

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERING

**EE400 Summer Practice II
Report**

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Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Description of the Company	5
2.1	Company Name	5
2.2	Company Locations	5
2.2.1	Macunköy Facilities	5
2.2.2	Other Facilities	5
2.3	General Description of the Company	6
2.4	ASELSAN'S Vision & Mission	7
2.4.1	Vision	7
2.4.2	Mission	7
2.5	A Brief History of the Company	8
2.6	The Organizational Chart of the Company	10
3	Orientation and Mandatory Education	11
3.1	Orientation	11
3.2	Mandatory Educations	11
3.2.1	Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Education	11
3.2.2	Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Education	12
4	Electrical & Mechanical Tests at the Environmental Tests Laboratory	13
4.1	ASELSAN 9661 Radio Family	13
4.2	Test Devices	14
4.2.1	Spectrum Analyzer	14
4.2.2	Attenuators	15
4.3	Electrical Configuration/Performance Tests	16
4.3.1	Reference Sensitivity Test	16
4.3.2	Residual Audio Noise Ratio Test	16
4.3.3	RF Output Power Test	17
4.3.4	Electrical Audio Performance Test	18
4.3.5	Modulation Fidelity Test	19
4.4	Tests on ULAK 4.5G Base Station	22
4.4.1	4.5G Macrocell Base Station	22
5	Outer Space Simulations & Tests using TVAC	23
5.1	Thermal Vacuum Chamber (TVAC)	23
5.2	Tests & Simulations Using Thermal Vacuum Chamber (TVAC)	24

6	Research on Components of ULAK 4.5G Base Station	26
6.1	Misidentified Components	26
6.2	Alternate Components	30
7	Conclusion	32
8	References	34

1 Introduction

I performed my summer practice in ASELSAN A.Ş., one of leading defence industry companies in Turkey. My internship lasted 20 days and Pınar Kırıkkanaç, an electronics engineer in ASELSAN was my supervisor and assisted me in my summer practice.

The summer practice started with an orientation program that briefly explains the company and how the works are handled. Following that, mandatory educations like occupational safety and health education is given to the interns by the company. After the educations, inters were sent to their assigned departments and divisions. I joined the HBT Division to perform my summer practice.

In the first half of my internship, I was given time to observe, learn and participate the mechanical and electrical test conducted at our division. Mainly on ASELSAN 9661 Series Radios, I mostly observed and participated on the electrical and environmental tests of the equipments produced at the Communication & Information Technologies Vice Presidency, known as HBT.

In the second part of my internship, I was given time to observe the work done behind the testing, in other words process design and management. In this part of my internship, I participated on documentation and research activities for the ULAK Base station of the ASELSAN. Since the work done at this stage can be mostly considered as classified information, I will mention the basics of what I have done in this part.

In this, report, I will start with an introduction, that covers what was done in my summer practice. Then, I will continue with a company description section in which the general description about ASELSAN is given. Following this section, I will continue with the tests I participated. Then, I will give brief information about thermal vacuum chambers and how it was used. Furthermore, I will give brief information about research I have done on components of ULAK base station. Lastly, I will finish the report with an conclusion part.

2 Description of the Company

In this chapter, I will introduce the company in five main parts:

2.1 Company Name

ASELSAN A.Ş. or **ASKERİ ELEKTRONİK SANAYİ A.Ş.**

2.2 Company Locations

ASELSAN has six campuses in Turkey, one of them being in Istanbul, other campuses are located at Ankara. Throughout my summer practice, I spent my time at **Macunköy** Facilities .

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2.2.1 Macunköy Facilities

Macunköy Facilities was established on an area of total 186.000 m², 110.000 m² of which is the closed area. **General Directorate, SST Group, UGES Group** and parts of **HBT** and **REHİS** Groups are at Aselsan Macunköy Facilities.

2.2.2 Other Facilities

- Akyurt Facilities (**MGEO** Group)
- Gölbaşı Facilities (**REHİS** Group)
- ODTÜ TEKNOKENT (SATGEB Building) (Part of **HBT** Group)
- ODTÜ TEKNOKENT (TİTANYUM Building) (Part of **HBT** Group)
- İstanbul Facilities (Part of **SST** Group)

2.3 General Description of the Company

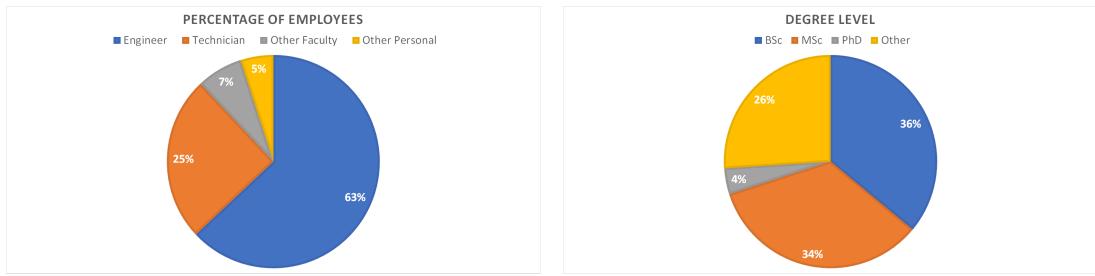
ASELSAN is a company of Turkish Armed Forces Foundation, established in 1975 after Cyprus Peace Operation in order to meet the communication needs of the Turkish Armed Forces by national means. Currently 74,20% of the shares are owned by the Foundation whereas the remaining 25,70% runs in İstanbul Borsa stock market.

As one of the largest defence industry companies of Turkey, ASELSAN's product portfolio includes communication and information technologies, radar and electronic warfare, electro-optics, avionics, unmanned systems, land, naval and weapon systems, air defence and missile systems, command and control systems, transportation, security, traffic, automation and medical systems[6] as can be seen from the *Figure 1*.



Figure 1: Business Fields of ASELSAN

In 2018, ASELSAN is listed as 55th biggest defense company worldwide in DefenseNews' Top 100 list[1]. And as of July 2018, ASELSAN has 5364 employees. 63% of them being engineer exact distribution of the employees can be seen at *Figure 2a*, while the academic distribution of the working engineers can be seen at *Figure 2b*.



(a) Distribution of the Employees

(b) Degree Levels of the Engineers

Figure 2: Statistics about ASELSAN Employees

2.4 ASELSAN'S Vision & Mission

2.4.1 Vision

To be a reliable, competitively preferred, environment-friendly and human conscious technology firm which preserves its sustainable growth in the global market via the values created for stakeholders, as well as serving its establishment purposes[6].

2.4.2 Mission

By focusing primarily on the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces; to provide high-value-added, innovative and reliable products and solutions to both local and foreign customers in the fields of electronic technologies and system integration; continuing activities in line with global targets as well as increasing brand awareness and contributing to the technological independence of Turkey[6].

