Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920
Thermal Mechanical Design Guide

January 2014
## Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>Changed publication title and product names throughout publication to clarify the products this publication applies to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>Corrections to Thermal Design Power (TDP) and Temperature Specification Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2012</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>Initial release</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

**Revision History** ................................................................................................................................. 3

1.0 Introduction ...................................................................................................................................... 7

1.1 Design Flow .................................................................................................................................. 7

1.2 Definition of Terms ............................................................................................................... 8

1.3 Reference Documents ........................................................................................................ 8

1.4 Package Thermal Models .................................................................................................. 9

2.0 Package Information .................................................................................................................. 10

3.0 Thermal Specifications ........................................................................................................... 13

3.1 Thermal Design Power ...................................................................................................... 13

3.2 Maximum Allowed Component Temperature ................................................................ 13

4.0 Mechanical Specifications .................................................................................................. 14

4.1 Package Mechanical Requirements ................................................................................ 14

4.2 Board Level Keep Out Zone Requirements ........................................................................ 14

5.0 Thermal Solution Requirements .......................................................................................... 15

5.1 Heatsink Design Considerations ......................................................................................... 15

5.1.1 Heatsink Size .................................................................................................................. 16

5.1.2 Heatsink Mass .................................................................................................................. 16

5.1.3 System Level Thermal Solution Considerations .............................................................. 16

5.2 Characterizing the Thermal Solution Requirement .............................................................. 17

5.2.1 Example Calculating the Required Thermal Performance ............................................... 18

6.0 Reference Heatsinks .................................................................................................................. 20

6.1 Small Form Factor Reference Heatsink ............................................................................. 20

6.1.1 Mechanical Design ........................................................................................................ 20

6.1.2 Additional Keep Out Zone Requirements .................................................................. 21

6.1.3 Thermal Performance ................................................................................................. 21

6.2 Torsional Clip ......................................................................................................................... 23

6.3 Solder-Down Anchors ........................................................................................................ 23

6.4 Heatsink Orientation .......................................................................................................... 23

6.5 Thermal Interface Material (TIM) .................................................................................. 23

7.0 Thermal Metrology .................................................................................................................... 24

7.1 $T_{\text{JUNCTION}}$ Temperature Measurements ........................................................................ 24

7.2 Local Ambient Temperature Measurement Guidelines .................................................... 24

7.2.1 Active Heatsink Measurements .................................................................................. 24

7.2.2 Passive Heatsink Measurements ................................................................................ 26

7.3 Thermal Test Vehicle ........................................................................................................ 27

7.4 Power Thermal Utility ....................................................................................................... 27

Appendix A Thermal Solution Component Suppliers ................................................................. 28

A.1 Reference Heatsink ........................................................................................................... 28

Appendix B Mechanical Drawings .............................................................................................. 29
## Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thermal Design Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 Package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cave Creek PCH Package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Junction-to-Local Ambient Thermal Characterization Parameter (Ψ_{JA})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Junction-to-Local Ambient Thermal Characterization Parameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Processor Thermal Characterization Parameter Relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution Passive Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution Active Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Tall) Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Short) Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Measuring T_{LA} with an Active Heatsink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Measuring T_{LA} with a Passive Heatsink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Short) Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Short)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Heatsink Torsional Clip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Small Form Factor (Short) Heatsink Board Keep-Out Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Tall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Tall) Board Keep-Out Zone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tables

1. Terms
2. Reference Documents
3. Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 Thermal Design Power (TDP) and Temperature Specification
4. Required Heatsink Thermal Performance ($\psi_{JA}$)
5. Suppliers
1.0 Introduction

Note: Unless otherwise specified, in this publication the terms PCH and chipset refers to the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920.

Power dissipation requirements for electronic components have risen with the increase in complexity of computer systems. To ensure quality, reliability, and performance goals are met over a product's life cycle, the heat generated by the component must be properly dissipated. Typical methods to improve heat dissipation include selective use of airflow ducting, and/or the use of heatsinks.

The goals of this document are to:

- Describe the thermal and mechanical specifications for the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920.
- Describe reference solutions that meet the thermal and mechanical specifications of the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920.

