# RoHS Compliant Serial ATA Flash Drive

mSATA M4 - M Product Specifications

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Version 1.4



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## **Features:**

- Standard Serial ATA 2.6 (Gen. 2)
  - Serial ATA 2.6 (Gen. 2)
  - SATA II, 3.0 Gbps
  - ATA-compatible command set
  - ATA modes support
- Capacities
  - 8, 16, 32, 64, 128 GB

#### • Performance\*

- Burst read/write: 300 MB/sec
- Sustained read: up to 155 MB/sec
- Sustained write: up to 80 MB/sec
- Random read/write 4K: up to 4380/563 IOPS

#### • Intelligent endurance design

- Built-in hardware ECC, enabling up to 16/24 bit correction per 1K bytes
- Static wear-leveling scheme together with dynamical block allocation to significantly increase the lifetime of a flash device and optimize the disk performance
- Flash bad-block management
- S.M.A.R.T.
- Power Failure Management
- ATA Secure Erase
- TRIM
- NAND Flash Type: MLC
- **MTBF >** 1,000,000 (approx)

#### Humidity

- 5% to 95% RH (Non-condensing)
- Temperature ranges – Operation: Standard: 0°C to 70°C (32 ~ 158°F) Extended: -40 ~ +85°C (-40° ~ 185°F)\*\*
  - Storage: -40°C to 100°C (-40° ~ 212°F)
- Supply voltage
  - $-3.3V \pm 5\%$
- Power consumption (typical)\*
  - Active mode: 475 mA
  - Idle mode: 135 mA
- Form factor
  - Mini PCIe (50.8 x 29.85 x 3.60, unit: mm)
  - JEDEC MO-300 compliant
- Connector
  - 52-pin mSATA connector
- Shock & Vibration
  - Shock: 50g (approx.)
  - Vibration: 15g (approx.)
- RoHS compliant
- Endurance: 13.5 TBW (8GB), 27.01 TBW (16GB), 54.03 TBW (32GB), 108.07 TBW (64GB), 216.15 TBW (128GB)

\*Varies from capacities. The values addressed here are typical and may vary depending on settings and platforms. \*\*Applies only to 16, 32, 64GB capacities. Please see "Product Ordering Information" for details.



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# **1. Product Description**

## 1.1 Introduction

Apacer's mSATA M4-M is a solid-state disk (SSD) drive in mini PCIe form factor that contains a controller, embedded firmware, and flash media along with a male connector. Using NAND flash memory devices, the mSATA flash drive interfaces with the host allowing data to be seamlessly transferred between the host and the flash devices. Though built with MLC, this SSD can work in highly demanding environment as it can withstand ambient temperature from -40°C to +85°C (for certain capacities only).

mSATA M4-M drive is designed with a single-chip controller, offering capacities of up to 128 gigabytes and is compliant with the SATA II high-speed interface standard. Complying with JEDEC MO-300 standard, this mSATA SSD is the widely adopted embedded storage with compact size and exceptional performance.

In addition to block management through dynamical allocation, mSATA M4-M adopts the Apacer-specific global wear-leveling scheme to allow uniform use of all storage blocks, ensuring that the lifespan of a flash media can be significantly increased and the disk performance is optimized as well. mSATA M4-M provides the S.M.A.R.T. feature that follows the SATA Rev. 2.6, ATA/ATAPI-7 specifications and uses the standard SMART command B0h to read data from the drive. This feature protects the user from unscheduled downtime by monitoring and storing critical drive performance.

#### **1.2 Functional Block Diagram**

mSATA M4-M drive includes a single-chip SATA II Controller and the flash media, as well as the SATA standard interface. The controller integrates the flash management unit with the controller itself to support multi-channel, multi-bank flash arrays. Figure 1-1 shows the functional block diagram.







#### **1.3 ATA Mode Support**

mSATA M4-M provides ATA mode support as follows:

- Up to PIO mode-4
- Up to Multiword DMA mode-2
- Up to UDMA mode-5

## 1.4 Capacity Specification

Capacity specification of mSATA M4-M product family is available as shown in Table 1-1. It lists the specific capacity, the default numbers of logical cylinders and heads, and the number of logical sectors per track for each product line.

Capacity	Total Bytes*	Cylinders	Heads	Sectors	Max LBA*
8 GB	8,012,390,400	15525	16	63	15,649,200
16 GB	16,013,942,784	16383	16	63	31,277,232
32 GB	32,017,047,552	16383	16	63	62,533,296
64 GB	64,023,257,088	16383	16	63	125,045,424
128 GB	126,718,694,912	16383	16	63	247,497,451

#### Table 1-1 Capacity specification

\*Display of total bytes varies from file systems.

