

LMZ31506 Parallel Operation

Jason Arrigo

SVA - Simple Switcher

ABSTRACT

The LMZ31506 is a 2.95-V to 14.5-V input, 6-A output, integrated power solution which integrates the PWM controller, power MOSFETs, inductor and passives in a low-profile, QFN package. For applications requiring greater than 6 A, it is possible to parallel two or more LMZ31506 devices by following the recommendations in this paper.

Current Sharing

The LMZ31506 is a peak current mode control device. In peak current mode control, the output voltage is scaled down through a resistor divider and fed into the error amplifier where it is compared to a fixed voltage reference. The output of the error amplifier is proportional to the device's output current. The output current information is available on the ISHARE pin (pin 5) of the LMZ31506. Connecting the ISHARE pins of multiple LMZ31506 devices together allows current sharing. Other connections must also be made between the devices. By connecting the ISHARE pins, multiple devices can share the current information, allowing them to be paralleled (current share).

Parallel Operation Connections

When paralleling LMZ31506 devices several connections must be made between the devices. [Figure 1](#) shows a typical schematic for paralleling two LMZ31506 devices.

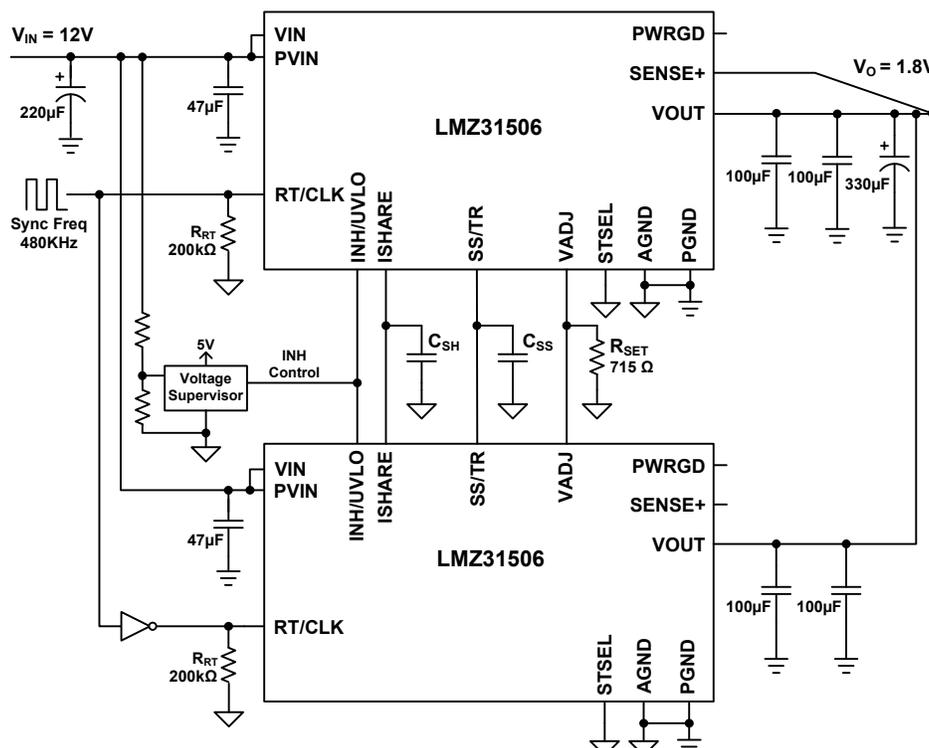


Figure 1. Typical LMZ31506 Parallel Schematic

Parallel Connections

- Connect the VOUT pins of all devices together to operate as a single output.
- The output voltage is monitored at the SENSE+ connection. The SENSE+ connection must only be made by one of the paralleled devices; the other device's SENSE+ pins must be left open.
- The VADJ pin of all devices must be connected together to ensure all devices see the same feedback voltage. The output voltage is set by connecting a single resistor (R_{SET}) between the VADJ connection and AGND. The R_{SET} resistor value can be selected from Table 2 in the LMZ31506 ([SNVS993](#)) datasheet.
- For proper current sharing, the ISHARE pin (pin 5) voltage of all devices must be equal. Connect the ISHARE pins together directly.
- Connecting the SS/TR pins together ensures that all devices start-up together by sharing the same slow start ramp voltage. The STSEL pins of all devices must be connected to AGND. To change the SS rise time, additional capacitance must be added to the SS/TR pin of each device according to Table 6 in the LMZ31506 ([SNVS993](#)) datasheet.
- The switching frequency of the devices must be the same to ensure proper current sharing and operation. It is required to drive the RT/CLK pin of all devices with an external clock to ensure they switch at the same frequency. The clock signal must be present before the devices are turned on. To reduce input and output voltage ripple and to improve transient response, the devices can be driven out of phase, at the same frequency.
- The INH/UVLO pins of the devices must be tied together. To enable and disable the output voltage, the INH/UVLO pins must be controlled for all paralleled devices at the same time. It is recommended to monitor the input voltage using a supervisor and control the turn-on and turn-off of the output in order to ensure a clean and controlled power-up and power-down.

