

# RFFM8506

4.9 GHz to 5.85 GHz 802.11a/n/ac WiFi  
Front End Module

The RFFM8506 provides a complete integrated solution in a single front end module (FEM) for WiFi 802.11a/n/ac systems. The ultra-small factor and integrated matching minimizes layout area in the customer's application and greatly reduces the number of external components. This simplifies the total front end solution by reducing the bill of materials, system footprint, and manufacturing cost. The RFFM8506 integrates a 5 GHz power amplifier (PA), single pole double throw switch (SP2T) and an LNA with bypass. The device is provided in a 2.5 mm x 2.5 mm x 0.45 mm. This module meets or exceeds the RF front end needs of IEEE 802.11a/n/ac WiFi RF systems.



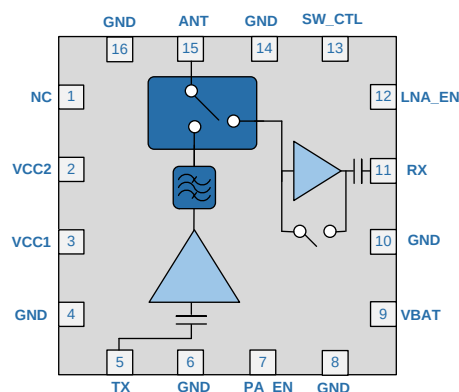
Package: QFN, 16-pin,  
2.5 mm x 2.5 mm x 0.45 mm

## Features

- $P_{OUT}=+17.5$  dBm, 11ac, 80 MHz MCS9 at  $-36.5$  dB (1.5%) EVM
- Small Size
- High performance FEM
- Input and Output Matched to  $50\ \Omega$
- Integrated 5 GHz PA, SP2T, Switch, and LNA (with Bypass if required)
- Low Height Package, Suited for SiP and CoB designs

## Applications

- Cellular Handsets
- Mobile Devices
- Tablets
- Consumer Electronics
- Gaming
- Netbooks/Notebooks
- TV/Monitors/Video



Functional Block Diagram

## Ordering Information

|                 |                                                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| RFFM8506SB      | Standard 5-piece sample bag                      |
| RFFM8506SQ      | Standard 25-piece sample bag                     |
| RFFM8506SR      | Standard 100-pieces reel                         |
| RFFM8506TR7     | Standard 2500-piece reel                         |
| RFFM8506PCK-410 | Fully assembled eval board w/ 5-piece sample bag |

# RFFM8506

## Absolute Maximum Ratings

| Parameter                                                     | Rating       | Unit            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| DC Supply Voltage                                             | -0.5 to +5.4 | V <sub>DC</sub> |
| PA Enable Voltage                                             | -0.5 to 5    | V <sub>DC</sub> |
| DC Supply Current                                             | 500          | mA              |
| Storage Temperature                                           | -40 to +150  | °C              |
| Maximum TX Input Power into 50Ω Load for 11a/n/ac (No Damage) | +12          | dBm             |
| Moisture Sensitivity                                          | MSL1         |                 |



Caution! ESD sensitive device.



RFMD Green: RoHS status based on EU Directive 2011/65/EU (at time of this document revision), halogen free per IEC 61249-2-21, < 1000ppm each of antimony trioxide in polymeric materials and red phosphorus as a flame retardant, and <2% antimony in solder.

Exceeding any one or a combination of the Absolute Maximum Rating conditions may cause permanent damage to the device. Extended application of Absolute Maximum Rating conditions to the device may reduce device reliability. Specified typical performance or functional operation of the device under Absolute Maximum Rating conditions is not implied.

