

41 FlexRay™ Protocol Controller (E-Ray)

The E-Ray IP-module performs communication according to the FlexRay™ ¹⁾ protocol specification v2.1, developed for automotive applications. With maximum specified clock the bitrate can be programmed to values up to 10 Mbit/s. Additional bus driver (BD) hardware is required for connection to the physical layer.

41.1 Feature List

The E-Ray IP-module supports the following features:

- Conformance with FlexRay™ protocol specification v2.1
- Data rates of up to 10 Mbit/s on each channel
- Up to 128 Message Buffers configurable
- 8 Kbyte of Message RAM for storage of e.g. 128 Message Buffers with max. 48 byte data field or up to 30 Message Buffers with 254 byte Data Sections
- Configuration of Message Buffers with different payload lengths possible
- One configurable receive FIFO
- Each Message Buffer can be configured as receive buffer, as transmit buffer or as part of the receive FIFO
- Host access to Message Buffers via Input and Output Buffer.
Input Buffer: Holds message to be transferred to the Message RAM
Output Buffer: Holds message read from the Message RAM
- Filtering for slot counter, cycle counter, and channel
- Maskable module service requests
- Network Management supported
- Four service request lines
- Automatic delayed read access to Output Command Request Register (OBCR) if a data transfer from Message RAM to Output Shadow Buffer (initiated by a previous write access to the OBCR) is ongoing.
- Automatic delayed read access to Input Command Request Register (IBCR) if a data transfer from Input Shadow Buffer to Message RAM to (initiated by a previous write access to the IBCR) is ongoing.
- Four Input Buffer for building up transmission Frames in parallel.
- Flag indicating which Input Buffer is currently accessible by the host.

41.2 Overview

For communication on a FlexRay™ network, individual Message Buffers with up to 254 data byte are configurable. The message storage consists of a single-ported Message RAM that holds up to 128 Message Buffers. All functions concerning the handling of messages are implemented in the Message Handler. Those functions are the acceptance filtering, the transfer of messages between the two FlexRay™ Channel Protocol Controllers and the Message RAM, maintaining the transmission schedule as well as providing message status information.

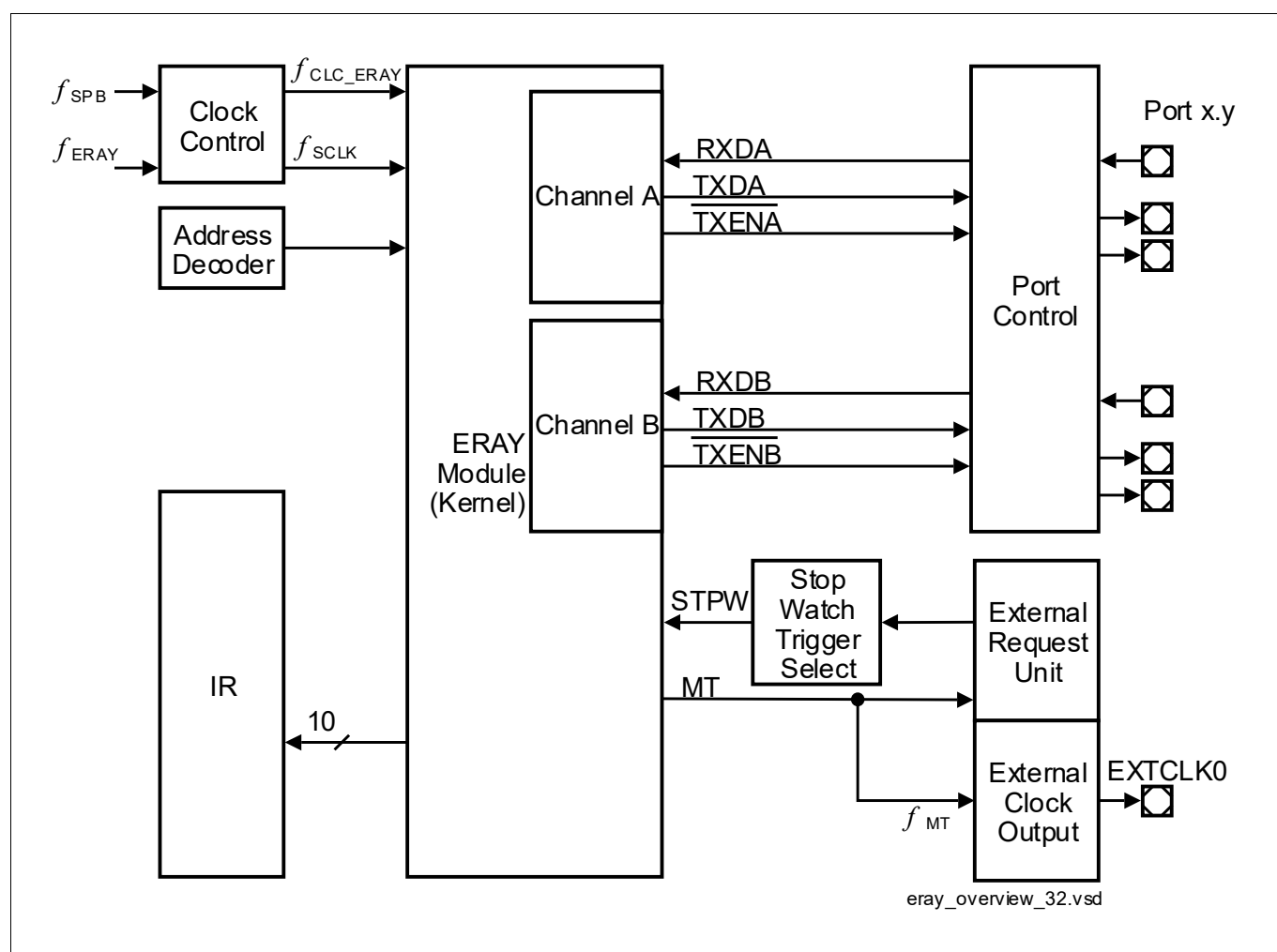
The register set of the E-Ray IP-module can be accessed directly by an external Host via the module's Host interface. These registers are used to control/configure/monitor the FlexRay™ Channel Protocol Controllers, Message Handler, Global Time Unit, System Universal Control, Frame and Symbol Processing, Network Management, Service Request Control, and to access the Message RAM via Input / Output Buffer.

