

Mars XU3 SoC Module

Reference Design for Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present to the user the overall view of the Mars XU3 SoC module reference design and to provide the user with a step-by-step guide to the complete AMD® MPSoC design flow used for the Mars XU3 SoC module.

Summary

This document gives an overview of the Mars XU3 SoC module reference design and then guides through the complete AMD MPSoC design flow for the Mars XU3 SoC module in the getting started section. In addition, the internals and the boot options of the Mars XU3 SoC module reference design are described.

Product Information	Code	Name
Module	MA-XU3	Mars XU3 SoC Module
Baseboard	MA-ST3	Mars ST3 Base Board

Document Information	Reference	Version	Date
Reference / Version / Date	D-0000-489-008	2024.2_v2.1.2	13.08.2025

Approval Information	Name	Position	Date
Written by	ARUD	FPGA/SoC Senior Embedded Software Engineer	13.08.2025
Verified by	GKOE	Manager, FPGA/SoC Embedded Software Engineering	13.08.2025
Approved by	IJOS	Manager, BU SP	13.08.2025

License

Copyright 2025 by Enclustra GmbH, Switzerland.

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this hardware, software, firmware, and associated documentation files (the "Product"), to deal in the Product without restriction, including without limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell copies of the Product, and to permit persons to whom the Product is furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:

The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Product.

THE PRODUCT IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRODUCT OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE PRODUCT.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
1 Overview	5
1.1 Introduction	5
1.2 Variables Paths	5
1.3 Prerequisites	6
2 Reference Design Description	7
2.1 Processing System (PS)	7
2.1.1 Clocks	7
2.1.2 DDR4 SDRAM	8
2.1.3 microSD Card	8
2.1.4 eMMC	8
2.1.5 I2C	8
2.1.6 Quad SPI Flash Controller	8
2.1.7 UART	8
2.1.8 Ethernet	8
2.1.9 USB	9
2.1.10 GPIOs	9
2.1.11 DisplayPort	9
2.1.12 GTR Settings	9
2.2 Programmable Logic (PL)	10
2.2.1 LEDs and GPIOs	10
2.2.2 System Management	10
3 Getting Started	11
3.1 Essential Information	11
3.2 Setting up the Hardware	12
3.3 Generating the FPGA Bitstream	13
3.4 Preparing the Boot Binaries	14
3.4.1 Preparing the Vitis Workspace	14
3.4.2 Creating the Hardware Platform	14
3.4.3 Building the HelloWorld Application	15
3.4.4 Running Software Applications	15
4 Boot Configurations	16
4.1 Generating the Image File	16
4.2 QSPI Flash Boot	16
4.2.1 Programming the QSPI Flash	16
4.2.2 Preparing the Hardware	19
4.2.3 Booting from the QSPI Flash	19
4.3 SD Card Boot	19
4.3.1 Preparing the SD Card	19
4.3.2 Preparing the Hardware	19
4.3.3 Booting from the SD Card	19
4.4 eMMC Boot	20
4.4.1 Programming the eMMC	20
4.4.2 Preparing the Hardware	21
4.4.3 Booting from the eMMC	21
5 Troubleshooting	22
5.1 Vivado Issues	22
5.2 Vitis Issues	22

5.3	JTAG Issues	22
5.4	UART Connection Issues	23
5.5	QSPI Issues	23
5.6	eMMC Issues	23
5.6.1	The eMMC Boot Fails.	24
5.7	MCT Issues	24
List of Figures		25
List of Tables		25
References		26

1 Overview

1.1 Introduction

The Mars XU3 SoC module reference design demonstrates a system using the Mars XU3 SoC module in combination with the Mars ST3 base board. It presents the basic configuration of the device and contains a getting started tutorial.

A troubleshooting section is included at the end of the document to help users resolve potential issues related to board connectivity and system functionality.

This reference design does not include any source code for software examples. Instead, Enclustra provides application notes [6] for selected applications.

An introduction to the AMD tools is available online:

- Vivado Design Suite User Guide [9]
- Vitis Unified Software Platform Documentation [11]
- Embedded Design Tutorials [12]
- Zynq Ultrascale+ MPSoC Embedded Design Tutorial [15]

More information on the module and the base board can be found in the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2] and the Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual [3]. The following directory structure applies to the reference design:

Directory	Description
doc	Reference design documentation
scripts	Scripts directory required for project creation and settings
src	Design pinout, timing constraints and VHDL source code directory

Table 1: Directory Structure

1.2 Variables Paths

The following variables are used to substitute the full path to directories relevant for the reference design build process. Paths not already present in the reference design directory will be created during the build process.

Variable	Full Path	Description
<base_dir>	<base_dir>/reference_design	Reference design root directory as described in Table 1
<vivado_dir>	<base_dir>/reference_design/Vivado/<module_name>	Vivado project directory

Table 2: Path Variables

1.3 Prerequisites

- IT infrastructure
 - Computer with a microSD card slot (optional¹)
 - Supported OS²
- Software
 - AMD Vitis 2024.2 Core Development Kit
 - Enclustra Module Configuration Tool (MCT) [\[4\]](#) (optional³)
 - a terminal emulation program, for example, Tera Term
- Hardware
 - Enclustra Mars XU3 SoC module
 - Enclustra Mars ST3 base board
- Accessories
 - 12 V DC power supply
 - microSD card (optional¹)
 - Micro-USB cable

¹Only required for SD card boot mode.

²A comprehensive list of supported operating systems is given in the Vivado Design Suite Installation Guide [\[10\]](#).

³May be used for flash programming, for MPSoC device configuration or for FTDI configuration.

