



Crescent OEM Board Integrator Guide

Part No. 875-0158-000 Rev D1



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.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Crescent OEM Board Options

Product Overview

What's Included

Board Integration

Key Features

Message Interface

Using PocketMax to Communicate with the Crescent

This manual does not cover receiver operation, the PocketMax™ utility, or commands and messages (NMEA 0183, NMEA 2000® or HGPS proprietary). For information on these subjects refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

Crescent OEM Board Options

Table 1-1 lists the current Crescent® OEM board models.

Table 1-1: Crescent board models

Model	GNSS Systems	Compatibility	L-Band Support
P100™	GPS	Hemisphere GPS' standard pinout configuration (34-pin)	Yes - with optional Hemisphere GPS LX-2™ OEM board
P101™	GPS	Compatible with popular aftermarket products (20-pin)	No
P102™	GPS	Hemisphere GPS' standard pinout configuration (34-pin)	Yes - with optional Hemisphere GPS LX-2 OEM board
P103™	GPS	Compatible with popular aftermarket products (20-pin)	No
P104™	GPS	Hemisphere GPS' standard pinout configuration (34-pin)	Yes - with optional Hemisphere GPS LX-2 OEM board

Note: Throughout this manual, the Crescent OEM board is referred to simply as the Crescent.

Product Overview

With its small form factor, low power consumption, and simple onboard firmware the Crescent is an ideal solution for integrators, offering scalability and expandability from GPS with SBAS to L1 GPS RTK.

The Crescent is offered in two common industry form factors:

- P100, P102, and P104 offer Hemisphere GPS' standard pinout configuration (34-pin)
- P101 and P103 have a mechanical design compatible with popular aftermarket products (20-pin)



See “Headers and Pinouts” on page 12 for information on the pinout configurations of each board.

The reliable positioning performance of Crescent is further enhanced through RTK and COAST™ DGPS technology. Patented COAST software enables select Hemisphere GPS receivers to utilize aging DGPS correction data during times of interference, signal blockage, and weak signal. The receiver will coast and continue to maintain sub-meter positioning for 40 minutes or more without a DGPS signal.

What's Included

The Crescent is available in two configurations:

- Crescent OEM board only - designed for integrators who are familiar with Crescent board integration
- Crescent OEM board and Universal Development Kit - designed for integrators who are new to Crescent board integration

The Universal Development Kit is designed to work with various Hemisphere GPS OEM boards and includes an enclosure with carrier board, adapter boards, and various cables.

For more information on the Universal Development Kit visit www.hemispheregps.com and navigate to the OEM products page.

Board Integration

Successful integration of the Crescent within a system requires electronics expertise that includes:

- Power supply design
- Serial port level translation
- Reasonable radio frequency competency
- An understanding of electromagnetic compatibility
- Circuit design and layout

The Crescent GPS engine is a low-level module intended for custom integration with the following general integration requirements:

- Regulated power supply input (3.3 VDC \pm 3%), 300 mA continuous
- Low-level serial port (3.3 V CMOS) and USB port communications
- Radio frequency (RF) input to the engine from a GPS antenna is required to be actively amplified (10 to 40 dB gain)
- GPS antenna is powered with a separate regulated voltage source up to 15 VDC maximum
- Antenna input impedance is 50 Ω

Key Features

Key features of the Crescent include:

- 12-channel GPS engine (2 channels dedicated to SBAS tracking)
- Sub-meter horizontal accuracy 95%
- Raw measurement output (via documented binary messages)
- Position and heading update rates of 20 Hz maximum
- COAST technology that provides consistent performance with correction data
- e-Dif[®]-ready - a base station-free way of differentially positioning
- L-Dif[™]-ready – Local differential is a proprietary Hemisphere GPS method where a specialized set of messages are relayed between two Crescent receivers
- Quick times to first fix
- Four full-duplex serial ports and a USB device port
- 1 PPS timing output
- Event marker input
- Compact form factor

Note: For complete specifications of the Crescent see Appendix C, "Technical Specifications."

Message Interface

The Crescent uses a NMEA 0183 interface, allowing you to easily make configuration changes by sending text-type commands to the receiver.

The Crescent also supports a selection of binary messages. There is a wider array of information available through the binary messages, plus binary messages are inherently more efficient with data. If the application has a requirement for raw measurement data, this information is available only in a binary format.

For more information on NMEA 0183 commands and messages as well as binary messages refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

Using PocketMax to Communicate with the Crescent

Hemisphere's PocketMax is a free utility program that runs on your Windows PC or Windows mobile device. Simply connect your Windows device to the Crescent via the COM port and open PocketMax. The screens within PocketMax allow you to easily interface with the Crescent to:

- Select the internal SBAS, external beacon, or RTCM correction source and monitor reception (beacon optional)
- Configure GPS message output and port settings
- Record various types of data
- Monitor the Crescent's status and function

PocketMax is available for download from the Hemisphere GPS website (www.hemispheregps.com).



Chapter 2: Board Overview

Mechanical Layout
Connectors
Mounting Options
Headers and Pinouts
Signals
Shielding
Receiver Mounting

Mechanical Layout

Figure 2-1 shows the mechanical layout for the Crescent P100/P102/P104 OEM boards and Figure 2-2 shows the mechanical layout for the Crescent P101/P103 OEM boards. Dimensions are in millimeters (inches) for both layouts.