A properly designed thermal solution adequately cools the device die temperature at or below the thermal specification. This is accomplished by providing a suitable local-ambient temperature, ensuring adequate local airflow, and minimizing the die to local-ambient thermal resistance. Operation outside the functional limits can degrade system performance and may cause permanent changes in the operating characteristics of the component.

This document addresses thermal and mechanical design specifications for the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 only. For thermal design information about other Intel components, see the respective component’s thermal design guide.

1.1 Design Flow

Several tools are available from Intel to assist in the development of a reliable, cost-effective thermal solution. The figure below illustrates a typical thermal solution design process with available tools noted. The tools are available through your local Intel field sales representative.

Figure 1. Thermal Design Process
Table 1. Terms
This table defines terms that are used throughout this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC-BGA</td>
<td>Flip Chip Ball Grid Array. A package type defined by a plastic substrate where a die is mounted using an underfill C4 (Controlled Collapse Chip Connection) attach style. The primary electrical interface is an array of solder balls attached to the substrate opposite the die.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> The device arrives at the customer with solder balls attached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTS</td>
<td>Digital Thermal Sensor. The sensors are built into the die and monitor die temperature on the package.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCH</td>
<td>Platform Controller Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PECI</td>
<td>The Platform Environment Control Interface (PECI) is a one-wire interface that provides a communication channel between Intel processor and chipset components to external monitoring devices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDP</td>
<td>Thermal Design Power. Target power dissipation level for thermal solution design. TDP is based on worst-case real world applications and benchmarks at maximum component temperature. TDP is not theoretical maximum power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIM</td>
<td>Thermal Interface Material: thermally conductive material installed between two surfaces to improve heat transfer and reduce interface contact resistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T_JUNCTION</td>
<td>The temperature of the die. This temperature is measured using the DTS present on the die. Also referred to as T_J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T_JMAX</td>
<td>Maximum allowed die temperature. This temperature is measured using the DTS present on the die. Also referred to as T_J-MAX.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T_LA</td>
<td>Local ambient temperature. This is the temperature measured inside the chassis, approximately 1&quot; upstream of a component heatsink. Also referred to as T_a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T_SINK</td>
<td>Temperature measured at the geometric center of the bottom surface of the heatsink base. Also referred to as T_S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ψ_JA</td>
<td>Junction-to-ambient thermal characterization parameter. A measure of the thermal solution thermal performance using the total package power. Defined as (T_JUNCTION - T_LA) / Total Package Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> Heat source must be specified for Ψ measurements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ψ_SA</td>
<td>Sink-to-ambient thermal characterization parameter. A measure of the heat sink thermal performance using the total package power. Defined as (T_S - T_LA) / Total Package Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> Heat source must be specified for Ψ measurements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ψ_JS</td>
<td>Junction-to-sink thermal characterization parameter. A measure of the thermal interface material performance using the total package power. Defined as (T_JUNCTION - T_S) / Total Package Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> Heat source must be specified for Ψ measurements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Reference Documents

Table 2. Reference Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Document Number / Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Datasheet</td>
<td>327879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Specification Update</td>
<td>328000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continued...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.4 Package Thermal Models

Intel provides device thermal simulation models and a thermal model user’s guide to aid designers in simulating, analyzing, and optimizing thermal solutions in an integrated, system-level environment. The models are for use with commercially available Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)-based thermal analysis tools including Flotherm® by Mentor Graphics, Inc. or Icepak® by Ansys, Inc. Contact your Intel representative to order the thermal models and associated user’s guides.
2.0 Package Information

The Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 utilizes a 27 x 27 mm (942 Ball count), FC-BGA package as shown in the figure below. The data in this chapter is provided for reference purposes only. Dimensions are in millimeters with inches in square brackets [ ]. The dimensions are preliminary and are subject to change. See the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Datasheet for current data. In the event of a conflict, the product datasheet supersedes the data shown in this figure.
Figure 2. Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 Package
## 3.0 Thermal Specifications

The PCH requires a thermal solution to maintain temperatures within its operating limits. Any attempt to operate the PCH outside these operating limits may result in permanent damage to the component. Maintaining the proper thermal environment is key to reliable, long-term system operation. A complete solution includes both component and system level thermal management features.