2.5 A Brief History of the Company

- **1978** : The first premises in Macunköy Facility were completed and the manufacturing operation started.
- **1980** : The first manpack and tank wireless radios were delivered to the Turkish Armed Forces.
- **1983** : The first export was realized.
- **1982-1985** : New products such as Field Telephones, Computer Controlled Central Systems and Laser Distance Measurement Appliances were included in the inventory.
- **1987** : ASELSAN was included in a common project attended by 4 NATO countries for the manufacturing of Stinger Missile and started the required investment for the thick film hybrid circuit production.
- **1988** : ASELSAN produced the first avionic appliance for the F-16 program.
- **1989** : The first technology transfer to Pakistan was realized. Wireless radio production was started with ASELSAN license in NTRC facilities in Pakistan.
- **1990** : On date 21.05.1990, the ASELSAN shares were offered to the public and as of date 01.08.1990, the shares were started to be traded in IMKB (İstanbul Stock Exchange)
- **1992** : The Radar systems were included in the ASELSAN product range.
- **1996** : The TASMUS agreement was executed.
- **1997** : ASELSAN 1919 Mobile Phone was launched to the market.
- **1998** : Thermal cameras, thermal weapon sight and thermal vision devices with target coordination addressing devices were submitted to the use of Turkish Armed Forces.
- **1999** : Agreements for Air Defence Early Warning and Command Control System, MILSIS Electronic Warfare and X-Band Satellite Communication System were executed.
- **2001** : ASELSAN took over 72% of the shares of ASELSAN MİKES A.Ş.

- **2002** : The equity capital of the company increased two and a half times compared to the previous year and reached the level of approximately one fourth of the aggregate resources.
- **2005** : HEWS, Helicopter Laser Warning Receiver system (LIAS) Project and Turkish Land Forces Avionic System Modernization Project was executed.
- **2007** : The construction of ASELSAN Integration Hall Building was completed and settlement activities were realized.
- **2007** : MILGEM war system supply project was executed.
- **2008** : ATAK agreement and Multi Band Digital Common Wireless Radio (CBSMT) Project were executed and ASELSAN delivered the first originally developed Air Defense Radar.
- **2009** : In 2009, four Research and Development Centrals were established, Leopard-1 Tank modernization was completed, MILGEM Warfare System 2nd Vessel Project, Ammunition Transfer system Project for Self-Propelled Howitzer (Fırtına- Storm) Ammunition vehicle and SAR / Reconnaissance System Supply Integration Project were executed.
- **2012** : Turkey's first national Air Defense System "Pedestal Mounted Stinger System" which has been designed and produced by ASELSAN, and whose delivery took nearly 23 years, last 5 pieces has been delivered to Turkish Armed Forces.
- **2013** : ASELSAN has continued its climb for the aim of being one of the top 50 defense companies, and ranked 74th according to annual sales.
- **2013** : ASELSAN was the company who has participated most at the 11th International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF 2013).

2.6 The Organizational Chart of the Company

The organizational chart of ASELSAN can be seen in *Figure 3*.

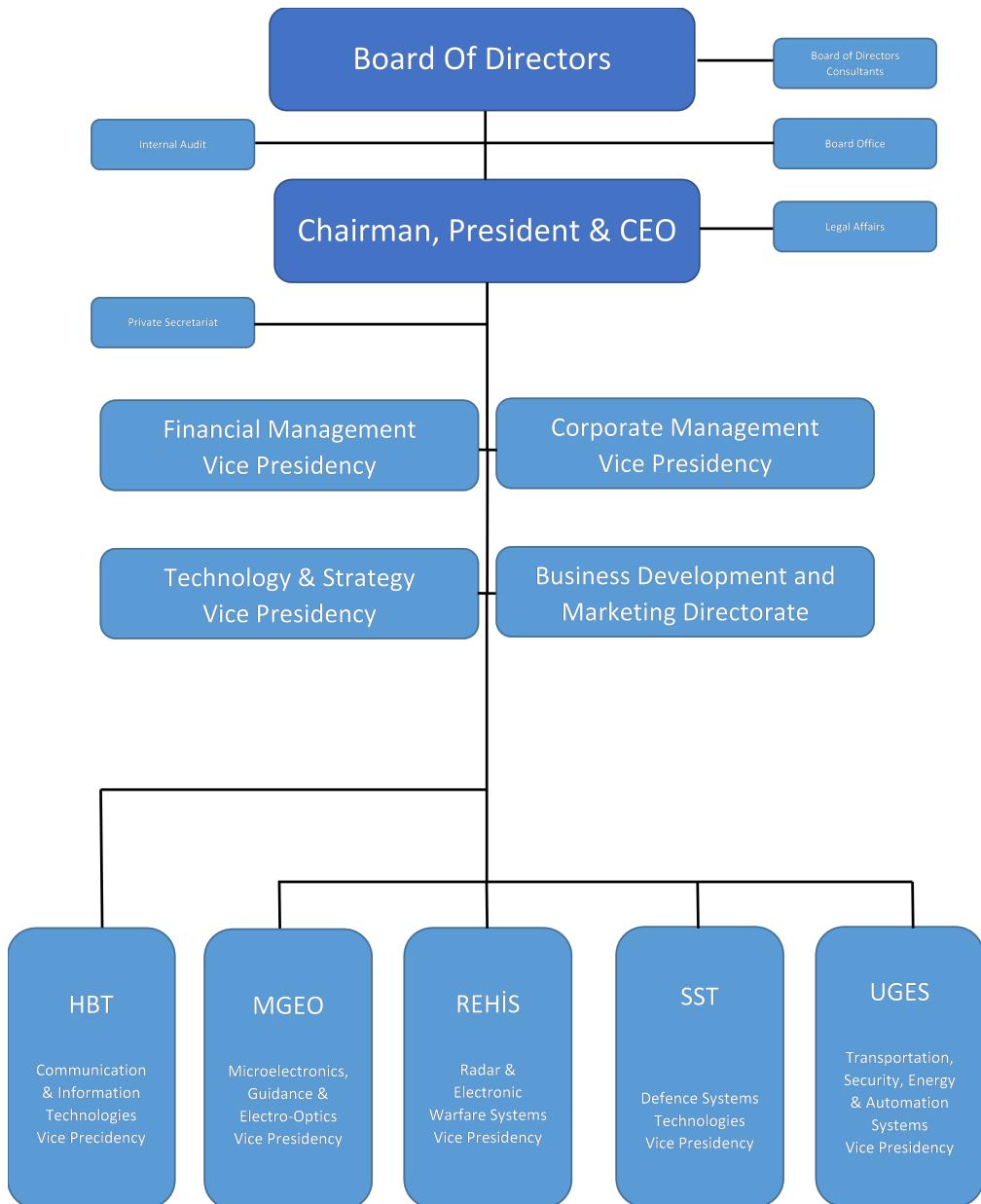


Figure 3: The Organizational Chart of ASELSAN

3 Orientation and Mandatory Education

3.1 Orientation

My summer practice at ASELSAN started with an orientation program. The program lasted about one day mainly focused on the company and the work done there. Chapter 2 mostly summaries what was covered in the orientation. After the orientation, we were given necessary mandatory educations in order to be allowed to work inside the ASELSAN facilities.

