

5G NB-IOT KIT

User Manual



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1. Package contents:

NB-IoT Kit Package:

- Hardware board.
- Two USB cables.
- One LTE & GPS antenna

Download software:

Software can be downloaded from the following website:

https://www.5ghub.us/download

Software to download:

- QNavigatorV1.6 (in the folder \Tools).
- Quectel driver (in the folder \Driver).

Documentation:

Quectel AT commands and GNSS commands manual (in the folder \Doc).



Figure 1. Hardware Board – unboxed with one LTE/GPS antenna attached



2. General Description

2.1 Overview

The NB-IoT kit is a cellular and GPS kit that can be used for the 5G wireless technology. The kit includes a hardware board, LTE&GPS antenna, and USB cables. The board is a powerful board that features a microcontroller and wireless modem. The microcontroller is an Atmel's SAMD21G18A MCU which features a 32-bit ARM Cortex® M0+ core. The wireless modem is BG96 which is an embedded IoT (LTE Cat-M1, LTE Cat-NB1 and EGPRS) wireless communication module. BG96 wireless modem provides a maximum data rate of 375Kbps downlink and 375Kbps uplink. It features ultra-low power consumption, provides data connectivity on LTE-TDD/LTE-FDD/GPRS/EDGE networks, and supports half-duplex operation in LTE networks. It also provides GNSS to meet customers' specific application demands

The board provides rich sets of Internet protocols, industry-standard interfaces (USB/UART/I2C/Status Indicator) and abundant functionalities. The board offer a high integration level and enables integrators and developers to easily design their applications and take advantage of the board low power consumption, many functionalities, and USB drivers for Windows 7/8/8.1/10, Linux and Android.

The kit board is a rich hardware board that can be used for the latest 5G wireless technology and enables a variety of smart and 5G applications for devices, and acts as a great educational tool for learning about 5G and 32-bit application development. It enables large number of applications such as wireless POS, smart metering, tracking, smart transportation, smart buildings, smart city, and smart homes.

The board is also compatible with Arduino and Arduino software (IDE). Arduino sketches and examples are provided with the kit and additional sketches can be developed and uploaded to the board.

2.2 Key Features

- Atmel ATSAMD21G18 MCU
- Quectel BG96 NB-IoT module
- External GPS antenna Connector
- External LTE antenna connector
- Supports LTE NB-IoT and Machine Type Communications (MTC)
- Supports EGPRS
- Global Frequency Band B1/B2/B3/B4/B5/B8/B12/B13/B18/B19/B20/B26/B28/B39 (B39 for Cat.M1 only) for LTE and 850/900/1800/1900MHz for EGPRS
- Supports the protocols TCP/UDP/PPP/ SSL/ TLS/ FTP(S)/ HTTP(S)/ NITZ/ PING/ MQTT
- Supports SMS
- Supports GNSS technology (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou/Compass, Galileo, QZSS)
- Compact board size of 58mm x 42mm
- Nano USIM card
- Arduino IDE Compatible
- Works with Windows, Linux, or Android
- Ready for smart applications and development (smart home, smart city, smart transportation, smart metering, smart farming, smart waste management, asset tracking, location, navigation, mapping, and timing applications). Application such as Gas Detector, Soil PH Tester, Optical



Sensor, Machinery Alarm System, Irrigation Controller, Elevator, Asset Tracking Electronics, Person/Pet Tracking, Water/Gas Metering, Smart Parking System, Fire Hydrant, Smoke Alarm, Trash Bin, Street Lighting

- The board can operate on an external power supply of 3V to 5V. The recommended voltage is 5V.
- The board can be powered via the USB connector or with an external DC power supply. The power source is selected automatically.
- External DC Power supply (non-USB) can be provided from an AC-to-DC adapter (such as a wall-wart) or battery, and can be connected using a 2.1mm center-positive plug connected to the board's power jack, or directly to the GND and VIN pins.
- Each of the 12 general purpose I/O pins on the board can be used for digital input or digital output using pinMode(), digitalWrite(), and digitalRead() functions. Pins used for PWM can be using analogWrite() function. All pins operate at 3.3 volts. Each pin can source or sink a maximum of 7 mA and has an internal pull-up resistor (disconnected by default) of 20-50 K ohm.