## Nominal Operating Parameters

| Parameter                                                                              | Specification |       |       | Unit | Condition                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                        | Min           | Typ   | Max   |      |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Compliance</b>                                                                      |               |       |       |      | <b>802.11a, 802.11n, 802.11ac</b>                                                                    |
| Operating Frequency                                                                    | 5.15          |       | 5.85  | GHz  |                                                                                                      |
| Extended Frequency                                                                     | 4.9           |       | 5.15  | GHz  | Functional with reduced performance                                                                  |
| Operating Temperature                                                                  | -30           |       | +85   | °C   |                                                                                                      |
| Power Supply V <sub>CC</sub> (V <sub>CC1</sub> , V <sub>CC2</sub> , V <sub>BAT</sub> ) | 3.0           | 3.6   | 4.2   | V    |                                                                                                      |
| Switch Control Voltage – SW_CTL High                                                   | 2.75          | 2.9   | 4.2   | V    | TX switch “ON” at high control voltage                                                               |
| Switch Control Voltage – SW_CTL Low                                                    |               | 0.1   | 0.4   | V    | RX switch “ON” with low control voltage                                                              |
| PA Enable – High                                                                       | 2.75          | 2.9   | 4.2   | V    | PA in “ON” state                                                                                     |
| PA Enable voltage – Low                                                                |               | 0.1   | 0.4   | V    | PA in “OFF” state, do not leave floating                                                             |
| <b>Transmit (TX-ANT) Mode</b>                                                          |               |       |       |      | <b>T= +25 °C; V<sub>CC</sub>=+3.6 V; PA_EN=High; SW_CTL=High; LNA_EN=Low; Unless otherwise noted</b> |
| Gain (5.15 to 5.85 GHz)                                                                | 25.5          | 29    |       | dB   |                                                                                                      |
| 20 MHz Output Power*                                                                   | 18.5          | 19    |       | dBm  | 802.11ac HT20 MCS7                                                                                   |
| 11ac 20 MHz Dynamic EVM                                                                |               | -33   | -30   | dB   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                        |               | 2.2   | 3.2   | %    |                                                                                                      |
| 40 MHz Output Power*                                                                   | 17.5          | 18    |       | dBm  | 802.11ac VHT40 MCS9                                                                                  |
| 11ac 40 MHz Dynamic EVM                                                                |               | -36.5 | -35.0 | dB   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                        |               | 1.5   | 1.8   | %    |                                                                                                      |
| 80 MHz Output Power*                                                                   | 16.5          | 17    |       | dBm  | 802.11ac VHT80 MCS9                                                                                  |
| 11ac 80 MHz Dynamic EVM                                                                |               | -36.5 | -35.0 | dB   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                        |               | 1.5   | 1.8   | %    |                                                                                                      |
| 80 MHz Output Power*                                                                   |               | 13.5  |       | dBm  | 802.11ac VHT80 MCS9                                                                                  |
| 11ac 80 MHz Dynamic EVM                                                                |               | -40   |       | dB   |                                                                                                      |

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| Parameter                                 | Specification |     |     | Unit    | Condition                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                           | Min           | Typ | Max |         |                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                           |               | 1.0 |     | %       |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Spectral Mask 20 MHz Output Power*        |               | 22  |     | dBm     | 802.11ac HT20 with 3dB margin                                                                                                                       |