Component level thermal solutions can include active or passive heatsinks attached to the PCH die.

### 3.1 Thermal Design Power

Maximum Allowed Component Temperature on page 13 lists the Thermal Design Power (TDP) specifications. TDP is the recommended design point for thermal solution power dissipation. TDP is based on running worst-case, real-world applications and benchmarks at maximum component temperature. TDP is not the absolute worst case power. It could, for example, be exceeded under a synthetic worst case condition or under short power spikes. The thermal solution design must keep the components' maximum temperature within specification while dissipating TDP.

Heat transfer through the FC-BGA package and into the baseboard is limited. The cooling capacity without a thermal solution is also limited, so Intel recommends the use of a heatsink for all usage conditions.

### 3.2 Maximum Allowed Component Temperature

The Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 must maintain a maximum temperature at or below the value specified in the table below. The thermal solution is required to meet the temperatures specification while dissipating the Thermal Design Power. Thermal Metrology on page 24 includes guidelines for accurately measuring the package temperature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3.</th>
<th>Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 Thermal Design Power (TDP) and Temperature Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devices</td>
<td>DH8900CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Mode TDP (W) ¹, ²</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Point Mode TDP ¹, ²</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-End Point Mode TDP ¹, ²</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T JUNCTION-MAX (°C)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T JUNCTION-MIN (°C)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. See the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Datasheet for definitions of the chipset modes.
2. TDP is based on worst-case, real-world applications and benchmarks at maximum component temperature. TDP is not the absolute worst-case power.
4.0 Mechanical Specifications

4.1 Package Mechanical Requirements

The FC-BGA package for the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 is a bare die package and will be in direct contact with the thermal solution. The maximum allowable static force for the bare die package is 15 lbf normal to the die. Any force greater than this could damage the device.

4.2 Board Level Keep Out Zone Requirements

A general description of the keep-out zones and mounting hole pattern for the reference thermal solutions are shown in Mechanical Drawings on page 29. When using heatsinks that extend beyond the reference heatsink envelopes shown in Mechanical Drawings on page 29, motherboard components placed between the underside of the heatsink and the motherboard cannot exceed 1.75 mm [0.07 in] in height.
5.0 Thermal Solution Requirements

5.1 Heatsink Design Considerations

Note: The Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 requires a heatsink in all applications.

To dissipate the heat from the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920, three basic parameters should be considered.

1. **The area of the surface on which the heat transfer takes place.** Without any enhancements, this is the surface of the die. One method to improve thermal performance is to attach a heatsink to the die. A heatsink increases the effective heat transfer surface area by conducting heat out of the die and into the surrounding air through fins attached to the heatsink base.

2. **The conduction path from the heat source to the heatsink fins.** Providing a direct conduction path from the heat source to the heatsink fins and selecting materials with higher thermal conductivity typically improves heatsink performance. The length, thickness, and conductivity of the conduction path from the heat source to the fins directly impact the thermal performance of the heatsink. In particular, the quality of the contact between the package die and the heatsink base has a higher impact on the overall thermal solution performance as PCH cooling requirements become stricter. Thermal interface material (TIM) is used to fill the gap between the die and the bottom surface of the heatsink, and thereby improve the overall performance of the stack-up (die-TIM-heatsink). With extremely poor heatsink interface flatness or roughness, TIM may not adequately fill the gap. The TIM thermal performance depends on its thermal conductivity as well as the pressure applied to it.

3. **The heat transfer conditions on the surface on which heat transfer takes place.** Convective heat transfer occurs between the airflow and the surface exposed to the flow. It is characterized by the local ambient temperature of the air, $T_{LA}$, and the local air velocity over the surface. The higher the air velocity over the surface and the cooler the air, the more efficient is the resulting cooling. The nature of the airflow can also enhance heat transfer via convection. Turbulent flow can provide improvement over laminar flow. In the case of a heatsink, the surface exposed to the flow includes in particular the fin faces and the heatsink base.

