



**AXELERA**  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# Metis Compute Board Datasheet

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Version: Issue 7

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### Document revision history

Revision	Date	Description
1 - PRELIMINARY	2025-04-25	First issue
2 - PRELIMINARY	2025-04-25	Improved formatting.
3 - PRELIMINARY	2025-07-23	Updated operating temperature in table 3. Updated block diagram in section 4. Added M.2 connector pinouts to section 7. Updated section 9 Part description.
4 - PRELIMINARY	2025-07-25	Added ON/OFF and RESET pin descriptions DC PlugIn spec added to table 2.
5	2026-02-06	Updated board photo in section 1.1 Added datapoints for full system in Footnote 1 Updated weights/dimensions in Table 3 and Table 6 Updated TDP and Typical Power in Table 4 Updated diagram and floorplan in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 Added no cooling diagram Updated part numbers in Section 8
6	2026-03-20	Removed no cooling variant and part numbers.
7	2026-03-20	Marked AXE- BME20S1AI04A01 as end of sale (see footnote 3).

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# 1 Introduction

The Metis Compute Board is a single-board computer (SBC) designed to provide AI inference acceleration for edge systems requiring high performance with low power consumption.

This datasheet provides instructions and safety information to ensure the Metis Compute Board can be installed, operated, stored, maintained, repaired, and disposed of safely.

## 1.1 Metis Compute Board overview

The Metis Compute Board is designed around the Axelera AI Metis AIPU AI inference accelerator and features the Arm-based Rockchip RK3588 edge computing System-on-Chip.

The Metis Compute Board is specifically engineered for demanding, multi-stream computer vision and generative AI applications that require low power. It includes multiple connectivity options, making it suitable for a broad range of application environments, such as security, retail, industrial, robotics, and mobility applications. Its performance is enhanced through the [Voyager SDK](#) software stack to accelerate application deployment.

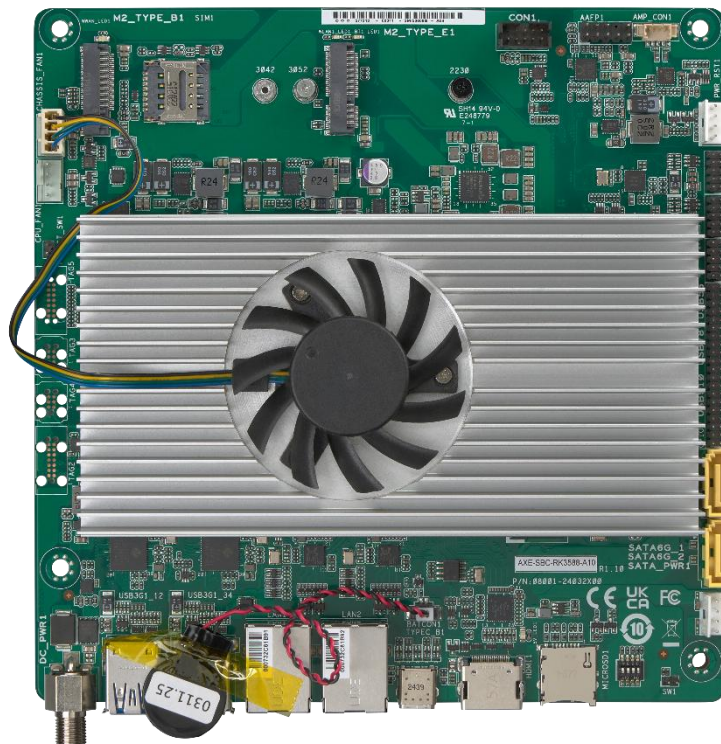


Figure 1: Axelera AI Metis Compute Board

## 1.2 Key features

- SBC based on a Metis AIPU with a 4-lane PCIe connection to the CPU.
- RK3588 powered by two Arm quad-core processors and a GPU for general-purpose computing.
- Connectivity includes SATA, USB, HDMI 2.0, LAN, UART, I2C, GPIO.
- Energy efficiency and compact mini-ITX 170 x 170 mm form factor.

## 2 Functional specifications

### 2.1 Board and product characteristics

The tables in this section list the board characteristics, including physical and software characteristics.