2.3 Overview Diagrams

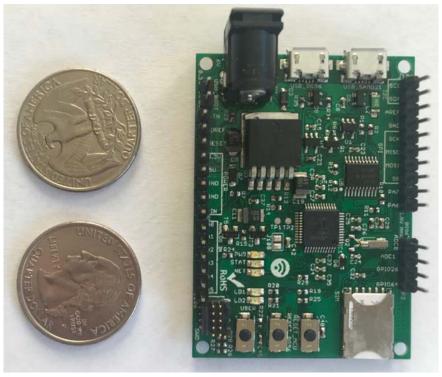


Figure 2. Hardware Board Overview Diagram – Top View





Figure 3. Hardware Board Overview Diagram – Bottom View



2.4 Physical Characteristics

The width and length of the board is 48mm (width) by 52 mm (length). The board have four screw holes in each corner that allows the board to be attached to a surface or case.

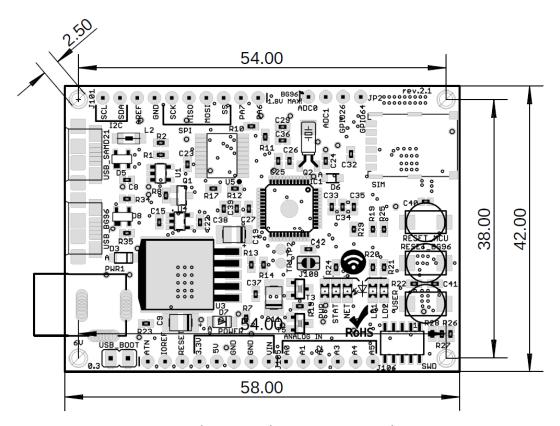


Figure 4. Hardware Board Top View – External Dimensions



2.5 Peripherals – Key Components

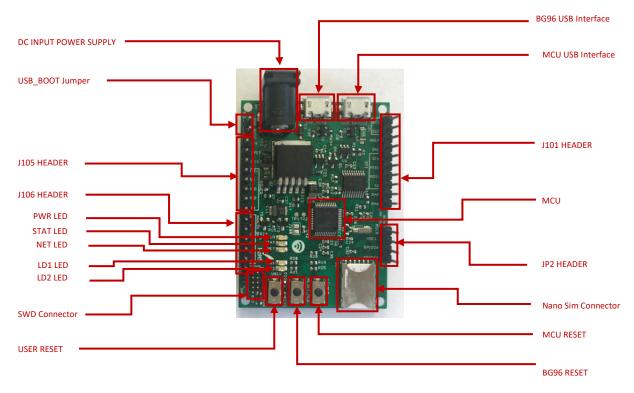


Figure 5. Board Top Side – Key Components



Figure 6. Board Bottom Side – Key Components



2.6 Peripherals – IO Connections

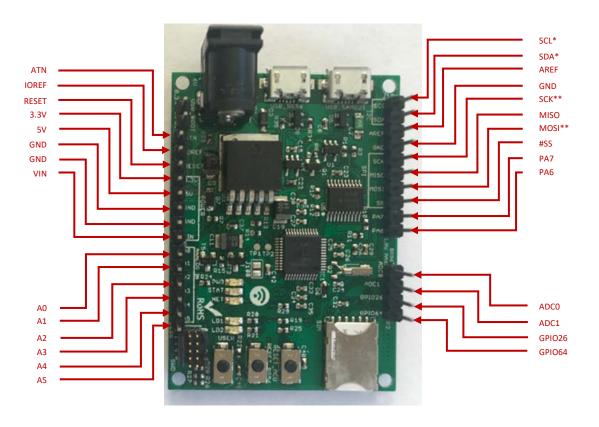


Figure 7. Board Extension Connectors

^{*} I2C interface lines might be configured as USART interface SDA line can work then as USART TXD and SCL line can work as USART RXD)

^{**} MOSI and SCK lines might be configured as USART interface (MOSI line can work then as USART TXD and SCK line can work as USART RXD)



