

LTT6400/A03

C-Band Loop Test Translator

Installation and Operation Manual

TM057 - Rev. 2

May, 1997

- NOTICE -

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Phone: (602) 437-9620 Fax: (602) 437-4811

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LTT6400 C-Band Loop Test Translator
Installation and Operation Manual
TM057 - Record of Revisions

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Revision Level	Date	Reason for Change
1	8-22-96	Initial Release
1.1	11-22-96	Added Outdoor Unit Information
1.2	3-26-97	Minor updates and additions
2.0	5-14-97	Added new front panel, minor corrections and deletions

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Section One - LTT6400

C-Band Loopback Test Translator Description

1.0 Introduction

This manual is designed to serve as a guide during installation, operation, and interfacing of the Model LTT6400 C-Band Loopback Test Translator rack mountable unit and Outdoor Unit. This manual describes operation of the microwave, analog, and digital circuitry found in the translator. This dialogue is offered to provide insight into the normal operation of the system as well as to provide assistance in identifying a faulty subsystem. The level of description in this manual is not intended to provide information for component level test or alignment. These functions are best performed by trained factory technicians.

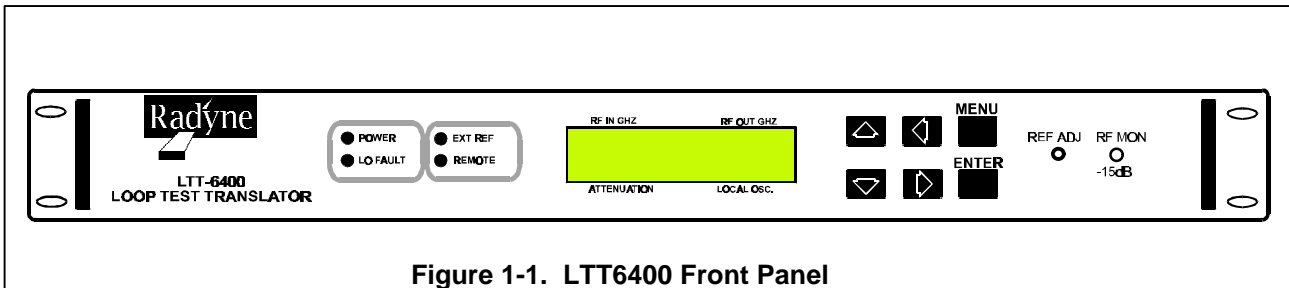


Figure 1-1. LTT6400 Front Panel

1.1 Model LTT6400/A03 C-Band Loopback Test Translator Overview

The Model LTT6400 Translator is designed to provide frequency conversion of C-Band earth terminal uplink transmit carrier signals to earth terminal downlink receive carrier signals for the purpose of testing all of the transmit and receive hardware simultaneously in the earth terminal prior to acquiring actual satellite transponder space. Digital information to the Modem equipment will be received where it can be compared to that which was transmitted for the purpose of determining a precise bit error rate. This function is normally provided by a Bit Error Rate (BER) tester.

The LTT6400 translator is capable of converting C-Band uplink signals in one 580 MHz band. Uplink signals from either the output of the upconverter or HPA in the frequency range of 5.050 to 5.290 GHz are translated by 1.785 GHz to the downlink frequency range of 6.835 to 7.075 GHz.

Output signal gain is variable in 0.1 dB increments via front panel pushbuttons or serial remote control. A PIN diode attenuator provides voltage-controlled attenuation of the output signals in 0.1 dB steps over the range of 00 to 59.9 dB. The serial port allows remote control of attenuation in precise 0.1 dB steps.

The local oscillator used in the translator is a 1.785 GHz High-Q oscillator phase locked to a 35 MHz intermediate frequency crystal oscillator. The 35 MHz crystal oscillator is in turn locked to either an internal 10.000 ovenized SC-cut 3rd overtone crystal oscillator or to an external 5 or 10 MHz reference. The dual loop architecture used in the PLOs provide for a typical 14 dB improvement over 20 Log N. In this way the phase noise of the local oscillators is independent of the phase noise of the internal or external 5 or 10 MHz references.

The use of an external reference allows the translation to be phase coherent with the external reference. The frequency of translation will track the frequency of the external reference to approximately 200 KHz at the output frequency. This allows the external reference to contain the Doppler information.

1.2 Hardware Description

The Model LTT6400 Translator is comprised of a phase-locked oscillator source and a converter module. The phase lock oscillator subsystem provides the local oscillator for the converter module. The converter module is a complete microwave integrated assembly that contains the filters, mixer, amplifier and voltage controlled attenuator.