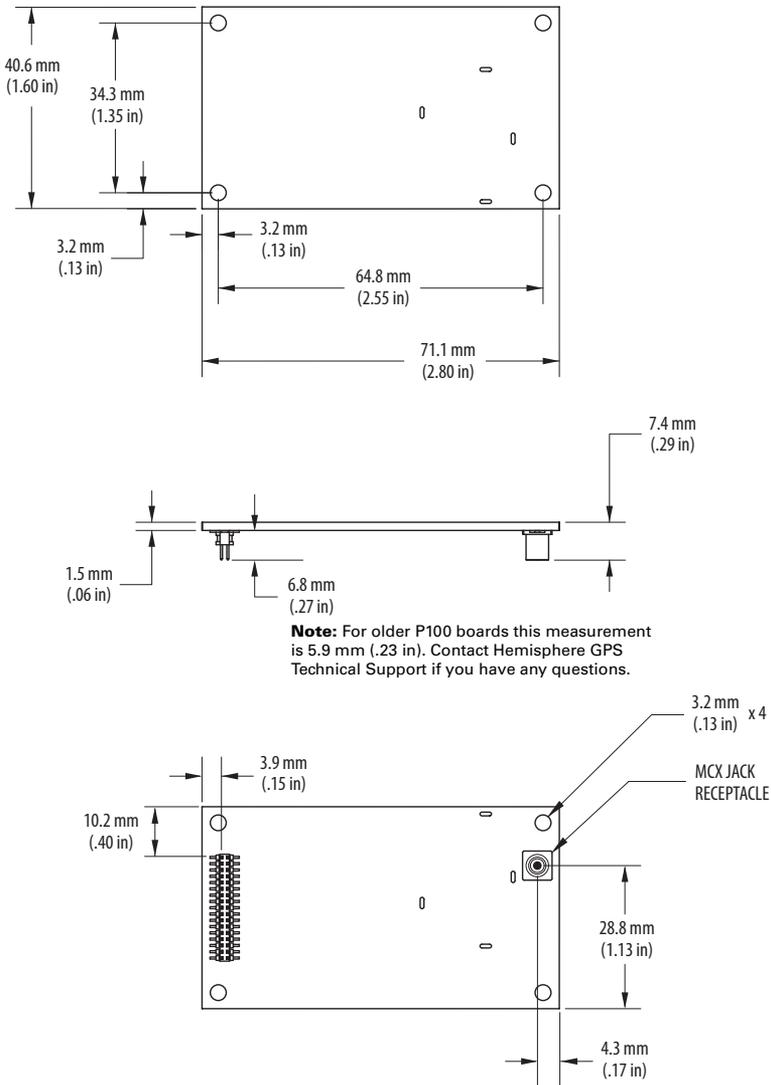


Figure 2-1: Crescent P100/P102/P104 mechanical layout

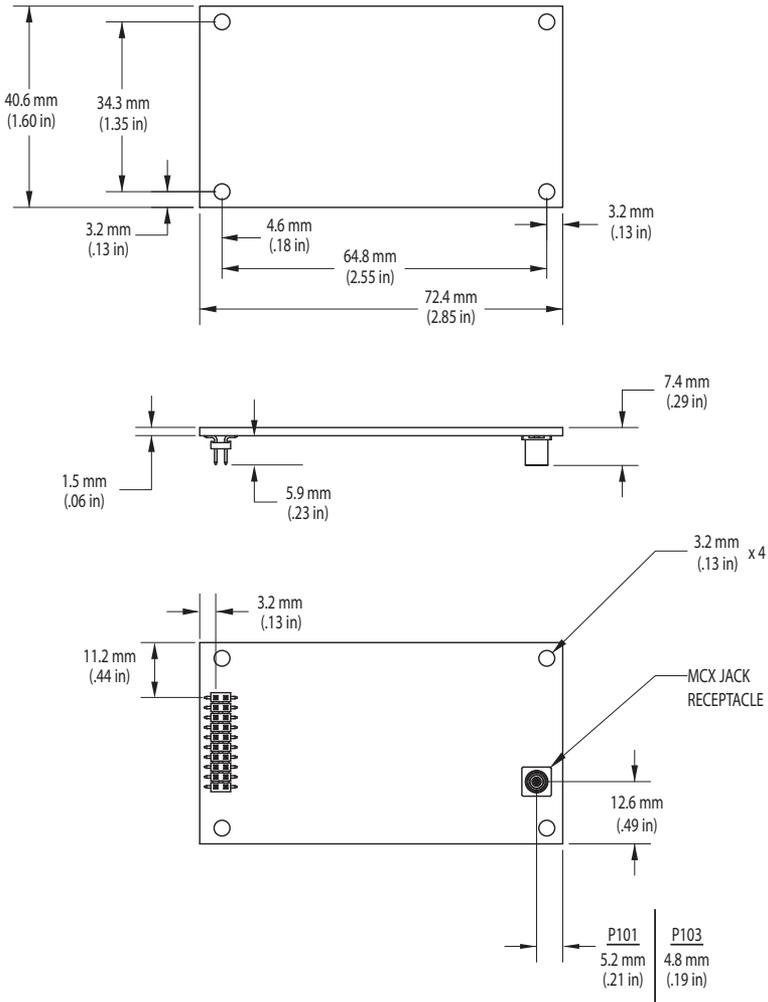


Figure 2-2: Crescent P101/P103 mechanical layout

Connectors

Table 2-1 describes the Crescent's connectors and mating connectors. You can use different compatible connectors; however, the requirements may be different. The antenna input impedance is 50 Ω .

