

Getting started with the STEVAL-FCU001V2 flight controller unit evaluation board for mini drones

Introduction

The STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board is designed as a simple platform to develop flight controller unit (FCU) solutions for quadcopters.

A complete sample firmware project (STSW-FCU001) allows you to begin flying small or medium sized quadcopters equipped with DC motors (thanks to four 30 V-9 A on-board MOSFETs), and larger quadcopters with external ESCs (that is, STEVAL-ESC001V1 or STEVAL-ESC002V1).

You can control the board via BLE connectivity (using a smartphone or a tablet) or via an RF receiver module connected to the PWM input port.

The system embeds a high-performance Arm[®] Cortex[®]-M4 microcontroller unit (STM32F401CCU6), an iNEMO inertial module (LSM6DSR), a Bluetooth[®] low energy module (BlueNRG-M0A), power management circuitry that allows fast charge of the battery (STC4054), and four STL10N3LLH5 N-channel 30 V, 9 A, PowerFLAT^(TM) STripFET^(TM) V Power MOSFET to drive a quadcopter motor.

An additional barometric pressure sensor (LPS22HH) provides altitude estimation.

This reference design can be used to develop sophisticated auto-navigation algorithms thanks to more than 100 DMIPS available on the STM32 and the scalability of the board, which can be connected to the Teseo-LIV3F GNSS module or to a set of Time-of-Flight sensors like the VL53L5CX.

The system passed the RF test for European certification, FCC certification, and IC certification (FCC ID: S9NBNRGM0AL and IC: 8976C-BNRGM0AL).

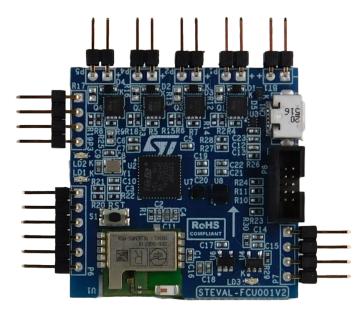


Figure 1. STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board

Notice: For dedicated assistance, please submit a request through our online support portal at www.st.com/support.



1 Getting started

1.1 Board overview

The STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board features:

- Compact flight controller unit (FCU) evaluation board complete with sample firmware for a small or medium-sized quadcopter
- On-board LiPo one-cell battery charger
- Possibility to drive directly four DC brushed motors through the low voltage on-board MOSFET or alternatively use external ESC for DC brushless motor configuration

1.2 Package contents

The STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board package contains:

- · the evaluation board itself
- the ST-LINK adapter with its programming cable to be used with the ST-LINK/V2 or STLINK-V3SET

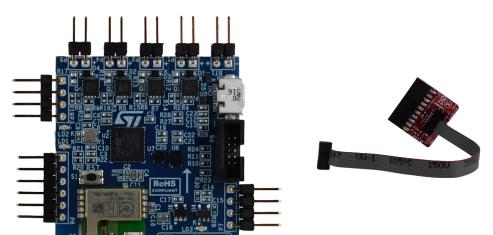


Figure 2. STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board: package contents

1.3 System requirements

To use the board, the following system specifications are required:

- a Windows PC (7, 8, 8.1, 10, 11) with a preinstalled STM32 software development tool (STM32CubeIDE)
- ST-LINK/V2 (or STLINK/V3SET) in-circuit debugger/programmer, its USB driver (STSW-LINK009) and, optionally, the STM32CubeProgrammer for firmware download
- a LiPo one-cell battery to be connected to the battery connector (BT1) for stand-alone operation or a USB type A to Micro-USB male cable to connect the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board to the PC for power supply
- four DC motors suitable for 3.7 V operation directly connected to the board, or four DC brushless motors
 with four matching electronic speed controllers (such as STEVAL-ESC001V1 or STEVAL-ESC002V1
 evaluation boards)
- four propellers suitable for the motors chosen
- ST_BLE_DRONE app for Android and iOS to be used with the STSW-FCU001 demonstration firmware

Note: Choose the propellers, motors, and the electronic speed controller (ESC) on the basis of the quadcopter size and weight.