Table 1: Metis Compute Board functional specifications

Category	Component	Details
<b>AI Accelerator</b>	AIPU	Axelera AI Metis AIPU
	AIPU Memory	LPDDR4x 4 GB or 16GB
	Interface	PCIe Gen 3.0 4-lane
<b>Compute</b>	Edge Compute SoC	Rockchip RK3588 featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quad-core Arm Cortex A76 and quad-core Arm Cortex A55 CPUs</li> <li>• Arm Mali-G610 MC4 GPU</li> <li>• Decode 8k30 H.265, encode 8k60 H.265</li> </ul>
<b>Memory</b>	SoC Memory	On-board LPDDR4 16 GB, dual channel
<b>Storage</b>	On-board	eMMC 64 GB
	External (SSD/HDD)	2x SATA 3.0 at 6.0 GB/s 2x 4-pin SATA power connectors
	Flash card	1x microSD
<b>Expansion</b>	M.2 E Key	(22 x 30mm) USB 2.0 + PCIe 2.1 1-lane for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or Wi-Fi/Bluetooth combo modules
	M.2 B Key	(30 x 52 mm) USB 3.0 for 4G/5G modem modules
<b>Networking</b>	Ethernet	2x Gigabit Ethernet (1 Gbps) via RJ45 connector interfaced through RGMII
	Wake-on LAN / PXE	Yes
<b>Display</b>	HDMI	1x HDMI 2.0
	Display Port over USB-C	1x (4,096 x 2,160 @ 24 Hz / 3,840 x 2,160 @ 60 Hz)
<b>Audio</b>	Audio subsystem	HD Audio 144 kbps with integrated codec over I2S, mic input, speaker output at 2W, 4 Ohm
<b>Connectivity</b>	USB	4x USB 3.1 Gen1 (Rear) 3x USB 2.0 headers 1x USB Type-C
	General I/O	40-pin header (4 input and 4 output Digital I/Os, UART, ADC, I2C, SPI)
	Fans	1x 4-pin CPU connector 1x 4-pin Chassis connector

Category	Component	Details
<b>Environment</b>	Battery	Lithium battery (used for powering the RTC)
<b>Power</b>	PMIC	RK806-1
	Power	External 12V DC supply
<b>Thermal</b>	Cooling Solution	Active fan and heatsink
<b>Certifications</b>	-	CE, FCC, UKCA, Safety (UL)

## 2.2 Software

- BSP: The board is provided with Board Support Package pre-installed.
- OS: Yocto-based Linux OS.

## 2.3 Security

The Metis AIPU chip features a Root of Trust (RoT) that can be securely provisioned during chipset manufacturing. Secure boot and other security features built on this foundational RoT will be enabled in future revisions. For more information, please see Axelera contact details in section 7 *Support*.

### 3 Electrical, mechanical, and thermal specifications

Table 2: Electrical characteristics

Specification	Description
Power Rating	The Metis Compute Board requires an external DC power supply of 12V at 7 A.
Typical Power <sup>1</sup>	9 – 20 W Typical average power of the full system when running Deep Neural Networks at maximum performance at an ambient temperature of 25°C. Please refer to the Software Release Notes for more information on the exact power consumption per Neural Network.
DC Plug In	2.5 x 5.5 x 7.5 mm, positive center, with or without lock

Table 3: Physical characteristics

Specification	Description
Mechanical Dimensions	See section <i>Table 6: Metis Compute Board dimensions</i> .
Weight	465 g with active cooling 210 g without active cooling

Table 4: Thermal characteristics

Specification	Description
Thermal Design Power	25W (measured with AI inference, 40% CPU utilization) 35W maximum (estimated combined CPU+AI workload)

Table 5: Environmental characteristics

Specification	Description
Operating temperature <sup>2</sup>	0~60°C
Storage temperature	-40~85°C
Storage humidity	0%~85% RH, non-condensing

<sup>1</sup> For example, yolov5m runs at 397 FPS, uses 18 W and yolov8l runs at 174 FPS and uses 16 W.

<sup>2</sup> Extended operating temperature variant [-20~70°C] available upon request.

### 3.1 Board mechanical details

This section provides the board outline of the Metis Compute Board.