| Spectral Mask 40 MHz Output Power*        |               | 21  |     | dBm     | 802.11ac VHT40 with 3dB margin                                                                                                                      |
| Spectral Mask 80 MHz Output Power*        |               | 20  |     | dBm     | 802.11ac VHT80 with 3dB margin                                                                                                                      |
| Operating Current - Nominal               |               | 270 | 330 | mA      | P <sub>OUT</sub> = +19 dBm                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Transmit (TX-ANT) Mode (continued)</b> |               |     |     |         | <b>T = +25 °C; V<sub>CC</sub>=+3.6 V; PA_EN=High; SW_CTL=High; LNA_EN=Low; Unless otherwise noted</b>                                               |
| Second Harmonic                           |               |     | -40 | dBm/MHz | Fundamental frequency is between 4900 and 5850 MHz; RF P <sub>OUT</sub> = +19 dBm; Measured in 1 MHz resolution bandwidth (FCC limit max = -30 dBm) |
| Third Harmonic                            |               |     | -38 | dBm/MHz |                                                                                                                                                     |
| PA Selectivity/Out of Band Gain           |               |     |     |         |                                                                                                                                                     |
| 30 to 2900 MHz                            |               | -6  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3600 to 4400 MHz                          |               | 20  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7250 to 7750 MHz                          |               | 16  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| TX Port Return Loss                       | 10            | 12  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| ANT Port Return Loss                      | 12            | 15  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Noise Figure                              |               |     | 6   | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Receive (ANT-RX) LNA On</b>            |               |     |     |         | <b>T = +25 °C; V<sub>CC</sub>=+3.6 V; PA_EN=Low; SW_CTL=Low; LNA_EN=High; Unless otherwise noted</b>                                                |
| Gain                                      | 10            | 12  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Noise Figure                              |               | 2.5 |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Rx Port Return Loss                       | 8             | 10  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| ANT Port Return Loss                      | 8             | 10  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Input IP2                                 |               | 50  |     | dBm     |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Input IP3                                 | 5             | 6   |     | dBm     |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Current Consumption                       |               | 12  |     | mA      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| LNA_EN Control Current                    |               | 75  | 120 | μA      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| LNA Turn On Time                          |               |     | 300 | nS      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Receive (ANT-RX) Bypass Mode</b>       |               |     |     |         | <b>T = +25 °C; V<sub>CC</sub>=+3.6 V; PA_EN=Low; SW_CTL=Low; LNA_EN=Low; Unless otherwise noted</b>                                                 |
| Insertion Loss                            |               | 3.5 |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Noise Figure                              |               | 3.5 |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| RX Port Return Loss                       | 8             | 10  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| ANT Port Return Loss                      | 8             | 10  |     | dB      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| ANT-RX Isolation                          | 26            |     |     | dB      | Transmit Mode; PA_EN=High; Maximum Power                                                                                                            |
| Input IP3                                 | 18            | 20  |     | dBm     |                                                                                                                                                     |
| LNA Bypass Current                        |               | 15  |     | μA      |                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>General Specifications</b>             |               |     |     |         |                                                                                                                                                     |