Table 2-1: Crescent connectors

OEM Board and Connector Type		Crescent SMT Connector	Mating Connector
P100 P102 P104	RF	MCX, female straight jack Emerson (Johnson) 133-3711-202	MCX, male straight plug Samtec RSP-127824-01
	Power/ data	34-pin (17x2) male header, 0.05 in (1.27 mm) pitch Samtec: FTSH-117-01-L-DV Samtec FTSH-117-01-L-DV (older P100 boards) Samtec FTSH-117-04-L-DV (new P100 boards and all P102/P104 boards)	17x2 female SMT header socket, 0.05 in (1.27 mm) pitch Samtec: FLE-117-01-G-DV
P101 P103	RF	MCX, straight jack (female) Emerson (Johnson) 133-3711-202	MCX, male straight plug Samtec RSP-127824-01
	Power/ data	20-pin (10x2) male header, 0.08 in (2 mm) pitch Samtec: TMM-110-01-T-D-SM	10x2 female SMT header socket, 0.08 in (2 mm) pitch Samtec: TLE-110-01-G-DV
<p><i>Note: For the Samtec FTSH headers, '-01' indicates 0.120" posts and '-04' indicates 0.150" posts.</i></p>			

Mounting Options

There are two options for mounting the Crescent:

- Direct electrical connection method
- Indirect electrical connection (cable) method

Direct Electrical Connection Method

Place an RF connector, heading connector, and mounting holes on the carrier board and then mount the Crescent on the standoffs and RF and header connectors. This method is very cost effective as it does not use cable assemblies to interface the Crescent.

Note: Be aware of the GPS RF signals present on the carrier board and ensure the correct standoff height to avoid any flexural stresses on the board when you fasten it down.

The Crescent uses a standoff height of 7.9 mm (0.3125 in). With this height there should be no washers between either the standoff and the Crescent or the standoff and the carrier board; otherwise, you must make accommodations. You may need to change the standoff height if you select a different header connector.

If you want to use a right angle MCX connector, use a taller header than the Samtec part number suggested in this guide. This will provide clearance to have a right angle cable-mount connector and reduce the complexity by not having the carrier board handle the RF signals. See Table 2-1 on page 10 for Crescent connector information.

The mounting holes of the Crescent have a standard inner diameter of 3.2 mm (0.125 in).

Indirect Electrical Connection (Cable) Method

Mount the Crescent mechanically so you can connect a ribbon power/data cable to the Crescent. This requires cable assemblies and there is a reliability factor present with cable assemblies in addition to increased expense.

Headers and Pinouts

The Crescent uses a dual-row header connector to interface with power, communications, and other signals.

To identify the first header pin orient the board so the diamond is to the upper left of the pins; the first pin is on the left directly below the diamond (see Figure 2-3). The pins are then sequentially numbered per row from top to bottom.

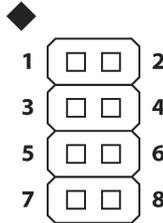


Figure 2-3: Identifying the first pin on the header connector

Crescent 34-pin Header Layout/Pinout

The P100/102/104 boards have a 34-pin header. Figure 2-4 shows the header layout and Table 2-2 provides the header pinout.

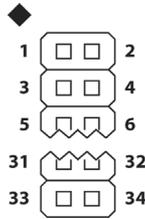


Figure 2-4: Crescent 34-pin header layout

Table 2-2: Crescent 34-pin header pinout

Pin	Name	Type	Description
1	3.3 V	Power	Receiver power supply, 3.3 V
2	3.3 V	Power	Receiver power supply, 3.3 V
3	Antenna Pwr	Power	Antenna power, DC, 15 V max
4	Batt Backup	Power	Power, 1.5 to 5.5 V, 500 nA typical
5	USB DEV+	I/O	USB device data +
6	USB DEV-	I/O	USB device data -
7	GND	Power	Receiver ground
8	GND	Power	Receiver ground
9	PATX	Output	Port A serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
10	PARX	Input	Port A serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
11	PBTX	Output	Port B serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
12	PBRX	Input	Port B serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
13	PDTX	Output	Port D serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
14	PDRX	Input	Port D serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
15	1 PPS	Output	Active high, rising edge, 3.3 V CMOS
16	Manual Mark	Input	Active low, falling edge, 3.3 V CMOS
17	GPS Lock	Output	Status indicator, 3.3 V CMOS, active low
18	Diff Lock	Output	Status indicator, 3.3 V CMOS, active low
19	DGPS Lock	Output	Status indicator, 3.3 V CMOS, active low
20	n/c	n/c	n/c
21	GPIO0	I/O	General purpose input/output
22	GPIO1	I/O	General purpose input/output
23	GPIO2	I/O	General purpose input/output

Table 2-2: Crescent 34-pin header pinout (continued)

Pin	Name	Type	Description
24	GPIO3	I/O	General purpose input/output
25	Speed Output	Output	0 - 3 V variable clock output
26	Speed Ready	Output	Active low, speed valid indicator, 3.3 V CMOS
27	GND	Power	Receiver ground
28	GND	Power	Receiver ground
29	n/c	n/c	n/c
30	n/c	n/c	n/c
31	PCTX	Output	Port C serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
32	PCRX	Input	Port C serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
33	L-Band Enable	Output	Reserved
34	Reset	Open collector	Reset, open collector, 3.3 V typical, not required
<p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pins are not 5 V tolerant. The pin voltage range is 0 to 3.3 VDC, unless otherwise noted. • Leave any data or I/O pins that will not be used unconnected. 			

Crescent 20-pin Header Layout/Pinout

The P101/103 boards have a 20-pin header. Figure 2-5 shows the header layout and Table 2-3 provides the header pinout.