2 Reference Design Description

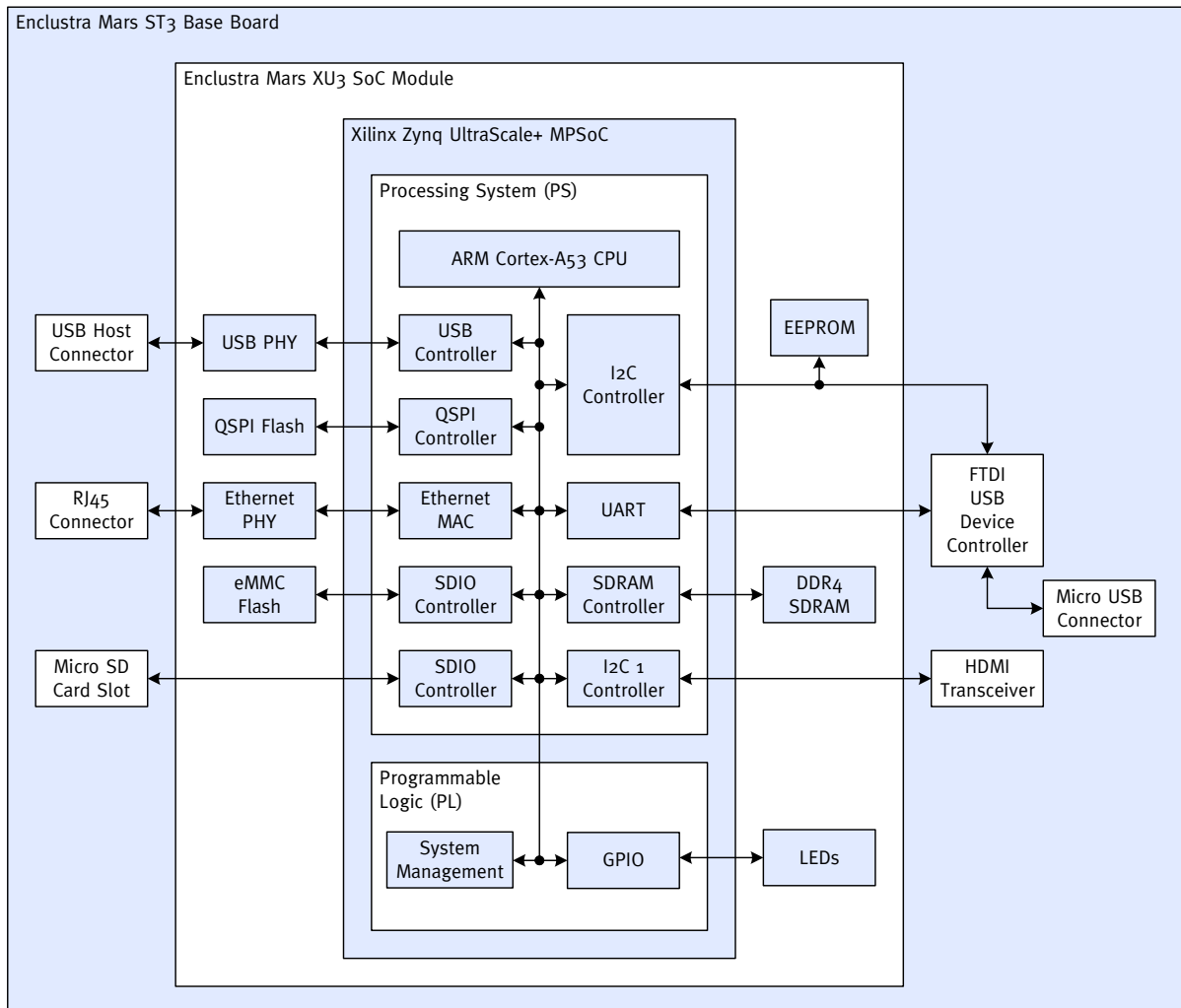


Figure 1: Hardware block diagram

2.1 Processing System (PS)

2.1.1 Clocks

The PS input clock frequency is configured to 33.33 MHz. The CPU clock frequency is configured to its corresponding maximum APU clock frequency, as specified in the Zynq UltraScale+ MPSoC Data Sheet: DC and AC Switching Characteristics [14]. The maximum CPU (APU) clock performance depends on the device speed grade and package.

A 50 MHz clock and a 100 MHz clock are exported from the PS to the PL. These clocks can be modified in the settings of the PS in the Vivado block design.

2.1.2 DDR4 SDRAM

The DDR4 SDRAM memory is configured as specified in the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2]. ECC is enabled on product models with ECC support. The DDR configuration can be modified in the settings of the processing system in Vivado.

2.1.3 microSD Card

The SD1 controller is mapped to MIO[46:51]. This enables microSD card access and booting from the microSD card. In order to boot from a microSD card the configuration DIP switches on the base board must be set according to Section 4.3.2.

2.1.4 eMMC

The SD0 controller is mapped to MIO[13:22]. This enables eMMC device access and booting from the eMMC device. In order to boot from eMMC the configuration DIP switches on the base board must be set according to Section 4.4.3.

2.1.5 I2C

The I2C0 controller is mapped to MIO[10:11]. It is connected to the I2C MGMT bus on the base board. The I2C1 controller is mapped to EMIO pins. It is connected to the I2C USER bus on the base board. The available I2C devices on each bus are listed in the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2] and the Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual [3].

2.1.6 Quad SPI Flash Controller

The quad SPI flash controller is mapped to MIO[0:6] in single mode. In order to boot from the QSPI flash the configuration DIP switches on the base board must be set according to Section 4.2.2. Refer to the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2] for details about flash programming and usage.

2.1.7 UART

The UART0 controller is mapped to MIO[38:39] and connected to the FTDI USB device controller on the base board. The UART is configured as shown in Table 3.

Parameter	Value
Baud rate	115'200 Bd
Data width	8 bit
Parity	None
Stop	1 bit
Flow control	None

Table 3: UART configuration

2.1.8 Ethernet

The Ethernet MAC GEM3 controller is mapped to MIO[64:75]. The MDIO interface is mapped to MIO[76:77]. It is connected to a Microchip KSZ9031 RGMII Ethernet PHY on the module. The PHY can be configured via the MDIO interface on address 3.

Tip

The RGMII delays need to be configured before the Ethernet interface can be used. Further details on PHY delay configuration are given in the Enclustra Gigabit Ethernet Application Note [6].

2.1.9 USB

The USB controller USB0 is mapped to MIO[52:63]. It is connected to a USB3320C USB2.0 PHY on the module. This interface can be configured in USB host mode. The GTR configuration for USB 3.0 is given in Section 2.1.12.

2.1.10 GPIOs

The unused MIO pins are available as GPIOs. For details on the I/O assignment, refer to the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2], Section "Multiplexed I/O (MIO) Pins". For details on the combination of the I/O assignment with the base board, refer to the Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual [3].

2.1.11 DisplayPort

The AUX channel of the DisplayPort is mapped to EMIO pins. The GTR configuration is given in Section 2.1.12.

2.1.12 GTR Settings

The GTR configuration is given in Table 4.

Lane Number	Function	Reference Clock Number	Reference Clock Frequency [MHz]
0	DP Lane 1	3	27
1	DP Lane 0	3	27
2	USB0 3.0	2	100
3	unused	-	-

Table 4: PS GTR Configuration

2.2 Programmable Logic (PL)

2.2.1 LEDs and GPIOs

The PL firmware contains a 24-bit counter freely running at 50 MHz. The MSB of this counter is used to blink LED0# with a frequency of approximately 3 Hz. The pin mapping is given in Table 5.