#### 3.1.1 Board with active cooling

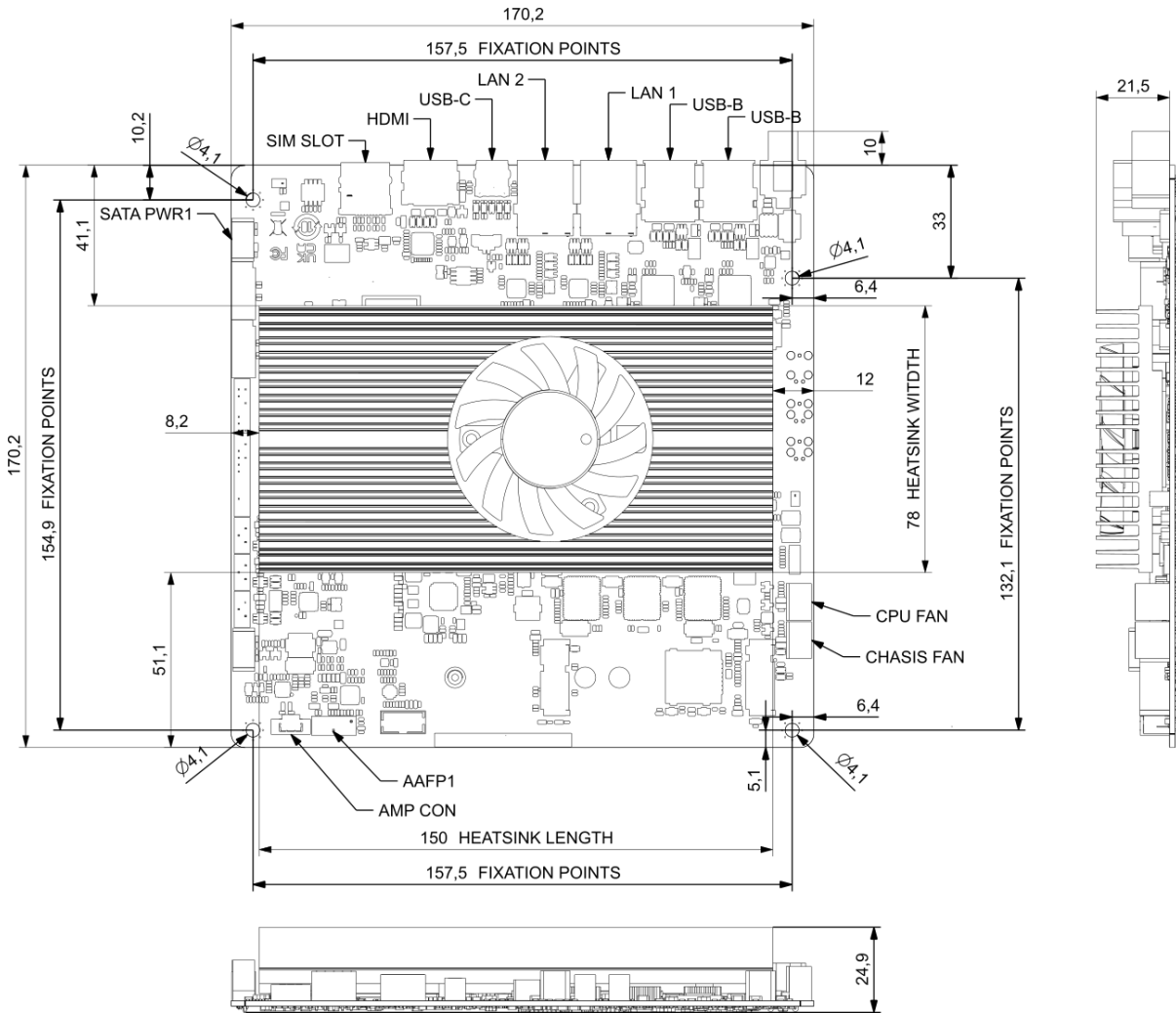


Figure 2: Metis Compute Board package with active cooling

Table 6 shows the mechanical dimensions of the Metis Compute Board.