3.2 Mandatory Educations

As required by the 4857/77 numbered law, all employers in the Republic of Turkey is obligated to train their employees in order to prevent the unnecessary work related accidents. In ASELSAN, we were given obligatory Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Education and Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Education to be able to work in the ASELSAN facilities safely.

3.2.1 Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Education

Electrostatic discharge (ESD) is the sudden flow of electricity between two electrically charged objects caused by contact, an electrical short, or dielectric breakdown. A buildup of static electricity can be caused by tribocharging or by electrostatic induction. The ESD occurs when differently-charged objects are brought close together or when the dielectric between them breaks down, often creating a visible spark [17].

A very casual example of electrostatic discharge can be given as lighting. However, not all ESD events are not as loudly or large-scale as lightning. The less dramatic forms may be neither seen nor heard, but they can still be large enough to cause damage to sensitive electronic devices.

ESD can cause harmful effects of importance in industry, including explosions in gas, fuel vapor and coal dust, as well as failure of solid state electronics components such as integrated circuits. In order to prevent this unwanted side effects of ESD, companies such as ASELSAN prefers to train their workers not just for their employee's health but also protect their product lines.

3.2.2 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Education

ASELSAN as a company in Turkey is required to satisfy the conditions determined by the 6331 number Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Education Law.

Occupational safety and health (OSH), also commonly referred to as occupational health and safety (OHS), is a multidisciplinary field concerned with the safety, health, and welfare of people at work. These terms also refer to the goals of this field, so their use in the sense of this article was originally an abbreviation of occupational safety and health program/department etc[18].

Occupational safety and health programs aims to foster a safe and healthy work environment. OSH may also protect co-workers, family members, employers, customers, and many others who might be affected by the workplace environment.

Just in 2014, 221.336 worker had an work accident inn Turkey and 494 of them suffered from work related diseases. 1.626 workers died due to this accidents according to ÇSGB[4]. The importance of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Educations comes from the fact that these deaths can be prevented if the necessary precautions are taken.

4 Electrical & Mechanical Tests at the Environmental Tests Laboratory

I have performed my summer practice in the Test & Process Design Department of the **HBT** Division. In my first days I was assigned to observe and participate the tests conducted at the Environmental Test Laboratory. The test conducted there was mainly on ASELSAN 9661 Series Radios as well as other radio handsets and base stations. I mainly observed the these tests and participated in them as much as I could. I also observed and took part in the test about ASELSAN'S base station named ULAK.

In this section, I will explain electrical and mechanical tests conducted at Environmental Tests Laboratory. However, before getting into the details for the tests, I will give brief information about the 9661 radio family.

4.1 ASELSAN 9661 Radio Family

The 9661 HF Radios are a software defined radio covering the HF 1.6-30MHz band. Software inside the radio supports various radio waveforms and EPM techniques. Beyond line of sight communication is made possible based on the HF technology via use of NATO STANAGs and Military Standards[7].



Figure 4: ASELSAN 9661 Radio Series[7]

While voice and data can be transmitted over a pre-set fixed frequency, it is also possible to employ an Automatic Channel Selection mechanism which determines the usable frequency for communication.

9661 HF Radio family has three configurations for Manpack, Vehicle and Fixed Station usage. 20W can be used for Manpack and Vehicle configurations and 150 W can be used for Vehicle and Fixed Station configurations. The product line can be seen at *Figure 4*. As I spent my time at the laboratory, the test I observed were for the 100 W Vehicular/Base Station models.

4.2 Test Devices

Before going into details about some of the tests conducted at the laboratory, I will also give brief explanation about the devices used while tests were conducted. General test devices used can be seen at *Figure 5*.

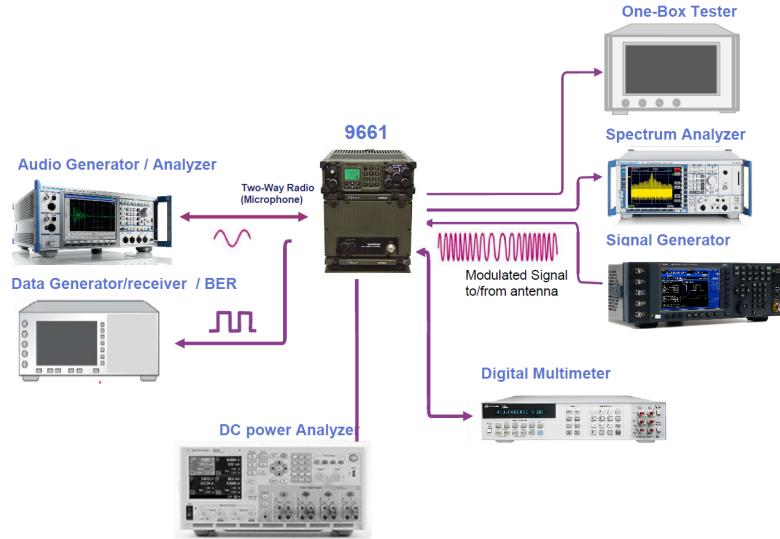


Figure 5: General Test Devices [7, 9, 10, 11]

4.2.1 Spectrum Analyzer

Spectrum analyzer was one of the most unfamiliar devices for me during the test processes. Thus, I would like to give some information about the device itself.

A spectrum analyzer measures the magnitude of an input signal versus frequency within the full frequency range of the instrument. The primary use is to measure the power of the spectrum of known and unknown signals. The input signal that a spectrum analyzer measures is electrical; however, spectral compositions of other signals, such as acoustic pressure waves and optical light waves, can be considered through the use of an appropriate transducer.

By analyzing the spectra of electrical signals, dominant frequency, power, distortion, harmonics, bandwidth, and other spectral components of a signal can be observed that are not easily detectable in time domain waveforms. These parameters are useful in the characterization of electronic devices, such as wireless transmitters.

The display of a spectrum analyzer has frequency on the horizontal axis and the amplitude displayed on the vertical axis. To the casual observer, a spectrum analyzer looks like an oscilloscope and, in fact, some lab instruments can function either as an oscilloscope or a spectrum analyzer. An example for the analyzer can also be seen at *Figure 5*.

4.2.2 Attenuators

RF attenuators are a universal building block within the RF design arena. RF attenuators can be fixed, switched or even continuously variable.