The microcontroller module (AS1030) is an 8-bit Intel 80C32 microprocessor based subsystem. The controller contains various power supplies that provide positive and negative voltages used throughout the translator, a 12-bit digital-to-analog converter, an 8 channel, 8-bit analog-to-digital converter, 24 bits of parallel input and output, and a serial interface.

The A/D allows monitoring of various phase lock loop voltages throughout the system. The 12-bit D/A provides the precise currents for attenuation control. A nonvolatile RAM on the microcontroller board stores calibration data for the different look-up tables. The parallel I/O provides the interface to the front panel and to the LO selector module.

A 10.000 MHz ovenized oscillator assembly located at the rear of the chassis provides the internal reference to each of the phase lock oscillator modules. This assembly also provides an interface for external references to be applied to the system. An external reference when applied to the system is exclusively OR'd with the internal 5.0 MHz oscillator. The microcontroller will detect the presence of an external reference and will turn the internal reference off.

A single 15 Vdc, 25-watt power supply provides the current to run the translator. The system is designed to minimize power consumption.

The following section provides insight into the various signals that are present on each assembly:

1.3 C-Band PLO

The C-Band PLO (AS/5003B) is a 1.785 GHz Microstrip dual-loop phase locked oscillator. The primary loop of the PLO runs at 1.785 GHz with a 35 MHz internal reference. Signals in and out of the PLO include the following:

5.0 MHz Ref In

A 5.0 MHz reference is routed into the PLO module via this SMB connector. This signal is a CMOS level.

+15 Vdc - This pin is the primary power input pin to the PLO module.

VT35-C

The VT35-C signal is the phase lock loop voltage from the 35 MHz phase lock loop in the PLO. The PLO contains a 35 MHz VCXO that drives the sampling phase detector of the primary loop in the dual loop system. This signal is routed to the analog input of the microcontroller where it is

monitored for faults. This signal is also hard wired to the fault connector on the rear of the chassis. A valid range for this signal is 1 to 7.8 Vdc.

VTPRI-C

VTPRI-C is the phase lock loop voltage of the PLO. This signal is routed to the analog input of the microcontroller where it is monitored for faults. This signal is also hard-wired to the fault connector on the rear of the chassis. A valid range for this signal is 1 to 3.9 Vdc.

1.4 C-Band Converter Module

The C-Band Converter module is a microwave-integrated assembly that contains the filters, mixer, and voltage controlled attenuator. Signals in and out of this module include the following:

LO Input

The LO input is routed from the C-Band PLO module via semi-rigid cable. A 1.785 GHz CW signal is applied to the LO port at +8 dBm.

RF Monitor Port

This is a -15 dB sample of the received output signal to go to the SMA connector on the front panel.

RF Input

The RF input to the C-Band converter module comes from the rear panel N-type connector.

RF Output

The C-Band translated output is routed from this port back to the rear panel N-type connector.

+15 Vdc

+15 Vdc which powers the C-Band PLO is also routed to this pin to provide drain current for the FET mixer in the converter.

-VGS

The -VGS pin is the gate voltage for the FET Mixer. A potentiometer on the Up board allows the gate voltage to be adjusted during alignment to provide proper conversion gain, linearity and third order intercept.

VCA

The VCA input pin is the port that the attenuator control current is applied. Current of 0 to 30 milliamps is typical for 0 to full-scale attenuation. This current is derived from the D/A converter on the microcontroller.

1.5 Micrcontroller PWB AS/1030

Key elements of the microcontroller board are the serial interface, non-volatile memory, 12-bit D/A, 8 channel, 8-bit A/D, Negative voltage inverter and digital and analog positive voltage regulators.

The following is a list of the various adjustments found on the Microcontroller PWB:

R29 -10 Vdc Regulator adjustment

R24 -2V FET gate Bias Adjustment (X-band converter amplifier, VGS-X)

Note: No attempts to adjust gate bias should be attempted by unqualified persons. Gate voltages are set to provide the required gain, compression, stability and flatness of those channels which employ FET mixers.

Section 2 - Installation

2.0 Installation Requirements

2.1 Mounting

The Radyne Microwave Loopback Test Translator product line is designed for either rack mount installation or bench top use. Rack mounting the test translator can be accomplished by securing the chassis front panel with standard rack mount hardware. The welded construction of the test translator chassis makes this a secure method of installation. Alternately, the chassis is equipped to accept standard rack mounting slides if so desired. In a permanent rack installation the adhesive rubber feet on the underside of the chassis are intended to be removed if they interfere with other equipment. Ventilation of the chassis is via side vents so stacking the test translator with other chassis does not pose a problem. It is assumed however, that the ambient temperatures in the rack be maintained to less than 50 degrees Celsius.