Pin	Signal	Function
P2	LED0#	Blinking LED counter MSB

Table 5: PL Blinking LED Configuration

In addition, the block design instantiates an AXI GPIO IP block to control the LEDs described in Table 6.

Pin	Signal	Function
N3	LED1#	GPIO 0

Table 6: PL AXI GPIO Configuration

2.2.2 System Management

A System Management IP core instance is connected via AXI bus to the PS in order to monitor the temperature of the device. The temperature threshold for the FPGA is configured to its maximum allowed temperature. The constraints provided in the reference design enable FPGA bitstream power-down when the temperature increases above the threshold. In this case, the PL will be reset while the ARM processor will still be running.

3 Getting Started

This section describes the steps required to configure the Mars XU3 SoC module and the Mars ST3 base board in order to run a simple HelloWorld application example:

1. Install the module and configure the base board.
2. Generate the bitstream.
3. Prepare the software workspace.
4. Run a software application.

Read the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2] and the Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual [3] carefully before proceeding.

3.1 Essential Information

Pre-generated binaries may be used instead of building them manually as described in the following sections. The binaries for any supported XU3 product model and boot mode are released on the reference design Github release page [5].

Tip

Workarounds and fixes for potential issues can be found in Section 5.

NOTICE



Damage to the device due to overheating

Depending on the user application, the Mars XU3 SoC module may consume more power than can be dissipated without additional cooling measures.

- Ensure that the MPSoC is always adequately cooled by installing a heat sink and/or providing air flow.

3.2 Setting up the Hardware

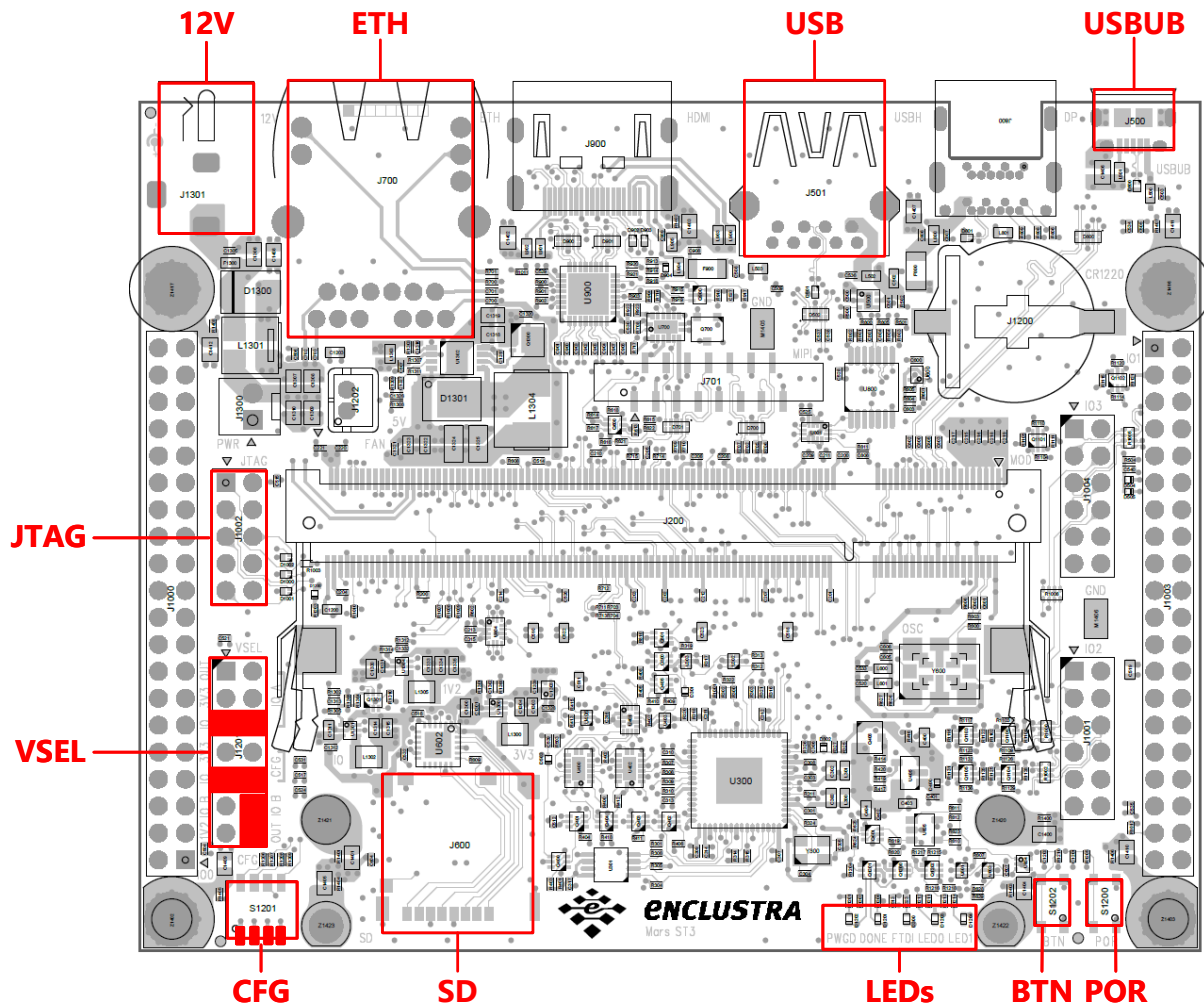


Figure 2: Mars ST3 Base Board Assembly Drawing (Top View)

1. Ensure that no power is connected to the power connector of the base board (label **12 V**).
2. Set the I/O voltage jumpers on the base board according to label **VSEL** (the jumpers are marked with red rectangles).
 - VCC_IO_A = 1.8V (position 5-6)
 - VCC_CFG = 1.8V (position 9-10)
 - VCC_IO_B = 1.8V (position 12-14)
3. Set the configuration DIP switch on the base board as follows (label **CFG**):
 - CFG = [1: OFF, 2: OFF, 3: OFF, 4: OFF]
4. Install the Mars XU3 SoC module on the base board.
5. Connect the Micro-USB cable between the computer and the base board using the Micro-USB port labeled **USBUB**.
6. Connect the 12 V DC power supply plug to the power connector of the base board (label **12 V**). The PWGD LED lights up (label **LEDs**).
7. Configure the FTDI in Xilinx JTAG mode using the Enclustra MCT [4].
 - (a) Open MCT.
 - (b) Select **Settings > Enable configuring any FTDI**.
 - (c) Click **Enumerate**.