Dependent upon their type, they can be designed using just resistors, they may need a switch, either mechanical or solid state, or they may use diodes to make them continuously variable over a given range.

As the name implies RF attenuators reduce the level of the signal, i.e. they attenuate the signal.



Figure 6: Some Attenuator Examples

This attenuation may be required to protect a circuit stage from receiving a signal level that is too high. Also an attenuator may be used to provide an accurate impedance match as most fixed attenuators offer a well-defined impedance, or attenuators may be used in a variety of areas where signal levels need to be controlled.

4.3 Electrical Configuration/Performance Tests

As I spent my time at laboratory, I witnessed many steps of finalized product test, environmental tests and so on. In this section, I will mention some of these electrical tests in more detail. These tests were actually standardized by the TIA (Telecommunications Industry Association) in TIA/EIA 102 or more commonly known as Project 25.

4.3.1 Reference Sensitivity Test

The Reference sensitivity is the level of receiver input signal at a specified frequency with specified modulation that will result in the standard BER (Bit Error Rate) at the receiver detector according to TIA Standard called Project 25 [12].

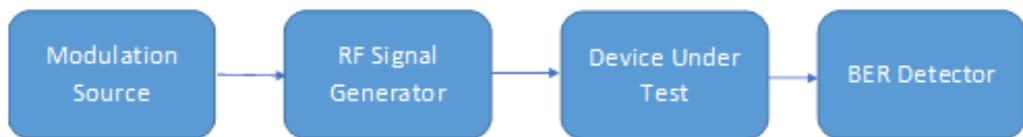


Figure 7: Reference Sensitivity Test System Diagram

To measure the reference sensitivity, test set-up at the *Figure 7* must be established. After adjusting the input level to achieve standard bit error rate at the output when measured at least a 250 ms time interval, the reference sensitivity will be the signal level at the RF Signal Generator.

4.3.2 Residual Audio Noise Ratio Test

The audio output distortion is the voltage ratio, usually expressed as a percentage of the rms value of the undesired signal to the rms value of the complete signal, at the output of the receiver according to Project 25 Standard[12].

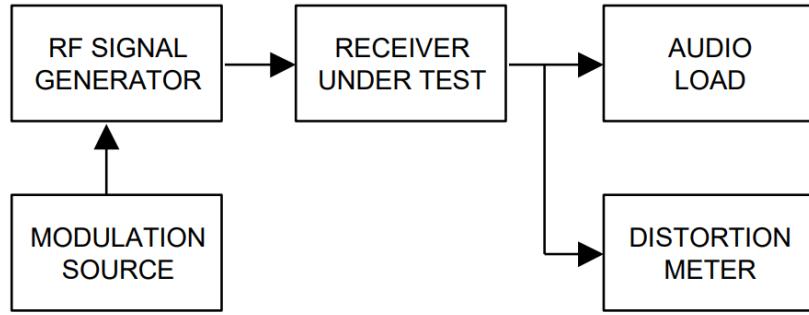


Figure 8: Residual Audio Noise Ratio Test System Diagram

To measure the residual audio noise ratio, test set-up at the *Figure 8* must be established. Firstly, while applying a standard input signal at the standard input signal level to the receiver input terminals, the receiver for rated audio frequency output power should be adjusted. Then, the audio output level is recorded as V_{Ref} .

After doing so, the input signal should be changed to the standard silence test pattern, in other words no signal should be supplied to the test system. The audio output level at this scenario is recorded as V_S .

Lastly, the signal generator is removed to mute the receiver and measure the receiver audio output. This audio level is recorded as V_{Mute} . The residual audio noise ratio can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Residual Audio Noise Ratio (Silence)} = 20 \log_{10}\left(\frac{V_{Ref}}{V_S}\right)$$

$$\text{Residual Audio Noise Power (Mute)} = 10 \log_{10}(1000 \frac{V_{Mute}^2}{R_{Load}})$$

4.3.3 RF Output Power Test

The RF output power of a transmitter is the power available at the output terminals of the transmitter when the output terminals are connected to the standard transmitter load according to Project 25 Standard[12].

To measure the RF output power, test set-up at the *Figure 9* must be established

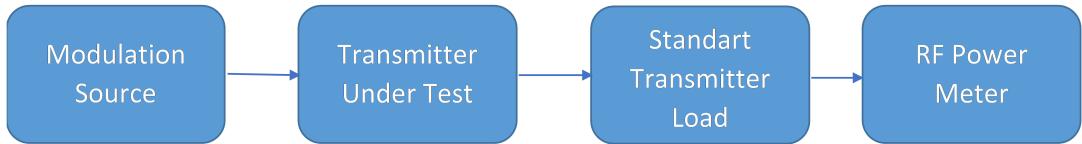


Figure 9: RF Output Power Test System Diagram

4.3.4 Electrical Audio Performance Test

The electrical audio performance is the degree of closeness to which the audio path of the transmitter follows a prescribed characteristic according to Project 25 Standart[12].

To measure the RF output power, test set-up at the *Figure 10* must be established

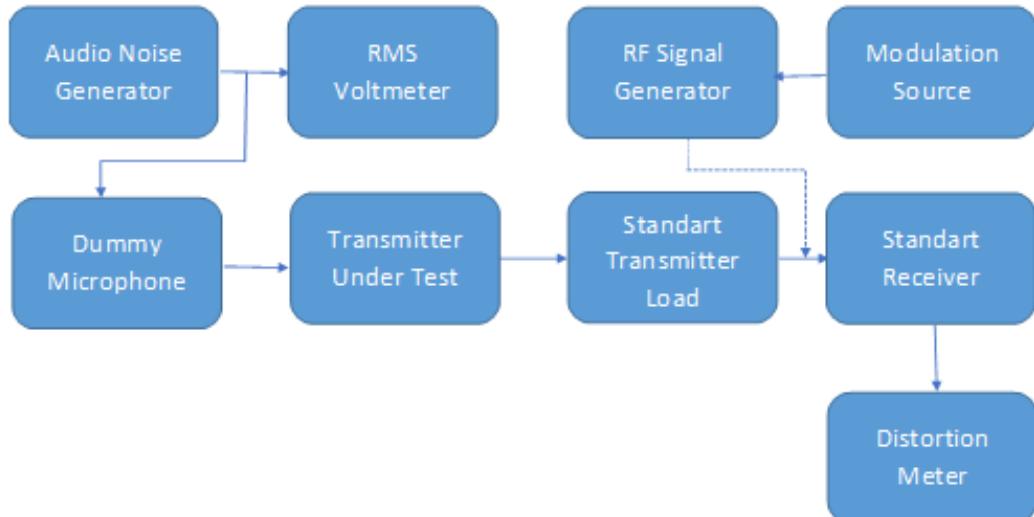


Figure 10: Electrical Audio Performance Test System Diagram

4.3.5 Modulation Fidelity Test

Modulation fidelity is defined as the degree of closeness to which the modulation follows the desired ideal theoretical modulation by the P25(TIA/EIA-102) standard[5]. This is a very important measurement for P25 C4FM modulation as it is an indication of the quality of the signal being transmitted by the radio. Before going into the details of the modulation fidelity measurement, I will briefly explain the type of modulation that this measurement analyses.