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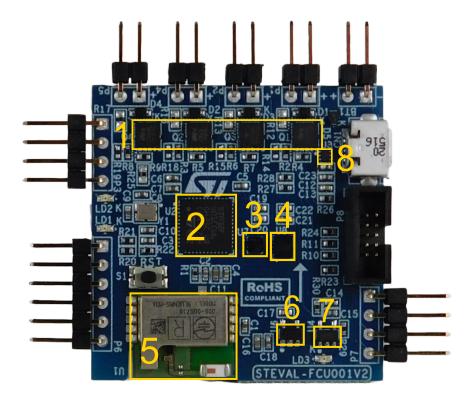


2 Hardware description

The STEVAL-FCU001V2 main components are:

- 1. STL10N3LLH5 30 V, 9 A, STripFETTM V Technology in a PowerFLATTM 3.3x3.3 package
- STM32F401CCU6 high performance Arm® Cortex®-M4 MCU with 256 Kbytes of Flash memory, 64 kBytes of RAM in a UFQFPN48 package
- 3. LPS22HH high-performance MEMS nano pressure sensor: 260-1260 hPa absolute digital output barometer
- 4. LSM6DSR iNEMO inertial module: 3D accelerometer and 3D gyroscope
- 5. BlueNRG-M0A very low-power network processor module for Bluetooth® low energy v4.2
- 6. LD39015 low quiescent voltage regulator
- 7. STC4054 800 mA Li-ion and LiPo battery charger directly from USB
- 8. USBULC6-2M6 ultra large bandwidth ESD protection

Figure 3. STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board components



2.1 Hardware architecture overview

The whole system can be split in five different subsystems:

- microcontroller
- sensors
- connectivity
- battery management
- DC motor drivers

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The sensors and the BlueNRG-M0A devices are connected to the microcontroller through two separate SPI peripherals.

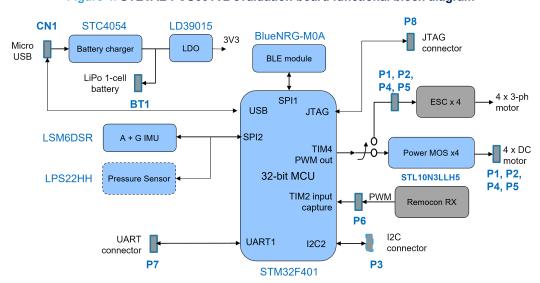


Figure 4. STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board functional block diagram

2.2 Board connectors

The STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board includes several hardware connectors (see Figure 5):

- USB micro B female plug
- Battery two-pin header connector
- Four motor two-pin header connectors
- UART four-pin header connector
- I²C four-pin header connector
- PWM input six-pin header connector
- Micro SWD connector (1.27 mm pitch)

As shown in Figure 3, some of these connectors have not the pins soldered on the board to leave the maximum freedom to users.

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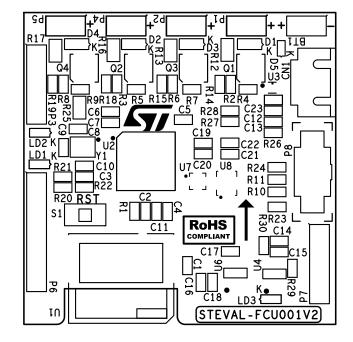


Figure 5. STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board connector description

The board can be powered via a USB connector or one-cell battery. By connecting both, the embedded battery charger uses the USB current to charge the battery.

Considering the specific application, it is highly recommended to use a LiPo battery with a high value of maximum discharge current rating (this parameter is often indicated with "number of C" where "C" is battery capacity). Thus, a 500 mAh battery with a discharge rating of 50 C has a maximum sustained load of 25 amps: compare this value to the sum of the current absorbed by the motors (x4) and the on-board electronics, which is negligible with respect to the motors.