Active heatsinks typically incorporate a fan that helps manage the airflow through the heatsink.

Passive heatsink solutions require in-depth knowledge of the airflow in the chassis. Typically, passive heatsinks see lower air speed. These heatsinks are therefore usually larger (and heavier) than active heatsinks due to the increase in the fin surface required to meet the required performance. As the heatsink fin density (the number of fins in a given cross-section) increases, the resistance to the airflow increases: it is more likely that the air travels around the heatsink instead of through it, unless air bypass is carefully managed. Using air-ducting techniques to manage the bypass area can be an effective method for controlling airflow through the heatsink.
5.1.1 **Heatsink Size**

The size of the heatsink is dictated by height restrictions for installation in a system and by the space available on the motherboard and other considerations for component height and placement in the area potentially impacted by the heatsink. The height of the heatsink must comply with the requirements and recommendations published for the motherboard form factor of interest. See the form factor specifications for height restrictions. Links to some of these specifications are listed in Reference Documents on page 8. Reference thermal solutions keep-out zones for multiple form factors are shown in Mechanical Drawings on page 29.

The resulting space available above the motherboard is generally not entirely available for the heatsink. The target height of the heatsink must take into account airflow considerations (for fan performance for example) as well as other design considerations (air duct, etc.).

5.1.2 **Heatsink Mass**

With the need to increase air cooling to improve performance, heatsink solutions tend to grow larger (increase in fin surface) resulting in increased weight. The insertion of highly thermally conductive materials, like copper, to increase heatsink thermal conduction performance results in even heavier solutions. The heatsink weight must consider the package load limits, the heatsink attach mechanical capabilities, and the mechanical shock and vibration profile targets. Beyond a certain heatsink weight, the cost of developing and implementing a heatsink attach mechanism that can ensure system integrity under mechanical shock and vibration profile targets may become prohibitive.

5.1.3 **System Level Thermal Solution Considerations**

The heat generated by components within the chassis must be removed to provide an adequate operating environment for the processor and other components. Moving air through the chassis brings in air from the external ambient environment and removes the heat generated by the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 and other components. The number, size, and relative position of fans and vents determine the chassis thermal performance, and the resulting ambient temperature around the processor. The size and type (passive or active) of the thermal solution and the amount of system airflow can be traded off against each other to meet specific system design constraints. Additional constraints are board layout, spacing, component placement, acoustic requirements, and structural considerations that limit the thermal solution size. For more information, see the appropriate form factor’s thermal design suggestions.

In addition to passive heatsinks, fan heatsinks, and system fans, other solutions exist for cooling integrated circuit devices. For example, ducted blowers, heat pipes and liquid cooling are all capable of dissipating additional heat. Due to their varying attributes, each of these solutions may be appropriate for a particular system implementation.

To develop a reliable, cost-effective thermal solution, thermal characterization and simulation should be carried out at the system level, accounting for the thermal requirements of each component. In addition, acoustic noise constraints may limit the size, number, placement, and types of fans that can be used in a particular design.
5.2 Characterizing the Thermal Solution Requirement

The idea of a “thermal characterization parameter”, \( \Psi \) (Greek letter Psi), is a convenient way to characterize the performance needed for the thermal solution and to compare thermal solutions in identical situations (i.e. heating source, local ambient conditions, etc.). The thermal characterization parameter is calculated using total package power, whereas actual thermal resistance, \( \Theta \) (theta), is calculated using actual power dissipated between two points. Measuring actual power dissipated into the heatsink is difficult, since some of the power is dissipated via heat transfer into the package and the board.

The junction-to-local ambient thermal characterization parameter (\( \Psi_{JA} \)) is used as a measure of the thermal performance of the overall thermal solution. \( \Psi_{JA} \) is measured in units of °C/W and defined by the following equation:

\[
\Psi_{JA} = \frac{T_{JUNCTION} - T_{LA}}{TDP}
\]

The junction-to-local ambient thermal characterization parameter, \( \Psi_{JA} \), is comprised of \( \Psi_{JS} \), the thermal interface material thermal characterization parameter, and of \( \Psi_{SA} \), the sink-to-local ambient thermal characterization parameter. \( \Psi_{JA} \) is defined by the following equation:

\[
\Psi_{JA} = \Psi_{JS} + \Psi_{SA}
\]

\( \Psi_{JS} \) is strongly dependent on the thermal conductivity and thickness of the TIM between the heatsink and device package.