C4FM Modulation

P25 uses a type of modulation called C4FM, which is an acronym for “compatible 4 level frequency modulation”[5]. Basically, it is a special type of 4FSK modulation developed for the TIA/EIA-102 standard. P25 uses this type of modulation to transmit digital information in the form of digital “1’s” and “0’s”. 4FSK uses four different frequency “states” or “deviation points” to indicate a “symbol”. This symbol then equates to 2 bits of data as one of the four frequency shifts. The frequency shifts that correspond to each 2 bits of data are shown in *Table 1*.

Table 1: P25 C4FM Frequency Deviation States

Bits	Symbols	C4FM Deviation
00	+3	+0.6 kHz
01	+1	+1.8 kHz
10	-1	-0.6 kHz
11	-3	-1.8 kHz

This information is sent at the “symbol rate”. For P25, this symbol rate is transmitted 4800 times per second. This results with a bit rate of 9600 bits per second.

As part of modulation fidelity, it is desired to measure the deviation of each of the symbols that the radio under test generates and compare them with the ideal four deviation points indicated in *Table 1*. This measurement will actually result in producing three important values that together will be indicators of the modulation fidelity of the radio under test.

Frequency Error

The first value that we can calculate from the measured deviation of each of the symbols is the frequency error. Frequency error in this measurement refers to RF carrier frequency error.

To understand, the relationship between the four frequency deviations used in C4FM and RF carrier frequency error can be thought. A carrier frequency error would tend to shift all four of the deviations by the same amount. A positive frequency error would move all four of the deviation points in the positive direction. For convince, a real world scenario is used to illustrate the situation. In *Table 2* below, a 100 Hz frequency error might give the following results:

Table 2: Example of a Measured P25 Frequency Deviation States

Bits	Symbols	C4FM Deviation
00	+3	+0.7 kHz
01	+1	+1.9 kHz
10	-1	-0.64 kHz
11	-3	-1.9 kHz

In ideal world, the RF carrier error would shift every symbol by the same frequency amount but in real world, there are other effects that may affect symbol deviation.

To find the frequency error, the average frequency deviation for each of the four symbols should be found, and then the average of these four deviation points should be calculated. For the given example, from the *Table 2*, the average would be:

$$\frac{0.7 + 1.9 - 0.64 - 1.9}{4} = 0.015 \text{ kHz} = 15 \text{ Hz}$$

Deviation

To calculate the deviation, the four average values calculated for each symbol that were also used to find frequency errors are used. By the help of these numbers, *Table 3* can be constructed.

Table 3: P25 C4FM Frequency Deviation Ratio

Info Bits	Ideal Deviations	Average deviation after subtracting out the frequency error	Deviation ratio
00	+0.6 kHz	+0.72 kHz	$\frac{0.7}{0.6} = 1.16$
01	+1.8 kHz	+1.9 kHz	$\frac{1.9}{1.8} = 1.05$
10	-0.6 kHz	-0.64 kHz	$\frac{0.64}{0.6} = 1.06$
11	-1.8 kHz	-1.9 kHz	$\frac{1.9}{1.8} = 1.06$

From the *Table 3*, the deviation for this example can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Average Deviation Ratio} = \frac{1.16 + 1.05 + 1.06 + 1.06}{4} = 1.085$$

For general calculations, let s_K represents the C4FM deviation of the transmitted symbols, and z_K represents the detected signals at t_K sampling instants.

The transmitter can be modelled as

$$z_K = C_O + C_L * (s_K + e_K)$$

where C_O is a constant representing carrier frequency offset, the C_L is another constant called deviation errors that is resulting from gain errors in the transmitter's modulator baseband signal processing. And e_K is called residual deviation error.

The sum-square deviation error is then:

$$\sum_{k=MIN}^{k=MAX} |e_K|^2 = \sum_{k=MIN}^{k=MAX} \left| \frac{z_K - C_O}{C_L} - s_K \right|^2$$

C_O & C_L should be chosen to minimize the sum-square deviation.

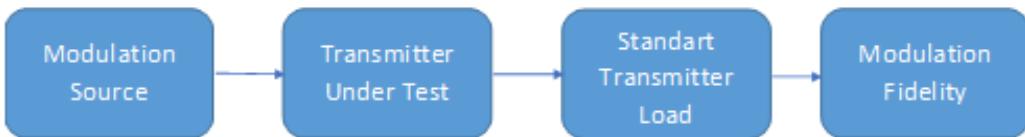


Figure 11: Modulation Fidelity Test System Diagram

For further test, test set-up at *Figure 11* can be used.

4.4 Tests on ULAK 4.5G Base Station

Besides 9661 Series Radios, multiple radio hand-sets and the 4.5G Base Station were tested at Environmental Test Laboratory. Similar electrical tests applied to the 9661 radio series were partially applied to the these base stations. Since I was not able spent enough time on the tests of the base station, I will briefly introduce the base station itself and continue with the preceding section.

4.4.1 4.5G Macrocell Base Station

Based on Release 10 and Release 11 standards published by 3GPP, ULAK Macrocell Base Station is designed to support both Release 12 and Release 13 standards and is designed to work on different frequency bands for use in Commercial or Public Safety networks[8] by ASELSAN A.Ş. and ULAK Haberleşme A.Ş which is owned by SSTEK Defense Industry Technologies and ASELSAN. The base station can be seen at *Figure 12*.

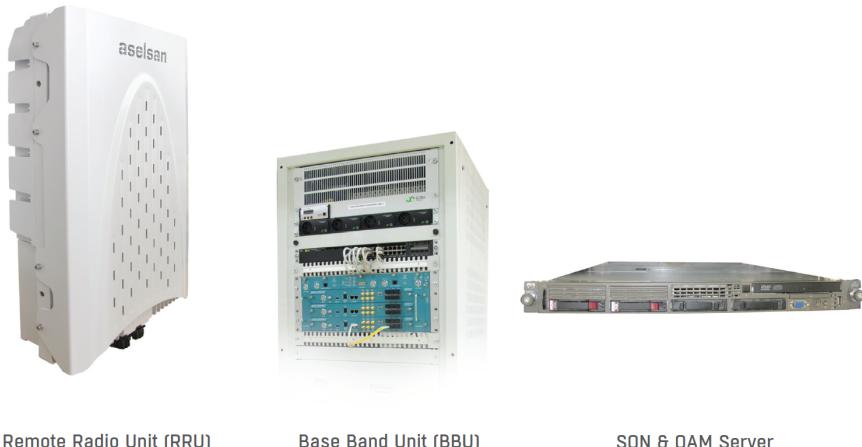


Figure 12: ULAK 4.5G Base Station[8]

5 Outer Space Simulations & Tests using TVAC

As I worked in the Test & Process Design Department, I did not spend my whole time at Environmental Test Laboratory, I also spent some of my time at the Space Simulation Laboratory of the Department. The laboratory was responsible for the outer space test of the electrical components of he TURKSAT 6-A project as I made summer practice. Before going into detail, I will give brief information about the thermal chambers used there.