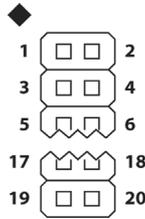


Figure 2-5: Crescent 20-pin header layout

Table 2-3: Crescent 20-pin header pinout

Pin	Name	Type	Description
1	Antenna Pwr	Power	Antenna power, DC, 15 V max
2	3.3 V	Power	Receiver power supply, 3.3 V
3	USB DEV-	I/O	USB device data -
4	USB DEV+	I/O	USB device data +
5	Reset	Open collector	Reset, open collector, 3.3 V typical, not required
6	PCRX	Input	Port C serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
7	PCTX	Output	Port C serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
8	PDRX	Input	Port D serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
9	PDTX	Output	Port D serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
10	GND	Power	Receiver ground
11	PATX	Output	Port A serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
12	PARX	Input	Port A serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
13	GND	Power	Receiver ground
14	PBTX	Output	Port B serial output, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
15	PBRX	Input	Port B serial input, 3.3 V CMOS, idle high
16	GND	Power	Receiver ground
17	Manual Mark	Input	Active low, falling edge, 3.3 V CMOS
18	GND	Power	Receiver ground
19	1 PPS	Output	Active high, rising edge, 3.3 V CMOS
20	Position Valid Indicator	Output	Status indicator, 3.3 V CMOS, active low
<p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pins are not 5 V tolerant. The pin voltage range is 0 to 3.3 VDC, unless otherwise noted. • Leave any data or I/O pins that will not be used unconnected. 			

Signals

This section provides information on the signals available via onboard connectors.

RF Input

The Crescent is designed to work with active GPS antennas with an LNA gain range of 10 to 40 dB. The purpose of the range is to accommodate for losses in the cable system. Essentially, there is a maximum cable loss budget of 30 dB for a 40 dB gain antenna. Depending on your antenna, the loss budget will likely be lower (a 24 dB gain antenna would have a 14 dB loss budget).

When designing the internal and external cable assemblies and choosing the RF connectors, do not exceed the loss budget; otherwise, you will compromise the tracking performance of the Crescent.

Serial Ports

The Crescent has four serial communication ports:

- Port A, Port B, Port C - main ports
- Port D - Exclusively used to interface with the SBX-4™ beacon board or an external corrections source. This port will not output normal GPS-related NMEA messages. When communicating into either Port A, B, or C, a virtual connection may be established to the device on Port D using the \$JCONN command.

The Crescent serial ports' 3.3 V CMOS signal level can be translated to interface to other devices. For example, if serial Ports A, B, and/or C are used to communicate to external devices such as PCs, you must translate the signal level from 3.3 V CMOS to RS-232.

LED Indicators

The Crescent features the following surface-mounted diagnostic LEDs (Figure 2-6) that indicate board status:

- DGPS - DGPS position
- DIFF - Differential lock
- GPS - GPS lock
- PWR - Power

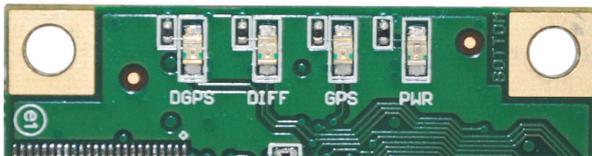


Figure 2-6: Onboard LEDs

With the exception of the power LED the signals that drive the LEDs are available via the header connector. Refer to Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 for pin number descriptions for the Crescent.

Note: Each signal pin can offer only 1 mA of current and is active low. Since 1 mA of current may be inadequate for the application, you may want to transistor-buffer these signals to provide more current capacity for acceptable LED luminance.

1PPS Timing Signal

The one pulse per second (1 PPS) timing signal is used in applications where devices require time synchronization.

Note: 1 PPS is typical of most GPS boards but not essential to normal receiver operation. Do not connect this pin if you do not need this function.

The 1 PPS signal is 3.3 V CMOS, active high with rising edge synchronization. The 1 PPS signal is capable of driving a load impedance greater than 10 k Ω in parallel with 10 pF. The pulse is approximately 1 ms.

Event Marker Input

A GPS solution may need to be forced at a particular instance, not synchronized with GPS time depending on the application, such as indicating to the GPS receiver when a photo is taken from a camera used for aerial photography.

Note: Event marker input is typical of most GPS boards but not essential to normal receiver operation. Do not connect this pin if you do not need this function.

The event marker input is 3.3 V CMOS, active low with falling edge synchronization. The input impedance and capacitance is higher than 10 k Ω and 10 pF respectively, with a threshold of lower than 0.7 V required to recognize the input.

Grounds

You must connect all grounds together when connecting the ground pins of the Crescent. These are not separate analog and digital grounds that require separate attention. Refer to Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 for ground pinout information for the Crescent.

Speed Radar Output

Note: Speed radar output is not essential to normal receiver operation. Do not connect these pins if you do not need this function.

The following two pins on the 34-pin Crescent boards relate to the Speed Radar:

- Speed Radar Pulse (Pin 25) - Outputs a square wave with 50% duty cycle. The frequency of the square wave varies directly with speed. 97 Hz represents a speed of 1 m/s (3.28 ft/s).
- Speed Radar Ready Signal (Pin 26) - Indicates when the speed signal on the Speed Radar Pulse pin is valid. In static situations, such as when the vehicle has stopped, the GPS position may still have slight variations from one moment to the next. During these instances, the signal on the Speed Radar Ready Signal pin is 'high' or +Vcc, indicating the speed coming out of the Speed Radar Pulse pin is erroneous and not truly indicative of the GPS receiver's actual speed. **Therefore, it should not be referred to or be used.** Once the vehicle starts moving again and meets a minimum threshold speed, the output on the Speed Radar Ready Signal pin will go 'low' indicating valid speed information is present on the Speed Radar Pulse pin.