\( \Psi_{SA} \) is a measure of the thermal characterization parameter from the bottom of the heatsink to the local ambient air. \( \Psi_{SA} \) is dependent on the heatsink material, thermal conductivity, and geometry. \( \Psi_{SA} \) is also strongly dependent on the air velocity through the fins of the heatsink. The figure below illustrates the combination of the different thermal characterization parameters.
5.2.1 Example Calculating the Required Thermal Performance

The cooling performance, $\Psi_{JA}$, is defined using the thermal characterization parameter previously described. The process to determine the required thermal performance to cool the device includes:

Define a target component temperature $T_{JUNCTION}$ and corresponding TDP.

Define a target local ambient temperature, $T_{LA}$.

Use Figure 4 on page 17 and Figure 5 on page 17 to determine the required thermal performance needed to cool the device.

Note: The following example illustrates how to calculate the thermal resistance. The TDP and $T_{JUNCTION\text{-MAX}}$ used in the example may not be the actual specifications of the device. See the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Datasheet for actual power and temperature specifications.

Assume:
- TDP = 8 W and $T_{JUNCTION\text{-MAX}} = 103 \, ^\circ C$
- Local processor ambient temperature, $T_{LA} = 60^\circ C$.

Then the following could be calculated using Figure 4 on page 17 for the given processor frequency:

$$\Psi_{JA} = \frac{T_{JUNCTION\text{-MAX}} - T_{LA}}{TDP} = \frac{103 - 60}{8} = 5.375^\circ C/W$$
To determine the required heatsink performance, a heatsink solution provider would need to determine $\Psi_{JS}$ performance for the selected TIM and mechanical load configuration. If the heatsink solution were designed to work with a TIM material performing at $\Psi_{JS} \leq 0.5 \, ^\circ C/W$, solving for $\Psi_{SA}$ from Figure 5 on page 17, the performance needed from the heatsink is:

$$\Psi_{SA} = \Psi_{JA} \cdot \Psi_{JS} = 5.375 - 0.5 = 4.875^\circ C/W$$

If the local ambient temperature is relaxed to 40°C, the same calculation can be carried out to determine the new junction-to-ambient thermal resistance:

$$\Psi_{JA} = \frac{T_{JUNCTION-MAX} - T_{LA}}{T_{DPP}} = \frac{103 - 40}{8} = 7.875^\circ C/W$$

It is evident from the above calculations that a reduction in the local ambient temperature has a significant effect on the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance requirement. This effect can contribute to a more reasonable thermal solution including reduced cost, heatsink size, heatsink weight, and a lower system airflow rate.

This following table summarizes the thermal budget required to adequately cool the chipset. Since the results are based on air data at sea level, a correction factor would be required to estimate the thermal performance at other altitudes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKU</th>
<th>$\Psi_{JA}$ ($^\circ C/W$) at $T_{LA} = 55 , ^\circ C$</th>
<th>$\Psi_{JA}$ ($^\circ C/W$) at $T_{LA} = 60 , ^\circ C$</th>
<th>$\Psi_{JA}$ ($^\circ C/W$) at $T_{LA} = 65 , ^\circ C$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DH8900CC &amp; DH8903CC</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH8910CC</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH8920CC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
1. Local ambient temperature ($T_{LA}$) is measured approximately 1" directly upstream of the component thermal solution. $\Psi_{JA}$ calculations will change if $T_{JUNCTION-MAX}$, TDP or $T_{LA}$ is changed.
6.0 Reference Heatsinks

Intel has developed reference heatsinks designed to meet the cooling needs of the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 in embedded form factor applications. This chapter describes the overall requirements for the reference thermal solution including critical-to-function dimensions, operating environment, and verification criteria. This document details solutions that are compatible with Small Form Factor Blades requiring passive thermal solutions. The reference heatsink designs are not suitable for natural convection cooling and require a prescribed amount of system airflow. The system designer must ensure that suitable airflow is provided when using the reference heatsinks. Thermal Solution Component Suppliers on page 28 contains vendor information for each component.