5.1 Thermal Vacuum Chamber (TVAC)

A vacuum chamber is a rigid enclosure from which air and other gases are removed by a vacuum pump. This results in a low-pressure environment within the chamber, commonly referred to as a vacuum. A vacuum environment allows researchers to conduct physical experiments or to test mechanical devices which must operate in outer space (for example) or for processes such as vacuum drying or vacuum coating. Chambers are typically made of metals which may or may not shield applied external magnetic fields depending on wall thickness, frequency, resistivity, and permeability of the material used. Only some materials are suitable for vacuum use[3].

A type of these vacuum chambers widely used in the spacecraft engineering field is a thermal vacuum chamber, which can simulate the thermal environment at which a spacecraft would be operating in space. In other words, a thermal vacuum chamber is a vacuum chamber in which the radiative thermal environment is controlled. One example for this type of chamber can be seen at *Figure 13* which is used in NASA.

There are two thermal vacuum chambers with different capacities in the ASELSAN HBT Facilities. They are used mainly for the outer space simulation tests of the electronics parts of the TURKSAT 6A Project. The chambers can also be used by other project partners such as TAI and TURKSAT if needed.



Figure 13: An Example Thermal Vacuum Chamber [3]

5.2 Tests & Simulations Using Thermal Vacuum Chamber (TVAC)

To simulate the outer space, the pressure in the chamber must be reduced to 10^{-5} mBar or below to satisfy the requirements for the test. This was done by pulling the oxygen and other major atmospheric gases and pumping liquid nitrogen to the system to push leftover gases. Liquid Nitrogen is also used to reach the required minimum temperature for the test.

According to the device under test's physical properties, two ways are used to reach the desired maximum temperature. One of them is using spacial thermal plates below the device. If the device should not be in contact with directly heat source second method for heating can be used. That is to use the infrared heaters inside the chambers.

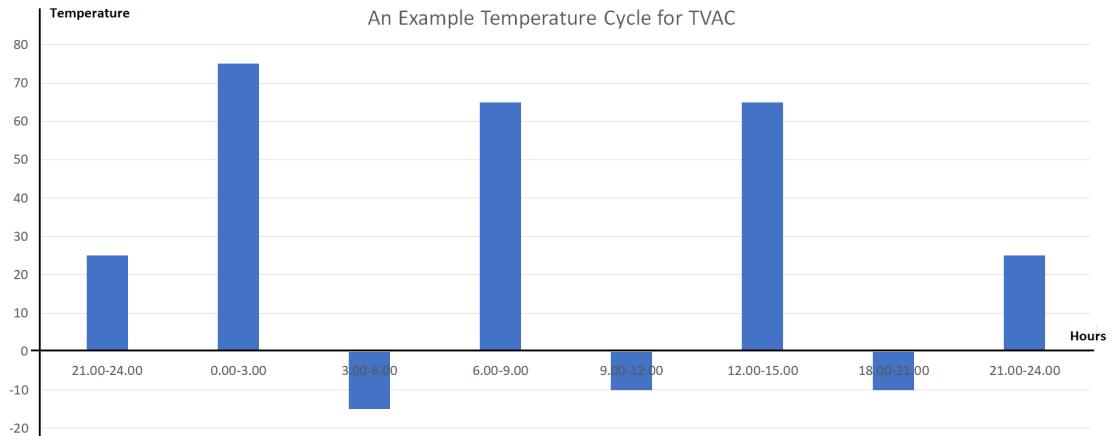


Figure 14: An Example Temperature Cycle

To initialize the test, the atmospheric pressure inside the vacuum is reduced to 10^{-5} mBar or below at room temperature. The device is expected to operate in such pressure levels, therefore, the pressure level is conserved until the last cycle by the PID controller inside the chamber. After the necessary pressure requirements is met, the temperature is set according to the customer's will, in our case customer was TURKSAT A.S. as owner of TURKSAT 6A. An example test cycle for testing the device under test can be seen at *Figure 14*.

Between each temperature change, the temperature inside the chamber is left unchanged up to six hours to ensure the stability of the operation of the device at that temperate. This can be done by taking the necessary measurement with half hours intervals. If the data are consistent with previous, temperature will be changed for next cycle. Unfortunately, I was not allowed the take screenshots for the test results or took pictures of other test steps. Therefore, I will not be able to give further information about this topic.

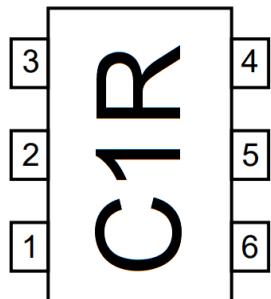
6 Research on Components of ULAk 4.5G Base Station

Mainly on the second half of my internship, I also spent my time at the department itself besides the laboratories. In this part of my summer practice, I was responsible for making research on the components of the ULAk Base Station for possible upgrade for the device. Due to regulations, I will give some examples about the work done at this part of summer practice.

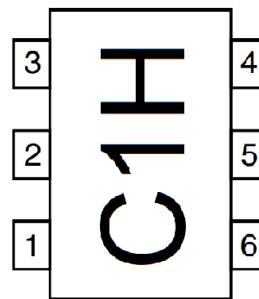
6.1 Misidentified Components

As I spent my time at department itself, I was responsible for two types of component research. One type of these researches was to identify the problem on the newly arrived printed circuit boards for the base station. Since I was not permitted to take the photographs of these components, I will give some details without actual photos for the components.

To give a specific example, I will give detail about one of this problems. In one part of the latest arrived printed circuit boards that is produced by the subcontractor, a very minor variation was not noticed until it came to ASELSAN. When I examine the PCB closely, I noticed the difference in the small IC. On the top of the IC, it was labeled as **C1H** instead of **C1R**. Top views of both of these components can be seen at *Figures 15a and 15b* respectively.



(a) Top View of the 2746TB



(b) Top View of the 2712TB

Figure 15: Top View of the UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB ICs [15, 16]

In the following subsection, I will mention critical differences between these ICs in detail and explain why the circuit was not functioned properly due to this mistake.