- (d) Select the detected device.
- (e) Select **FTDI Configuration**.
- (f) Select **Xilinx JTAG** as the device mode.
- (g) Click **Set device mode**.
- (h) Wait for completion.
- (i) Close MCT.
- (j) Disconnect and reconnect the Micro-USB cable.

Tip

Alternatively, an AMD JTAG USB programmer can be used. Connect the JTAG signals to the JTAG connector on the base board.

- 8. Two new serial ports should be detected by the OS (or only one if FTDI is configured in Xilinx JTAG mode).
- 9. Open the serial port with the highest number of the newly detected ports and configure it using the parameters specified in Section 2.1.7. Any suitable utility for establishing a serial connection can be used
- 10. The output of the HelloWorld application will be printed in this terminal after running a software application, as presented in Section 3.4.4.

3.3 Generating the FPGA Bitstream

Follow the steps described in this section to generate the reference design bitstream manually. Refer to the troubleshooting section 5.1 in case of problems.

Tip

Pre-generated bitstreams for all supported XU3 product models are available on the XU3 reference design Github release page [5]. These can be used directly instead of generating the bitstream manually. If using those files directly, the bitstream does not need to be generated manually and this section can be skipped.

- 1. Configure the `<base_dir>/reference_design/scripts/settings.tcl` file:
 - (a) Set the `module_name` variable to the desired product model⁴.
 - (b) Save the file after editing⁵.
- 2. Start AMD Vivado 2024.2.
- 3. Create the Mars XU3 SoC module reference design project:
 - (a) Click on the **Tcl Console** at the bottom of the Vivado window.
 - i. Type `cd {<base_dir>/reference_design}`
Note the curly brackets around the path.
 - ii. Type `source ./scripts/create_project.tcl`
 - iii. Wait for completion (the created project opens automatically).
- 4. Compile the design and generate the programming files:
 - (a) Click on **Generate Bitstream**.
 - (b) Click **Yes** in the next window.
 - (c) Click **Launch runs on local host** with the default number of jobs. This will run all design steps from synthesis to implementation and bitstream generation.
 - (d) Wait for completion.
 - (e) Select **View Reports** and click **OK**.
- 5. Export the hardware platform:
 - (a) Select **File > Export > Export Hardware...**

⁴Valid values for the variables are listed at the beginning of the file.

⁵The Vivado project directory can be set to a custom value by adjusting the `<vivado_dir>` variable. However, the documentation assumes that the default path is used.

- (b) Click **Next**.
- (c) Select **Include bitstream** and click **Next**.
- (d) Leave the default settings and click **Next**.
- (e) Click **Finish**.

The build output is located in `<base_dir>/reference_design/Vivado/<module_name>` and is described in Table 7:

File	Description
Mars_XU3_ST3.xsa	Handoff file for the Vitis IDE
Mars_XU3_ST3.runs/impl_1/Mars_XU3_ST3.bit	Generated bitstream

Table 7: Vivado Programming Files

3.4 Preparing the Boot Binaries

This section describes the whole build flow for generating a bootable binary image file. The AMD Vitis IDE 2024.2 is used in the following sections.

Tip

Pre-generated binaries for all supported XU3 product models are available on the reference design Github release page [5]. These can be used directly instead of generating the binaries manually. In this case, the following section can be skipped.

3.4.1 Preparing the Vitis Workspace

Follow these steps to create a new workspace:

1. Create an empty folder for the workspace.
2. Open the AMD Vitis IDE 2024.2:
 - (a) Click **Set Workspace**.
 - (b) Select the previously created empty folder for the Vitis workspace and click **OK**.

The workspace setup for the HelloWorld application is complete.

3.4.2 Creating the Hardware Platform

Add a new hardware platform to the workspace created in Section 3.4.1:

1. In the **Welcome** splash screen, select **Create Platform Component**.
2. Use `Mars_XU3_ST3` as the **Component name**.
3. Select the workspace folder as the **Component location**.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Choose **Hardware Design**.
6. Click **Browse** and select the XSA file generated in Section 3.3.
7. Click **Next**.
8. Wait for completion on the next screen. **Operating system** and **Processor** should be filled automatically.
9. Ensure that **Generate Boot artifacts** is enabled.
10. Click **Next**.
11. In the summary screen, click **Finish**.
12. Wait until Vitis has completed all tasks and the created platform is available in the **Vitis Components** window.
13. In the **Flow** window, click **Build**.

14. Wait for completion.

The hardware platform for running bare-metal applications on the Mars XU3 SoC module is ready. The FSBL is located in the `<workspace>/Mars_XU3_ST3/export/Mars_XU3_ST3/sw/boot` directory (Table 8):

File	Description
fsbl.elf	Bootloader

Table 8: Vitis Platform Output

3.4.3 Building the HelloWorld Application

Create a new application from a template and build it by following these steps:

1. Select **View > Examples > Hello World**.
2. Click **Create Application Component from Template**.
3. Select `HelloWorld` for the **Component name** and click **Next**.
4. Select the platform created in Section 3.4.2 and click **Next**.
5. Leave the default settings and click **Next**.
6. Click **Finish**.
7. In the **Flow** window, click **Build**.
8. Wait for completion.

The build output is located in `<workspace>/HelloWorld/build/` and is described in Table 9:

File	Description
HelloWorld.elf	Executable bare-metal application file

Table 9: Vitis Application Build Output

3.4.4 Running Software Applications

This section describes how to run software applications.

1. Start AMD Vitis 2024.2.
2. Open the workspace created in Section 3.4.1.
3. In the **Vitis Components** window, select the HelloWorld application project.
4. Prepare the run configuration:
 - (a) In the **Flow** window, click the gear icon on the right side while hovering over the **Run** button.
 - (b) Use `HelloWorld` as the **Launch Config Name**.
 - (c) Select **TCL** for **Board initialization**.
 - (d) Enable **PL Powerup**.
5. Ensure that the hardware setup is done according to Section 3.2.
6. Click the **Run** button.

The expected output in the serial terminal console is given in Figure 6. For troubleshooting refer to Section 5.2.

```
Hello World
Successfully ran Hello World application
```

Figure 3: Example of the Terminal Output for the HelloWorld Application

4 Boot Configurations

A boot image can be created containing the previously generated binaries to enable booting from various boot modes. The boot image contains the bootloader, the bitstream for programming the FPGA logic and the software bare-metal application.

