

# USER MANUAL

## NUPOWER XTENDER™ ULSC-20-C01-S01

### FULL-DUPLEX BIDIRECTIONAL AMPLIFIER

PART NUMBER:  
NW-BA-ULSC-20-C01-S01



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# 1 NUPOWER XTENDER™ PRODUCT LINE OVERVIEW

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The NuPower Xtender family of solid state RF bidirectional amplifier modules are designed to meet the demanding needs of the Aerospace & Defense, Industrial, and Commercial markets. Based on the latest gallium nitride (GaN) technology, NuPower Xtender's power efficiency and miniature form factor make it ideal for size, weight, and power-constrained broadband RF telemetry and tactical communications systems.

## 1.1 NUPOWER XTENDER™ PRODUCT LINE HIGHLIGHTS

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- High Performance: Unique combination of broadband coverage, miniature form factors, and high efficiency.
- Enclosures: The NuPower Xtender family of bidirectional amplifiers is housed in a silver nickel plated aluminum enclosure with mounting holes incorporated into the chassis.
- Completely Characterized: The NuPower Xtender family of solid state bidirectional amplifiers has been completely characterized over temperature, voltage, and frequency. These high-performance modules offer significant value for the OEM user or the Systems Integrator.
- User Friendly: Reverse-Voltage & Over-Voltage protection and regulator thermal shutdown provide defenses against user interface issues.
- High Reliability: NuWaves' selection of conservatively rated components provides high reliability. Each NuPower Xtender is inspected to IPC-A-610 Class II quality standards. NuWaves' Quality Management System is AS9100:2016 Rev D and ISO 9001:2015 certified.
- Applications: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) • Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV) • Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USV) • Broadband RF Telemetry • RF Communication Systems • Software Defined Radios • Test Labs
- Available Options:
  - Fan-cooled heat sink with North American AC/DC wall plug adapter
  - Labeled interface cable with banana jack plugs

## 2 NUPOWER XTENDER™ WIDEBAND FULL-DUPLEX BI-DIRECTIONAL AMPLIFIER OVERVIEW

The NuPower Xtender™ ULSC-20-C01-S01 Wideband Full-Duplex Bi-Directional Amplifier is a highly efficient, solid state bidirectional amplifier that provides over 20 watts (typical) of Transmit RF power and 20 dB (typical) of Receive gain across multiple octaves, from mid UHF through C-band.

Based on the latest gallium nitride (GaN) technology, the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01's power efficiency and form factor make it ideal for size, weight, and power-constrained wideband RF telemetry and tactical communication systems. The full-duplex Transmit and Receive paths coupled with 5.5 GHz of operational bandwidth make the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 a powerful tool.

The NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01's rugged chassis allows the system integrator to easily incorporate the unit into a platform operating in harsh environments with limited space, such as small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