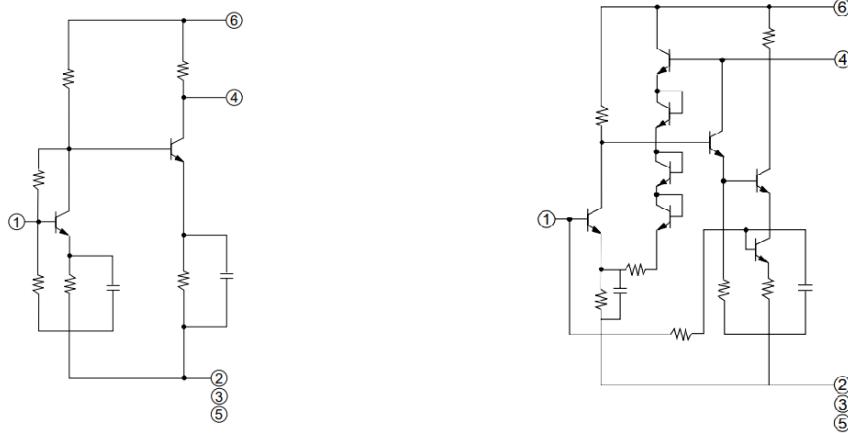
NEC UPC2746TB vs NEC UPC 2712TB

Although both ICs are Silcom MMIC Wideband Amplifiers manufactured using same technologies, UPC2712TB is designed for use as buffer amplifiers in DBS tuners[16] whereas the UPC2746TB is designed for use as buffer amplifiers in mobile communication applications such as Celular ,PCS, Cordless handsets and WLAN transceivers[15]. However, since both ICs are housed in a 6-pin super minimold (SOT-363) package and the pins are functioning exactly the same, it is rather easy making mistakes using one instead of another.

Table 4: Pin Connections for UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB

Pin No	Pin Name	Description
1	Input	Signal input pin
4	Output	Signal output pin
6	V_{CC}	Power supply pin
2&3&5	GND	Ground pin

To examine differences between 2746 & 2712 , internal equivalent circuits for the respected ICs can be seen from the *Figures 16a and 16b*. As mentioned earlier, in both devices, pins are used for similar functions and these functions can be seen at *Table 4*.



(a) Equivalent Circuit of the 2746TB (b) Equivalent Circuit of the 2712TB

Figure 16: Equivalent Circuits for the UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB ICs

Although, in many aspects these amplifiers seems like an alternative to each other, main differences occurs in supply parameters and performance characteristics of these ICs.

Table 5: Absolute Maximum Ratings for UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB

Symbols	Parameters	Units	UPC2746	UPC2712
V_{CC}	Supply Voltage	V	6	4
P_{IN}	Input Power	dBm	+10	0
P_T	Total Power Dissipation	mW	200	200
T_{OP}	Operating Temperature	$^{\circ}C$	-45 to +85	-45 to +85
T_{STG}	Storage Temperature	$^{\circ}C$	-55 to +150	-55 to +150

When the *Tables 5 and 6* are examined, it can be clearly seen that voltage supply values of these components differ each other dramatically. For instance, as the UPC2712 operates perfectly at 5V, the UPC2746 can not even operate since its absolute maximum voltage supply value is 4V as can be seen from the *Table 5*.

Table 6: Recommended Operating Conditions for UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB

<i>Symbol</i>	Parameter	Units	IC	MIN	TYP	MAX
V_{CC}	Supply Voltage	V	UPC2746	2.7	3.0	3.3
			UPC2712	4.5	5.0	5.5
T_{OP}	Operating Temperature	$^{\circ}C$	UPC2746	-40	+25	+85
			UPC2712	-40	+25	+85

Another important difference between these components is about their performance curves ,or in other words, gain vs frequency plots. As can be seen from the *Figures 17a and 17b* respectively, the gains at high frequencies such as 3 GHz differs significantly even though the gain at lower frequencies such as 0.3 GHz are comparable.

For that reasons, it was not possible to use the newly arrived printed circuit boards, and they were returned to the subcontractor.

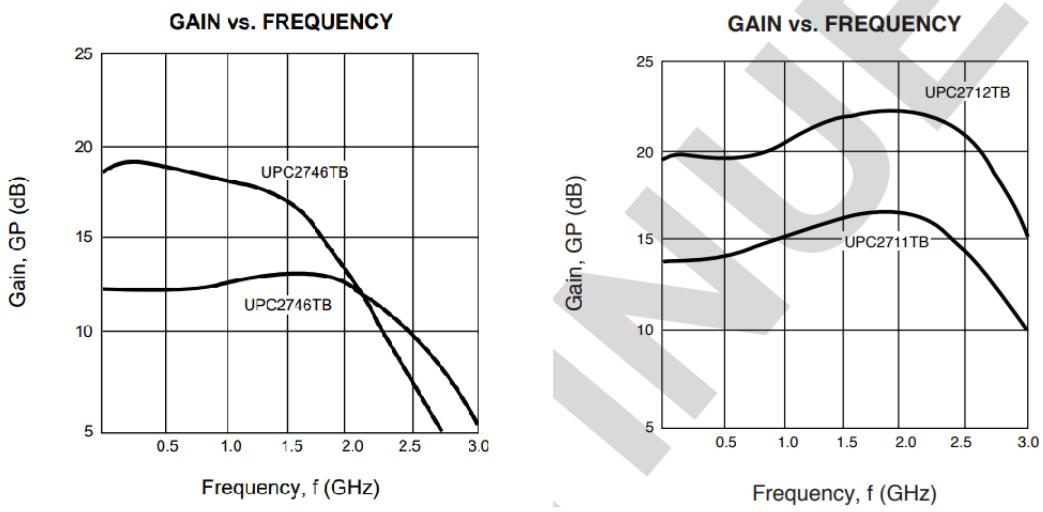


Figure 17: Typical Performance Curves for the UPC2746TB & UPC2712TB ICs

6.2 Alternate Components

As I mentioned earlier, I was responsible for two types of component research at the department itself. One type of these researches was to identify the problem on the newly arrived printed circuit and the second type of these researches was to search and find possible components to replace the existing one. Although these components mostly worked perfectly, they needed to be replaced due to other factors.

In the following subsection, I will give brief detail about one of these possible changes.

Change of Backplane Connector

Due to some supply problems of the backplane connector used to connect the motherboard and the daughter-board of base station, the production of the base station was not at the desired level. For that reasons, I was asked to find a replacement for the connector used.

The connector used was from ERNI ZDplus backplane connector family of ERNI. The connector can be seen at *Figure 19*. Main advantage of these connectors is that they are capable of transferring data over 25 Gbit/s which is more than most of the connector in the market. In my research, I chose my objective to find a connector as fast ZDplus from a company large enough that it can supply the product to ASELSAN without any problem.