2.7 Hardware Specification

Technical Specification			
Microcontroller (MCU)	Atmel ATSAMD21G18, 32-Bit ARM Cortex M0+		
Clock Speed	48 MHz		
Flash Memory	256 KB		
SRAM	32 KB		
NB-IoT Module	Quectel BG96		
Dimension	48mm (width) by 52 mm (length)		
Weight	18 gram		
Power Supply	DC Power Supply, USB, VIN, or Battery External supply can range from 3V to 5 V		
LED	LED1, LED2, Power LED, Status LED, Netlight LED		
Interfacing Logic Voltage Level (Operating Voltage)	3.3V		
Voltage output	5V, 3.3V		
RESET buttons	Two; one for MCU and one for BG96		
User-defined Button	1 connected to MCU		
General-purpose digital I/O Pins	12 (A0-A5, DGI_GPIO2, DGI_GPIO3, SS, MOSI, MISO, SCK)		
GPIO	2 connected to BG96		
ADC	2 connected to BG96		
USB	2		
I2C(hardware) port	1		
SPI	1		
UART	1		
ADC pins	6 (8/10/12-bit ADC channels)		
DAC pin	1 (10-bit DAC)		
External interrupts	12 (All general-purpose PINs)		
PWM pin	6		
DC Current per I/O Pin	7 mA		
JTAG Debug	Cortex Debug Connector (Single Wire Debug)		
USIM	Nano		
GNSS	GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou/Compass, Galileo, QZSS		
Antenna	1 main antenna and 1 GPS antenna		
Band	LTE-FDD, B1/B2/B3/B4/B5/B8/B12/ B13/B18/B19/B20/B26/B28 LTE-TDD: B39 (for Cat M1 only)		
Certification	FCC, CE		
Mobile Operator Certification	Verizon and currently for AT&T		

Notes:

- UART can be programmed through any of general-purpose pins.
- SPI can be programmed through any of general-purpose pins.



2.8 PIN Description

PIN	DIRECTION	Description
DC Power Jack	ı	The board can be supplied with power either from the DC power jack (3V-5V), the USB connector (5V), or the VIN pin of the board (3V-5V). Supplying voltage via the 5V or 3.3V pins bypasses the regulator and can damage the board if it is not sufficiently regulated (This is not recommended)
LED (PWR)	0	LED is lighted on when the board is power on.
LEDO (USER)	0	LED which can be controlled from microcontroller PB3 (PIN 49). When the pin is HIGH value, the LED is on, when the pin is LOW, it's off
LED1 (USER)	0	LED which can be controlled from microcontroller PA27 (PIN 39). When the pin is HIGH value, the LED is on, when the pin is LOW, it's off
LED (NET)	0	Indicate the BG96 operation status
LED (STAT)	0	Indicate the BG96 network activity status
SAM21 RESET button	I	Reset the microcontroller
BG96 RESET button	I	Reset the BG96 module
User Button	I	Connected to PA11 (pin 16) of microcontroller and can be used for any software sketch purposes
ATN		
IOREF	0	Provides the voltage reference with which the microcontroller operates. A device can read the IOREF pin voltage and select the appropriate power source or enable voltage translators on the outputs for working with the 5V or 3.3V
TARGET_RESET	I	Reset the microcontroller. Bring this line LOW to reset the microcontroller. The microcontroller can also reset through the RESET button
3.3V	0	3.3V generated by the on-board regulator. Maximum current draw is 800 mA. The regulator also provides power to the SAMD21 microcontroller and BG96
5V	O	Regulated 5V from the regulator on the board. The board can be supplied with power either from the DC power jack (3V - 5V), the USB connector (5V), or the VIN pin of the board (3-5V). Supplying voltage via the 5V or 3.3V pins bypasses the regulator and can damage the board if it is not sufficiently regulated (This is not recommended)
GND		Ground
GND		Ground
VIN	ı	Input voltage to the board when it's using an external power source (as opposed to 5 volts from the USB connection or other regulated power source). You can supply voltage through this pin.
A0	1	Six analog inputs which can provide up to 12 bits of resolution
A1		(i.e. 4096 different values). By default, each input measures



A2	I	from ground to 3.3 volts, though is it possible to change the
A3	I	upper end of their range using the AREF pin
A4	I	
A5	I	A0 can also be used as a DAC and provides a 10bit voltage output
		with <u>analogWrite()</u> function
SCL		 I2D/TWI communication. The SDA (data line) and SCL (clock line)
SDA		12D/ TWT communication. The 3DA (data line) and 3CL (clock line)
AREFA	1	Input reference voltage for the analog inputs
GND		Ground
SCK	0	
MISO	1	
MOSI	0	Six PWM pins. Provide 8-bit PWM output with the
SS	1	analogWrite() function
PA7 (DGI_GPIO3)	Ю	
PA6 (DGI_GPIO2)	Ю	
Cortex Debug	Ю	Using Single Wire Debug to burn bootloader and debug the
Connector		board
ADC0	1	Connected to BG96. General purpose analogue to digital converter
ADC1	1	Connected to BG96. General purpose analogue to digital converter
GPIO0	Ю	Connected to BG96. General purpose IO
GPIO1	Ю	Connected to BG96. General purpose IO
USIM	I	Used to insert a Nano USIM. Connected to BG96
USB Boot	ı	Connected to BG96. Force the BG96 to enter into emergency download
		mode
USB	Ю	Connected to Microcontroller
USB	Ю	Connected to BG96

Precaution

The board runs at 3.3V. The maximum voltage that the I/O pins can tolerate is 3.3V. Applying voltages higher than 3.3V to any I/O pin could damage the board

2.9 BG96 chipset

All functionality of the BG96 shipset shall be implemented excluding the following features. That is, the following features are not supported [1][2].