\*\*Cylinders, heads or sectors are not applicable for these capacities. Only LBA addressing applies.

#### 1.5 Performance

Performance of mSATA M4-M is shown in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 Performance & Random	Read/Write 4K specifications
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Capacity Performance	8 GB	16 GB	32 GB	64 GB	128 GB
Sustained Read (MB/s)	117	125	135	155	145
Sustained Write (MB/s)	26	26	40	80	80

Capacity Random R/W 4K	8 GB	16 GB	32 GB	64 GB	128 GB
Random Read 4K (IOPS)	4380	3988	3686	4290	4285
Random Write 4K (IOPS)	563	530	493	453	455

Note: Performance varies from flash configurations and/or platform settings.



## **1.6 Pin Assignments**

Pin assignment of the mSATA M4-M is shown in Figure 1-2 and described in Table 1-3.



Pin #	Assignment	Description	Pin #	Assignment	Description
1	N/A	N/A	27	GND	Return Current Path
2	+3.3V	3.3V source	28	N/A	N/A
3	N/A	N/A	29	GND	Return Current Path
4	GND	Return Current Path	30	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	N/A	31	Rx-	SATA Differential
6	N/A	N/A	32	N/A	N/A
7	N/A	N/A	33	Rx+	SATA Differential
8	N/A	N/A	34	GND	Return Current Path
9	GND	Return Current Path	35	GND	Return Current Path
10	N/A	N/A	36	Reserved	No Connect
11	N/A	N/A	37	GND	Return Current Path
12	N/A	N/A	38	Reserved	No Connect
13	N/A	N/A	39	+3.3V	3.3V source
14	N/A	N/A	40	GND	Return Current Path
15	GND	Return Current Path	41	+3.3V	3.3V source
16	N/A	N/A	42	N/A	N/A
17	N/A	N/A	43	GND	Return Current Path
18	GND	Return Current Path	44	N/A	N/A
19	N/A	N/A	45	Reserved	N/A
20	N/A	N/A	46	N/A	N/A
21	GND	Return Current Path	47	Reserved	N/A
22	N/A	N/A	48	N/A	N/A
23	Tx+	SATA Differential	49	DA/DSS	Device Activity / Disable Staggered Spin Up
24	+3.3V	3.3V source	50	GND	Return Current Path
25	Tx-	SATA Differential	51	Presence Detection	Shall be pulled to GND by device
26	GND	Return Current Path	52	+3.3V	3.3V source

#### Table 1-3 Pin Assignment Description





Figure 1-3 SATA Cable/Connector Connection Diagram

The connector on the left represents the Host with TX/RX differential pairs connected to a cable. The connector on the right shows the Device with TX/RX differential pairs also connected to the cable. Notice also the ground path connecting the shielding of the cable to the Cable Receptacle.



# **2. Software Interface**

## 2.1 Command Set

Table 2-1 summarizes the ATA commands supported by mSATA M4-M.

Code	Command	Code	Command
E5h	Check Power Mode	F3h	Security Erase Prepare
06h	Data Set Management	F4h	Security Erase Unit
90h	Execute Device Diagnostic	F5h	Security Freeze Lock
E7h	Flush Cache	F1h	Security Set Password
EAh	Flush Cache EXT	F2h	Security Unlock
Ech	Identify Device	70h	Seek
E3h	Idle	Efh	Set Features
E1h	Idle Immediate	C6h	Set Multiple Mode
91h	Initialize Device Parameters	E6h	Sleep
C8h	Read DMA	B0h	SMART
25h	Read DMA EXT	E2h	Standby
C4h	Read Multiple	E0h	Standby Immediate
29h	Read Multiple EXT	Cah	Write DMA
20h	Read Sector	35h	Write DMA EXT
24h	Read Sector EXT	C5h	Write Multiple
40h	Read Verify Sectors	39h	Write Multiple EXT
42h	Read Verify Sectors EXT	30h	Write Sector
10h	Recalibrate	34h	Write Sector EXT
F6h	Security Disable Password		

Table 2-1: Command set

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## **3. Flash Management**

#### 3.1 Error Correction/Detection

mSATA M4-M implements a hardware ECC scheme, based on the BCH algorithm. It can detect and correct up to 16 bits or 24 bits error in 1K bytes.

#### 3.2 Bad Block Management

Although bad blocks on the flash media are already identified by the flash manufacturer, they can also be accumulated over time during operation. mSATA M4-M's controller maintains a table that lists those normal blocks with disk data, the free blocks for wear leveling, and bad blocks with errors. When a normal block is detected broken, it is replaced with a free block and listed as a bad block. When a free block is detected broken, it is then removed from the free block list and marked as a bad block.