Table 2-4 provides the location of the Speed Radar Pulse and Speed Radar Ready Signal on the Crescent.

Table 2-4: Speed radar output availability on the Crescent

Crescent OEM Board	Speed Radar Pulse	Speed Radar Ready Signal
P100/P102/P104	Pin 25	Pin 26
P101/P103	N/A	N/A

Note: Neither pin 25 nor pin 26 of the Crescent P100/P102/P104 has any form of isolation or surge protection. If utilizing the Speed Radar Pulse output, Hemisphere GPS strongly recommends incorporating some form of isolation circuitry into the supporting hardware. Contact Hemisphere GPS Technical Support for an example of an optically isolated circuit.

Shielding

The Crescent is a sensitive instrument. When integrated into an enclosure, the Crescent may require shielding from other electronics to ensure optimal operation. If you are designing a smart antenna based on the Crescent (the Crescent and the GPS antenna in close proximity), you will likely want to shield the Crescent so that it does not interfere with the incoming GPS signals to the antenna.

Receiver Mounting

The Crescent is a precision instrument. To ensure optimal operation, consider mounting the receiver in a way to minimize vibration and shock. When mounting the Crescent immediately adjacent to the GPS antenna, Hemisphere GPS highly recommends shielding the board from the LNA of the antenna. This step can be more complex than some integrators initially estimate. Attempt to confirm the operation in your application as early in the project as possible.



Chapter 3: Operation

Powering the Crescent

Communicating with the Crescent

Configuring the Crescent

Firmware

Configuring the Data Message Output

Saving the Crescent Configuration

Using Port D for RTCM Input

Configuration Defaults

Powering the Crescent

The Crescent is powered by a 3.3 VDC power source. Once you connect appropriate power the Crescent is active. Although the Crescent proceeds through an internal startup sequence upon application of power, it is ready to communicate immediately.

Install the antenna outdoors so it has a clear view of the entire sky. If you place the antenna indoors near a window, for example, you will likely not track a sufficient number of satellites. With a properly installed antenna the Crescent provides a position within approximately 60 sec.

Note: For SBAS tracking it can take up to five minutes to receive a full ionospheric map from SBAS. Once it obtains complete ionospheric information, the Crescent can compute positions with maximum accuracy.

Communicating with the Crescent

The Crescent features three primary serial ports (Port A, Port B, Port C) that you can configure independently from each other. You can configure the ports for any combination of NMEA 0183, binary, and RTCM SC-104 data. The usual data output is limited to NMEA data messages as these are industry standard.

Note: You may use the three serial ports to separate the different data types and output different rates. If the Crescent is required to output different data types simultaneously, ensure data logging and the processing software used can correctly parse the different data from a single stream.

Configuring the Crescent

You can configure all aspects of Crescent operation through any serial port using proprietary commands. These commands are described in detail in the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

You can configure the following:

- Select one of the two firmware applications
- Set communication port baud rates
- Select which messages to output on the serial ports and the update rate of each message
- Set various receiver operating parameters

For a complete lists of commands and messages refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference.

To issue commands to the Crescent you will need to connect it to a terminal program such as HyperTerminal or either of Hemisphere GPS' software applications (SLXMon™ or PocketMax). See "What is the best software tool to use to communicate with the Crescent and configure it?" on page 26 for descriptions of HyperTerminal, SLXMon, and PocketMax.

Firmware

The software that runs the Crescent is often referred to as firmware since it operates at a low level. You can upgrade the firmware in the field through any serial port as new versions become available.

You can have two firmware applications loaded on the receiver; however, you can only operate one at a time.

The Crescent currently ships with the rover RTK application and the base RTK/SBAS application. Refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon) for information on the \$JAPP command, which you use to change between the two Crescent applications.

Configuring the Data Message Output

The Crescent features three primary bi-directional ports (Ports A, B and C) and a differential-only port (Port D). You can configure messages for all ports by sending proprietary commands to the Crescent through any port. For a complete lists of commands and messages refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

'THIS' Port and the 'OTHER' Port

Both Port A and Port B use the phrases "THIS" and "OTHER" when referring to themselves and each other in NMEA messages.

'THIS' port is the port you are currently connected to for inputting commands. To output data through the same port ('THIS' port) you do not need to specify 'THIS' port. For example, when using Port A to request the GPGGA data message be output at 5 Hz on the same port (Port A), issue the following command:

```
$JASC,GPGGA,5<CR><LF>
```

The 'OTHER' port is either Port A or Port B, whichever one you are not using to issue commands. If you are using Port A to issue commands, then Port B is the 'OTHER' port, and vice versa. To specify the 'OTHER' port for the data output you need to include 'OTHER' in the command. For example, if you use Port A to request the GPGGA data message be output at 5 Hz on Port B, issue the following command:

```
$JASC,GPGGA,5,OTHER<CR><LF>
```

When using Port A or Port B to request message be output on Port C, you must specifically indicate (by name) you want the output on Port C. For example, if you use Port A to request the GPGLL data message be output at 10 Hz on Port C, issue the following command:

```
$JASC,GPGLL,10,PORTC<CR><LF>
```

Saving the Crescent Configuration

Each time you change the Crescent's configuration you may want to save the configuration so you do not have to reconfigure the receiver each time you power it on. To save the configuration, issue the \$JSAVE command to the Crescent. The Crescent will take approximately five seconds to save the configuration to non-volatile memory and will indicate when the configuration has been saved.

Using Port D for RTCM Input

Port D has been optimized to interface with Hemisphere GPS' SBX-4 beacon board and operates at 9600 baud (8 data bits, no parity and 1 stop bit – 8-N-1).