Table 6: Metis Compute Board dimensions

Item	Dimensions (mm)
Total length	170
Total width	170
Total height	24.9

### 3.2 Board floorplan: top view

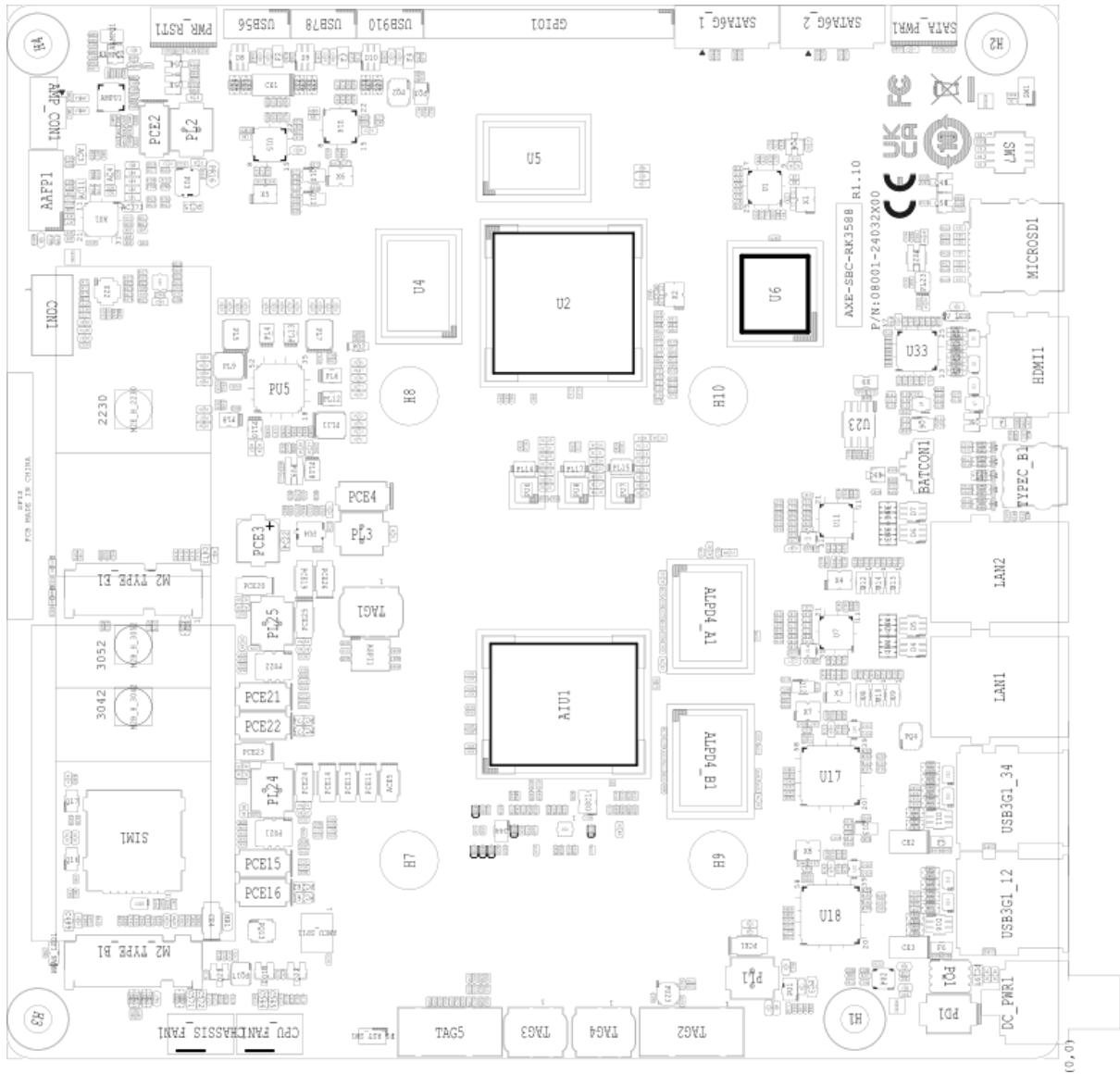


Figure 3: Top view of the Metis Compute Board

### 3.3 Cooling solution

#### 3.3.1 Active cooling

The Metis Compute Board, uses a fan-based cooler. The fan dissipates hot air on either side of the heatsink. Figure 4 shows the airflow directions: the blue arrow indicates cold air, the red indicates hot air.

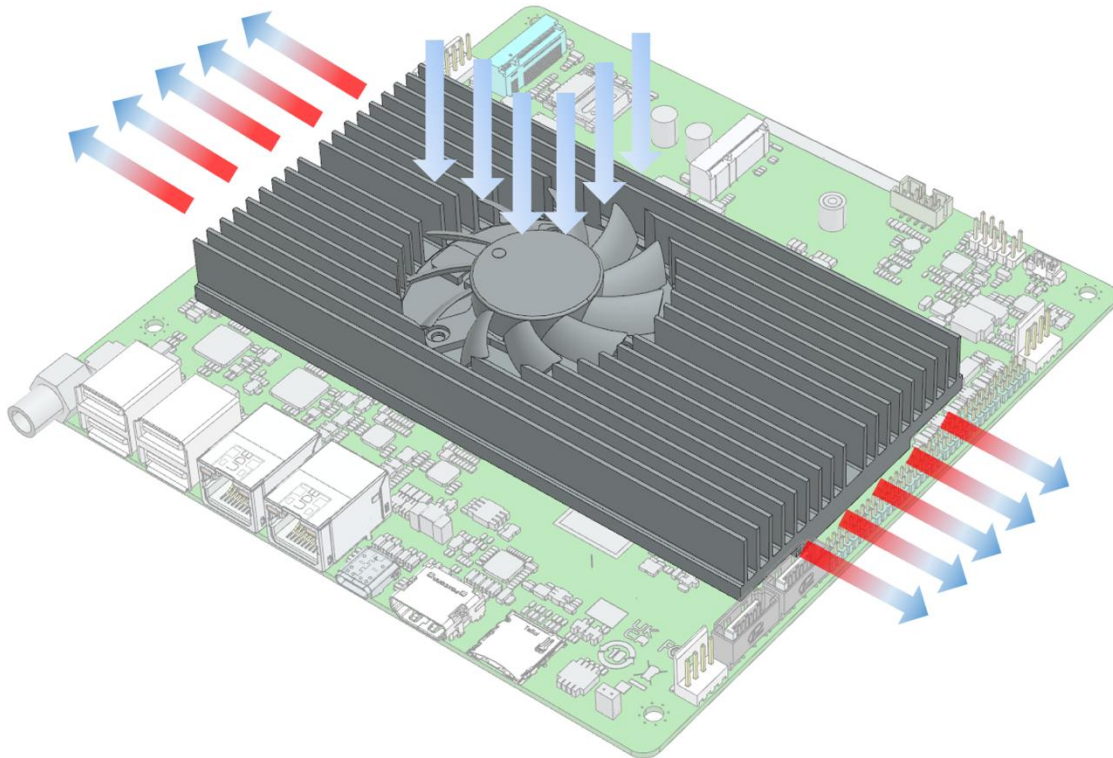


Figure 4: Air flow directions for the Metis Compute Board.

The fan characteristics are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: The Metis Compute Board's fan characteristics

Item	Dimensions (mm)
Fan dimensions	60 x 60 x 10 mm
Voltage	11.4 V - 12.6 V
Power consumption	5 W at 100% duty cycle

## 4 Connector pinout

Figure 5 shows the block diagram for the Metis Compute Board. The rest of this section provides details of the connector list, and pin numbering and assignment for the various subsystems.