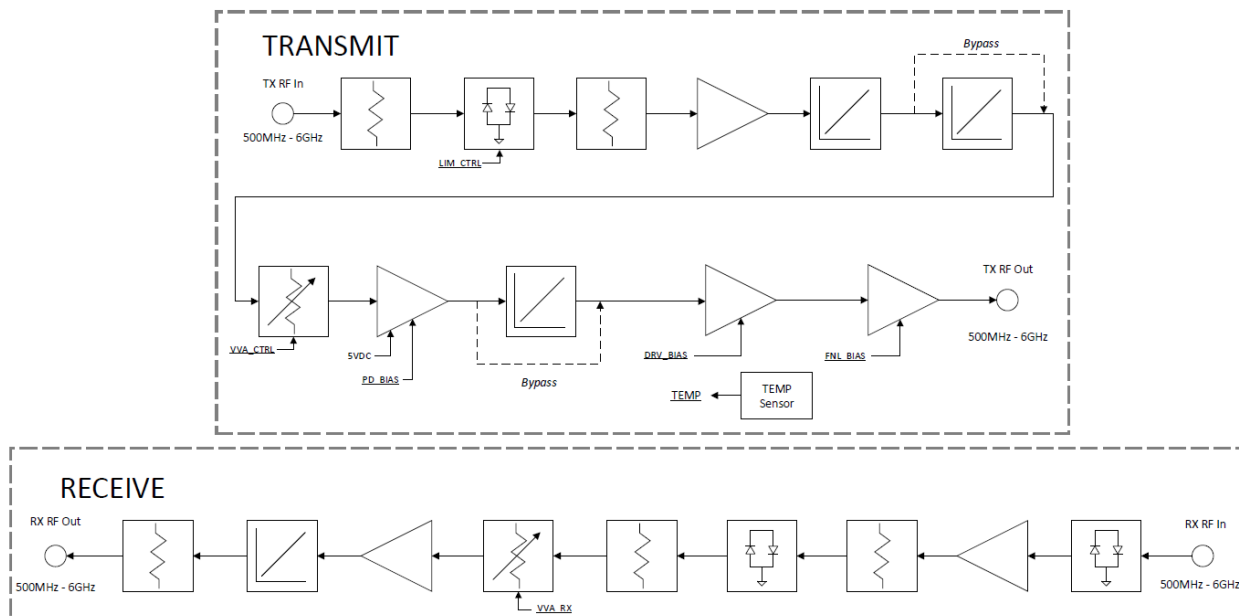


Figure 1: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Functional Diagram

## 2.1 NUPOWER XTENDER ULSC-20-C01-S01 SPECIFICATIONS

The subsequent tables in this section outline the NuPower Xtender ULSC-25-C01-S01's performance specifications.

**Table 1: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Electrical Specifications**

Parameter	Specification
Frequency Range	500 MHz to 6 GHz
TX RF Output Power	20 Watts (typ)
TX RF Gain	30 dB (min) @ 10 dBm Input
RX RF Gain	20 dB (typ)
Supply Voltage	+20 to +30 VDC
Current Consumption	2.6 A @ +28 VDC (typ)
Nominal Input Drive Level	10 dBm
Power Amplifier Enable	T/R Enable Grounded
Impedance	50 $\Omega$

**Table 2: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Environmental Specifications**

Operating Conditions	Specification
Operating Temperature - Ambient	-40 to +50 °C
Operating Temperature - Baseplate	-40 to +85 °C
Storage Temperature	-55 to +85 °C