To configure the Crescent to use Port D, issue the following command:

```
$JDIFF, BEACON<CR><LF>
```

To return to using SBAS as the correction source, send the following command to the Crescent:

```
$JDIFF, WAAS<CR><LF>
```

For a complete lists of commands and messages refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

Configuration Defaults

The following represents the standard configuration for the Crescent. For more information on these commands refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon).

```
$JOFF, PORTA
$JOFF, PORTB
$JOFF, PORTC
$JBAUD, 19200, PORTA
$JBAUD, 19200, PORTB
$JBAUD, 19200, PORTC
$JAGE, 2700
$JLIMIT, 10.0
$JMASK, 5
$JDIFF, WAAS
$JPOS, 51.0, -114.0
$JSMOOTH, LONG900
$JAIR, AUTO
$JALT, NEVER

$JNP, 7
$JWAASPRN, AUTO
$JTAU, COG, 0.00
$JTAU, SPEED, 0.00

$JSAVE
```



Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

Integration
Power, Communication, and Configuration
GPS Reception and Performance
SBAS Reception and Performance
External Corrections
Antenna Installation
Support and Repair

Integration

Do I need to use the 1 PPS and event marker?

No, these are not necessary for Crescent operation.

What should I do with the 1 PPS signal if I do not want to use it?

This signal will be strobing at 1 Hz, so it should not be connected.

What should I do with the manual mark input if I am not going to use it?

Do not connect the pin because this signal is active low.

Do I need to use the lock indicators?

No, these are present for applications where it is desirable to have an LED visible to the user. These signals need to be transistor-buffered, as these lines can only offer 1 mA. Depending on the product and the application, LEDs can be very useful to the end user. These signals are active low.

Do I need to use a shield-can for the Crescent?

Not necessarily...but you may need to if there are RF interference issues, such as if the Crescent interferes with other devices. A shield-can would be a good start in terms of investigating the benefit. If you are designing a smart antenna system, one is likely needed. Hemisphere GPS recommends that you always conduct an RF prescan when integrating OEM boards.

If my company wants to integrate this product, what type of engineering resources will I need to do this successfully?

Hemisphere GPS recommends you have sufficient engineering resources with the appropriate skills in and understanding of the following:

- Electronic design (including power supplies and level translation)
- RF implications of working with GPS equipment
- Circuit design and layout
- Mechanical design and layout

What type of assistance can I expect from Hemisphere GPS when integrating the Crescent?

Integration of a GPS board has such benefits as:

- Lower system cost
- Improved branding (rather than relabeling an existing product)
- Better control of system design

As an integrator, you are responsible for ensuring that the correct resources are in place to technically complete it. Hemisphere GPS will provide reasonable assistance. However, Hemisphere GPS does not have dedicated engineering resources for in-depth integration support. Hemisphere GPS will do its best to provide support as necessary, but you should expect to have reasonable expertise to use this manual.

Power, Communication, and Configuration

My Crescent system does not appear to be communicating. What do I do?

This could be one of a few issues:

- Examine the Crescent cables and connectors for signs of damage or offset.
- Ensure the Crescent system is properly powered with the correct voltage.
- Ensure there is a good connection to the power supply since it is required to terminate the power input with the connector.
- Check the documentation of the receiving device, if not a PC, to ensure the transmit line from the Crescent is connected to the receive line of the other device. Also, ensure the signal grounds are connected.
- If the Crescent is connected to a custom or special device, ensure the serial connection to it does not have any incompatible signal lines present that prevent proper communication.
- Make sure the baud rate of the Crescent matches the other device. The other device must also support an 8 data bit, 1 stop bit, no parity port configuration (8-N-1). Some devices support different settings that may be user configurable. Ensure the settings match.
- Consult the troubleshooting section of the other device's documentation to determine if there may be a problem with the equipment.

Am I able to configure two serial ports with different baud rates?

Yes, all the serial ports are independent. For example, you may set one port to 4800 and another port to 19200.

Am I able to have the Crescent output different NMEA messages through multiple ports?

Yes, different NMEA messages can be sent to the serial ports you choose. These NMEA messages may also be at different update rates.

A high enough baud rate is needed to transmit all the data; otherwise, some data may not be transmitted.

How can I determine the current configuration of the Crescent?

The \$JSHOW command will request the configuration information from the Crescent. The response will be similar to:

```
$>JSHOW,BAUD,19200
$>JSHOW,BIN,1,5.0
$>JSHOW,BAUD,4800,OTHER
$>JSHOW,ASC,GPGGA,1.0,OTHER
$>JSHOW,ASC,GPVTG,1.0,OTHER
$>JSHOW,ASC,GPGSA,1.0,OTHER
```

How can I be sure the configuration will be saved for the subsequent power cycle?

Query the receiver to make sure the current configuration is correct by issuing a \$JSHOW command. If not, make the necessary changes and reissue the \$JSHOW command. Once the current configuration is acceptable, issue a \$JSAVE command and wait for the receiver to indicate the save is complete. Do not power off the receiver until the "save complete" message appears.

How do I change the baud rate of a port from that port?

Connect at the current baud rate of the Crescent port and then issue a \$JBAUD command to change the port baud rate to the desired rate. Then change the baud rate in your application to the desired rate.

What is the best software tool to use to communicate with the Crescent and configure it?