| Parameter                        | Specification |     |      | Unit | Condition                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----|------|------|-------------------------------------------|
|                                  | Min           | Typ | Max  |      |                                           |
| Switch Control Current – High    |               |     | 2    | μA   |                                           |
| Switch Control Current – Low     |               |     | 0.1  | μA   | Do not leave floating                     |
| PA_EN Current                    |               | 30  |      | μA   |                                           |
| Leakage Current – Nominal        |               | 2   | 15   | μA   | RF Off; PA_EN=Low; SW_CTL=Low, LNA_EN=Low |
| Switching Speed                  |               |     | 200  | nS   |                                           |
| PA Turn-On Time from PA_EN edge  |               |     | 300  | nS   | Output stable within 90 % of final gain   |
| PA Turn-Off Time from PA_EN edge |               |     | 300  | nS   | Output stable within 90% of final gain    |
| ESD – Human Body Model           | 1000          |     |      | V    | EIA/JESD22-114A all pins                  |
| ESD – Charge Device Model        | 1000          |     |      | V    | EIA/JESD22-101C all pins                  |
| Ruggedness                       |               |     | 10:1 | VSWR | With nominal input power                  |

\*For 4900 MHz to 5150 MHz, P<sub>OUT</sub> is reduced by 1dB

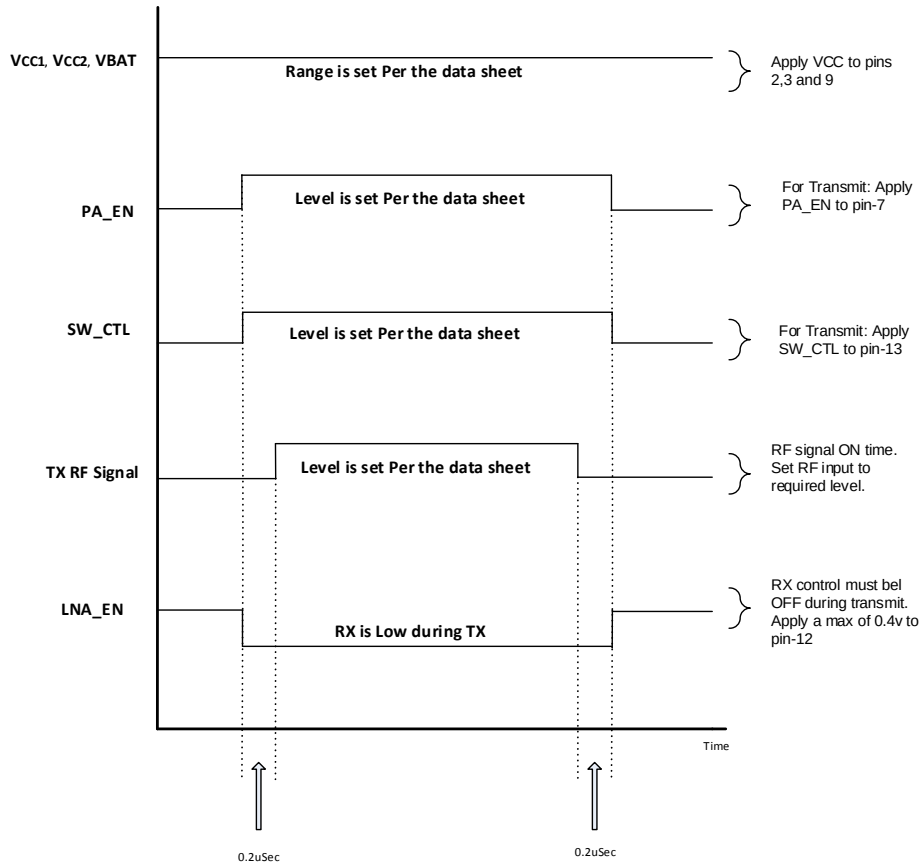
### Switch Control Logic Truth Table

| Operating Mode         | PA_EN | SW_CTL | LNA_EN |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 802.11a/n/ac TX        | High  | High   | Low    |
| 802.11a/n/ac RX Gain   | Low   | Low    | High   |
| 802.11a/n/ac RX Bypass | Low   | Low    | Low    |

Note: All Logic Low pins ≤ 0.4V

### Timing Diagram

Transmit Timing Diagram  
Power ON / OFF Sequence



Note:

1. RF Signal for each specific mode is applied after the DC bias is applied.
2. Total ON/OFF time includes from 10% of control switching to 90% of RF power.
3. Listed values on diagram are typical. Tx/Rx simultaneous transition is allowed.
4. For DC voltage levels use the values indicated in the datasheet.

## Timing Sequence Notes

### 802.11a/n/ac Transmit Biasing Instructions

1. Connect the FEM to a signal generator at the input and a spectrum analyzer at the output. Terminate unused ports with 50 Ohms
2. Set the power supply voltage to +3.0 V to +4.2 V first with PA\_EN < 0.4 V. Leakage current will be <15 uA typical.
3. Refer to switch operational truth table to set the control lines at the proper levels for WiFi TX. All OFF voltages must be < 0.4 V (do not leave floating.)
4. Turn on PA\_EN with levels indicated in the datasheet. PA\_EN controls the current drawn by the 802.11a/n/ac power amplifier and the current should quickly rise to ~200 mA +/- 20 mA for a typical part but the actual operating current will be based on the output power desired. Be extremely careful not to exceed 5.0 V on the PA\_EN pin or the part may exceed device current limits.

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### 802.11a/n/ac Transmit Turn ON Sequence (See Transmit Timing Diagram)