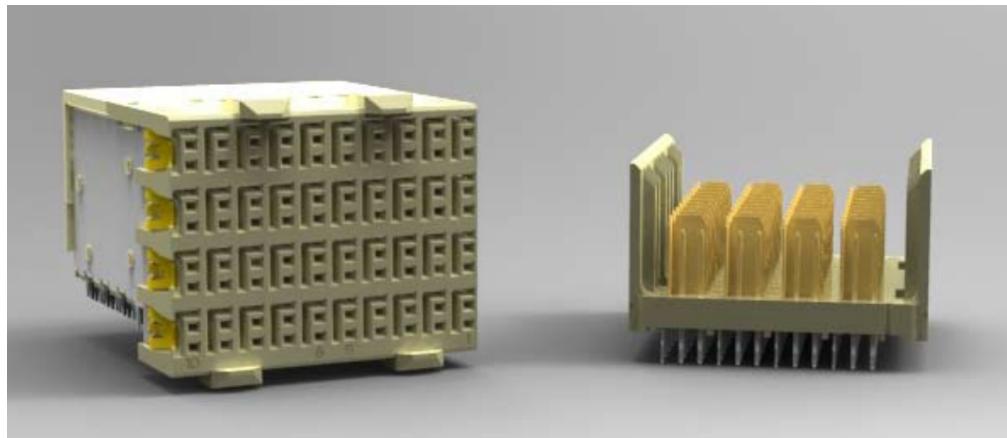


Figure 18: TE Connectivity Z-Pack HM-Zd Plus Backplane Connectors [14]

In my research, I considered the physical similarities for the replacement. By this was, a possible design change in overall product could be prevented. As my research continue, I proposed that The Z-Pack HM-Zd Plus backplane connector family from TE Connectivity is good alternative for the used one. Although HM-Zd was only capable of transferring data with more than 20 Gbit/s, which is a bit lower than the ZDplus, the speed was enough for all the functions of the base station. Moreover the physical similarities could allowed the designers to use the same overall design after possible change. Both of the connectors can be seen at *Figures 18 and 19.*[13] [14]. The only change required after a possible connector change was to enhance the PCB that the connectors were connected. Since, the HM-Zd needs one more soldering row than the ZDplus.

According to my supervisor, the speed advantage of ZDplus could be traded with the supply advantage of HM-Zd since the TE Connectivity was already a supplier of ASELSAN. However, their intention was to wait other minor changes that requires PCB update and change PCB as few times as possible. Thus, I was not able to see the outcomes of my research.

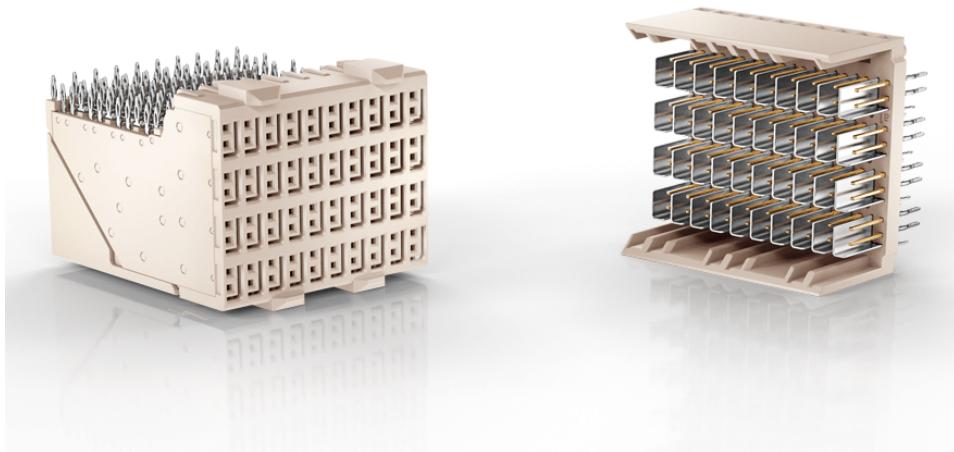


Figure 19: ERNI Ermet ZDplus Backplane Connectors [13]

7 Conclusion

I completed my summer practice in ASELSAN A.Ş.(ASELSAN Electronics Industry and Ticaret A.Ş.) in supervision of Pınar Kırıkkanaç, an electronics engineer in ASELSAN, in Yenimahalle/Ankara. It was quite experiential time for me. Throughout my summer practice, I learned many things about professional work life such as the the importance of test engineers and system engineers.

Firstly, I understood the importance of mandatory educations like occupational safety and health education thanks to given educations by ASELSAN. Thanks to these educations, the dangerous work environments like production bands become safer for workers. Moreover, the undesired work accidents can be prevented by the help of these educations. After the educations, I was sent to my division, where I would performed my summer practice.

In the first half of my internship, I was given time to observe, learn and participate the mechanical and electrical test conducted at our division. Mainly on ASELSAN 9661 Series Radios, I mostly observed and participated on the environmental tests of the equipments produced at the Communication & Information Technologies Vice Presidency, known as HBT. In this part of my internship, I become very familiar with the devices and methodologies used by the test engineers at the company. As I witnessed the development process of devices from the test engineers' perspective, I become more evident that these tests were not conducted just to get necessary licenses to sell the company products but also to help and speed up the development phase of the products by generating a closed-loop feedback system. This closed-loop system allows, design engineers to improve their work by getting necessary inputs from test engineers from their test results.

In the second part of my internship, I have spent my time on research activities for the ULAK Base station of the ASELSAN regarding its components. Due to privacy concerns, I gave two main example for the works that I have done in this part of the report. Firstly, I gave an example about misidentified product that cause malfunction of the device. Secondly, I gave an example in which I found a replacement for a component. The importance of this part of my summer practice is that I had a chance to observe the workload from the design engineers perspective. In this part of my summer practice, I mainly asked to find a solution some problems that needs to be solved, by using previous test results that was obtained by other engineers.

Moreover, I also witnessed the importance of another important engineering discipline namely, system engineering. As the size and complexity of projects increases, the communication between subgroups of the project become more and more important in order to work and produce an outcome efficiently. The internal project management programs used by the employee like *IBM Rational DOORS* and methodologies like **V-Model** helped me understand how a project should be managed.

In this report, I started with an introduction. Then, I continued with a company description section in which the general description about ASELSAN is given. Then, information about the mandatory educations and orientation was given. Following these, I explained some of the tests I participated at Environmental Tests Laboratory. Then, I gave brief information about the thermal vacuum chambers and its usage. Moreover, I explained what I have done at the second part of my summer practice by giving examples. Lastly, I finished the report with an conclusion part.

Finally, I recommend my summer practice company for other students who want to experience the professional work life at ASELSAN.

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