- Audio, Earphone, and Codes are not supported.
- PCM and I2C are not supported
- PSM_IND and AP_READY are not supported

2.10 Interface between SAM21D and BG96

The Microcontroller communicates with the BG96 through UART interfaces:

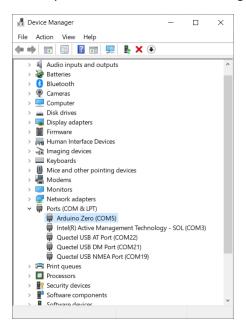


- **UART1:** (PA12/PA13/PA14/PA15). Used for data transmission and AT command communication 115200bps by default. The default frame format is 8N1 (8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit) Support RTS and CTS hardware flow control.
- **UART3:** (PB23/PB22). Used for outputting GNSS data or NEMA sentences 115200bps baud rate.



3. Using the Board with Arduino IDE

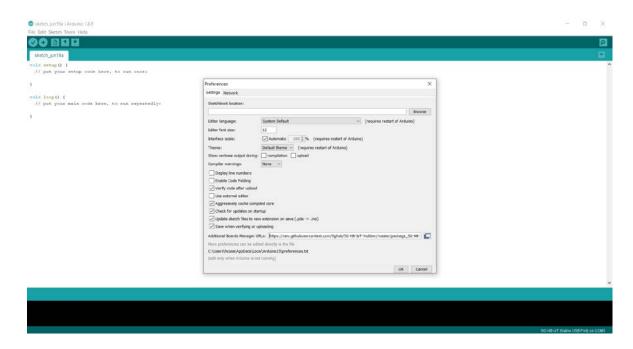
Connect a USB cable between the USB and MCU USB port on the board.
 In Windows Device manager, the Arduino port should show up.
 If you connect a second USB cable between the PC and the BG96 USB port on the board, the Quectel USB drivers shall show up in the Windows device manager as well.



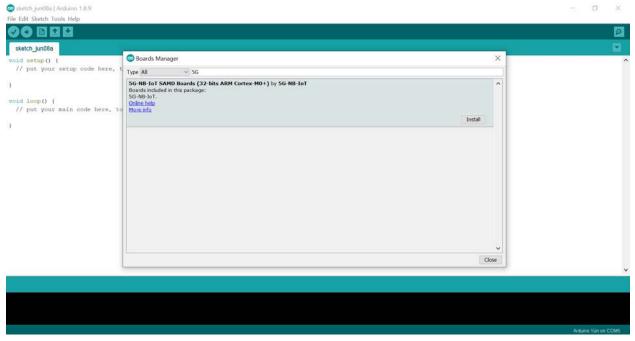
- 2. Install Arduino IDE for Windows from the following web site https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software
- 3. Launch Arduino IDE and choose **File->Preferences**. In the Additional Boards Manager URLs, insert the following URL:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/5g-hub/5G-NB-IoT/master/package 5G-NB-IoT index.json



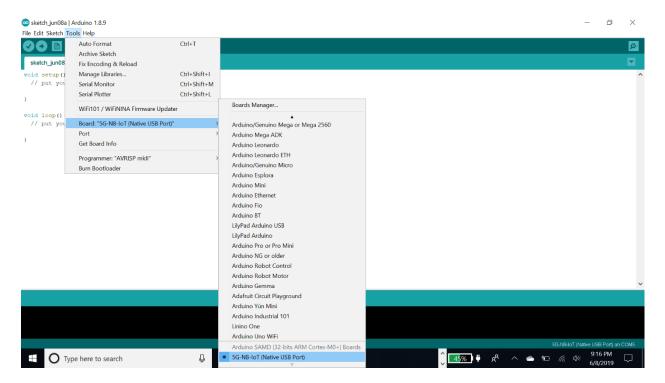


4. In Arduino IDE, choose **Tools->Boards Manager** and install **"5G-NB-IoT SAMD Boards"**.



5. Choose "5G NB-IoT (Native USB Port)"





6. You are ready now to use the Arduino IDE and write the first sketch.

4. Running Arduino Sketch

1- Launch Arduino IDE, open the Arduino sample Test_All_PIN.ino, choose Sketch->Upload.