Tip

Pre-generated images may be used for booting instead of rebuilding the image. The binaries for any supported XU3 product model and boot mode are released on the reference design Github release page [5].

4.1 Generating the Image File

This section describes how to generate a boot image for the Mars XU3 SoC module using the AMD Vitis IDE. The workspace, hardware platform and application from Sections 3.4.1, 3.4.2 and 3.4.3 are used. To create a bootable image file in the AMD Vitis IDE, follow these steps:

1. In the **Flow** window, click **Create Boot Image**.
2. Click **Browse** next to **Output BIF File Path***.
3. Create a new folder called `output`.
4. Rename the `.bif` file to `HelloWorld.bif` and click **Save**.
5. The **Output Image*** path should point to the `output` folder automatically.
6. Click **Create Image**.

The build output is located in the previously created output folder and is described in Table 10. The `BOOT.BIN` file is the same for all boot modes.

File	Description
<code>BOOT.BIN</code>	Bootable image containing the HelloWorld application
<code>HelloWorld.bif</code>	Source file describing the individual components of the boot image

Table 10: Boot Image

4.2 QSPI Flash Boot

4.2.1 Programming the QSPI Flash

There are several ways of programming the QSPI flash memory with the `BOOT.BIN` created in Section 4.1. Only **one** method needs to be followed in order to program the QSPI flash.

JTAG Boot Mode

Programming flash memory devices such as QSPI or eMMC using Vivado or Vitis requires setting the JTAG boot mode first. A step-by-step guide is available in the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2], Section "JTAG Boot Mode". If JTAG boot mode is not available, use an alternative method or contact Enclustra support [1]. After setting the JTAG boot mode, follow the steps described in the Vitis section or the Vivado section below.

Enclustra MCT

Enclustra provides the MCT [4] application⁶ to program the QSPI flash. The eMMC boot mode first needs to be set in order to program the QSPI flash via the FTDI using the Enclustra MCT application. Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

⁶Only available on Windows OS.

1. Ensure that all the tools that might be connected to the FTDI (Vivado Hardware Manager, Vitis, any serial terminal) are closed.
2. Disconnect the power supply of the base board (label **12 V**).
3. Disconnect the Micro-USB cable from the base board.
4. Set CFG (label **CFG**) to [1: ON, 2: ON, 3: OFF, 4: OFF].
5. Reconnect the Micro-USB cable.
6. Reconnect the power supply of the base board (label **12 V**).
7. Open MCT and click **Enumerate**.
8. After enumeration completed successfully, select the detected module.
9. Select **SPI Flash Configuration**.

Tip

While not necessary, it is recommended to erase the flash memory before programming the FPGA. This ensures that the flash memory is in a known state before programming. In order to do that, select **Erase > Full chip** and click **Erase**.

10. Choose **Program** as the operation.
11. Click **Browse** and select the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1.
12. Disable **Boot after programming**.
13. Click **Program**.

Vitis

In order to program the QSPI flash using Vitis, follow these steps:

1. In Vitis, open the workspace created in Section 3.4.1.
2. Select **Vitis > Program Flash**. A dialog as the one shown in Figure 4 appears.
3. In the **Program Flash Memory** window, click **Browse** next to the **Image File** field.
4. Select the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1.
5. Click **Browse** next to the **Init File** field.
6. Select the `fsbl.elf` file created as part of the hardware platform in Section 3.4.2.
7. Select **qspi-x4-single** for the **Flash Type**.
8. Click **Program**.

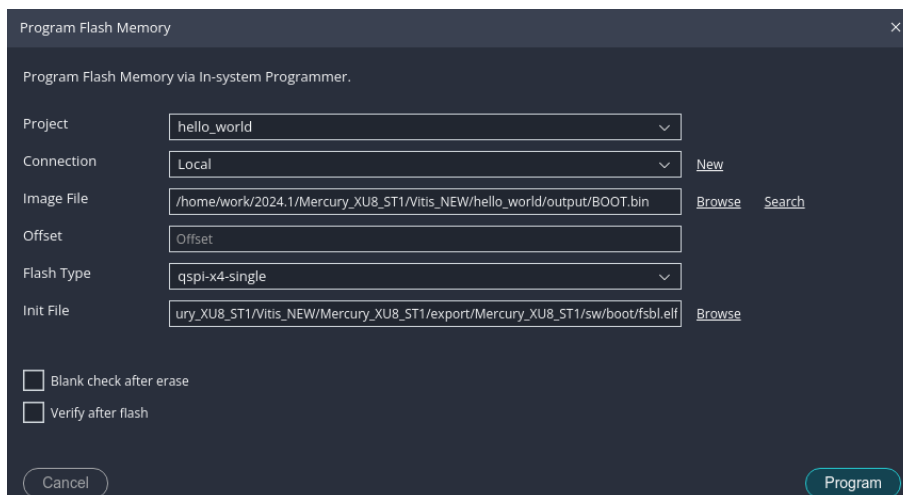


Figure 4: Example Dialog Vitis Program Flash Memory (QSPI)

Vivado

In order to program the QSPI flash using Vivado, follow these steps:

1. Open Vivado.
2. Click **Open Hardware Manager**.
3. Select **Open target > Auto Connect**. The hardware manager should be able to connect to the device as shown in Figure 5.
4. Right-click the MPSoC and select **Add Configuration Memory Device....** A dialog as the one shown in Figure 5 appears.
5. In the new window, select the following:
 - (a) Manufacturer: Cypress/Spansion
 - (b) Type: qspi
 - (c) Density: 512
 - (d) Width: x4-single
6. Select part **s25fl512s-1.8v** from the listed options.
7. Click **OK**.
8. In the new window, click **OK** again to program the configuration memory.
9. In the **Program Configuration Memory Device** dialog, do the following:
 - (a) Select the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1 as the **Configuration file**.
 - (b) Select the `fsbl.elf` file created as part of the hardware platform in Section 3.4.2.
 - (c) Leave the default settings for the rest of the options.
 - (d) Click **OK**.
 - (e) Wait for completion.

