name changes, Section 4.1, Section 4.3, Section 4.4 SPI Timing, Figure 1, Figure 2, and Section 1.3.
R03	27-Jun-2016	njaf	Early Product Information
R04	20-Sep-2016	njaf	Production Information
R05	02-Oct-2018	pmcm, njaf	Changed the firmware version (page 2). Updated Mechanical specifications (section 5).
R06	15-Feb-2019	mawa	Changed ordering code to -04B
R07	20-Mar-2020	ssid	Advance information – For NEO-M8U-05B with UDR 1.31 – Sensitivity numbers revised
R08	22-Jun-2020	mala	Early production information. Added information on NEO-M8L, NEO-M8U information note in Document information and Related documents. Added new disclosure restriction: C1-Public
R09	26-Nov-2020	ssid	Block diagram update
R10	12-Feb-2021	njaf	Firmware version and new type number added on page 2.
R11	22-Mar-2021	njaf	Product status updated to Initial production for NEO-M8U-06B-00 on page 2.
R12	25-Aug-2022	njaf	Product status updated to Mass production for NEO-M8U-06B-00 and to end-of-life for the others on page 2.
R13	16-Dec-2022	skar	Chapter Mechanical specifications updated with information on de-paneling residual tabs

Contact

u-blox AG

Address: Zürcherstrasse 68
8800 Thalwil
Switzerland

For further support and contact information, visit us at www.u-blox.com/support.