Table 1. Battery 2-pin header connector (BT1)

Pin	Signal	Description
+	VBAT+	one-cell LiPo battery (3.4 to 4.2 V)
-	GND	-

Note:

The + is placed on the board left side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation). It is important to ensure correct polarity connection as reverse battery protection is not implemented.

The four motor connectors can be used to connect a one-cell 3.7 V motor to each of them or to external ESCs. Depending on the kind of motor, you have to solder the male strip line on the board or directly on the motors pins. In the STSW-FCU001, an association between Px connector and motor placement on the drone structure has been considered (for further information, refer to UM2512 on www.st.com).

Table 2. Motor 2-pin header connectors (P1, P2, P4, P5)

Pin	Signal	Description	
1	VBAT+	To be connected to motor (+) for DC motors ⁽¹⁾	
2	MOTOR-	To be connected to motor (-) for DC motors ⁽²⁾	

- 1. Not connected for external ESC.
- 2. To be connected to PWM inputs for external ESC.

Note: The + is placed on the board right side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation).

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Note:

You can refer to the datasheet of the motor to distinguish + and - wire colors.

As in many commercial flight controllers, the STEVAL-FCU001V2 hosts a UART and an I²C to connect external peripherals.

Table 3. UART 4-pin header connector (P7)

Pin	Signal	Description
1	VDD	3.3 V of STM32
2	GND	
3	USART1_RX	RXD for STM32
4	USART1_TX	TXD for STM32

Note:

Pin 1 is placed on the board top side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation).

Table 4. I²C 4-pin header connector (P3)

Pin	Signal	Description
1	VDD	3.3 V of STM32
2	I2C2_SDA	-
3	I2C2_SCL	-
4	GND	-

Note:

Pin 1 is placed on the board top side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation).

The STSW-FCU001 evaluation software has been designed to offer the possibility of controlling the drone through a smartphone app (ST_BLE_DRONE) and by an external remote controller.

In this case, you have to connect a remote controller RX module to the P6 connector of the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board.

The firmware implementation is compatible with a pulse period modulation (PPM) receiver:

- CH1 is related to AIL control with roll function
- CH2 is related to ELE control with pitch function
- CH3 is related to THR control with thrust function
- CH4 is related to RUD control with yaw function

Table 5. PWM inputs six-pin header connector (P6)

Pin	Signal	Description
1	VBAT+	Directly connected to battery (+)
2	TIM2_CH1	TIM2_CH1 for RF RX PWM IN signal CH1
3	TIM2_CH2	TIM2_CH2 for RF RX PWM IN signal CH2
4	TIM2_CH3	TIM2_CH3 for RF RX PWM IN signal CH3
5	TIM2_CH4 for RF RX PWM IN signal CH4	
6 GND -		-

Note:

Pin 1 is placed on the board top side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation).

Table 6. Debugging micro-SWD connector (P8)

Pin	Signal	Description
1	VDD	

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Pin	Signal	Description
2	SWDD	SWD debugging data line
3	GND	
4	SWCLK	SWD debugging clock line
5	GND	-
6	N.C.	-
7	GND	-
8	N.C.	-
9	GND	-
10	NRST	NReset for STM32

For further details on debugging, refer to Section 2.3.

Note: Pin 1 is placed on the board bottom-right side (refer to Figure 3 for board orientation).

2.3 ST-LINK connection

To update the firmware, use the ST-LINK/V2 or ST-LINK/V3SET debugger programmer by plugging the adapter and the cable (provided in the STEVAL-FCU001V2 package as described in Section 1.2) to the board and then to the laptop.

Figure 6. ST-LINK/V2 connected to the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board via adapter



Figure 7. ST-LINK/V3 connected to the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board via adapter



Note: ST-LINK/V2 and STLINK/V3SET are not included in the package. Go to www.st.com to order them.