2.2 Power-up

Primary power may be applied via the AC line receptacle on the rear panel of the LTT6400. Unless otherwise indicated, the test translator may be operated from 100 to 240 volts AC at 50 to 60 Hertz. Turn the power switch on the power entry module to the ON position. At this time, the green power LED will illuminate and the red LO fault will also light momentarily. Note that if the test translator is being powered up from a cold start, the momentary LO fault may last for a few minutes and should clear after the internal ovenized reference oscillator stabilizes on frequency. It is not uncommon for the cold ovenized oscillator to be off by as much as 100 Hertz. Once stabilized (20 minutes), the ovenized oscillator should be accurate to better than ± 0.05 ppm. The test translators are designed for continuous operation. The units draw little power (less than 20 watts) and may be left powered-up indefinitely.

2.3 Apply Signals

Apply the transmit signal to the TX RF input port in the good operating range of -5 dBm to -25 dBm. Good operating range is defined as signal levels which will guarantee a linear response with low intermodulation and spurious content. An input level of -10 dBm is considered to be ideal. If multiple carriers are to be translated simultaneously, it is recommended that the total power not be greater than -5 dBm for the same reasons. The test translator can be interfaced directly with most upconverter outputs. When interfaced to an SSPA or TWTA, attenuator pads and or directional couplers may be used to attenuate to power of the signal to a good operating range.

Signal type may be CW or modulated for set-up. A CW signal has some advantages for use in testing integrity of the hardware to be looped back. Naturally a CW signal could never be used to check the performance of the transmit and receive hardware over a satellite. But with the test translator a CW signal can be used to test the stability and phase noise of the synthesizers in the up and down converters. Test translator phase noise is typically 20 dB better than most synthesized converters and as such should never contribute to any noise appearing close to the carrier.

2.4 Receive Signal Injection

The translated receive signal is available at the RX signal output port. This signal will be the transmit input signal translated by the LO frequency represented mathematically as $TX-LO=RX$. With the attenuator thumbwheel switch set to 00, the Rx signal will be 15 dB lower in power.

Alternately, the RX signal can be viewed on a spectrum analyzer with an additional 15 dB of attenuation at the Rx monitor SMA connector on the front panel.

Next, you will want to set the power level of the receive signal for injection into the receive hardware. To inject the signal directly into a downconverter, a small amount of additional attenuation may be required. Typical downconverter input saturation may run as high as -35 dBm. With a TX input level of -10 dBm, and 20 dB of attenuation, an output of -45 dBm can be attained. This will allow direct interface with the downconverter.

If you wish to include an LNA in the receive path, additional attenuation of 50 to 70 dB will be required. Using an LNA in the receive path is an excellent method of raising the noise floor of the receive signal without having to inject external broadband noise. In order to test the BER performance of a system, it becomes necessary to degrade the signal-to-noise ratio of the receive signal to a range of 5 to 15 dB Eb/No. The noise figure of the LNA will guarantee that when the receive signal, when attenuated to within 5 to 15 dB, the noise floor (No) of the LNA will yield a usable signal-to-noise ratio.

Please note that as a rule the output of the translator should be attenuated to reach the desired power level.

NOTE: Always attenuate the RX output path versus attenuating the TX input signal beyond -25 dBm to achieve the desired signal power.

Section 3 - Operation

3.0 Operating Procedures

3.1 Operator Controls

Appendix B shows front and rear panel elevations of the translator. Front panel indicators and controls are as follows:

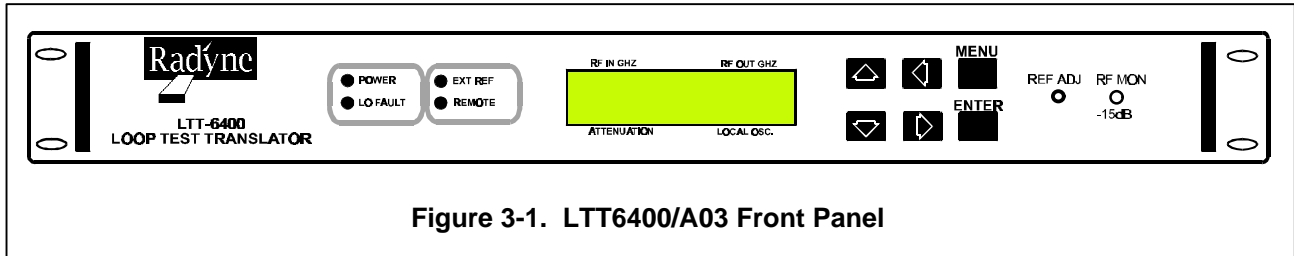


Figure 3-1. LTT6400/A03 Front Panel

3.1.1 Power ON/OFF

The Power On/Off rocker switch on the rear panel allows power to the LTT6400/A03. This switch controls primary line voltage to the translator's onboard power supply. By cycling the power switch to the translator, the microcontroller will also reset.