1. Turn ON power supply.
2. Turn ON PA\_EN.
3. Turn ON SW\_CLT
4. Apply RF.

### 802.11a/n/ac Transmit Turn OFF Sequence

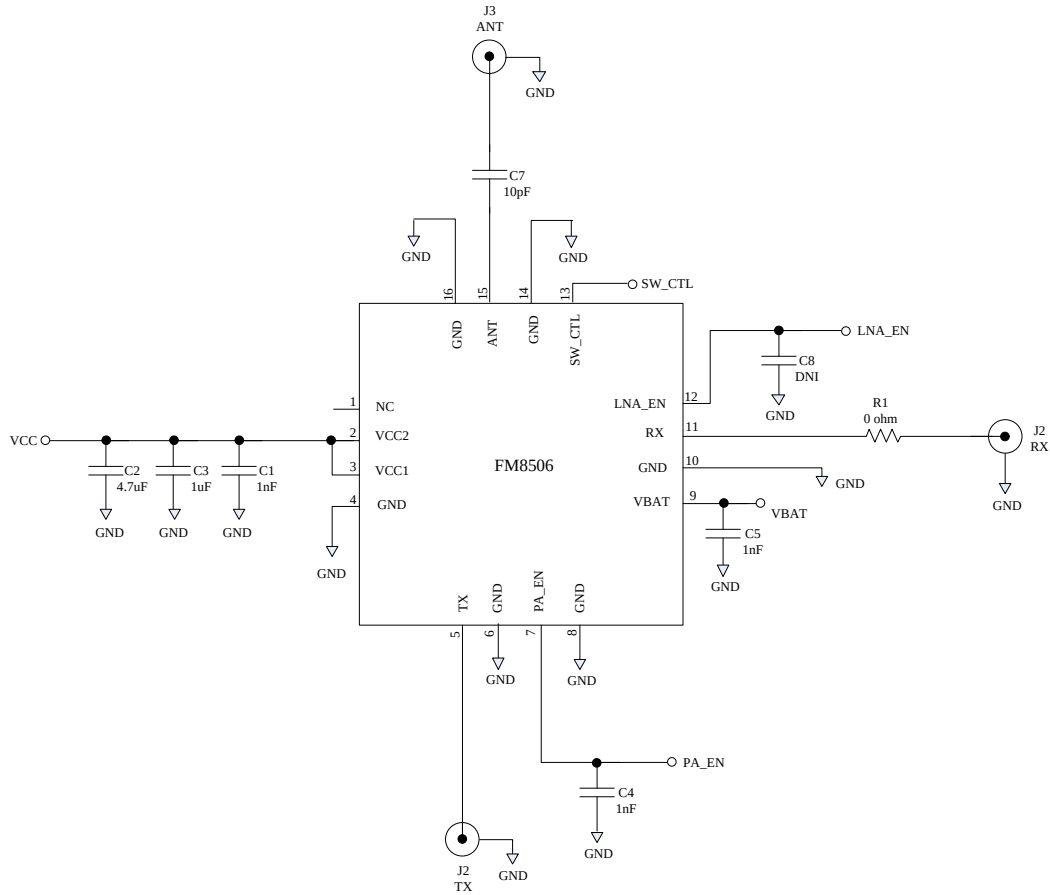
1. Turn OFF RF.
2. Turn OFF SW\_CLT
3. Turn OFF PA\_EN.
4. Turn OFF power supply.

### 802.11a/n/ac Receive

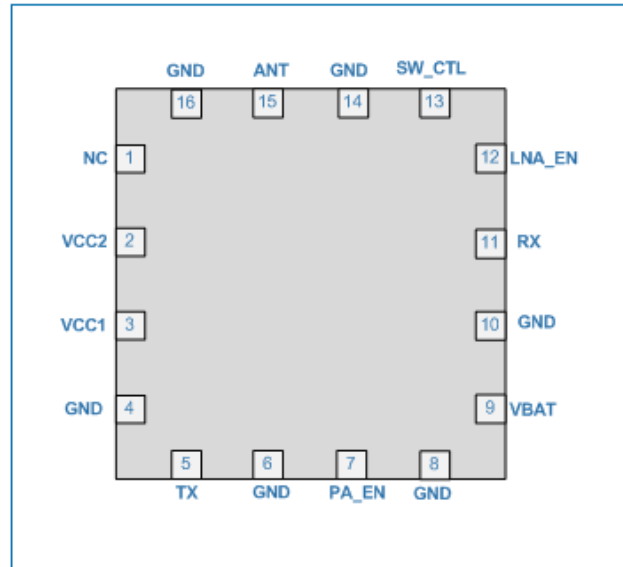
1. To receive WiFi set the switch control lines per the truth table.
2. Antenna port is input and RX port is output for this test.
3. Follow Timing Diagram for biasing instructions.