LMZ31506 Parallel Operating Conditions

When paralleling multiple LMZ31506 devices, the input voltage range and output voltage range is the same as for a single device as specified in the datasheet. The amount of required output capacitance for a single device listed in Table 3 of the datasheet ([SNVS993](#)) must be multiplied by the number of devices being paralleled. The allowable synchronization frequencies are a function of V_{in} and V_{out} and can be found in Table 7 of the datasheet ([SNVS993](#)). However, the combined output current must be de-rated as described in [Current Sharing Accuracy](#).

LMZ31506 Parallel Results

The results and waveforms presented in this report represent two devices in parallel, unless otherwise stated. The waveforms were taken at 12-V input, 1.8-V output, 25°C ambient temperature, and synchronized to a 480-kHz external clock. It is possible to parallel up to six devices with similar results, as is presented here. However, close attention must be paid to board layout when paralleling multiple devices to ensure clean inter-connecting signals.

ISHARE

For proper current sharing, the voltage on the ISHARE pin of all devices must be equal. Connect the ISHARE pins of all devices together. The ISHARE connection must be routed in a way to keep this signal as clean as possible. An optional capacitor (≤ 100 pF) can be added to the ISHARE pin of each device to help filter the signal.

Synchronizing to an External Clock

In order to operate the LMZ31506 devices in parallel, it is required to synchronize all devices to an external clock. The clock must be present before input power is applied, or before release of the INH control. All devices must be synchronized to the same frequency, however, the devices can be driven out of phase to reduce ripple voltage and improve transient response.

ON/OFF Control

It is recommended to turn-on and turn-off the paralleled devices by use of the Inhibit control, rather than by the internal UVLO of the LMZ31506. Using a voltage supervisor, such as the TPS3808, to monitor the input voltage and control the INH pins is recommended. The INH pins of the paralleled device should be connected to one another to ensure a controlled ramp up and ramp down of the output voltage. By doing this, it will avoid the slightly different UVLO turn-on and UVLO turn-off thresholds of the multiple devices. [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#) show the turn-on and turn-off of the output voltage using the INH control.

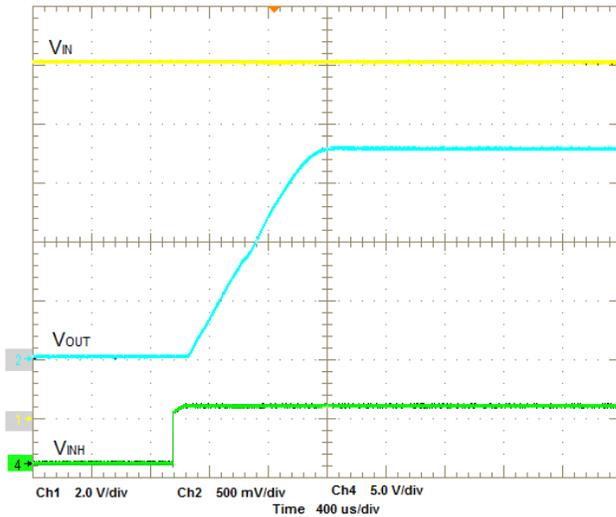


Figure 2. Start up Waveform (using INH)