6.1 Small Form Factor Reference Heatsink

Two reference heatsinks are compatible with small embedded form factors. Figure 9 on page 22 and Figure 10 on page 22 demonstrate the heatsink thermal performance at various airflow rates. Figure 4 on page 17 and Figure 5 on page 17 can be used to determine the acceptable ambient temperature range at which this heatsink can be used, based on available airflow.

6.1.1 Mechanical Design

The small form factor reference thermal solutions are shown in the two figures below. The maximum heatsink height is constrained to 15 mm, which enables use in common small form factors such as CompactPCI® and other small form factor blades. One of the reference heatsinks uses spring fastener pushpins to mount to the PCB; the other heatsinks use a torsional spring clip. Detailed drawings of the heatsinks are provided in Mechanical Drawings on page 29.

Figure 7. Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution Passive Assembly
6.1.2 Additional Keep Out Zone Requirements
The PCB keep-out zones are shown in Mechanical Drawings on page 29.

6.1.3 Thermal Performance
The material for the small form factor reference heatsinks is aluminum. These heatsinks can meet the thermal performance needed to cool the chipset in small form factor blades and meet the NEBS short term operating ambient temperature of 55° C. See the performance curves for the required amount of airflow. However, it is up to the system designer to validate the entire thermal solution (heatsink, attach method, TIM) in its final intended system. The data shown in the two figures below are based on computer modeling.

Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Tall) Performance
This reference design can be utilized for all Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920 SKUs dependent on the system airflow and design. The performance curve based on computer modeling for the reference design for the required amount of airflow is shown in the following figure. However, it is up to the system designer to validate the entire thermal solution (heatsink, attach method, TIM) in its final intended system. The data shown in the two figures below are based on computer modeling.
This reference design can be utilized for the 8.5 W and 9.5 W chipset SKUs dependent on the system airflow and design. The performance curve based on computer modeling for the reference design for the required amount of airflow is shown in the following figure. However, it is up to the system designer to validate the entire thermal solution (heatsink, attach method, TIM) in its final intended system.

Figure 9. **Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Tall) Performance**

![SFF Heatsink (Tall) Performance](image)

**Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Short) Performance**

This reference design can be utilized for the 8.5 W and 9.5 W chipset SKUs dependent on the system airflow and design. The performance curve based on computer modeling for the reference design for the required amount of airflow is shown in the following figure. However, it is up to the system designer to validate the entire thermal solution (heatsink, attach method, TIM) in its final intended system.

Figure 10. **Small Form Factor Reference Thermal Solution (Short) Performance**

![SFF Heatsink (Short) Performance](image)
6.2 **Torsional Clip**

Some of the reference solutions use wire clips with hooked ends. The hooks attach to wire anchors to fasten the clip to the board. One instance of the torsional clip is shown in Figure 10 on page 22. See the detailed mechanical drawings in Mechanical Drawings on page 29.

6.3 **Solder-Down Anchors**

The torsional clip uses a solder-down anchor to attach to the board. It is based on a standard three-pin jumper and is soldered to the board like any common through-hole header. The anchor design includes 45° bent leads to increase the anchor attach reliability over time. See Thermal Solution Component Suppliers on page 28 for the part number and supplier information.

6.4 **Heatsink Orientation**

Since the thermal solutions are based on uni-directional heatsinks, airflow direction must be aligned with the direction of the heatsink fins.

6.5 **Thermal Interface Material (TIM)**

The thermal interface material provides improved conductivity between the die and heatsink. It is important to understand and consider the impact of the interface between the die and heatsink base to the overall thermal solution. Specifically, the bond line thickness, interface material area, and interface material thermal conductivity must be selected to optimize the thermal solution.