Hemisphere GPS uses three different software applications:

- HyperTerminal™ - Available on all Windows® 95, 98, ME, and XP. This tool allows you to configure the Crescent by directly typing commands into the terminal window. The output from the Crescent is simultaneously shown. When using HyperTerminal, ensure it is configured to use the correct PC communication port and baud rate, and that the local echo feature is on (to see what is being typed).
- SLXMon - Available at www.hemispheregps.com. This application is a very useful tool for graphically viewing tracking performance and position accuracy, and for recording data. It can also configure message output and port settings. SLXMon runs on Windows 95 or higher.
- PocketMax - Available at www.hemispheregps.com. Similar to SLXMon, you can use this application to graphically view tracking performance and position accuracy, record data, and configure message output and port settings. PocketMax runs on multiple Windows platforms using the Windows .NET framework.

GPS Reception and Performance

How do I know what the Crescent is doing?

The Crescent supports standard NMEA data messages. The \$GPGSV and Bin99 data messages contain satellite tracking and SNR information. If available, the computed position is contained in the \$GPGGA message. Additionally, the Crescent has surface-mounted status LEDs that indicate receiver status.

Do I have to be careful when using the Crescent to ensure it tracks properly?

For best performance, the Crescent's antenna must have a clear view of the sky for satellite tracking. The Crescent can tolerate a certain amount of signal blockage because redundant satellites are often available. Only four satellites are required for a position; however, the more satellites that are used, the greater the positioning accuracy.

SBAS Reception and Performance

How do I know if the Crescent has acquired an SBAS signal?

The Crescent outputs the \$RD1 message that contains the SBAS Bit Error Rate (BER) for each SBAS channel. The BER value describes the rate of errors received from SBAS. Ideally, this should be zero. However, the Crescent performs well up to 150 BER. The SLXMon and PocketMax utilities provide this information without needing to use NMEA commands.

How do I know if the Crescent is offering a differentially-corrected or RTK-corrected position?

The Crescent outputs the \$GPGGA message as the main positioning data message. This message contains a quality fix value that describes the GPS status. If this value is 2, the position is differentially corrected; if this value is 5, the position is RTK-corrected. The SLXMon and PocketMax utilities provide this information without needing to use NMEA commands.

How do I select an SBAS satellite?

By default the Crescent will automatically attempt to track the appropriate SBAS satellites. If multiple satellites are available, the one with the lowest BER value is selected to be used to decode the corrections.

You can manually select which SBAS satellites to track (refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference—go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon); however, this is not recommended.

Should I be concerned if the Crescent is frequently losing lock on SBAS due to obstructions or low satellite elevation angles at my geographic location?

No, provided the receiver is receiving a full set of corrections relatively often. Using COAST technology, the Crescent is able to perform well for 40 minutes or more with aging correction data. Similar to DGPS corrections, accuracy degrades over time and distance. To obtain a full set of corrections the Crescent antenna receives the ionospheric map over a period of a few minutes—this is the minimum amount of time required to get a full set of corrections for SBAS operation. After this, the receiver can coast until the next set of corrections have been received.

Accuracy is a function of correction age and current ionospheric activity, which will increase in the coming years.

External Corrections

My Crescent system does not appear to be using DGPS or RTK corrections from an external correction source. What could be the problem?

This could be due to a number of factors. To isolate the issue:

- Make sure DGPS corrections are RTCM v2.3 protocol.
- Make sure RTK corrections are either ROX, RTCM v3, CMR, or CMR+ protocol.
- Verify the baud rates used by the Crescent match that of the external correction source.
- The external correction should be using an 8 data bit, no parity, 1 stop bit (8-N-1) serial port configuration.
- Inspect the cable connection to ensure there is no damage.
- Check the pinout information for the cables to ensure the transmit line of the external correction source is connected to the receive line of the Crescent's serial port and that the signal grounds are connected.
- Make sure the Crescent has been set to receive external corrections by issuing the \$JDIF command. Refer to the Hemisphere GPS Technical Reference (go to www.hemispheregps.com and click the GPS Reference icon) for more information.

Antenna Installation

Does it matter where I mount the Crescent's antenna?

Yes, the mounting location must provide a clear view of the sky for satellite tracking. Additionally, the position that it computes is based on the center of the antenna. It should be placed in the location for which the user would like a position. Often antennas are mounted on the centerline of a vehicle or on a pole-mount for georeference.

How will antenna selection and mounting affect Crescent performance?

For best results select a multipath-resistant antenna. Ensure the antenna tracks all the available signals for the receiver.

Mount the antenna:

- With the best possible view of the sky
- In a location with the lowest possible multipath

Using a magnetic mount for the antenna will not affect performance.

Support and Repair

How do I solve a problem I cannot isolate?

Hemisphere GPS recommends contacting the dealer first. With their experience with this product, and other products from Hemisphere GPS, they should be able to help isolate a problem. If the issue is beyond the capability or experience of the dealer, Hemisphere GPS Technical Support is available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

See "Technical Support" on page i (just before the Contents page) for Technical Support contact information.

What do I do if I cannot resolve a problem after trying to diagnose it myself?

Contact your dealer to see if they have any information that may help to solve the problem. They may be able to provide some in-person assistance. If this is not viable or does not solve the problem, Hemisphere GPS Technical Support is available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

See "Technical Support" on page i (just before the Contents page) for Technical Support contact information.

Can I contact Hemisphere GPS Technical Support directly regarding technical problems?

Yes, however, Hemisphere GPS recommends speaking to the dealer first as they can provide local support. They may be able to solve the problem quickly, due to their closer location and experience with our equipment.



Appendix B: Troubleshooting

Use the following checklist to troubleshoot anomalous Crescent operation. Table B-1 provides a list of issues with possible solutions. Refer to Appendix C, “Technical Specifications” if necessary.