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3 System setup guide

The board is provided with a preinstalled firmware STSW-FCU001. The firmware is also retrievable on www.st.com as open source code and the ST BLE Drone app to exploit its functionalities.

3.1 How to use the board with the preinstalled firmware

Step 1. Connect a LiPo one-cell battery to BT1 battery connector of the STEVAL-FCU001V2, paying attention to the polarity, as shown below.

Figure 8. STEVAL-FCU001V2 and LiPo battery connection



Caution: There is no protection for reverse connection on the circuit.

Step 2. Activate the Bluetooth® connection on your smartphone and enable ST_BLE_DRONE app to use it.

Step 3. Open ST_BLE_DRONE app on your smartphone and tap [**Start discovering**].

Figure 9. ST_BLE_DRONE - main page



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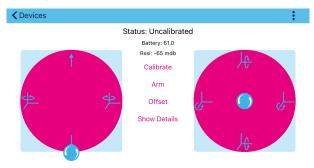
Step 4. Select the DRN2100 device from the list to connect the smartphone to the board. LD2 turns on to signal that the connection is active.

Figure 10. ST_BLE_DRONE - discovering devices



Your remote control appears on the screen.

Figure 11. ST_BLE_DRONE - remote control



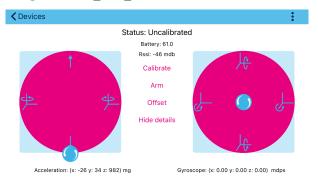
The app shows the battery value and RSSI of the Bluetooth® low energy connectivity.

Note:

To avoid issues, in case you are using more than one STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation boards in your operating space, you have to reprogram them to show a different name to avoid issues.

Step 5. Tap [Show Details] to make the MEMS motion sensor data appear on the screen.

Figure 12. ST_BLE_DRONE - motion sensor data



By moving the evaluation board, you can see how data change. The STSW-FCU001 firmware also implements the calibration and arming procedure. The ST_BLE_DRONE app permits running these functions remotely.

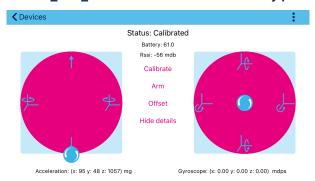
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Step 6. Put the evaluation board on a plane and tap [Calibrate] to remove any sensor offset.

The app shows the "Calibrated" status and LED LD1 will switch on.

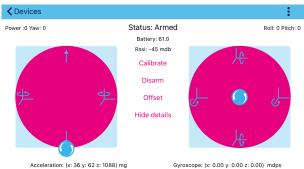
Figure 13. ST_BLE_DRONE - calibration successfully performed



Step 7. To allow flight, tap the button related to the arming procedure.

The status message change to "Armed" and LD2 turns on.

Figure 14. ST_BLE_DRONE - armed status



Step 8. Move the smartphone left lever up and down.The voltage on M1, M2, M3 and M4 change according to the drone flight rules.

3.2 How to use the board with your own firmware

Step 1. Connect a LiPo one-cell battery to BT1 battery connector of the STEVAL-FCU001V2, paying attention to the polarity, as shown below.

Figure 15. STEVAL-FCU001V2 and LiPo battery connection



Caution: There is no protection for reverse connection on the circuit.

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- Step 2. Connect the ST-LINK adapter included in the package to the ST-LINK/V2 (or STLINK/V3SET) and the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board.
- Step 3. Connect a USB cable to a PC and to the micro-USB connector (CN1) to supply the board.
- Step 4. Check that the LD3 is switched ON.
- Step 5. Optionally, download the STSW-FCU001 firmware package.
- **Step 6.** Program the board (refer to UM2329).

Note: It is recommended to connect the USB cable during the programming phase to avoid issues on the power supply.

Once the firmware fine tuning session finishes, you can remove the connection to the micro-USB cable and the ST-LINK adapter.