It is important to minimize the thickness of the thermal interface material (TIM), commonly referred to as the bond line thickness. A large gap between the heatsink base and the die yields a greater thermal resistance. The thickness of the gap is determined by the flatness of both the heatsink base and the die, plus the thickness of the thermal interface material, and the clamping force applied by the heatsink attachment method. To ensure proper and consistent thermal performance, the TIM and application process must be properly designed.

The chipset reference thermal solutions (short) use the Chromerics T710. Alternative materials can be used at your discretion. The entire heatsink assembly, including the heatsink and TIM (including the attach method), must be validated together for specific applications.

System designers should also determine the impact of their system boundary conditions and platform usage on the performance of TIM over the lifetime of the product. TIM material performance will degrade over time and could impact ability to keep within operating temperature.
7.0 Thermal Metrology

The system designer must make measurements to accurately determine the performance of the thermal solution. The heatsink designs should be validated using a Thermal Test Vehicle. The thermal test vehicle is a device that simulates the thermal characteristics of the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920. It is also recommended to perform a final verification test of the heatsink with the chipset in a working environment.

This chapter provides information to perform thermal tests, including:

- Guidelines on how to accurately measure the component temperature.
- Details for using the thermal test vehicle.
- Information about running power simulation software that will emulate anticipated thermal design powers on the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900, 8903, 8910, and 8920.

7.1 $T_{\text{JUNCTION}}$ Temperature Measurements

The component $T_{\text{JUNCTION}}$ must be maintained at or below the maximum temperature specification as noted in Maximum Allowed Component Temperature on page 13. The die temperature in the package corresponds to $T_{\text{JUNCTION}}$. Measuring $T_{\text{JUNCTION}}$ is measured using the Digital Thermal sensors on the package.

The DTS values are made available to the OS as a PCI bus device for the chipset. The details on the accessing this information can be found in thermal reporting section of the Intel® Communications Chipset 8900 Series Datasheet.

7.2 Local Ambient Temperature Measurement Guidelines

The local ambient temperature ($T_{\text{LA}}$) is the temperature of the ambient air surrounding the processor. For a passive heatsink, $T_{\text{LA}}$ is defined as the heatsink approach air temperature; for an actively cooled heatsink, it is the temperature of inlet air to the active cooling fan.

It is worthwhile to determine the local ambient temperature in the chassis around the processor to understand the effect it may have on the die temperature. $T_{\text{LA}}$ is best measured by averaging temperature measurements at multiple locations in the heatsink inlet airflow. This method helps reduce error and eliminate minor spatial variations in temperature. The following guidelines are meant to enable accurate determination of the localized air temperature around the processor during system thermal testing.

7.2.1 Active Heatsink Measurements

The following considerations apply:
- It is important to avoid taking measurements in the dead flow zone that usually develops above the fan hub and hub spokes. Measurements should be taken at four different locations uniformly placed at the center of the annulus formed by the fan hub and the fan housing to evaluate the uniformity of the air temperature at the fan inlet. The thermocouples should be placed approximately 3 mm to 8 mm [0.1 to 0.3 in] above the fan hub vertically and halfway between the fan hub and the fan housing horizontally as shown in the figure following (avoiding the hub spokes).

- Using an open bench to characterize an active heatsink can be useful, and usually ensures more uniform temperatures at the fan inlet. However, additional tests that include a solid barrier above the test motherboard surface can help evaluate the potential impact of the chassis. This barrier is typically clear Plexiglas*, extending at least 100 mm [4 in.] in all directions beyond the edge of the thermal solution. Typical distance from the motherboard to the barrier is 81 mm [3.2 in.] (this distance can be shortened for more constrained form factors). If a barrier is used, the thermocouple can be taped directly to the barrier with clear tape at the horizontal location as previously described, halfway between the fan hub and the fan housing.

- For even more realistic airflow, the motherboard should be populated with significant elements like memory cards, graphic card, and chipset heatsink. If a variable speed fan is used, it may be useful to add a thermocouple taped to the barrier above the location of the temperature sensor used by the fan to check its speed setting against air temperature. When measuring $T_{LA}$ in a chassis with a live motherboard, add-in cards, and other system components, it is likely that the $T_{LA}$ measurements will reveal a highly non-uniform temperature distribution across the inlet fan section.