### BLOCK DIAGRAM

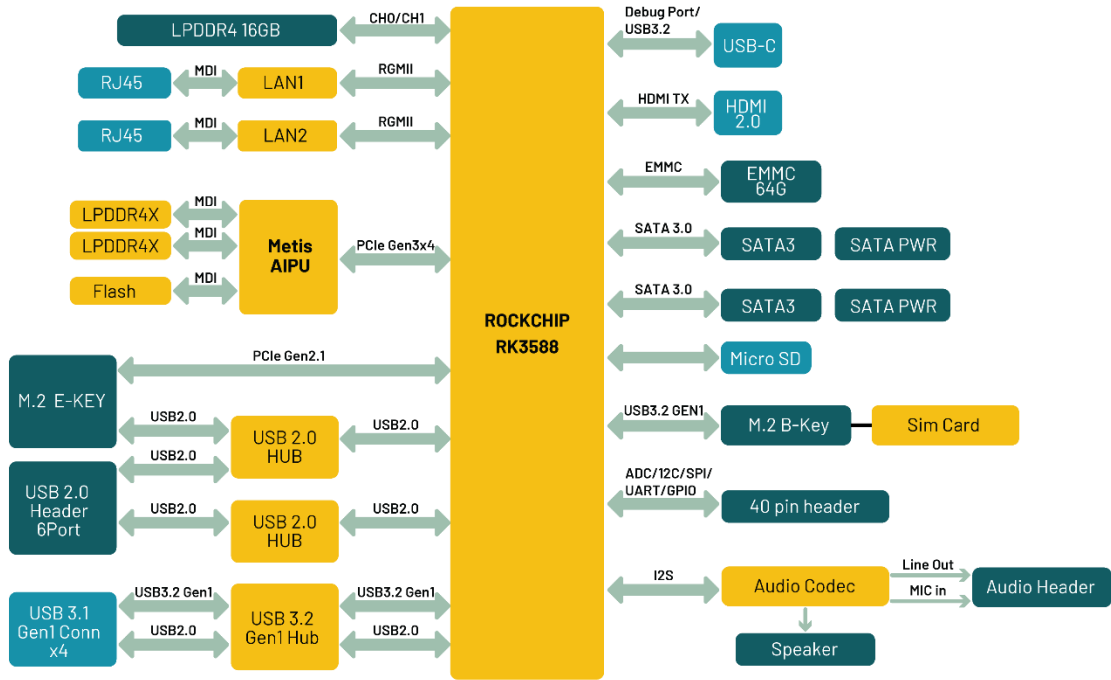


Figure 5: Metis Compute Board block diagram

## 4.1 Connector list

Table 8: Metis Compute Board connector list

Symbol	Description
DC_PWR1	12 V DC IN (Jack 2.5x5.5x7.5mm; w/wo lock; center-positive)
USB3G1_12	2x USB 3.0
USB3G1_34	2x USB 3.0
LAN1	1 Gbps LAN connection
LAN2	1 Gbps LAN connection
TYPEC_B1	USB C
HDMI1	HDMI 2.0
MICROSD1	MicroSD
SW1	Service connector
SATA_PWR1	SATA power 5 V, 12 V @ 1A
SATA6G_2	SATA 6.0 GB/s
SATA6G_1	SATA 6.0 GB/s
GPIO1	D-I/Os, UART, ADC, I2C, SPI
USB910	USB 2.0
USB78	USB 2.0
USB56	USB 2.0
PWR_RST1	Power and reset button
AMP_CON1	Amplified audio output
AAFP1	Audio connector
CON1	Service connector
M2_TYPE_E1	M.2 E-key
M2_TYPE_B1	M.2 B-key
SIM1	SIM socket
CHASSIS_FAN1	Chassis fan
CPU_FAN1	CPU fan embedded fan within the heatsink
FPC1	Service connector
TAG3	Service connector
TAG4	Service connector
TAG2	Service connector
TAG1	Service connector

#### 4.1.1 M.2 Type B1

##### Key B SSIC-based WWAN Adapter Pinout

Pin	Signal	Signal	Pin
74	3.3 VVBAT	CONFIG_2 (States 8, 9, 10, 11)	75
72	3.3 VVBAT	GND	73
70	3.3 VVBAT	GND	71
68	SUSCLK (I/O/3.3V)	CONFIG_1 (States 8, 9, 10, 11)	69
66	SIM_DETECT (I)	RESET# (I/O/1.8 V)	67
64	COEX_TXD (O/O/1.8V)	ANCTL3 (O/O/1.8 V)	65
62	COEX_RXD (I/O/1.8V)	ANCTL2 (O/O/1.8 V)	63
60	COEX3 (I/O/O/1.8V)	ANCTL1 (O/O/1.8 V)	61
58	NC	ANCTL0 (O/O/1.8 V)	59
56	NC	GND	57
54	NC	NC	55
52	NC	NC	53
50	NC	GND	51
48	GPIO_4 - TX_BLANKING/GNSS_1/UIM_PWR2/IPC_4 (I/O/O/1.8V)	NC	49
46	GPIO_3 - SYSCLK/GNSS_0/UIM_RESET2/IPC_3 (I/O/O/1.8V)	NC	47
44	GPIO_2 - GNSS_IRQ/GNSS_IRQ/UIM_CLK2/IPC_2 (I/O/O/1.8V)	GND	45
42	GPIO_1 - GNSS_SDA/GNSS_SDA/UIM_DATA2/IPC_1 (I/O/O/1.8V)	NC	43
40	GPIO_0 - GNSS_SCL/GNSS_SCL/SIM_DETECT2/IPC_0 (I/O/O/1.8V)	NC	41
38	NC	GND	39
36	UIM_PWR (O)	SSIC-RxP	37
34	UIM_DATA (I/O)	SSIC-RxN	35
32	UIM_CLK (O)	GND	33
30	UIM_RESET (O)	SSIC-TxP	31
28	GPIO_8 - AUDIO_3/AUDIO_3/RFU/IPC_6- AUDIO_3 (I/O/O/1.8V)	SSIC-TxN	29