During device operation, this ensures that newly accumulated bad blocks are transparent to the host. The device will stop file write service once there are only two free blocks left such that the read function is still available for copying the files from the disk into another.

## 3.3 Wear Leveling

The NAND flash devices are limited by a certain number of write cycles. When using a FAT-based file system, frequent FAT table updates are required. If some area on the flash wears out faster than others, it would significantly reduce the lifetime of the whole SSD, even if the erase counts of others are far from the write cycle limit. Thus, if the write cycles can be distributed evenly across the media, the lifetime of the media can be prolonged significantly. This scheme is called wear leveling.

Apacer's wear-leveling scheme is achieved both via buffer management and Apacer-specific static wear leveling. They both ensure that the lifetime of the flash media can be increased, and the disk access performance is optimized as well.

#### 3.4 Power Failure Management

The Low Power Detection on the controller initiates crucial data saving before the power supplied to the device is too low. This feature prevents the device from crash and ensures data integrity during an unexpected power-off.

## 3.5 ATA Secure Erase

Accomplished by the Secure Erase (SE) command, which added to the open ANSI standards that control disk drives, "ATA Secure Erase" is built into the disk drive itself and thus far less susceptible to malicious software attacks than external software utilities. It is a positive easy-to-use data destroy command, amounting to electronic data shredding. Executing the command causes a drive to internally completely erase all possible user data. This command is carried out within disk drives, so no additional software is required. Once executed, neither data nor the erase counter on the device would be recoverable, which blurs the accuracy of device lifespan. The process to erase will not be stopped until finished while encountering power failure, and will be continued when power is back on.



## 3.6 S.M.A.R.T.

S.M.A.R.T. is an acronym for Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology, an open standard allowing disk drives to automatically monitor their own health and report potential problems. It protects the user from unscheduled downtime by monitoring and storing critical drive performance and calibration parameters. Ideally, this should allow taking proactive actions to prevent impending drive failure.

Apacer devices use the standard SMART command B0h to read data out from the drive to activate our SMART feature that complies with the ATA/ATAPI-7 specifications. Based on the SFF-8035i Rev. 2.0 specifications, Apacer SMART defines vendor-specified SMART Attribute IDs (A0 ~ A5, and 0C). They represent Initial bad block count, Bad block count, Spare block count, Maximum erase count, Average erase count and Power cycle. When the Apacer SMART Utility running on the host, it analyzes and reports the disk status to the host before the device reaches in critical condition.

## 3.7 TRIM

Made of millions of NAND flash cells, SSD can be written into groups called pages in 4K size generally, but can only be erased in larger groups called blocks of 128 pages or 512KB. These stipulations are partially the source of many performance issues. Until an address gets used again, the SSD has to keep track of every last bit of data that's written on it. The ATA-TRIM instruction tilts the balance in favor of the SSD. TRIM addresses a major part of the performance degradation issue over time that plagues all SSDs. A TRIM enabled drive running an OS with TRIM support will stay closer to its peak performance over time.



# 4. Environmental & Reliability Specifications

#### 4.1 Environments

mSATA M4-M environmental specifications follow the US Military Standard MIL-STD-810F, as shown in below table.

Environment	Specification
	0°C to 70°C (Operating)
Temperature	-40 ~ +85°C (operating-extended)
	-40°C to 100°C (Non-operating)
Humidity	5% to 95% RH (Non-condensing)
Vibration	Sine wave : 15(G), 10~2000(Hz), Random : 7.7(Grms), 20~2000(Hz)
Shock – Operating	Acceleration: 1,500 G, 0.5 ms Peak acceleration: 50 G, 11 ms

Table 4-1 mSATA M4-M environmental specifications

Note: extended operating temperature specification applies only to 16, 32, 64GB capacities.

#### 4.2 Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) is predicted based on reliability data for the individual components in mSATA drive. Although many component of MTBF are given in databases and often these values are not really accurate, the prediction result for the mSATA M4-M is more than 1,000,000 hours.

Notes about the MTBF:

The MTBF is predicated and calculated based on "Telcordia Technologies Special Report, SR-332, Issue 2" method.

## 4.3 Endurance

The endurance of a storage device is predicted by TBW (Total Bytes Written) based on several factors related to usage, such as the amount of data written into the drive, block management conditions, numbers of write/erase in blocks, and daily workload for the drive. These factors can estimate the lifespan of the drive, by averaging the amount of data written into the SSD in a daily basis. The endurance of our devices is estimated by the following:

The lifetime and TBW of the device are listed in the following table.