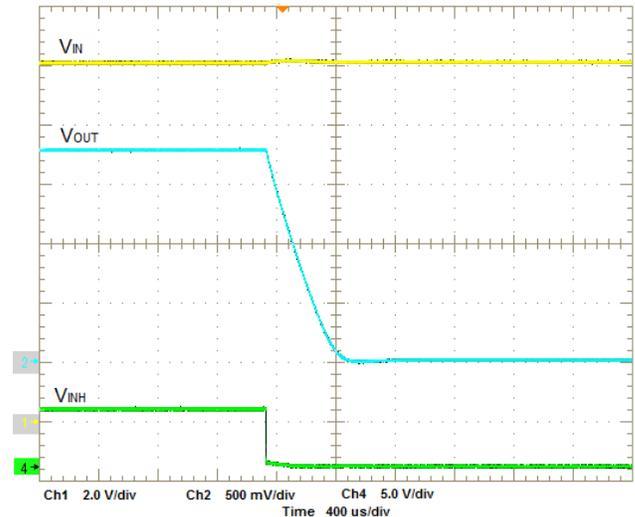


Figure 3. Shut Down Waveform (using INH)

Undervoltage Lock-Out (UVLO)

The LMZ31506 has a UVLO circuit internal to the device. When paralleling multiple LMZ31506 devices, the INH/UVLO pins of all modules must be connected together and the UVLO threshold must be set externally with a resistor divider from the input voltage. The values of the resistors in the divider can be selected from Table 8 of the LMZ31506 ([SNVS993](#)) datasheet; however, the resistor values shown in the table must be divided by the number of modules being paralleled. It is recommended to set the UVLO threshold to approximately 80% to 85% of the minimum expected input voltage.

Current Sharing Accuracy

When paralleling multiple LMZ31506 devices, the maximum output current the solution can provide must be calculated using Equation 1. Due to internal variances between devices, the amount of output current must be de-rated to ensure none of the devices operate above the maximum output current of a single device (6 A). [Figure 2](#) plots the typical output current per device of two paralleled devices. The X-axis is the total output current of both devices combined.

Equation 1: $I_{OUTmax} = 0.9 \times (n \times 6)$ (A); where n is the number of LMZ31506 devices being paralleled.

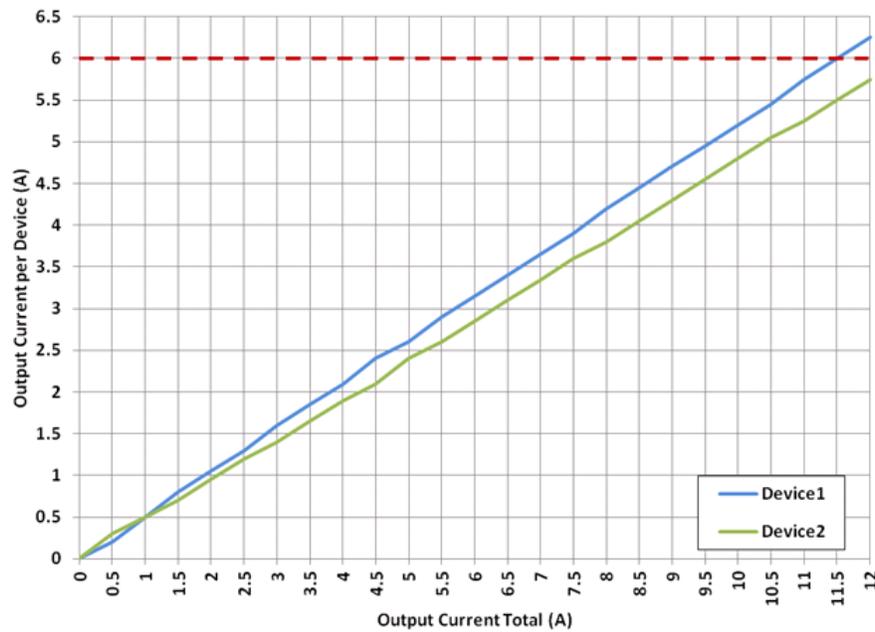


Figure 4. Typical Current Sharing Accuracy

Output Voltage Ripple

The output voltage ripple of two paralleled LMZ31506 modules is shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6. The operating conditions for this waveform are $V_{in} = 12\text{ V}$, $V_{out} = 1.8\text{ V}$, $I_{out} = 12\text{ A}$, $f_{sw} = 480\text{ kHz}$, $C_{out} = 8 \times 47\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ ceramic + $2 \times 220\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ polymer tantalum. Also included in the waveform are the Phase nodes of both devices. Figure 5 shows both devices switching in phase with one another. Figure 6 shows the devices switching 180° out-of-phase with one another. By running out of phase the output voltage ripple is reduced.