Pin	Signal	Signal	Pin
26	GPIO_10 - W_DISABLE2#/W_DISABLE2#/W_DISABLE2# (I/O/1.8V)/HSIC_STROBE (I/O/1.2V)	GND	27
24	GPIO_7 - AUDIO_2/AUDIO_2/RFU/IPC_5-AUDIO_2 (I/O/1.8V)	DPR (I/O/1.8V)	25
22	GPIO_6 - AUDIO_1/AUDIO_1/RFU/AUDIO_1 (I/O/1.8V)	GPIO_11 - WoWWAN#/WoWWAN#/WoWWAN# (O/1.8V)/HSIC_DATA (I/O/1.2V)	23
20	GPIO_5 - AUDIO_0/AUDIO_0/RFU/AUDIO_0 (I/O/1.8V)	CONFIG_0 = NC	21
18	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	19
16	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	17
14	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	15
12	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	ADD-IN CARD KEY B	13
10	GPIO_9 - LED_1#/LED_1#/LED_1# (O/O/3.3V)/IPC_7 (I/O/1.8V)	GND	11
8	W_DISABLE1# (I/O/3.3V)	USB_D-	9
6	FULL_CARD_POWER_OFF# (I/O/1.8V or 3.3V)	USB_D+	7
4	3.3 V/VBAT	GND	5
2	3.3 V/VBAT	GND	3
		CONFIG_3 = GND	1

#### 4.1.2 M.2 Type E1

##### Key E SDIO-based Pinout

Pin	Signal	Signal	Pin
74	3.3 V	GND	75
72	3.3 V	RESERVED/REFCLKn1	73
70	UIM_POWER_SRC/GPIO_1/PEWAKE1#	RESERVED/REFCLKp1	71
68	UIM_POWER_SNK/CLKREQ1#	GND	69
66	UIM_SWP/PERST1#	RESERVED/PERn1	67
64	RESERVED	RESERVED/PERp1	65
62	ALERT# (I/O/1.8 V)	GND	63
60	I2C_CLK (I/O/1.8 V)	RESERVED/PETn1	61
58	I2C_DATA (I/O/1.8 V)	RESERVED/PETp1	59
56	W_DISABLE1# (I/O/3.3 V)	GND	57
54	W_DISABLE2# (I/O/3.3 V)	PEWAKE0# (I/O/3.3 V)	55
52	PERST0# (O/3.3 V)	CLKREQ0# (I/O/3.3 V)	53

Pin	Signal	Signal	Pin
50	SUSCLK (O)0/3.3 V)	GND	51
48	COEX_TXD (O)0/1.8 V)	REFCLKn0	49
46	COEX_RXD (I)0/1.8 V)	REFCLKp0	47
44	COEX3 (I/O)0/1.8 V)	GND	45
42	VENDOR DEFINED	PERn0	43
40	VENDOR DEFINED	PERp0	41
38	VENDOR DEFINED	GND	39
36	UART_RTS (O)0/1.8 V)	PETn0	37
34	UART_CTS (I)0/1.8 V)	PETp0	35
32	UART_TXD (O)0/1.8 V)	GND	33
30	CONNECTOR KEY E	CONNECTOR KEY E	31
28	CONNECTOR KEY E	CONNECTOR KEY E	29
26	CONNECTOR KEY E	CONNECTOR KEY E	27
24	CONNECTOR KEY E	CONNECTOR KEY E	25
22	UART_RXD (I)0/1.8 V)	SDIO_RESET#/TX_BLANKING (O)0/1.8 V)	23
20	UART_WAKE# (I)0/3.3 V)	SDIO_WAKE# (I)0/1.8 V)	21
18	GND	SDIO_DATA3 (I/O)0/1.8 V)	19
16	LED_2# (I)0D)	SDIO_DATA2 (I/O)0/1.8 V)	17
14	PCM_OUT/I2S_SD_OUT (O)0/1.8 V)	SDIO_DATA1 (I/O)0/1.8 V)	15
12	PCM_IN/I2S_SD_IN (I)0/1.8 V)	SDIO_DATA0 (I/O)0/1.8 V)	13
10	PCM_SYNC/I2S_WS (I/O)0/1.8 V)	SDIO_CMD (I/O)0/1.8 V)	11
8	PCM_CLK/I2S_SCK (I/O)0/1.8 V)	SDIO_CLK/SYSCLK (O)0/1.8 V)	9
6	LED_1# (I)0D)	GND	7
4	3.3 V	USB_D-	5
2	3.3 V	USB_D+	3
		GND	1