## Evaluation Board Schematic

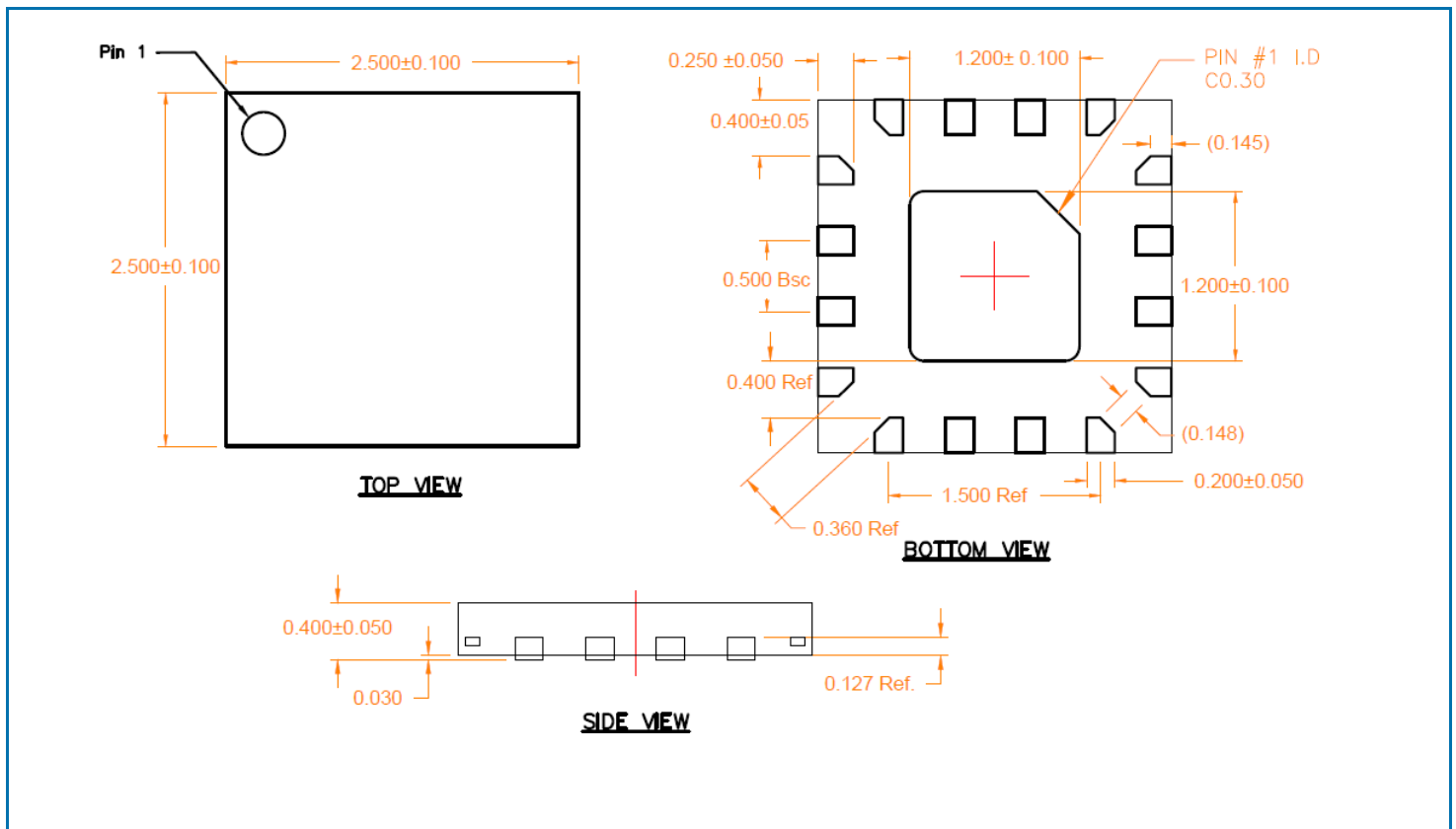
# RFFM8506



## Pin Out

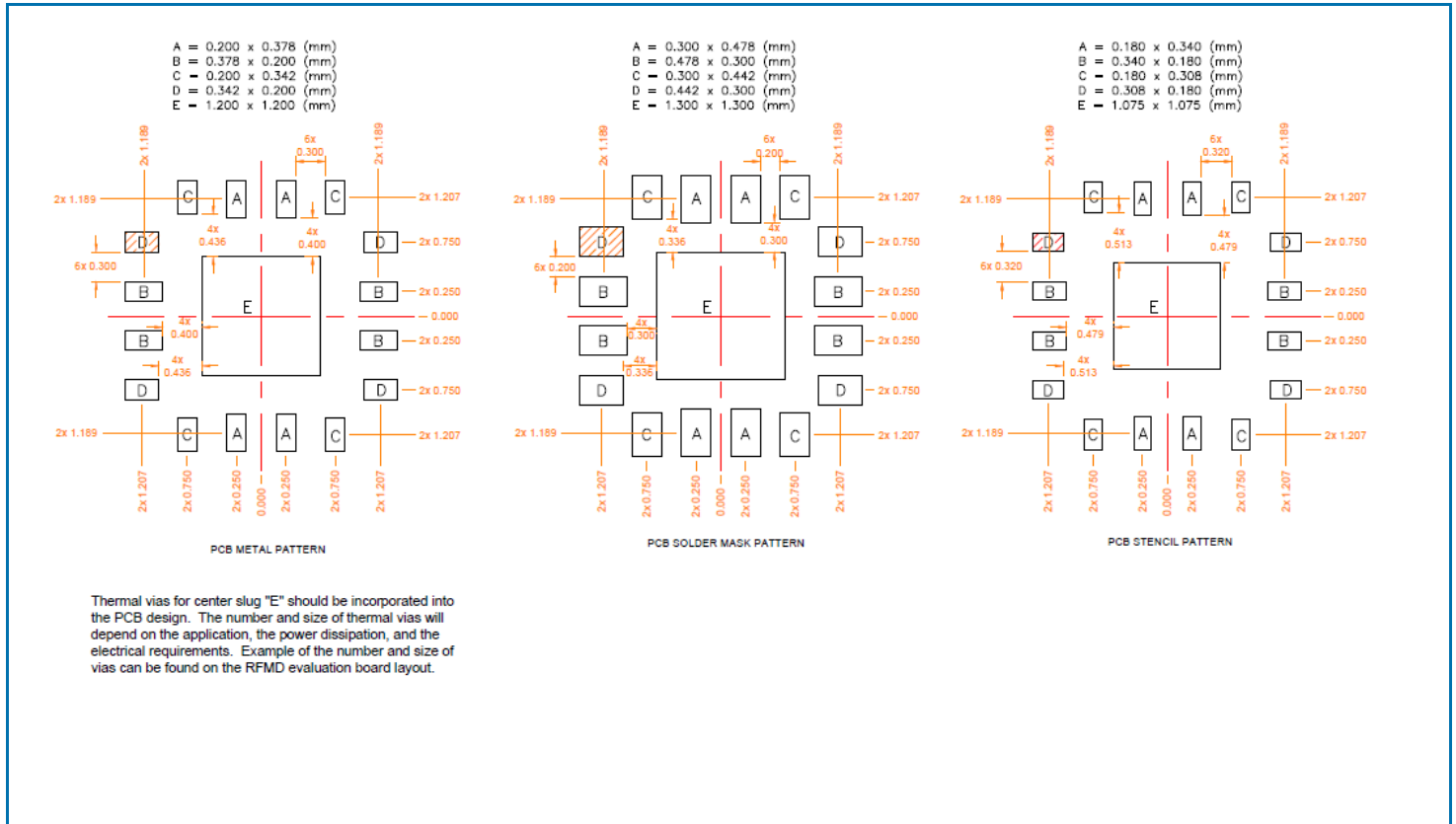


## Package Outline and Branding Drawing (Dimension in millimeters)





## PCB Patterns



Note: Shaded area represents Pin 1 location

## Pin Names and Descriptions

| Pin      | Name   | Description                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | NC     | This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating but is recommended to connect to ground.                                                        |
| 2        | VCC2   | Supply voltage for the PA. See applications schematic for biasing and bypassing components.                                                                   |
| 3        | VCC1   | Supply voltage for the PA. See applications schematic for biasing and bypassing components.                                                                   |
| 4        | GND    | Ground Connection. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                      |
| 5        | TX     | RF input port for the 802.11a/n/ac PA. Input is matched to 50Ω and DC blocked internally                                                                      |
| 6        | GND    | Ground Connection. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                      |
| 7        | PA_EN  | Control voltage for the PA. See "Switch Control Truth Table" for proper settings.                                                                             |
| 8        | GND    | No Connect. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                             |
| 9        | VBAT   | Supply voltage for the LNA, Switch & Bias Regulator. See applications schematic for biasing and bypassing components.                                         |
| 10       | GND    | Ground Connection. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                      |
| 11       | RX     | RF output port for the 802.11a/n/ac LNA. This port is matched to 50Ω and DC blocked internally.                                                               |
| 12       | LNA_EN | Control voltage for the LNA. When this pin is set to a LOW logic state, the bypass mode is enabled.                                                           |
| 13       | SW_CTL | Switch control voltage. High control voltage turns ON the TX path and low control voltage turns on the RX path (see "Switch Control Truth Table")             |
| 14       | GND    | Ground Connection. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                      |
| 15       | ANT    | RF bidirectional antenna port matched to 50Ω.                                                                                                                 |
| 16       | GND    | Ground Connection. This pin is not connected internally and can be left floating or connected to ground.                                                      |
| Pkg Base | GND    | Ground connection. The backside of the package should be connected to the ground plane through a short path, i.e., PCB vias under the device are recommended. |