## 2.2 NUPOWER XTENDER ULSC-20-C01-S01 MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

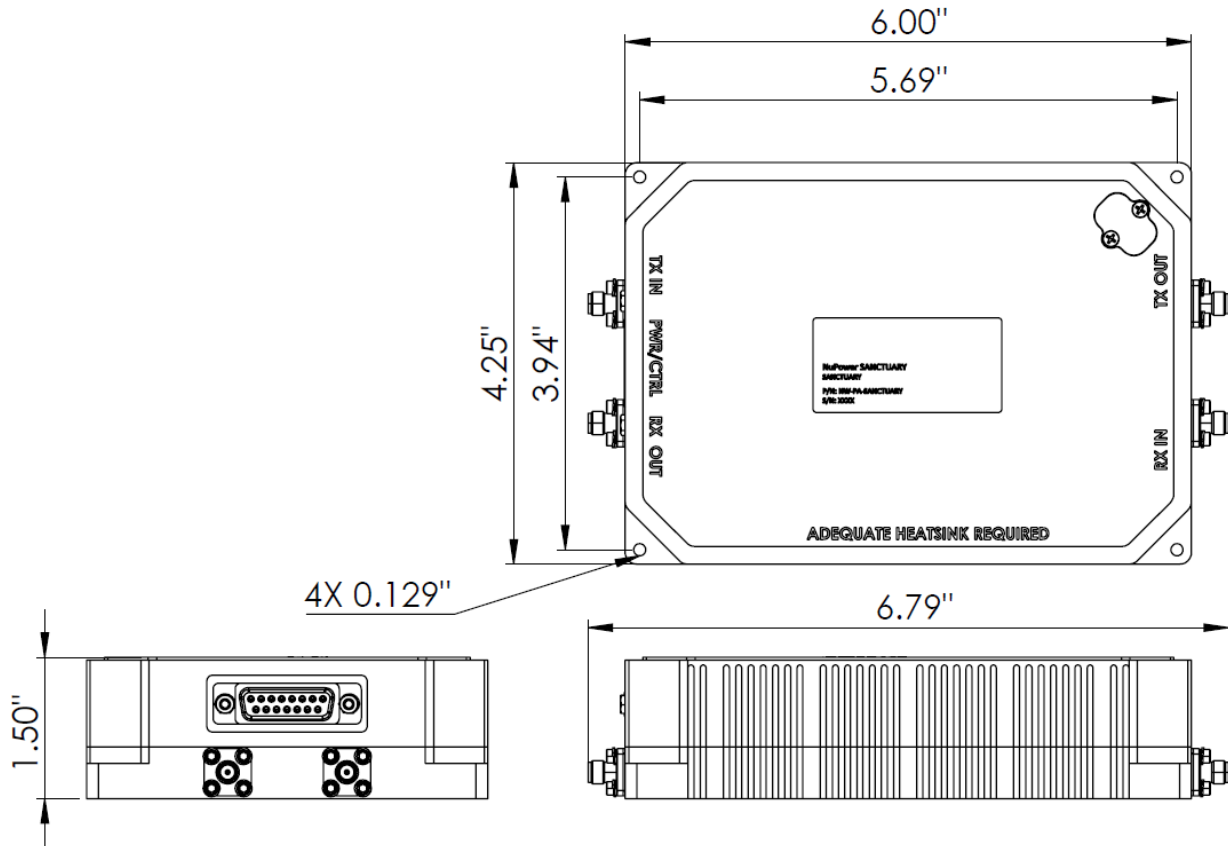


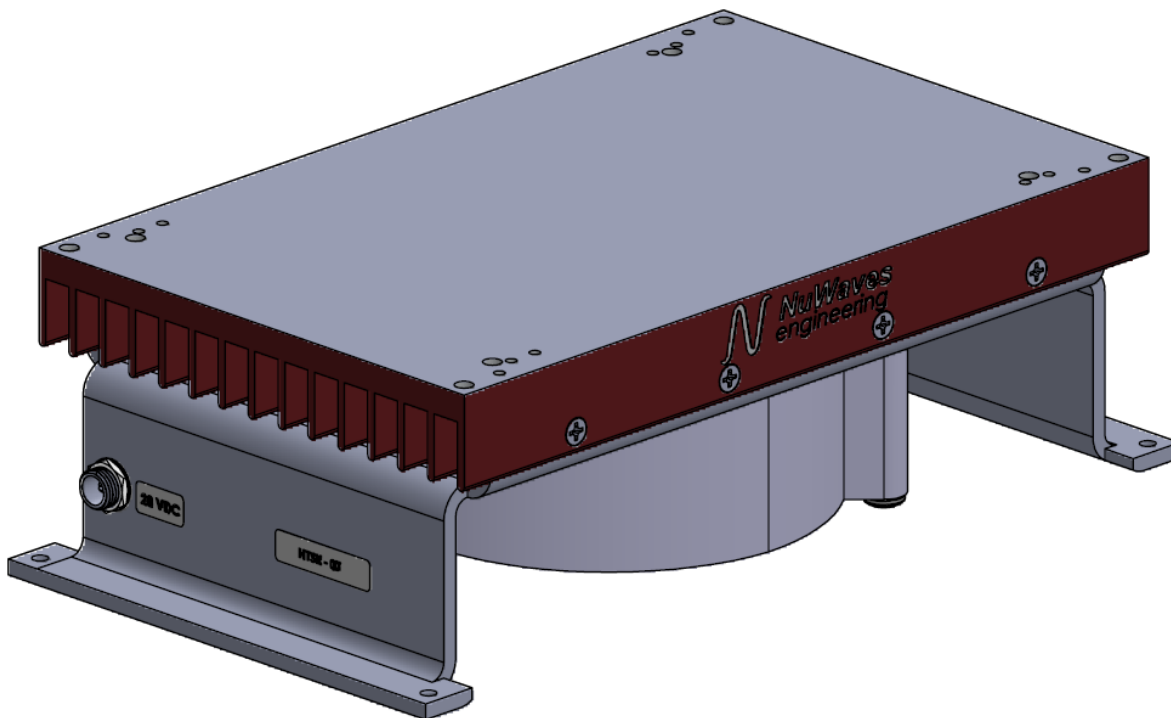
Figure 2: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Mechanical Outline