After successful update, the LED will blink and the BG96 is enabled as in the following picture:





PWR, STAT LEDs are ON LD1, LD2 LED are blinking

The following table show different five LEDs status after uploading this sketch

LED	Behavior	Description	
PWR	ON	Indicates the MCU is powered on	
STATE	ON	Indicates the BG96 is powered on	
NET	Flicker slowly (200ms High/1800ms Low)	Network Searching	
	Flicker slowly (1800ms High/200ms Low)	Idle	
	Flicker slowly (125ms High/125ms Low)	Data transfer is ongoing	
LD1	Blinking	User controlled LED	
LD2	Blinking	User controlled LED	

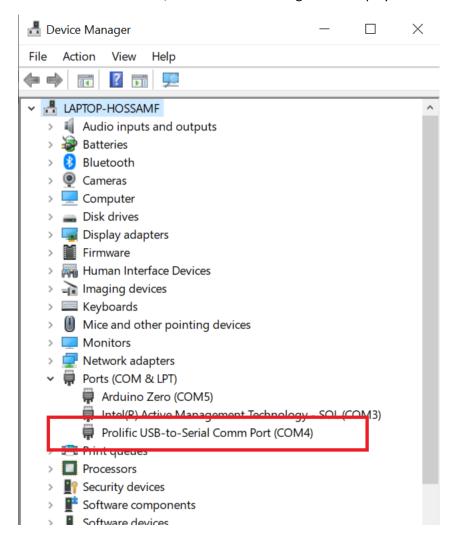


5. Using the Arduino Sketches with Serial Interface

The board has a serial interface where output can be sent via the serial interface to the computer. Use USB-to-Serial cable such as the Prolific USB-to-Serial cable.

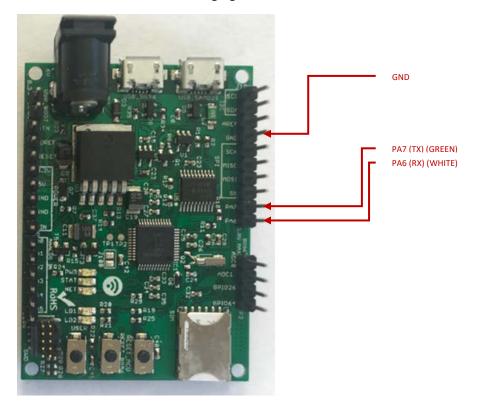


Connect the USB-to-Serial cable to the PC, and the device manager shall display a new COM port.





The board has the serial interface on the J101 as in the following figure.

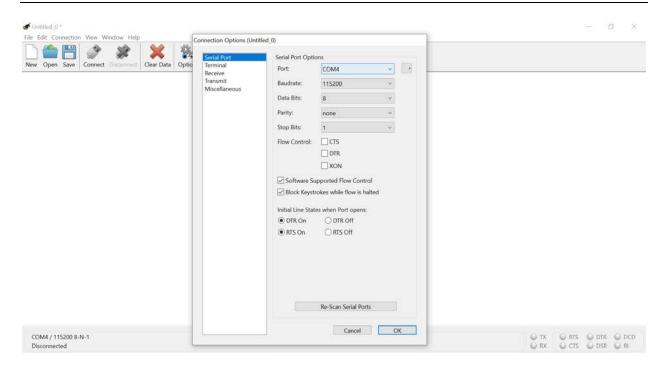


Connect the USB-to-Serial cable from the PC to the board as shown.

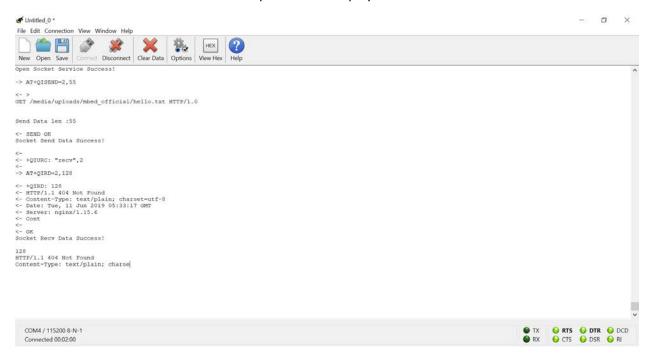


Launch any serial port software to connect to the board serial board. Set the COM speed to 115200.