### 4.1.3 SATA power

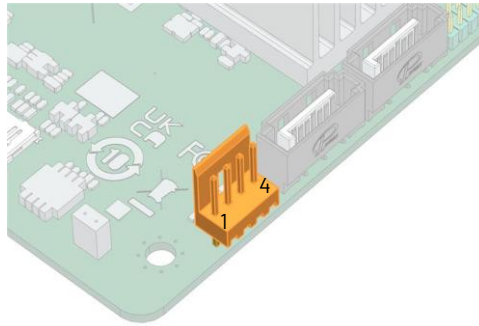


Figure 6: Detail of Metis Compute Board showing SATA power pin numbering

Table 9: Metis Compute Board SATA power pin numbering

Pin number	Description
1	+5 V
2	GND
3	GND
4	+12 V

### 4.1.4 GPIO1

Table 10: Metis Compute Board GPIO1 characteristics

Pin number	Description	Description	Pin number
1	VCC_3V3_S0	+5VSUS	2
3	I2C5_SCL_M0	+5VSUS	4
5	I2C5_SDA_M0	GND	6
7	TEST_CLKOUT_M1	UART5_TX_M1	8
9	GND	UART5_RX_M1	10
11	GPIO4_B5	GPIO1_B7	12
13	GPIO1_A4	GND	14
15	GPIO1_A5	GPIO1_B1	16
17	VCC_3V3_S0	GPIO1_B9	18
19	GPIO1_A6	GND	20
21	GPIO1_A7	GPIO1_A1	22
23	GPIO1_B0	GPIO1_A3	24
25	GND	GPIO1_A2	26
27	SPI0_MISO_M2	GPIO1_A3	28
29	SPI0_MOSI_M2	GND	30

Pin number	Description	Description	Pin number
31	SPI0_CLK_M2	GPIO4_A5	32
33	SPI0_CS0_M2	GND	34
35	SPI0_CS1_M2	GPIO4_B2	36
37	GPIO1_B6	SARADC_VIN2	38
39	GND	SARADC_VIN3	40

#### 4.1.5 AAFP

Figure 7 shows the pin numbering for the audio connector and Table 11 shows the corresponding pin assignments.

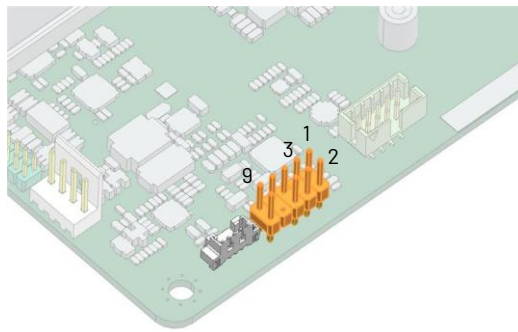


Figure 7: Detail of Metis Compute Board showing pin numbering for AAFP audio

Table 11: Metis Compute Board AAFP characteristics

Pin number	Description	Description	Pin number
1	MIC_L	GND	2
3	MIC_R	NC	4
5	LINE_OUT_R	NC	5
7	NC	[key]	6
9	LINE_OUT_L	NC	8

#### 4.1.6 AMP\_CON

Figure 8 shows the pin numbering for the 8/4 Ω impedance speaker connector.

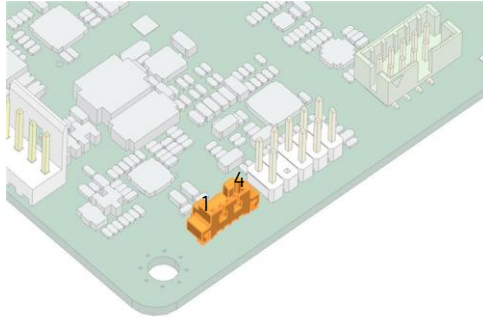


Figure 8: Detail of Metis Compute Board showing pin numbering for the speaker connector

Table 12: Metis Compute Board AMP\_CON power pin numbering

Pin number	Description
1	LEFT OUT Positive
2	LEFT OUT Negative
3	RIGHT OUT Positive
4	RIGHT OUT Negative

#### 4.1.7 CPU/Chassis FAN

Figure 9 and Figure 10 show the positioning of the CPU and Chassis FAN connectors respectively.