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4 Schematic diagrams



Schematic diagrams

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Figure 16. STEVAL-FCU001V2 – circuit schematic (1 of 4)

BLUENRG-M0A

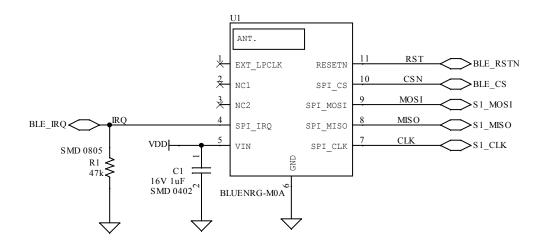


Figure 17. STEVAL-FCU001V2 – circuit schematic (2 of 4)

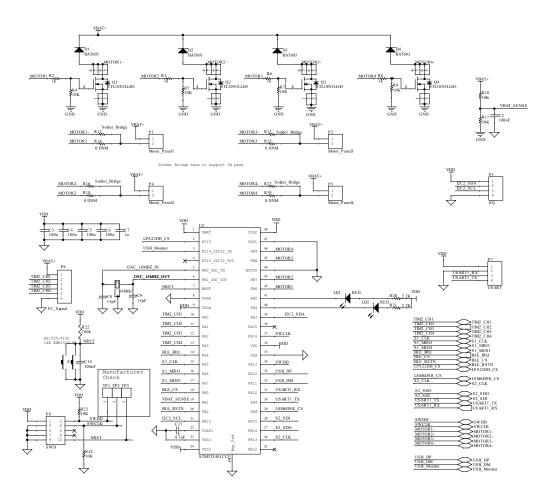
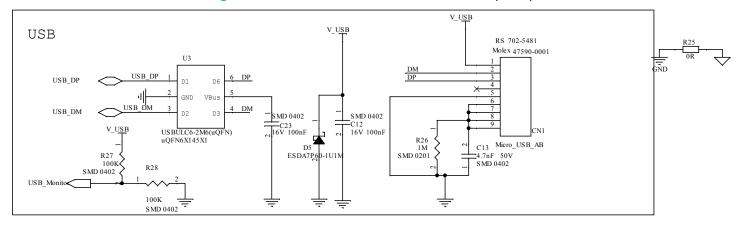


Figure 18. STEVAL-FCU001V2 – circuit schematic (3 of 4)



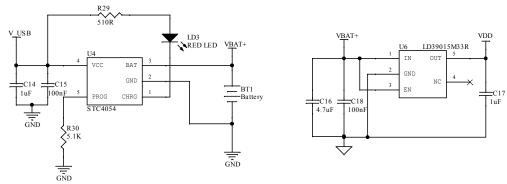
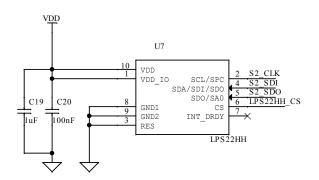
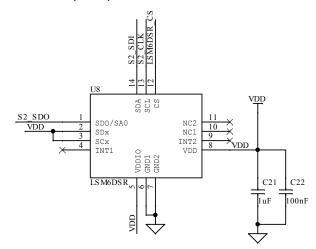
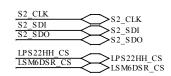


Figure 19. STEVAL-FCU001V2 – circuit schematic (4 of 4)











