Features
- 8 W Power Amplifier
- 20 dB Small Signal Gain
- 39 dBm Saturated Pulsed Output Power
- Dual Sided Bias Architecture
- 100% On-wafer DC & RF Power Tested
- 100% Visual Inspection to MIL-STD-833
- Bare Die

Description
The MAAP-015024-DIE three stage 14.5 - 17.5 GHz GaAs MMIC power amplifier has a saturated pulsed output power of 39 dBm and a small signal gain of 20 dB. The power amplifier must be biased directly on both sides of the die.

This MMIC uses MACOM’s GaAs pHEMT device technology and is based upon optical gate lithography to ensure high repeatability and uniformity. The chip has surface passivation for protection and backside via holes and gold metallization to allow a conductive epoxy die attach process.

This device is well suited for communication and radar applications.

Ordering Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAAP-015024-DIE</td>
<td>Die in vacuum release gel pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAP-015024-DIER</td>
<td>Diced Wafer on Grip Ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAP-015024-DIEEV1</td>
<td>Direct gate bias sample board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAP-015024-DIEEV2</td>
<td>On chip gate bias sample board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Restrictions on Hazardous Substances, compliant to current RoHS EU directive.
Power Amplifier, 8 W
14.5 - 17.5 GHz

Electrical Specifications:
Freq. = 14.5 - 17.5 GHz, $T_A = +25^\circ C$, Duty Cycle = 5%, $P_{IN} = 23$ dBm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>Typ.</th>
<th>Max.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gain</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain Flatness</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>+/-1.0</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Return Loss</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Return Loss</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Isolation</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturated Output Power</td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.5 - 15.0 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.0 - 17.5 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain Bias Voltage</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate Bias Voltage</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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Absolute Maximum Ratings$^{1,2}$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Absolute Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input Power</td>
<td>30 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate Voltage</td>
<td>-0.5 V &lt; $V_G$ &lt; -2 V</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply Voltage</td>
<td>8.5 Vdc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply Current</td>
<td>7.5 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Temperature</td>
<td>-65°C to +165°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junction Temperature$^3$</td>
<td>+175°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Handling Procedures

Please observe the following precautions to avoid damage:

**Static Sensitivity**

Gallium Arsenide Integrated Circuits are sensitive to electrostatic discharge (ESD) and can be damaged by static electricity. Proper ESD control techniques should be used when handling these devices.

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1. Exceeding any one or combination of these limits may cause permanent damage to this device.
2. MACOM does not recommend sustained operation near these survivability limits.
3. Operating at nominal conditions with $T_J \leq +175^\circ C$ will ensure $MTTF > 1 \times 10^6$ hours.
Power Amplifier, 8 W
14.5 - 17.5 GHz

Bonding Diagram

Schematic

MMIC Bare Die
Power Amplifier, 8 W
14.5 - 17.5 GHz

Typical Performance Curves

**Gain vs. Frequency**

- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.6 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.6 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$

**Input Return Loss vs. Frequency**

- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
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- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$

**Output Return Loss vs. Frequency**

- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.8 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.7 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.6 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.6 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 6.5 \text{ V}$
- $V_G = -0.5 \text{ V}, V_D = 7.5 \text{ V}$

**Output Power vs. Frequency, $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 8 \text{ V}$**

- $P_{in} = 9 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 10 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 11.9 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 12.8 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 13.7 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 14.7 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 15.6 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 16.6 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 17.6 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 20.7 \text{ dBm}$
- $P_{in} = 21.6 \text{ dBm}$

**Current vs. Frequency, $V_G = -0.9 \text{ V}, V_D = 8 \text{ V}$**

- $I_D = 23.3 \text{ mA}$
Power Amplifier, 8 W
14.5 - 17.5 GHz

Typical Performance Curves

**Gain vs. Output Power**

- **Gain @ 14.5 GHz vs. Output Power**
- **Gain @ 15.0 GHz vs. Output Power**
- **Gain @ 15.5 GHz vs. Output Power**