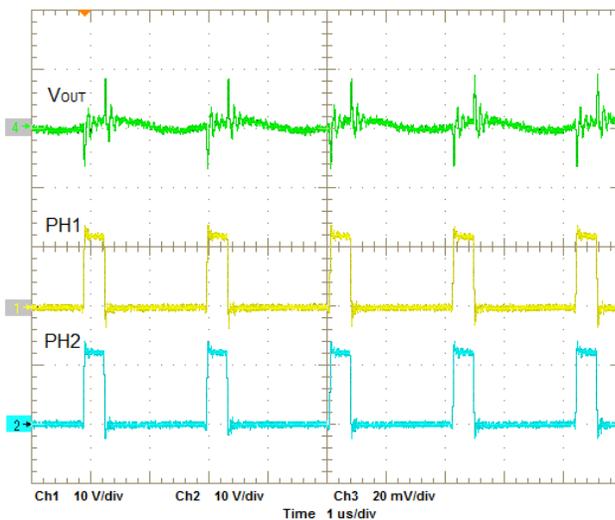


Figure 5. Output Voltage Ripple In-Phase

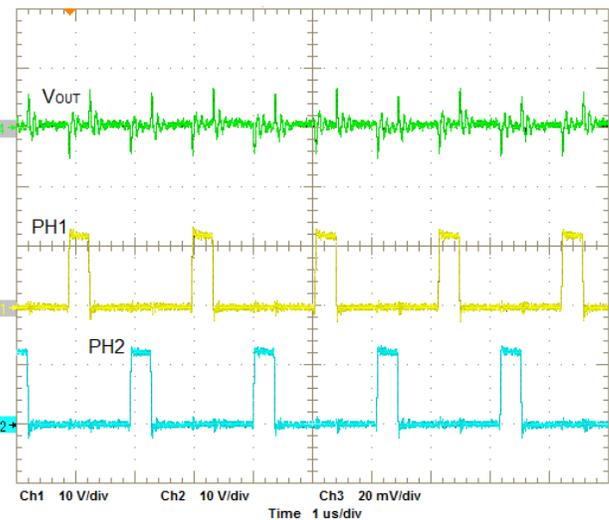


Figure 6. Output Voltage Ripple 180° Out-of-Phase

Input Voltage Ripple

The input voltage ripple of two paralleled LMZ31506 modules is shown in [Figure 7](#) and [Figure 8](#). The operating conditions for this waveform are $V_{in} = 12\text{ V}$, $V_{out} = 1.8\text{ V}$, $I_{out} = 12\text{ A}$, $f_{sw} = 480\text{ kHz}$, $C_{in} = 4 \times 47\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ ceramic + $2 \times 470\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ polymer tantalum. Also included in the waveform are the Phase nodes of both devices. [Figure 7](#) shows both devices switching in phase with one another. [Figure 8](#) shows the devices switching 180° out-of-phase with one another. By running out of phase the input voltage ripple is reduced.