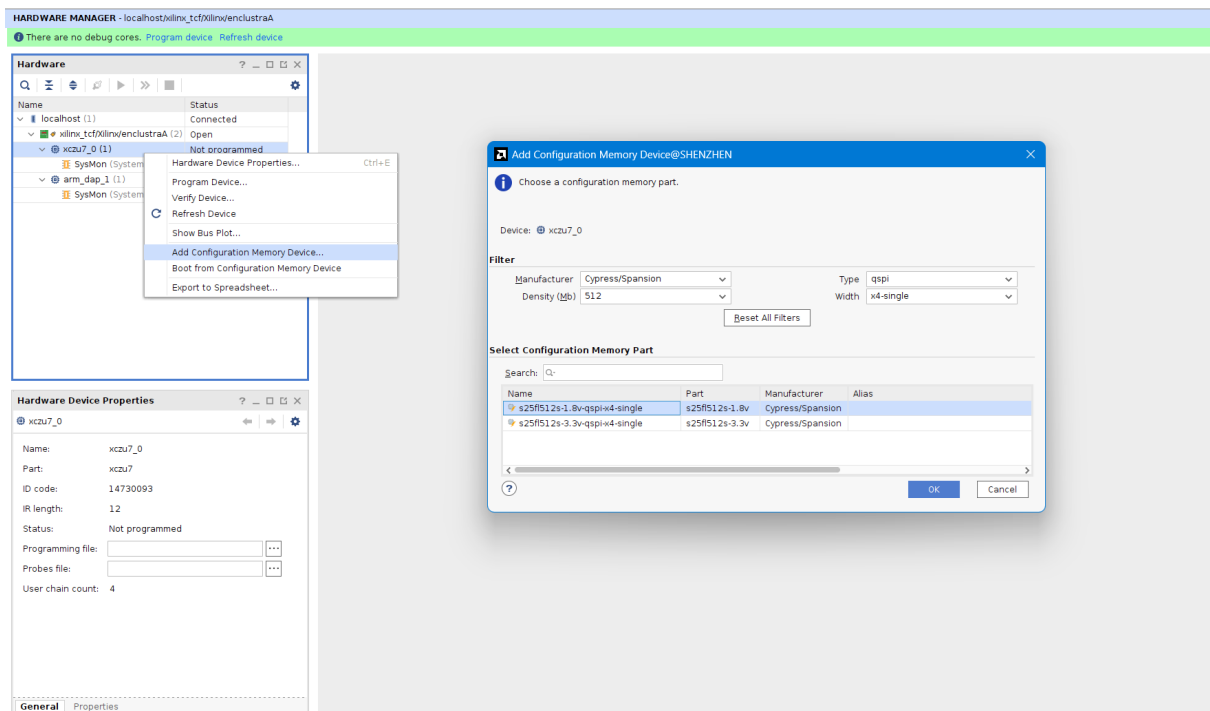


Figure 5: Example Dialog Vivado Configuration Memory (QSPI)

Tip

Alternatively, Linux running directly on the target can be used to program flash memory devices such as QSPI or eMMC. Refer to the Enclustra Linux Documentation [16] for details.

4.2.2 Preparing the Hardware

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

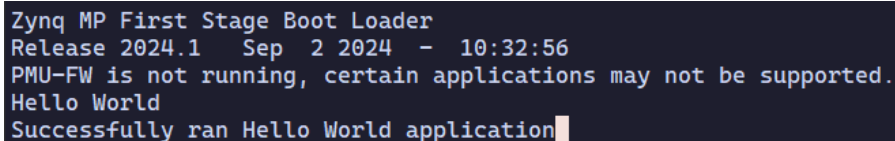
1. Disconnect the power supply of the base board (label **12 V**).
2. Disconnect all USB cables from the base board.
3. Set CFG (label **CFG**) to [1: ON, 2: OFF, 3: OFF, 4: OFF].
4. Connect the Micro-USB cable between the computer and the base board using the Micro-USB port labeled **USBUB**.
5. Reconnect the power supply of the base board (label **12 V**).

4.2.3 Booting from the QSPI Flash

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

1. Ensure that the hardware configuration is done according to Section 4.2.2.
2. Reconnect the serial terminal.
3. Press the power-on reset button (label **POR**) and release it after 1 s.
4. The DONE LED (label **LEDs**) lights up after the bitstream has been loaded.
5. The LED on the module starts blinking as described in Section 2.2.1.

The expected output in the serial terminal console is given in Figure 6.



```
Zynq MP First Stage Boot Loader
Release 2024.1 Sep 2 2024 - 10:32:56
PMU-FW is not running, certain applications may not be supported.
Hello World
Successfully ran Hello World application
```

Figure 6: Example of the Terminal Output

4.3 SD Card Boot

4.3.1 Preparing the SD Card

1. Insert an SD card into the SD card slot of the computer.
2. Ensure that the SD card has a FAT32 formatted partition.
3. Copy the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1 to the FAT32 partition of the SD card.

4.3.2 Preparing the Hardware

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

1. Detach the power supply of the base board (label **12 V**).
2. Enable the SD card boot mode (default) by setting the configuration DIP switch on the base board as follows (label **CFG**):
 - CFG = [1: OFF, 2: OFF, 3: OFF, 4: OFF]
3. Insert the SD card into the SD card slot of the base board (label **SD Card**).

4.3.3 Booting from the SD Card

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

1. Ensure that the hardware configuration is done according to Section 4.3.2.
2. Connect the power supply to the base board (label **12 V**).
3. The DONE LED (label **LEDs**) lights up after the bitstream has been loaded.
4. The LED on the module starts blinking as described in Section 2.2.1

The expected output in the serial terminal console is given in Figure 6.

4.4 eMMC Boot

4.4.1 Programming the eMMC

JTAG Boot Mode

Programming flash memory devices such as QSPI or eMMC using Vivado or Vitis requires setting the JTAG boot mode first. A step-by-step guide is available in the Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual [2], Section "JTAG Boot Mode". If JTAG boot mode is not available, use an alternative method or contact Enclustra support [1]. After setting the JTAG boot mode, follow the steps described in the Vitis section or the Vivado section below.

Vitis

In order to program the eMMC memory using Vitis, follow these steps:

1. Open the workspace created in Section 3.4.1 in Vitis.
2. Select **Vitis** > **Program Flash**.
3. In the **Program Flash Memory** window, click **Browse**.
4. Select the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1.
5. Select **emmc** for the **Flash Type**.
6. Select **32** for the **Partition Size (in MB)**. Figure 7 is given for reference.
7. Click **Program**.