5 Bill of materials

Table 7. Bill of materials

Item	Q.ty	Ref.	Part/Value	Description	Manufacturer	Order code
1	1	BT1	Battery Connector, siptm2002	Strip line male 1X2 pitch 2.54 mm 90 degrees	Adam Tech	PH1RA-02-UA
2	1	CN1	Micro_USB 2.0 Female SMt, microusb7025481	Micro-USB connector	Molex	47590-0001
3	6	C1,C7,C14, C17,C19,C2	1uF, smc0402, 16V, +/-10%	Ceramic capacitor XR7	Any	Any
4	12	C2,C3,C4,C 5,C6,C10,C1 2,C15,C18,C 20,C22,C23	100nF, smc0402, 16V, +/-10%	Ceramic capacitor XR7	Any	Any
6	2	C8,C9	15pF, smc0402, 16V, +/-10%	Ceramic capacitor XR7	Any	Any
7	2	C11,C16	4.7uF, smc0402, 16V, +/-10%	Ceramic capacitor XR7	Any	Any
8	1	C13	4.7nF, SMC0402, 16V, +/-10%	Ceramic capacitor XR7	Any	Any
9	4	D1,D2,D3,D 4	BAT60J, sod323, 10V, 3A	10 V general purpose signal Schottky diode	ST	BAT60J
10	1	D5	ESDA7P60-1U1M, SMD1610	High-power transient voltage suppressor (TVS)	ST	ESDA7P60-1U1M
11	3	LD1,LD2,LD	RED LED, smd0603, SMD	Red LED	OSRAM Opto	LRQ396
13	1	P1	Motor_Panel1, siptm2002	Strip line male 1X2 pitch 2.54 mm 90 degrees	Adam Tech	PH1RA-02-UA
14	1	P2	Motor_Panel3, siptm2002	Strip line male 1X2 pitch 2.54 mm 90 degrees	Adam Tech	PH1RA-02-UA
15	1	P3	i2Q, siptm4004	Strip line male 1X4 pitch 2.54 mm	Wurth Elektronik	61300411121
16	1	P4	Motor_Panel2, siptm2002	Strip line male 1X2 pitch 2.54 mm 90 degrees	Adam Tech	PH1RA-02-UA
17	1	P5	Motor_Panel4, siptm2002	Strip line male 1X2 pitch 2.54 mm 90 degrees	Adam Tech	PH1RA-02-UA
18	1	P6	FC_Signal, siptm6006	Strip line male 1X6 pitch 2.54 mm	Wurth Elektronik	61300611121

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ltem	Q.ty	Ref.	Part/Value	Description	Manufacturer	Order code
19	1	P7	USART, siptm4004	Strip Line male 1X4 pitch 2.54 mm	Wurth Elektronik	61300411121
20	1	P8	SWD, Ampmode10X1M27	Connector 2X5 pitch 1,27 mm	SAMTEC	FTSH-105-01-F-D-K
21	4	Q1,Q2,Q3,Q 4	STL6N3LLH6, powerFLAT2X2	N-channel 30 V, 0.021 Ohm typ., 6 A STripFET H6 power MOSFET in a PowerFLAT 2x2 package	ST	STL6N3LLH6
22	1	R1	47k, smr0402, 1/16W, +/-1%	SMD thick film resistor	Any	Any
23	4	R2, R3, R6, R8	1K, smr0402, 1/16W, +/-1%	SMD thick film resistors	Any	Any
24	7	R4, R5, R7, R9, R10, R23, R24	10K, smr0402, 1/16W, +/-1%	SMD thick film resistors	Any	Any
25	1	R11	20K, smr0402, 1/16W, +/-1%	SMD thick film resistor	Any	Any
26	4	R12, R13,R16, R17, R25	smr0603, 1/16W, +/-1%	SMD thick film resistors	Any	Any
27	4	R14, R15, R18, R19	NA, smr0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
28	2	R20, R21	2.2K, smr0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
29	3	R22,R27,R2 8	100K, smr0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
30	1	R26	1M, SMR0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
31	1	R29	510R, smr0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
32	1	R30	5.1K, smr0402, 1/16W, ±1%	SMD Thick Film Resistor	Any	Any
33	1	S1	Reset, PushKMR22	Push Botton	C&K	KMR231GLFS
34	1	U1	BLUENRG-M0A, spbtrfle	Very low power network processor module for Bluetooth® low energy v4.2	ST	BlueNRG-M0
35	1	U2	STM32F401CCU, UFQFPN48X7X7	High- performance access line, Arm Cortex- M4 core with DSP and FPU, 256 Kbytes of Flash memory, 84 MHz CPU,	ST	STM32F401CCU