41.2.1 E-Ray Kernel Description

Figure below shows a global view of the E-Ray interface.

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**Figure 606 General Block Diagram of the E-Ray Interface**

The E-Ray module communicates with the external world via three I/O lines each channel. The \overline{RXDAx} and \overline{RXDBx} lines are the receive data input signals, \overline{TXDA} and \overline{TXDB} lines are the transmit output signals, \overline{TXENA} and \overline{TXENB} the transmit enable signals.

Clock control, address decoding, and service request control are managed outside the E-Ray module kernel.

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41.2.2 Block Diagram

The E-Ray is built up by the following main submodules:

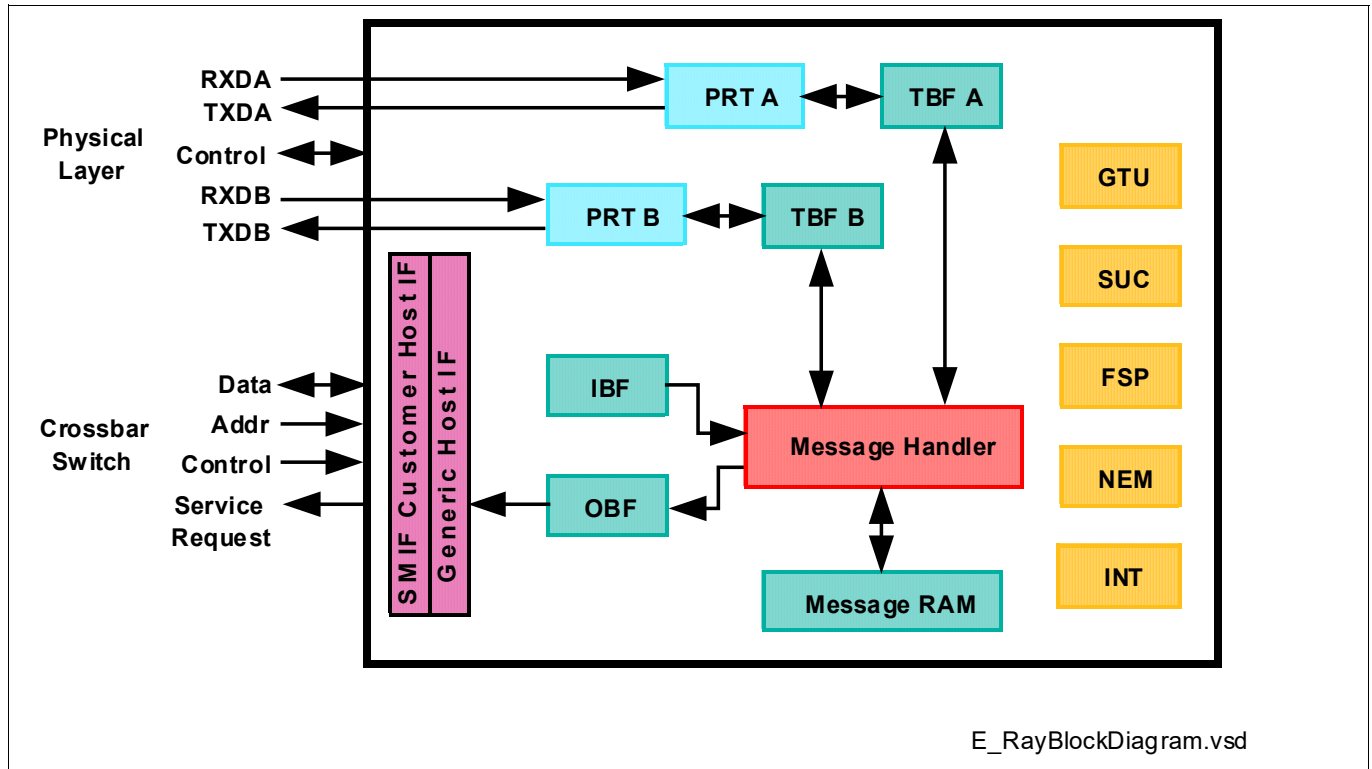


Figure 607 E-Ray Block Diagram

Customer Host Interface (CIF)

Connects the FPI Bus to the E-Ray IP-module via the Generic Host Interface.

Generic Host Interface (GIF)

The E-Ray IP-module is provided with an 8/16/32-bit Generic Host Interface prepared for the connection to a wide range of customer-specific Hosts. Configuration registers, status registers, and service request registers are attached to the respective blocks and can be accessed via the Generic Host Interface.

Input Buffer (IBF)

For write access to the Message Buffers configured in the Message RAM, the Host can write the Header and Data Section for a specific Message Buffer to the Input Buffer. The Message Handler then transfers the data from the Input Buffer to the selected Message Buffer in the Message RAM.

Because the Input Buffer (IBF) Scheme does only allow to write the entire Message Frame, not only parts of it, the number of IBF has been increased from originally 2 to 4. This enables to fill the buffer partly and at the end request transfer into Message RAM. Therefore 2 extra bits allow to switch between the two banks of IBF and one status bit signals the IBF currently active for Host writes.

Output Buffer (OBF)

For read access to a Message Buffer configured in the Message RAM the Message Handler transfers the selected Message Buffer to the Output Buffer. After the transfer has completed, the Host can read the Header and Data Section of the transferred Message Buffer from the Output Buffer.

FlexRay™ Protocol Controller (E-Ray)**Message Handler (MHD)**

The E-Ray Message Handler controls data transfers between the following components:

- Input / Output Buffer and Message RAM
- Transient Buffer RAMs of the two FlexRay™ Protocol Controllers and Message RAM

Message RAM (MRAM)

The Message RAM consists of a single-ported RAM that stores up to 128 FlexRay™ Message Buffers together with the related configuration data (Header and Data Partition).

Transient Buffer RAM (TBF 1/2)

Stores the Data Section of two complete messages.

FlexRay™ Channel Protocol Controller (PRT A/B)

The FlexRay™ Channel Protocol Controllers consist of shift register and FlexRay™ protocol FSM. They are connected to the Transient Buffer RAMs for intermediate message storage and to the physical layer via bus driver BD.

They perform the following functionality:

- Control and check of bit timing
- Reception and transmission of FlexRay™ Frames and symbols
- Check of Header CRC
- Generation / check of Frame CRC
- Interfacing to bus driver

The FlexRay™ Channel Protocol Controllers have interfaces to:

- Physical Layer (bus driver)
- Transient Buffer RAM
- Message Handler
- Global Time Unit
- System Universal Control
- Frame and Symbol Processing
- Network Management
- Service Request Control

Global Time Unit (GTU)

The Global Time Unit performs the following functions:

- Generation of Microtick
- Generation of Macrotick
- Fault tolerant clock synchronization by FTM algorithm
 - Rate correction
 - Offset correction
- Cycle counter
- Timing control of static segment
- Timing control of dynamic segment (minislotting)
- Support of external clock correction

FlexRay™ Protocol Controller (E-Ray)**System Universal Control (SUC)**

The System Universal Control controls the following functions:

- Configuration
- Wakeup
- Startup
- Normal Operation
- Passive Operation
- Monitor Mode

Frame and Symbol Processing (FSP)

The Frame and Symbol Processing controls the following functions:

- Checks the correct timing of Frames and symbols
- Tests the syntactical and semantical correctness of received Frames
- Sets the slot status flags

Network Management (NEM)

Handles of the Network Management vector

Service Request Control (INT)

The Service Request Controller performs the following functions:

- Provides error and status service request flags
- Enables and disables service request sources
- Assignment of service request sources to one of the two module service request lines
- Enables and disables module service request lines
- Manages the two service request timers
- Stop watch time capturing