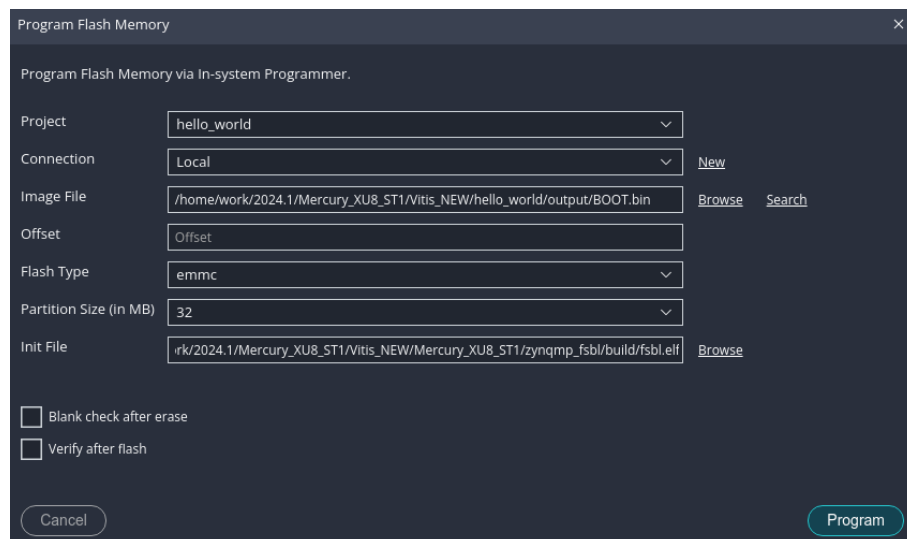


Figure 7: Vitis Program Flash Memory (eMMC)

Vivado

In order to program the eMMC memory using Vivado, follow these steps:

1. Open Vivado.
2. Click **Open Hardware Manager**.
3. Select **Open target** > **Auto Connect**. The hardware manager should be able to connect to the device as shown in Figure 8.
4. Right-click the MPSoC and select **Add Configuration Memory Device...**
5. In the new window, select the following:
 - (a) Manufacturer: All
 - (b) Type: emmc
 - (c) Density: All
 - (d) Width: All

6. Select **jedec4.51-16gb-emmc** from the listed options. See Figure 8 for reference.
7. Click **OK**.
8. In the new window, click **OK** again to program the configuration memory.
9. In the **Program Configuration Memory Device** dialog, do the following:
 - (a) Add the `BOOT.BIN` file created in Section 4.1 to the **Files to load** field.
 - (b) Select the `fsbl.elf` file created as part of the hardware platform in Section 3.4.2 in the **Zynq FSBL** field.
 - (c) Leave the default settings for the rest of the options.
 - (d) Click **OK**.
 - (e) Wait for completion.

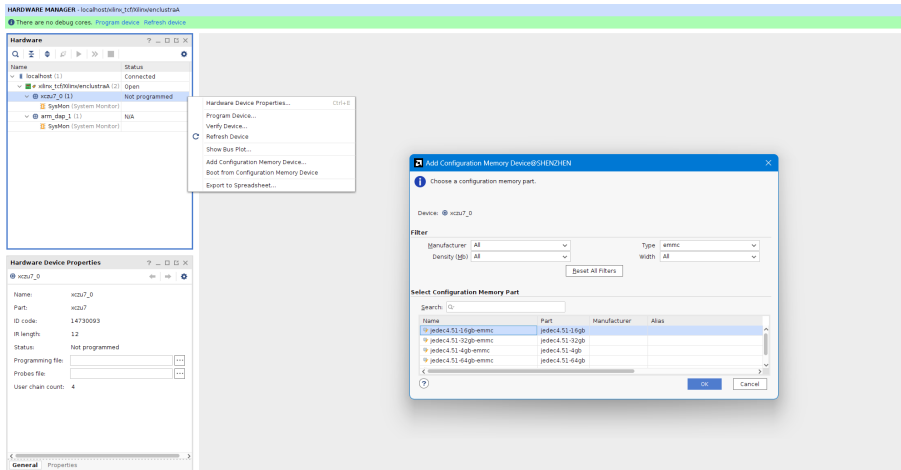


Figure 8: Vivado Configuration Memory (eMMC)

Tip

Alternatively, Linux running directly on the target can be used to program flash memory devices such as QSPI or eMMC. Refer to the Enclustra Linux Documentation [16] for details.

4.4.2 Preparing the Hardware

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

1. Disconnect the power supply of the base board.
2. Disconnect all USB cables from the base board.
3. Enable the eMMC boot mode by setting the configuration DIP switch on the base board as follows (label **CFG**):
 - (a) Set CFG = [1: ON, 2: ON, 3: OFF, 4: OFF]
4. Connect the Micro-USB cable between the computer and the base board using the Micro-USB port labeled **USBUB**.
5. Reconnect the UART terminal if necessary.
6. Connect the power supply to the base board (label **12 V**).

4.4.3 Booting from the eMMC

Refer to Figure 2 to locate the labels on the base board.

1. Check that the hardware configuration is done according to Section 4.4.2.
2. Press the power-on reset button (label **POR**) and release it after 1 s.
3. The DONE LED (label **LEDs**) lights up after the bitstream has been loaded.
4. The LED on the module starts blinking as described in Section 2.2.1.

The expected output in the serial terminal console is the same as in Section 4.3.3.

5 Troubleshooting

Ensure the issues are not listed in the Mars XU3 SoC Module Known Issues and Changes [7] or the Mars ST3 Base Board Known Issues and Changes [8].

5.1 Vivado Issues

The Windows OS Path is too Long.

The path length limitation of Windows OS can lead to seemingly random errors during the build process.

- Reduce the path length to the Vivado project upon project creation. Refer to [AR52787](#) for further details.

The Block Design Changes Are Not Propagated into the Implementation Step.

Regenerate the block design files:

1. Right-click the block design (.bd) file.
2. Click **Reset Output Products** > **Reset**.
3. Right-click the block design (.bd) file.
4. Click **Generate Output Products** > **Generate**.

The Hardware Manager gives a Critical Warning upon Connection to the Device.

PL Power Status OFF, cannot program PL. Check that POR_B signal is LOW or BOOT mode is JTAG.

This warning appears when the device has not been configured yet and the internal PL power is disabled. The warning can be ignored and disappears after the device has been programmed.

5.2 Vitis Issues

The Platform Component Generation Fails.

Use a clean workspace:

1. Close Vitis.
2. Delete the workspace folder.
3. Restart Vitis and retry the steps described in Sections [3.4.1](#) and [3.4.2](#).

The Software Application Launch Fails.

After launching a software application as described in Section [3.4.4](#), launching a second run might fail with the following error:

ERROR : Failed to initialize the hardware Invalid target. Use "connect" command to connect to hw_server/TCF agent

The problem is usually fixed by clicking the **Run** button again.