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Item	Q.ty	Ref.	Part/Value	Description	Manufacturer	Order code
				ART accelerator		
36	1	U3	USBULC6-2M6(uQFN), uQFN6X145X1	Ultra large bandwidth ESD protection	ST	USBULC6-2M6
37	1	U4	STC4054GR, SOT23L5	800 mA standalone linear Li-lon battery charger with thermal regulation	ST	STC4054GR
39	1	U6	LD39015M33R, sot23l5	150 mA low quiescent current low noise voltage regulator	ST	LD39015M33R
40	1	U7	LPS22HHTR, HLGA10X2X2X07	H igh- performance MEMS nano pressure sensor: 260-1260 hPa absolute digital output barometer	ST	LPS22HHTR
41	1	U8	LSM6DSRTR, lga14X2m5X3X086	iNEMO inertial module: 3D accelerometer and 3D gyroscope	ST	LSM6DSRTR
42	1	Y1	16 MHz, 15 ppm	Quartz	NDK	NX2520SA-16,000000MHz- STD-CSW-4
43	1	None	ARM-JTAG-20-10	Mini-board and cable	Olimex LTD	ARM-JTAG-20-10

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6 Board versions

Table 8. STEVAL-FCU001V2 versions

	Finished good	Schematic diagrams	Bill of materials
5	STEVAL\$FCU001V2A ⁽¹⁾	STEVAL\$FCU001V2A schematic diagrams	STEVAL\$FCU001V2A bill of materials

^{1.} This code identifies the STEVAL-FCU001V2 evaluation board first version.

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Regulatory compliance information

Formal Notices Required by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Responsible party's contact located in the United States: name: Francesco Doddo; address: STMicroelectronics Inc, 200 Summit Drive, Suite 405, Burlington MA, 01803, U.S.A.; e-mail: francesco.doddo@st.com

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Standard applied: FCC CFR Part 15 Subpart B. Test method applied: ANSI C63.4 (2014).

Formal Product Notice Required by Industry Canada

Responsible party's contact located in Canada: name: John Langner; address: STMicroelectronics, Inc., 350 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Suite 303 L5B 3J1, Mississauga, ON, Canada; e-mail: john.langner@st.com Innovation. Science and Economic Development Canada Compliance

This device contains licence-exempt transmitter(s)/receiver(s) that comply with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's licence exempt RSS(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause interference. (2) This device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Standard applied: ICES-003 Issue 7 (2020), Class B. Test method applied: ANSI C63.4 (2014).

Conformité à Innovation, Sciences et Développement Économique Canada

L'emetteur/recepteur exempt de licence contenu dans le present appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Innovation, Sciences et Developpement economique Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisee aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) L'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage; (2) L'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioelectrique subi, meme si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.

Norme appliquée: NMB-003, 7e édition (2020), Classe B. Méthode d'essai appliquée: ANSI C63.4 (2014).

Notice for the European Union

The kit STEVAL-FCU001V2 is in conformity with the essential requirements of the Directive 2014/53/EU (RED) and of the Directive 2015/863/EU (RoHS). Harmonized standards applied are listed in the EU Declaration of Conformity.

Notice for the United Kingdom

The kit STEVAL-FCU001V2 is in compliance with the UK Radio Equipment Regulations 2017 (UK SI 2017 No. 1206 and amendments) and with the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012 (UK SI 2012 No. 3032 and amendments). Applied standards are listed in the UK Declaration of Conformity.

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Revision history

Table 9. Document revision history

Date	Revision	Changes	
22-Aug-2023	1	Initial release.	
24-Jun-2024	2	Updated Introduction , Section 2: Hardware description, Section 3: System setup guide, Section 3.1: How to use the board with the preinstalled firmware, Section 3.2: How to use the board with your own firmware and Section 4: Schematic diagrams.	

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