Table B-1: Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Solution
<p>What do I do initially if I have a problem with the operation of the Crescent?</p>	<p>Try to isolate the source of the problem. Problems are likely to fall within one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power, communication, and configuration • GPS reception and performance • Beacon reception and performance • SBAS reception and performance • External corrections • Installation • Shielding and isolating interference <p>It is important to review each category in detail to eliminate it as a problem.</p>
<p>Receiver fails to power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify polarity of power leads • Check 1.0 A in-line power cable fuse connection • Check integrity of power cable connections • Check power input voltage • Check current restrictions imposed by power source (minimum available should be > 1.0 A)
<p>No data from the Crescent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No communication 2. No valid data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) Check receiver power status (this may be done with an ammeter) • (2) Verify the Crescent is locked to a valid DGPS signal (this can often be done on the receiving device or by using SLXMon) • (2) Verify the Crescent is locked to GPS satellites (this can often be done on the receiving device or by using SLXMon) • (2) Check integrity and connectivity of power and data cable connections
<p>Random binary data from the Crescent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the RCTM or Bin messages are not being accidentally output (send a \$JSHOW command) • Verify the baud rate settings of the Crescent and the remote device match • Potentially, the volume of data requested to be output by the Crescent could be higher than the current baud rate supports. Try using 19200 or higher for the baud rate for all devices

Table B-1: Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Solution
No GPS lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check integrity of antenna cable • Verify antenna's view of the sky • Verify the lock status and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of GPS satellites (this can often be done on the receiving device or by using SLXMon)
No SBAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check antenna cable integrity • Verify antenna's view of the sky, especially toward SBAS satellites, south in the northern hemisphere • Verify the bit error rate and lock status of SBAS satellites (this can often be done on the receiving device or by using SLXMon - monitor BER value)
No DGPS position in external RTCM mode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the baud rate of the RTCM input port matches the baud rate of the external source • Verify the pinout between the RTCM source and the RTCM input port (the 'ground' pin and pinout must be connected, and the 'transmit' from the source must connect to the 'receive' of the RTCM input port).
Non-DGPS output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify Crescent SBAS and lock status (or external source is locked)



Appendix C: Technical Specifications

Table C-1 through Table C-5 provide specifications for all the Crescent boards.

Table C-1: GPS sensor specifications

Item	Specification		
Receiver type	L1, C/A code, with carrier phase smoothing		
Channels	12-channel, parallel tracking (10-channel when tracking SBAS)		
GPS sensitivity	-142 dBm		
SBAS tracking	2-channel, parallel tracking		
Update rate	Standard 10 Hz, optional 20 Hz (position and heading)		
Horizontal accuracy		RMS (67%)	2DRMS (95%)
	RTK ^{1,2}	20 mm + 1 ppm	40 mm + 2 ppm
	L-Dif ^{1,2}	0.14 m	0.28 m
	SBAS (WAAS) ¹	0.3 m	0.6 m
	Autonomous, no SA ¹	1.2 m	2.5 m
Timing (1PPS) accuracy	20 ns		
Cold start time	< 60 s typical (no almanac or RTC)		
Warm start time	< 30 s typical (almanac and RTC)		
Hot start time	< 10 s (almanac, RTC, and position)		
Maximum speed	1,850 kph (999 kts)		
Maximum altitude	18,288 m (60,000 ft)		

Table C-2: Communication specifications

Item	Specification
Serial ports	4 full-duplex 3.3 V CMOS (3 main serial ports, 1 differential-only port)
USB	1 USB device
Baud rates	4800 - 115200
Data I/O protocol	NMEA 0183, Crescent binary
Correction I/O protocol	RTCM SC-104, L-Dif ² , RTK ²
Timing output	1PPS CMOS, active high, rising edge sync, 10 k Ω , 10 pF load
Event marker input	CMOS, active low, falling edge sync, 10 k Ω , 10 pF load

Table C-3: Power specifications

Item	Specification
Input voltage	3.3 VDC +/- 3%
Power consumption	~1 W nominal
Current consumption	~300 mA @ 3.3 VDC
Antenna voltage input	15 VDC maximum
Antenna short circuit protection	Yes
Antenna gain input range	10 to 40 dB
Antenna input impedance	50 Ω

Table C-4: Environmental specifications

Item	Specification
Operating temperature	-30°C to +70°C (-22°F to +158°F)
Storage temperature	-40°C to +85°C (-40°F to +185°F)
Humidity	95% non-condensing (when installed in an enclosure)
Shock and vibration	EP455 Section 5.15.1 Random. Mechanical Shock: EP455 Section 5.14.1 Operational (when mounted in an enclosure with screw mounting holes utilized)

Table C-5: Mechanical specifications

Item	Specification	
Dimensions	P100/P102/P104	P101/P103
	71.1 L x 40.6 W x 7.4 H (mm)	72.4 L x 40.6 W x 7.4 H (mm)
	2.81 L x 1.60 W x 0.29 H (in)	2.85 L x 1.60 W x 0.29 H (in)
Weight	< 20 g (< 0.7 oz)	
Status indication (LED)	Power, GPS lock, Differential lock, DGPS position	
Power/Data connector	P100/P102/P104	P101/P103
	34-pin (17x2) male header	20-pin (10x2) male header
	0.05" (1.27 mm) pitch	0.08" (2 mm) pitch
Antenna connector	MCX, female, straight	

¹ Depends on multipath environment, number of satellites in view, satellite geometry and ionospheric activity.

² Depends also on baseline length.

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25. **FORUM FOR DISPUTES.** The parties agree that the courts located in the State of Arizona and the courts of appeal there from will have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any disputes between Licensee and Hemisphere concerning this Agreement or Licensee's use or inability to use the Software and the parties hereby irrevocably agree to attorn to the jurisdiction of those courts. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive relief.
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