Capacity	Host Write (GB)	TBW (TB)
8 GB	13509.93	13.5
16 GB	27019.86	27.01
32 GB	54039.73	54.03
64 GB	108079.47	108.07
128 GB	216158.94	216.15



#### Notes:

- The measurement assumes the data written to the SSD for test is under a typical and constant rate.
- The measurement follows the standard metric: 1 TB (Terabyte) = 1000 GB.
- The TBW are estimates following industrial standard benchmark but may vary in real world applications due to flash configurations or various platform settings.
- According to JEDEC standard test method, the workload shall be distributed across the SSD and shall achieve that 50% of accesses to 1st 5% of user LBA space, 30% of accesses to next 15% of user LBA space, and 20% of accesses to remainder of user LBA space.

## 4.4 Certification and Compliance

mSATA M4-M complies with the following standards:

- CE EN55022/55024
- FCC 47CFR Part15 Class B
- RoHS
- MIL-STD-810F
- SATA II (SATA Rev. 2.6)
- Up to ATA/ATAPI-7 (including S.M.A.R.T.)



# **5. Electrical Characteristics**

#### 5.1 Operating Voltage

Table 5-1 lists the supply voltage for mSATA M4-M.

Parameter	Conditions
Supply voltage	3.3V ±5% (3.135 - 3.465 V)

## 5.2 **Power Consumption**

Capacity Mode	8 GB	16 GB	32 GB	64 GB	128GB
Active (mA)	310	310	325	430	475
Standby (mA)	110	120	130	135	135

**Table 5-2** Power consumption (typical)

Note: Power consumption may vary from flash configurations and/or platform settings.

#### 5.3 Electrostatic Discharge

#### Electrostatic discharge

Item	Amount of Discharge	Voltage	Required Criteria	Complied To Criteria (A,B,C)
Air Discharge	10	+8kV	В	A
	10	-8kV	В	А
Contact	25	+4kV	В	А
Discharge	25	-4kV	В	A
Indirect	25	+4kV	В	A
(HCP)	25	-4kV	В	A
Indirect	25	+4kV	В	А
(VCP Front)	25	-4kV	В	А
Indirect Discharge (VCP Left)	25	+4kV	В	A



	25	-4kV	В	А
Indirect Discharge (VCP Back)	25	+4kV	В	A
	25	-4kV	В	A
Indirect Discharge (VCP Right)	25	+4kV	В	A
	25	-4kV	В	A

## 5.4 Electrical Fast Transient/Burst

#### Electrical Fast Transient/Burst

Inject Line	Polarity	Voltage kV	Inject Time (Second)	Inject Method	Required Criteria	Complied to Criteria
L-N-PE	±	1kV	60	Direct	В	А

#### Notes about 5.3 Electrostatic Discharge & 5.4 Electrical Fast Transient/Burst

The tests performed are from lowest level up to the highest level as required by standard, but only highest level is shown on the report.

Meet criteria A: Operate as intended during and after the test Meet criteria B: Operate as intended after the test Meet criteria C: Loss/Error of function

Additional Information:

EUT stopped operation and could / could not be reset by operator at kV. No false alarms or other malfunctions were observed during or after the test.

The Contact discharges were applied at least total 200 discharges at a minimum of four test points.



# 6. Physical Characteristics





Unit: mm Tolerance: ± 0.2



# 7. Product Ordering Information

## 7.1 Product Code Designations





#### 7.2 Valid Combinations

#### mSATA M4-M

Capacity	Standard	Extended Temperature
8GB	APSDM008GM5AN-ACM	
16GB	APSDM016GM5AN-ACM	APSDM016GM5AN-ACMW
32GB	APSDM032GM5AN-ACM	APSDM032GM5AN-ACMW
64GB	APSDM064GM5AN-ACM	APSDM064GM5AN-ACMW
128GB	APSDM128GM5AN-ACM	-

**Note:** Valid combinations are those products in mass production or will be in mass production. Consult your Apacer sales representative to confirm availability of valid combinations and to determine availability of new combinations.



# **Revision History**

Revision	Description	Date
0.1	Preliminary release	11/07/2011
1.0	Official release	11/22/2011
1.1	Updated operating temperature range: extended ambient temperatures available in certain capacities	11/29/2011
	Updated address for our European branch	
1.2	Updated Electrical Specifications and supply voltage information: from 5V to 3.3V	1/2/2012
1.3	Revised capacity information	1/16/2012
1.4	Added Endurance sub-section	05/04/2012



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