Table 3: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Mechanical Specifications

Parameter	Specification
RF Connectors	SMA (female)
Control / Power Interface Connector	15 Pin, D-Sub, Socket (female)
Dimensions (L x W x H)	6.00" x 4.25" x 1.5"
Weight	1 lb 14 oz

## 2.3 HEAT SINKING

The NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 is offered as a stand-alone module or with a kit, which also includes a fan-cooled heatsink with an AC / DC adapter, and an interface cable.



**Figure 3: The NuPower Xtender PA Kit offers “out-of-the-box” operation for the user.**



Caution: The use of external heat-sinking is required especially for those applications requiring high duty cycle operation (e.g. continuous wave) or for extended on-time testing. Operation without a proper heat sink under these conditions will cause permanent damage to the product and will void the product warranty.

The external heatsink thermal resistance requirements are:

- $<0.35$  °C/W for operation up to 40 °C ambient
- $<0.20$  °C/W for operation up to 55 °C ambient

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## 3 SETUP AND OPERATION

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This section provides specific details for proper operation of the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 module. Following these guidelines will prevent damage to the bidirectional amplifier or external equipment.

### 3.1 POWER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS

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To operate the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01, ensure that the power supply has adequate overhead to source the current demand of the RF bidirectional amplifier. The power supply source must provide a typical voltage of +28 VDC with greater than 5 amps capability.

### 3.2 CONNECTING A PROPER LOAD TO THE ANTENNA TERMINAL

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To prevent damage to the PA, the antenna terminal must be terminated into a 50  $\Omega$  load. Examples of a proper load include:

- Directly connecting to an antenna specified for the frequency range (500 MHz to 6 GHz). Connecting to an inappropriate antenna may result in damage to the PA module.
- Connecting to a proper antenna through a 50  $\Omega$  transmission line or coaxial cable. Avoid using damaged cables or corroded connectors while attaching the unit to an antenna.
- Terminating the antenna terminal into a 50  $\Omega$  power attenuator with minimum 20 dB attenuation.
- Connecting to a load capable of dissipating the RF power from the PA module. Loads capable of handling 50 Watts (min) are recommended.

### 3.3 POWERING-UP THE ULSC-20-C01-S01

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The NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 must be terminated to a proper load before power is applied. Refer to Section 3.2 for the specifications of the proper load. After the PA is properly terminated, the interface cable can be connected to the unit and power can be applied. The PA is now ready for operation.

### 3.4 TRANSMIT TURN-ON TIME

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Caution: Do not apply transmit data until the PA module is at full power. This will prevent loss of data at the beginning of a message.

The NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 is at full power approximately 30  $\mu$ S after the RF Enable line goes low (ground). Therefore, transmit data can be applied to the input after 30  $\mu$ S without loss of data.

### 3.5 RF OUTPUT POWER VS. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

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Although the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 was designed for +28 VDC operation, the module is capable of providing suitable RF power output over a broad range of supply voltages: +20 VDC to +30 VDC.

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## 3.6 SOFTWARE/SERIAL COMS

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## 4 HARDWARE INTERFACE

- All RF connectors are SMA (Female).
- The pin-out definitions for the 15 pin D-Sub socket connector are provided in Table 4. In a typical installation, the PA module is mated to a host controller board via a cable harness.

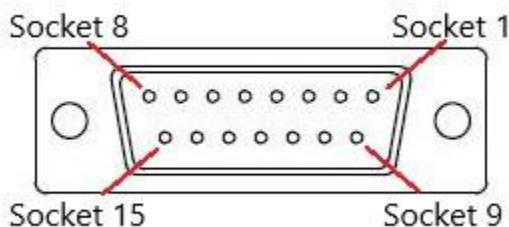
The TX RF Out SMA connector is the antenna connection. This connection should always be loaded into 50  $\Omega$ , otherwise the PA could be damaged.

### 4.1 INTERFACE CABLE HARNESS

The cable harness that connects the host controller to the 15 pin D-Sub connector of the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 is made up of 15 wires.