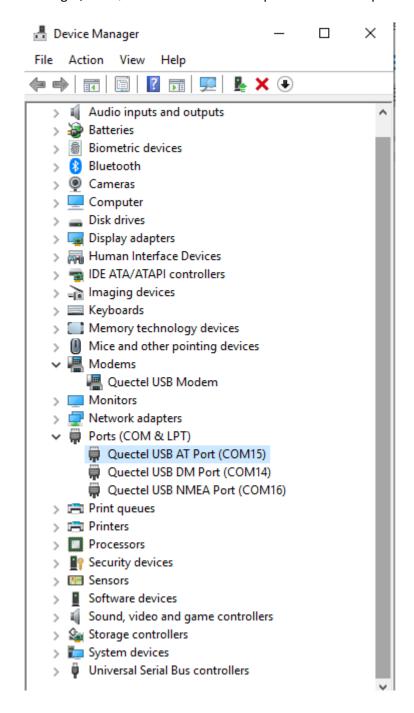
Click connect and the Arduino sketch output shall be displayed on the terminal software





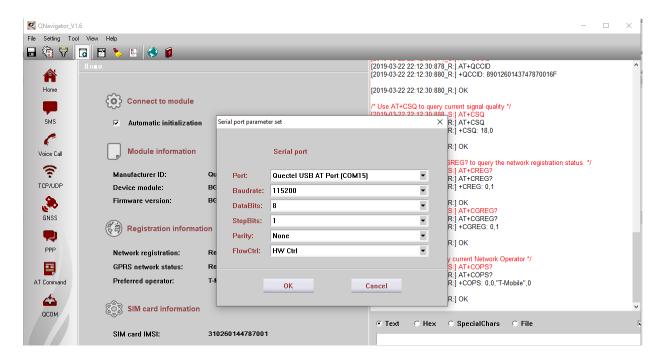
6. Procedure for Operating the BG96 Wireless Unit

- 1. Insert a USIM (or a test USIM) into the USIM slot on the hardware board.
- 2. Connect the LTE/GPS Antenna to the MAIN and GNSS antenna ports resectively on the board.
- 3. Connect the two USB cables to the board and to the PC (Windows 10 PC).
- 4. In the Device manager, the Quectel USB Modem and ports are shown up.



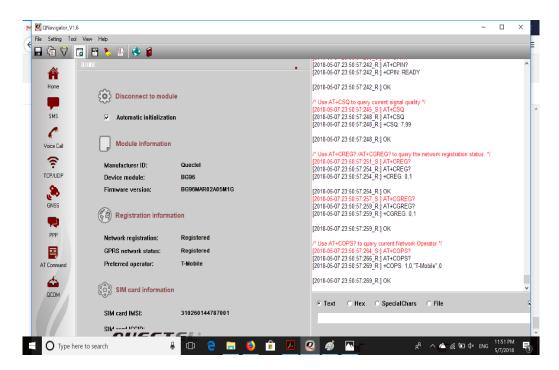


5. Launch QNavigator. Choose the correct Quectel USB AT port in Settings->Serial Port Parameter Set.



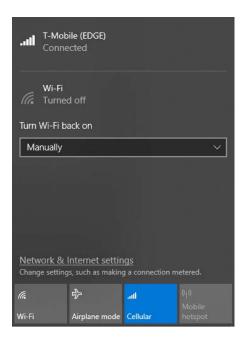


6. Click "Connect". The board will connect to Mobile operator. Screen shot below shows it connects to T-Mobile network.





7. On the Windows PC, disable all network connections (WiFi or Ethernet) except the Quectel cellular Modem. You can, for example, do a "Ping" to any IP address and this illustrates transmitting and receiving from the T-Mobile cellular network. This is illustrated as in this screen shot:





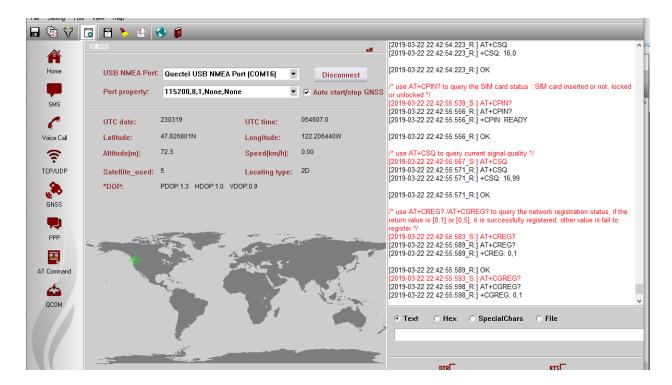
```
Pinging yahoo.com [98.137.246.8] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=166ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=198ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=2983ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=2983ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=258ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=547ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=547ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=668ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=68ms TTL=52
Reply from 98.137.246.8: bytes=32 time=
```



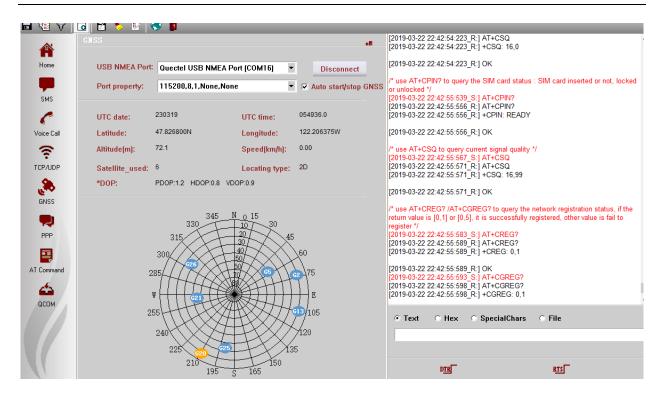
7. Running the GNSS

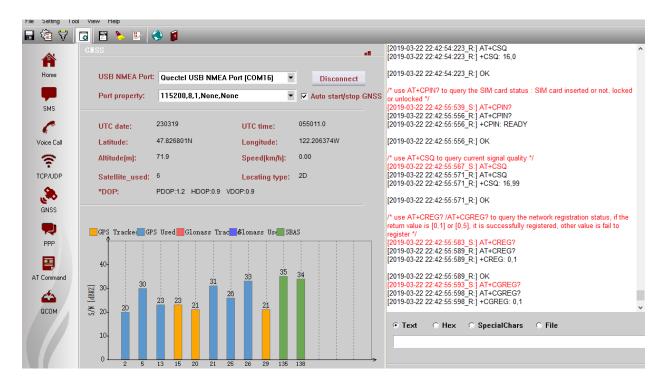
You can use the GNSS module to get location and position information:

1. Connect the second Antenna to the GNSS antenna port on the board. In the QNavaigator, click "GNSS" and then "Connect". You will get location and positioning information. Sample screen shots as below:

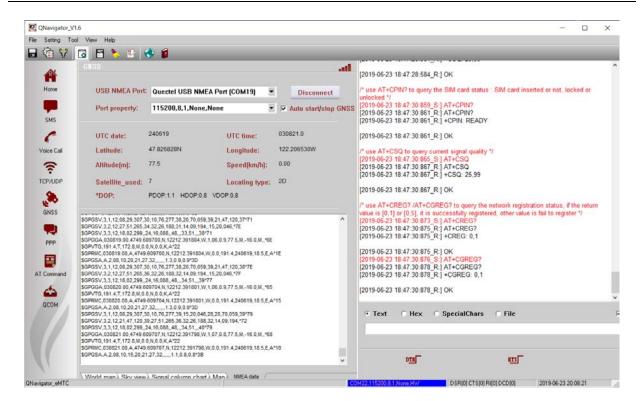












8. AT Commands

The QNavigator can be used to communicated with the transmitter and receiver. For example, you can use the following AT commands:

- a. ATI: The ATI command displays the module information, such as the name and version
- b. **AT+CFUN?:** This commands sets up phone functionality in the module. In our case it is 1, because we require full functionality.
- c. **AT+CSQ:** This command is used to get the signal strength and it makes sure that the USIM is receiving signals.
- d. **AT+CREG?:** This command is used to enquire about the network registration status. Response 1 means registered.
- e. AT+CGREG?: This command is also used to enquire the network registration status.
- f. **AT+COPS?:** This commands returns the current mode and currently selected operator. (e.g. T-Mobile).
- g. **AT+QCFG = "BAND", f,400a0e189f,a0e189f:** In order for the USIM to get registered with the 5G NB network we set up the device to look for the above frequency band configuration.
- h. **AT+QCFG = "NWSCANMODE",1:** This command is used to set the scan mode. We set it to 1 to scan for GSM networks to register.
- i. **AT+QCFG = "iotopmode",1:** This command is used to specify the network category which is to be searched under the LTE network mode. We set it to 1 to search for LTE Cat.NB1.
- j. AT+QCFG = "NWSCANSEQ",010302: This command configures the sequence of searching for the network. Our sequence means GSM→LTE Cat.NB1→LTE Cat.M1