**PAE vs. Output Power**

For further information and support please visit:
https://www.macom.com/support
Applications Section

Application Notes

Note 1 - Biasing
The MAAP-015024-DIE is biased directly through the gates \(V_{G1}, V_{G2}\) and \(V_{G3}\) of the power amplifier (PA). The \(V_{G}\) should be biased on one side of the PA. The \(V_{D3}\) must be biased on both sides of the PA. The \(V_{D1}\) and \(V_{D2}\) should only be biased on one side of the PA. The PA is biased typically with \(V_{G} = -0.9\) V and \(V_{D} = 8\) V.

The bias \(V_{G1}, V_{G2}, V_{G3}\) should always be applied before the drain voltage \(V_{D1}, V_{D2}, V_{D3}\) is applied and when switching off the PA the drain voltage must be switched off first before the gate voltage. It is strongly recommended to pulse the drain voltage of the PA so the heat can be dissipated from the device.

Note 2 - Bias Arrangement
Each DC pin \(V_{D}\) and \(V_{G}\) needs to have DC bypass capacitance of 100 pF as close to the device as possible. In addition the \(V_{G}\) must have 2.2 µF on the side the gate voltage is applied. It is recommended to also use a further capacitance of 0.01 µF on the DC pins.

Note 3 - Pulse Operation
The performance of the MAAP-015024-DIE is characterized under pulsed conditions with a pulse width of 5 µS and a duty cycle of 5%. The measurements were taken while the drain voltage was pulsed. It is strongly recommended to ensure the heat generated is dissipated from the die with an adequate thermal solution. If this thermal path is not provided this will result in reduced performance/lifetime and possible thermal runaway that will permanently damage the PA. It is not recommended to operate this PA in CW operation unless the bias is reduced.
Applications Section

Handling and Assembly

Die Attachment
This product is 0.075 mm (0.003") thick and has vias through to the backside to enable grounding to the circuit. Microstrip substrates should be brought as close to the die as possible. The mounting surface should be clean and flat. If using conductive epoxy, recommended epoxies are Tanaka TS3332LD, Die Mat DM6030HK or DM6030HK-Pt cured in a nitrogen atmosphere per manufacturer's cure schedule. Apply epoxy sparingly to avoid getting any on to the top surface of the die. An epoxy fillet should be visible around the total die periphery. For additional information please see the MACOM “Epoxy Specifications for Bare Die” application note. If eutectic mounting is preferred, then a flux-less gold-tin (AuSn) preform, approximately 0.0012 thick, placed between the die and the attachment surface should be used. A die bonder that utilizes a heated collet and provides scrubbing action to ensure total wetting to prevent void formation in a nitrogen atmosphere is recommended. The gold-tin eutectic (80% Au 20% Sn) has a melting point of approximately 280°C (note: Gold Germanium should be avoided). The work station temperature should be 310°C +/- 10°C. Exposure to these extreme temperatures should be kept to minimum. The collet should be heated, and the die pre-heated to avoid excessive thermal shock. Avoidance of air bridges and force impact are critical during placement.

Wire Bonding
Windows in the surface passivation above the bond pads are provided to allow wire bonding to the die’s gold bond pads. The recommended wire bonding procedure uses 0.076 mm x 0.013 mm (0.003” x 0.0005”) 99.99% pure gold ribbon with 0.5 - 2% elongation to minimize RF port bond inductance. Gold 0.025 mm (0.001”) diameter wedge or ball bonds are acceptable for DC Bias connections. Aluminium wire should be avoided. Thermo-compression bonding is recommended though thermo-sonic bonding may be used providing the ultrasonic content of the bond is minimized. Bond force, time and ultrasonic's are all critical parameters. Bonds should be made from the bond pads on the die to the package or substrate. All bonds should be as short as possible.
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