**Table 4: NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 Interface Pin-Out Definitions**

Pin No.	Pin Name	I/O	Description
1, 2, 3, 4	V Supply	I	Primary Power (+28 VDC)
5, 6, 7, 8, 15	Ground	I	DC Return
9	Temp Flag	O	Over-temp/Fault Indicator
10, 13	N.C.	-	N/A
11	Data+/RX	I	N.C. - for factory use only
12	Data-/TX	O	N.C. - for factory use only
14	RF Enable	I	Transmit Control



**Figure 4: D-Sub Socket Locations**

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## 4.2 DC POWER

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The nominal supply voltage for the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 is +28 VDC; however, the amplifier module is able to support operation over a supply voltage range of +20 to +30 VDC.

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## 4.3 GROUND

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The signal and power grounds are tied together in the PA module.

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## 4.4 RF ENABLE

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This signal is the logic control input that designates whether the unit is in transmit or standby mode. The RF Enable line is pulled high internally placing the PA module in *standby* mode. If the pin is left floating (i.e. not connected), the unit will default to *standby* mode.

Grounding the pin (i.e. a voltage below +0.2 VDC) places the unit in *transmit* mode. The user can either connect the RF Enable line to pins 5, 6, 7, 8, or 15 on the CTRL/PWR interface connector, or an open drain logic line capable of sinking 500  $\mu$ A to place the unit in *transmit* mode.

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## 4.5 TEMP FLAG

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This signal is a logic level output to indicate an over-temperature condition in the NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01. A logic high (+5 VDC) indicates normal operation, while a logic low (0 VDC) indicates an over-temperature condition. The NuPower Xtender ULSC-20-C01-S01 incorporates internal logic circuitry that turns off the DC bias to the RF transistors.

Caution: The amplifier should be shut down and allowed to cool off when the over-temperature flag is set high to avoid damage to the module.

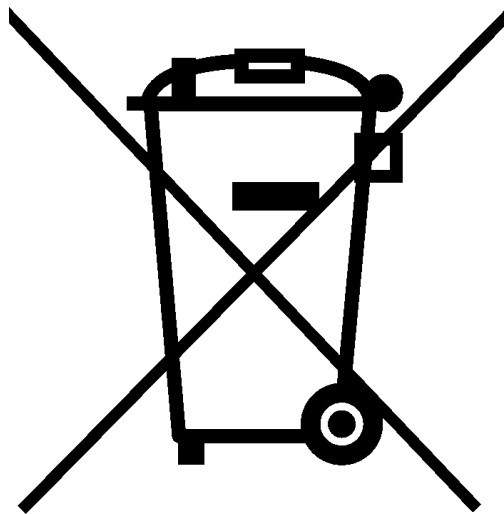
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## 5 PRODUCT DISPOSAL – END-OF-LIFE

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Safety is a guiding principle of NuWaves RF Solutions. We ensure safe production and operation of our products, as well as end-of-life disposal. Improper disposal can adversely affect the environment, wildlife and human health. Please follow these guidelines when disposing of a NuWaves product:

- Do not remove the cover or any hardware
- Do not remove components from the circuit card assembly
- Do not incinerate
- Do not crush or shred
- Do not dispose of as unsorted municipal waste
- Do not export e-waste outside of the original destination country for recycling
- Utilize an e-Steward or ISO14001 certified e-waste recycler
- Consider export controls during recycler selection
- If a NuWaves product is incorporated into a larger system or sub-system, ensure that these guidelines are followed at system end-of-life



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## 6 GETTING HELP - APPLICATIONS ENGINEERING

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NuWaves RF Solutions offers technical support for basic configuration help and troubleshooting, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Technical Assistance, Application Engineering, and Sales:

Phone: (513) 360-0800

Email: [sales@nuwaves.com](mailto:sales@nuwaves.com)

NuWaves Home Page: <http://www.nuwaves.com>

Product Warranty:

[https://nuwaves.com/wp-content/uploads/NuWaves\\_Warranty\\_Repair-1.pdf](https://nuwaves.com/wp-content/uploads/NuWaves_Warranty_Repair-1.pdf)

### 6.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

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