5.3 JTAG Issues

The JTAG Is Not Recognized.

- Ensure that the hardware configuration complies with Section [3.2](#).
- Ensure that only **one** JTAG adapter is active and connected to the hardware. Using an AMD JTAG Programmer and the built-in JTAG via FTDI simultaneously will not work. Refer to the Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual [3] for details regarding the built-in JTAG functionality.
- Ensure that the device is powered when trying to connect via JTAG.

5.4 UART Connection Issues

The COM Ports Are Not Recognized.

- Ensure that the USB cable is properly connected to the Micro-USB connector on the Mars ST3 base board
- Ensure that the FTDI VCP drivers are installed properly.
- (Windows OS only) Ensure that VCP is enabled:
 1. Open the Windows **Device Manager**.
 2. Under **Universal Serial Bus Controllers**, right-click **USB Serial Converter A** and select **Properties**.
 3. In the **Advanced** tab, activate the **Load VCP** checkbox.
 4. Disconnect and reconnect the Micro-USB cable.
 5. After a refresh of the **Device Manager**, two new COM ports should appear in the **Ports (COM & LPT)** section.

There Is No Output in the Serial Terminal.

- (Windows OS only) Ensure that no instance of the Enclustra MCT [4] is running. If MCT is open:
 1. Close MCT.
 2. Disconnect and reconnect the Micro-USB cable.
 3. Reopen the serial terminal.

There Are Unexpected Characters in the Serial Terminal Output.

Ensure that the serial terminal settings comply with Table 3.

5.5 QSPI Issues

The QSPI Programming Fails.

- Try any of the other methods described in Section 4.2.1.
- Use an SD card image containing a Linux system to program the QSPI flash:
 1. Prepare the SD card image as described in the Enclustra Linux documentation [16].
 2. Create a folder named `QSPI` on the FAT32 partition of the SD card.
 3. Copy the `BOOT.BIN` created in Section 4.1 to the `QSPI` folder.
 4. Boot the system from the SD card as described in Section 2.1.3.
 5. Stop the boot process in u-boot by pressing any key during the 3s countdown.
 6. Program the QSPI flash using the following commands:

```
sf probe
sf erase 0x0 0x4000000
fatload mmc 1:1 0x2000000 QSPI/BOOT.BIN
sf write 0x2000000 0x0 $filesize
```

The QSPI Boot Fails.

Ensure that the hardware setup complies with Section 4.2.2.

5.6 eMMC Issues

The eMMC Programming Fails.

Try any of the other methods described in Section 4.4.1.

5.6.1 The eMMC Boot Fails.

Ensure that the hardware setup complies with Section [4.4.2](#).

5.7 MCT Issues

The Module Enumeration Fails.

1. Disconnect all USB cables.
2. Ensure that all tools are closed that may be connected to the FTDI (Vivado Hardware Manager, Vitis, any serial terminal).
3. Ensure that no leftover instances of the hw_server process are running using the Windows task manager.
4. Configure the DIP switches according to Section [3.2](#).
5. Reconnect the USB cable.
6. Ensure that VCP is enabled as described in Section [5.4](#).
7. Click **Enumerate** again.

If enumeration is still unsuccessful, select **Settings > Enable Diagnostic Logging**. Click **Enumerate** and send the log file to the Enclustra Support Channel [\[1\]](#) for further analysis.

List of Figures

1	Hardware block diagram	7
2	Mars ST3 Base Board Assembly Drawing (Top View)	12
3	Example of the Terminal Output for the HelloWorld Application	15
4	Example Dialog Vitis Program Flash Memory (QSPI)	17
5	Example Dialog Vivado Configuration Memory (QSPI)	18
6	Example of the Terminal Output	19
7	Vitis Program Flash Memory (eMMC)	20
8	Vivado Configuration Memory (eMMC)	21

List of Tables

1	Directory Structure	5
2	Path Variables	5
3	UART configuration	8
4	PS GTR Configuration	9
5	PL Blinking LED Configuration	10
6	PL AXI GPIO Configuration	10
7	Vivado Programming Files	14
8	Vitis Platform Output	15
9	Vitis Application Build Output	15
10	Boot Image	16

References

- [1] Enclustra Support Channel
support@enclustra.com
- [2] Mars XU3 SoC Module User Manual
<https://www.enclustra.com/ma-xu3-user-manual>
- [3] Mars ST3 Base Board User Manual
<https://www.enclustra.com/ma-st3-user-manual>
- [4] Enclustra Module Configuration Tool (MCT)
<https://www.enclustra.com/module-configuration-tool>
- [5] Mars XU3 ST3 Reference Design Releases
https://github.com/enclustra/Mars_XU3_ST3_Reference_Design/releases
- [6] Enclustra Application Notes
<https://github.com/enclustra/I2CAppNote>
<https://github.com/enclustra/GigabitEthernetAppNote>
- [7] Mars XU3 SoC Module Known Issues and Changes
<https://www.enclustra.com/ma-xu3-known-issues-and-changes>
- [8] Mars ST3 Base Board Known Issues and Changes
<https://www.enclustra.com/ma-st3-known-issues-and-changes>
- [9] Vivado Design Suite User Guide, UG910, AMD Xilinx, 2024
<https://docs.amd.com/r/en-US/ug910-vivado-getting-started>
- [10] Vivado Design Suite User Guide: Release Notes, Installation, and Licensing, UG973, AMD Xilinx, 2024
<https://docs.amd.com/r/en-US/ug973-vivado-release-notes-install-license/Release-Notes>
- [11] Vitis Unified Software Platform, UG1416, AMD Xilinx, 2024
<https://docs.amd.com/v/u/en-US/ug1416-vitis-documentation>
- [12] Embedded Design Tutorials
<https://github.com/Xilinx/Embedded-Design-Tutorials/tree/master>
- [13] Zynq UltraScale+ Device Technical Reference Manual, UG1085, AMD Xilinx, 2023
<https://docs.amd.com/r/en-US/ug1085-zynq-ultrascale-trm>
- [14] Zynq UltraScale+ MPSoC Data Sheet: DC and AC Switching Characteristics, DS925, AMD Xilinx, 2024
<https://docs.amd.com/r/en-US/ds925-zynq-ultrascale-plus>
- [15] Zynq UltraScale+ MPSoC Embedded Design Tutorial, UG1209, AMD Xilinx, 2024
<https://docs.amd.com/v/u/en-US/ug1209-embedded-design-tutorial>
- [16] Enclustra Linux Documentation
<https://github.com/enclustra/meta-enclustra-amd>