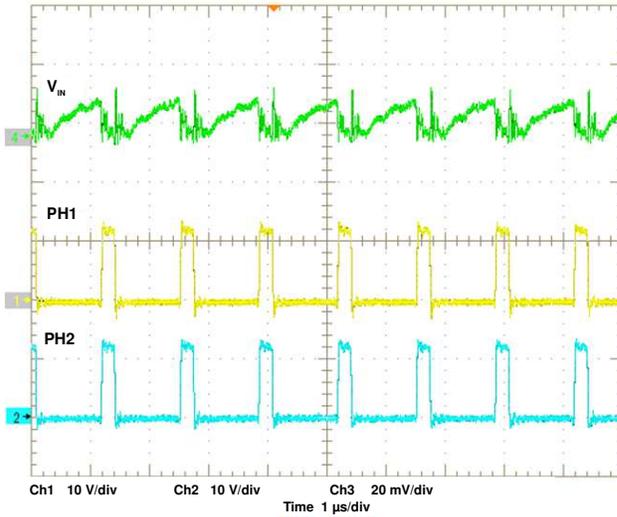


Figure 7. Input Voltage Ripple In-Phase

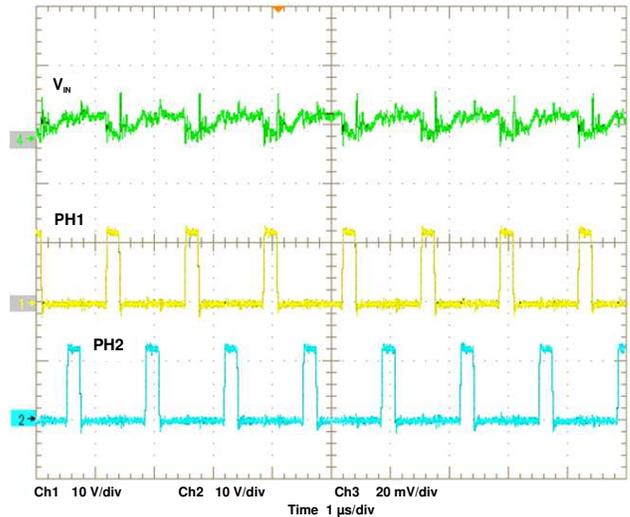


Figure 8. Input Voltage Ripple 180° Out-of-Phase

Transient Response

The waveform shown in [Figure 9](#) shows the transient response of two LMZ31506 devices operating in parallel. The operating conditions for this waveform are $V_{in} = 12\text{ V}$, $V_{out} = 1.8\text{ V}$, $f_{sw} = 480\text{ kHz}$; 180° out-of-phase, I_{out} load step = 6 A (3 A to 9 A at $2.5\text{ A}/\mu\text{s}$), $C_{out} = 6 \times 47\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ ceramic + $2 \times 220\text{-}\mu\text{F}$ polymer tantalum.

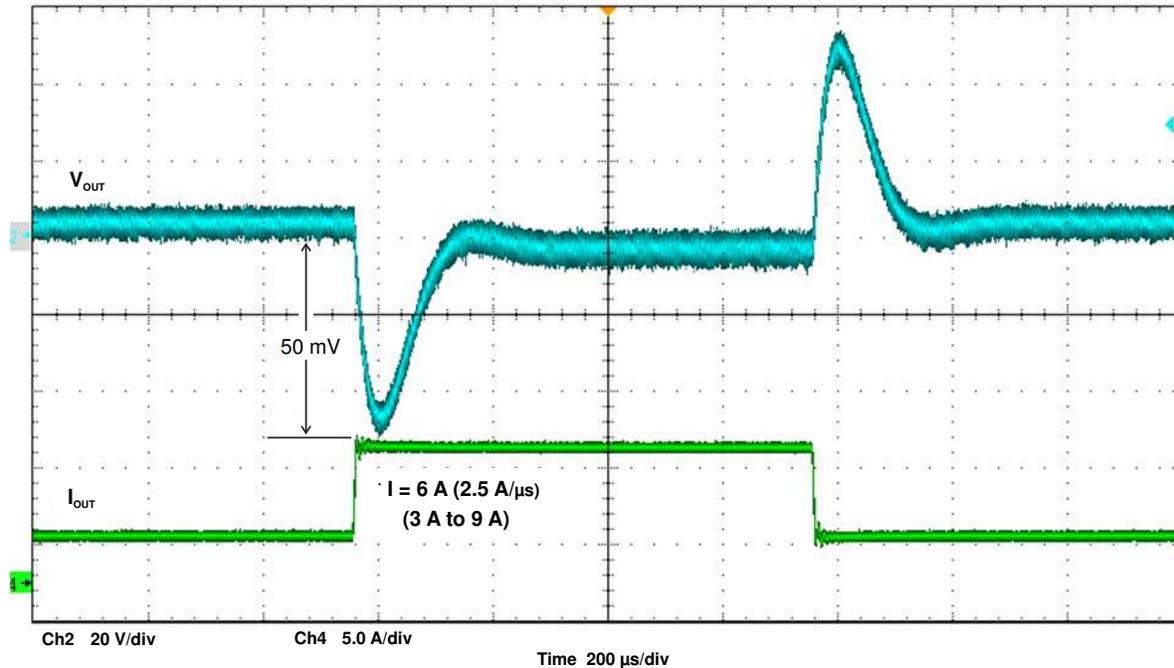


Figure 9. Transient Response (6-A load step)

Conclusion

By making the required connections between LMZ31506 devices and synchronizing the devices to the same switching frequency, paralleled devices will operate and behave as a single stand-alone device with increased output current capability. Controlling the turn-on and turn-off through the Inhibit function while a valid input voltage is present, will ensure a proper ramp up and ramp down of the output voltage. By following the guidelines included in this paper and referencing the LMZ31506 datasheet ([SNVS993](#)), up to six LMZ31506 power modules can be paralleled for increased current applications.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Texas Instruments Incorporated and its subsidiaries (TI) reserve the right to make corrections, enhancements, improvements and other changes to its semiconductor products and services per JESD46, latest issue, and to discontinue any product or service per JESD48, latest issue. Buyers should obtain the latest relevant information before placing orders and should verify that such information is current and complete. All semiconductor products (also referred to herein as "components") are sold subject to TI's terms and conditions of sale supplied at the time of order acknowledgment.