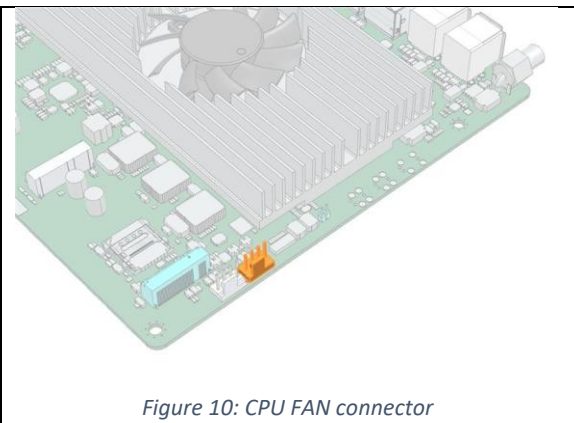
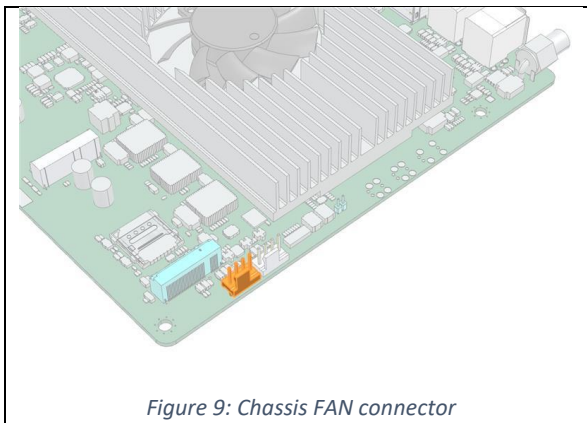


Figure 11 shows the pin numbering that applies to both FAN connectors and Table 13 shows the corresponding pin assignments.

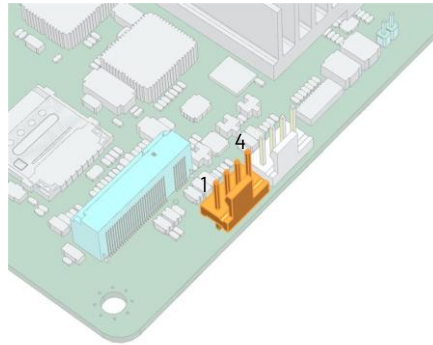


Figure 11: Detail of Metis Compute Board showing pin numbering for the FAN connector

Table 13: Metis Compute Board FAN connector pin numbering

Pin number	Description
1	GND
2	+12 V
3	SENSE - Open drain
4	PWM - 5 V signal

#### 4.1.8 ON/OFF and RESET

Figure 12 shows the pin numbering of the ON/OFF and RESET buttons on the board and Table 14 shows the pin assignments.



Figure 12: Detail of Metis Compute Board showing pin numbering for ON/OFF and RESET buttons

Table 14: Metis Compute Board ON/OFF and RESET buttons pin numbering

Pin number	Description
1	PWR_ON#
2	GND
3	GND
4	RESET#

## 5 Safety information

Before installing the Metis Compute Board and to ensure its safe use, follow these guidelines:

- **General handling:**
  - Handle the board with care to avoid physical damage.
  - Wear an anti-static wrist strap during installation to prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD).
  - Disconnect the power supply before handling, installing, or maintaining the product.
- **Installation:**
  - Verify that the power supply complies with the product's power requirements (72 W or above recommended).
- **Operation:**
  - Be careful not block to the airflow to the fan or heatsink during operation.
  - Monitor system temperatures regularly to prevent overheating.
  - Operate only within the specified ambient temperature range
- **Storage:**
  - Store the product in a dry environment within  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $85^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 0%–85% relative humidity (non-condensing).
- **Maintenance:**
  - Regularly clean the fan and heatsink to prevent dust buildup.
  - Ensure software and firmware are updated to maintain performance and security.
  - Inspect the card and connectors periodically for signs of wear or damage.
- **Disposal:**
  - Dispose of the product in accordance with local electronic waste regulations.

**WARNING:** Improper handling, installation, or use may result in injury, equipment damage, or voiding of warranty.

## 6 Installation and troubleshooting

### 6.1 Installation

1. **Cooling verification:**
  - Ensure the fan is securely attached and unobstructed.
  - Verify airflow in the system chassis.
2. **Power connection:**
  - Confirm that the power supply is firmly connected to the card.
3. **Software Setup:**
  - Install the Voyager SDK for model configuration and optimization.

### 6.2 Troubleshooting

**Issue:** Overheating during operation.

**Solution:**

1. Ensure adequate airflow within the chassis.
2. Clean the fan and verify its operation.

## 7 Support

For further information and support please visit:

- Axelera AI Community: <https://community.axelera.ai/>
- Axelera AI Customer Portal: <https://support.axelera.ai/>

## 8 Model/Part numbers

The **Model type** of the Metis Compute Board is **AXE-BME20S1**. Table 15 shows the part number and description configurations of the board.

Table 15: Metis Compute Board part number

Part number	Description
AXE-BME20S1BD04A02	Metis Arm-based Compute Board (SBC) with 1x AIPU, 4 GB of Metis RAM, 16GB of host RAM and active cooling, Rev2
AXE-BME20S1AL16A01	Metis Arm-based Compute Board (SBC) with 1x AIPU, 16 GB of Metis RAM, 16GB of host RAM and active cooling, Rev2
AXE-BME20S1AI04A01	( <b>End of sale</b> <sup>3</sup> ) Metis Arm-based Compute Board (SBC) with 1x AIPU, 4 GB of Metis RAM, 16GB of host RAM and active cooling, Rev1

<sup>3</sup> This part is no longer available for purchase. Existing customers continue to receive full software and hardware support.

## 9 Legal Notice

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