**Note:** Testing an active heatsink with a variable speed fan can be done in a thermal chamber to capture the worst-case thermal environment scenarios. Otherwise, when doing a bench top test at room temperature, the fan regulation prevents the heatsink from operating at its maximum capability. To characterize the heatsink capability in the worst-case environment in these conditions, it is then necessary to disable the fan regulation and power the fan directly, based on guidance from the fan supplier.
7.2.2 Passive Heatsink Measurements

The following considerations apply:

- Thermocouples should be placed approximately 13 mm to 25 mm [0.5 to 1.0 in] away from processor and heatsink as shown in the following figure.

- The thermocouples should be placed approximately 51 mm [2.0 in] above the baseboard. This placement guideline is meant to minimize the effect of localized hot spots from baseboard components. The height above the board may vary depending on the height of the thermal solution and form factor.

**Note:** The location for measuring $T_{LA}$ is also the recommended location for measuring airflow approach velocity for a passive heatsink.
7.3 Thermal Test Vehicle

The Thermal Test Vehicle is designed to simulate the thermal characteristics of the chipset. However, the device is not a functional chipset. Using a custom test board provided with the TTV, the power into the device can be accurately controlled. Using the method described in Local Ambient Temperature Measurement Guidelines on page 24, the thermal performance of the heatsink can be determined. The chipset TTV may not currently be available.

Contact your Intel field representative to obtain a Thermal Test Vehicle.

7.4 Power Thermal Utility

The Power Thermal Utility (PTU) is a utility designed to dissipate the thermal design power on the chipset. To assess the thermal performance of thermal solution under “worst-case realistic application” conditions, Intel has developed a software utility that stresses the chipset at various power levels, up to and exceeding TDP. The Power Thermal Utility program may not currently be available.
## Appendix A Thermal Solution Component Suppliers

### A.1 Reference Heatsink

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Intel Part Number</th>
<th>Supplier / Part Number</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Tall)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Alpha-Novatech: UBR35-15B-0M1E68</td>
<td>Glenn Summerfield: <a href="mailto:glenn@alphanovatech.com">glenn@alphanovatech.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Form Factor Heatsink (Short)</td>
<td>C46655-001</td>
<td>AVC: S702C00001</td>
<td>Kai Chang: <a href="mailto:kai_chang@avc.com.tw">kai_chang@avc.com.tw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CCI: 00C855802B</td>
<td>Monica Chih: <a href="mailto:monica_chih@ccic.com.tw">monica_chih@ccic.com.tw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harry Lin: <a href="mailto:hlinack@aol.com">hlinack@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foxconn: 2Z802-009</td>
<td>Jack Chen: <a href="mailto:jack.chen@foxconn.com">jack.chen@foxconn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wanchi Chen: <a href="mailto:wanchi.chen@Foxconn.com">wanchi.chen@Foxconn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor</td>
<td>A13494-008</td>
<td>Foxconn: HB9703E-DW</td>
<td>Jack Chen: <a href="mailto:jack.chen@foxconn.com">jack.chen@foxconn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wieson: G2100C888-064H</td>
<td>Chary Lee: <a href="mailto:Chary@wieson.com">Chary@wieson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Liu: <a href="mailto:henry@wieson.com">henry@wieson.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The enabled components currently may not be available from all suppliers. Contact the supplier directly to verify component availability.*
Appendix B Mechanical Drawings

Figure 13. Small Form Factor Heatsink (Short) Assembly
Figure 14. Small Form Factor Heatsink (Short)
Figure 15. Heatsink Torsional Clip
Figure 16. Small Form Factor (Short) Heatsink Board Keep-Out Zone
Figure 17. Small Form Factor Heatsink (Tall)

Note: Drawing is the property of Alpha Novatech. Contact vendor for more information.
Figure 18. Small Form Factor Heatsink (Tall) Board Keep-Out Zone