- k. **AT+CGDCONT=1,"IPV4V6":** This command sets the PDP context, we have set the PDP context to IPV4 and V6.
- I. AT+CGPADDR: This command returns a list of PDP addresses.
- m. **AT+QNWINFO:** This command queries the network information such as access technology, operator's numeric code, the band and channel ID.
- AT&W0: Use this command to stores the current AT command settings to a user defined profile in non-volatile memory

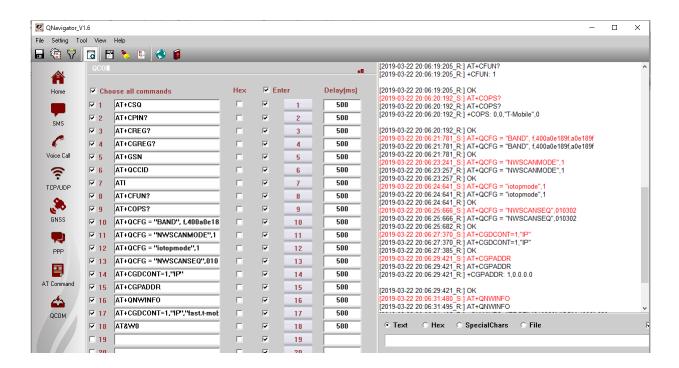
For GNSS to work with QNavigator, make sure the following is issued:

o. **AT+QGPSCFG="outport", "usbnmea"**: Use this command to configure various GNSS settings, including NMEA sentences output to the BG96 USB port.

The BG96 is connected to two GPIOs (GPIO26 and GPIO64) which produces a maximum of 1.8V. You can set them using the following commands:

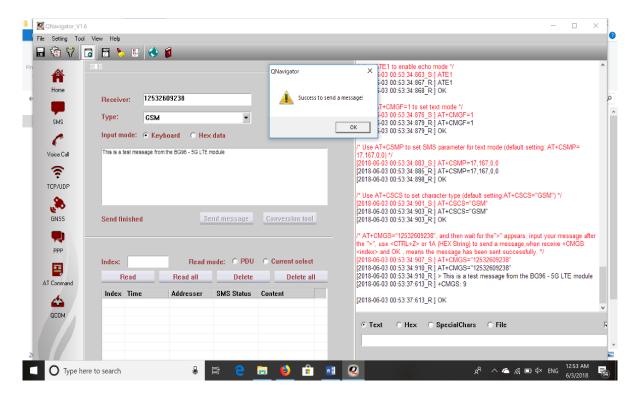
```
AT+QCFG="gpio",1,26,1,0,7 //configure pin 26 as output, no pull, 17mA drive, clean last configuration
AT+QCFG="gpio",3,26,1 // write pin 26 high value, clean last configuration
AT+QCFG="gpio",1,64,1,0,7 //configure pin 64 as output, no pull, 17mA drive, clean last configuration
AT+QCFG="gpio",3,64,1 // write pin 64 high value, clean last configuration
```

The following are screen shots of some of these AT commands:





2. You can send SMS from the SMS pane of the QNavigator. Screenshots below shows the SMS transmitted by the device and received on the phone.





CVBN

space

M 🗵

return

0

ZX

123



7. Document History

Version	Author	Date	Description
Α	5G HUB	04.05.2019	Initial Document
В	5G HUB	06.08.2019	Add Arduino IDE instructions
В	5G HUB	06.10.2019	Add Serial Interface



8. References

- [1] Quectel_BG96_Hardware_Design_V1.2.pdf
- [2] Quectel_BG96_Reference_Design_Rev.A_20170814.pdf
- [3] Quectel_Antenna_Design_Note_V2.0.pdf
- [4] Quectel_RF_Layout_Application_Note_V2.2.pdf
- [5] Quectel_QFlash_User_Guide_V2.3
- [6] Arduino IDE, https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software
- [7] Arduino IDE, https://www.arduino.cc/en/Guide/ArduinoZero
- [8] Microchip, "Low-Power, 32-bit Cortex-M0+ MCU with Advanced Analog and PWM"



APPENDIX A – SCHEMATIC