TI warrants performance of its components to the specifications applicable at the time of sale, in accordance with the warranty in TI's terms and conditions of sale of semiconductor products. Testing and other quality control techniques are used to the extent TI deems necessary to support this warranty. Except where mandated by applicable law, testing of all parameters of each component is not necessarily performed.

TI assumes no liability for applications assistance or the design of Buyers' products. Buyers are responsible for their products and applications using TI components. To minimize the risks associated with Buyers' products and applications, Buyers should provide adequate design and operating safeguards.

TI does not warrant or represent that any license, either express or implied, is granted under any patent right, copyright, mask work right, or other intellectual property right relating to any combination, machine, or process in which TI components or services are used. Information published by TI regarding third-party products or services does not constitute a license to use such products or services or a warranty or endorsement thereof. Use of such information may require a license from a third party under the patents or other intellectual property of the third party, or a license from TI under the patents or other intellectual property of TI.

Reproduction of significant portions of TI information in TI data books or data sheets is permissible only if reproduction is without alteration and is accompanied by all associated warranties, conditions, limitations, and notices. TI is not responsible or liable for such altered documentation. Information of third parties may be subject to additional restrictions.

Resale of TI components or services with statements different from or beyond the parameters stated by TI for that component or service voids all express and any implied warranties for the associated TI component or service and is an unfair and deceptive business practice. TI is not responsible or liable for any such statements.

Buyer acknowledges and agrees that it is solely responsible for compliance with all legal, regulatory and safety-related requirements concerning its products, and any use of TI components in its applications, notwithstanding any applications-related information or support that may be provided by TI. Buyer represents and agrees that it has all the necessary expertise to create and implement safeguards which anticipate dangerous consequences of failures, monitor failures and their consequences, lessen the likelihood of failures that might cause harm and take appropriate remedial actions. Buyer will fully indemnify TI and its representatives against any damages arising out of the use of any TI components in safety-critical applications.

In some cases, TI components may be promoted specifically to facilitate safety-related applications. With such components, TI's goal is to help enable customers to design and create their own end-product solutions that meet applicable functional safety standards and requirements. Nonetheless, such components are subject to these terms.

No TI components are authorized for use in FDA Class III (or similar life-critical medical equipment) unless authorized officers of the parties have executed a special agreement specifically governing such use.

Only those TI components which TI has specifically designated as military grade or "enhanced plastic" are designed and intended for use in military/aerospace applications or environments. Buyer acknowledges and agrees that any military or aerospace use of TI components which have **not** been so designated is solely at the Buyer's risk, and that Buyer is solely responsible for compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements in connection with such use.

TI has specifically designated certain components as meeting ISO/TS16949 requirements, mainly for automotive use. In any case of use of non-designated products, TI will not be responsible for any failure to meet ISO/TS16949.

Products

Audio	www.ti.com/audio
Amplifiers	amplifier.ti.com
Data Converters	dataconverter.ti.com
DLP® Products	www.dlp.com
DSP	dsp.ti.com
Clocks and Timers	www.ti.com/clocks
Interface	interface.ti.com
Logic	logic.ti.com
Power Mgmt	power.ti.com
Microcontrollers	microcontroller.ti.com
RFID	www.ti-rfid.com
OMAP Applications Processors	www.ti.com/omap
Wireless Connectivity	www.ti.com/wirelessconnectivity

Applications

Automotive and Transportation	www.ti.com/automotive
Communications and Telecom	www.ti.com/communications
Computers and Peripherals	www.ti.com/computers
Consumer Electronics	www.ti.com/consumer-apps
Energy and Lighting	www.ti.com/energy
Industrial	www.ti.com/industrial
Medical	www.ti.com/medical
Security	www.ti.com/security
Space, Avionics and Defense	www.ti.com/space-avionics-defense
Video and Imaging	www.ti.com/video

TI E2E Community

e2e.ti.com