3.1.2 Power LED

An illuminated Power LED indicates that the translators on the power supply board are operating properly.

3.1.3 LCD Display

The LCD display located on the front panel of the converter provides an indication of Output Attenuation, Input Frequency Range, Output Frequency Range, and LO Frequency. The Root Menu is visible upon power-up. Two other menus can be seen by pressing the Menu pushbutton. These are the Status menu which displays the phase lock loop tuning voltages of the primary and 35 MHz loops and the Calibration Menu. The Calibration Menu allows for viewing and alignment of the 12-bit DAC look-up table for the 60 dB pin attenuator.

3.2 Pushbutton Panel

The pushbutton panel provides the means to control the bands selection, and attenuation value of the translator during normal operation. The functions of the pushbutton and their action visible on the LCD display are as follows:

Left/Right Pushbutton The left/right pushbutton provides a means to position the cursor visible on the LCD display either under the attenuation digit of choice or under the band select field which is the Local Oscillator (LO) field.

Up/Down Pushbutton The up/down pushbutton provides a means to increment or decrement the digit of attenuation or to change bands. To change the attenuation position the cursor under the tens, units or tenths digit. Pressing the up arrow will increase attenuation. At this time the output level of the translator

will change to reflect this change on the display. In Standby, the Pin Attenuator is set to Maximum (>60 dB).

Enter Pushbutton The enter pushbutton provides a means to store a setting or value into nonvolatile memory. Upon power-up this will become the default condition. Both the band that was present and the value of attenuation will be restored upon powerup.

Menu Pushbutton - The menu pushbutton scrolls the translator through the status and calibration menus. This will be discussed in detail in the troubleshooting section.

3.2.1 Freq. Adj.

The front panel frequency adjust control allows the operator to fine tune the frequency of the internal 5 MHz ovenized oscillator to within plus or minus $5 \times 10E^{-8}$. This level of accuracy requires that the input signal be synthesized and coherent with a frequency standard used in the frequency counter. Under normal operation, adjustment of this oscillator will most likely not be required.

3.2.2 RCV Monitor

The receive monitor ports allow the operator to access a sample of the received signal (coupled by -15 dB) from the C-band Converter Module.

3.2.3 EXT Reference LED

The EXT REF LED provides an indication to the operator that an External Reference signal has been detected on the REF IN connector located at the rear panel of the translator. An EXT REF indication and no LO FAULT indication means that the translator has correctly synchronized the selected LO band with the external 5 or 10 MHz signal. If an EXT REF indication is accompanied by an LO FAULT indication, the operator should remove the External Reference signal. If the LO fault clears, the translator was unable to synchronize to the frequency of the External Reference signal. The operator should test the frequency and level of the External Reference signal before proceeding further.

3.2.4 Remote LED

The remote LED will illuminate to indicate that a valid serial command has been issued to the translator. If at any time the operator manually alters the configuration of the translator from the front panel, the translator will revert to local operation and update its state from the front panel. A power Off/On reset will also revert the translator to local control.

3.2.5 LO Fault

The LO fault indicator will illuminate to signify that a problem exists in either the primary or 35 MHz phase lock loops of the local oscillator for the currently selected band. The light indicates that the phase lock loop voltage to the VCO is out of the acceptable range. To identify the loop that is currently at fault, the operator should either read the LO voltage via serial command or use a voltmeter to manually measure the loop voltages present at the Test/Fault connector J5 at the rear of the translator.

3.3 Rear Panel Connectors and Adjustments

3.3.1 TX and RX RF I/O

For Model LTT6400 translators, the TX and RX RF input and output ports are as follows:

	<u>Input</u>	<u>Output</u>
C-Band	J1	J2

3.3.2 REF IN

This BNC type connector allows the operator to inject either a 5 or 10 MHz reference signal for the purpose of synchronizing the translator to an external reference. The signal to be injected should be 50 ohm, AC or DC coupled, in the range of 0 to +10 dBm (or TTL). It is not required to indicate to the translator whether the signal is 5 or 10 MHz as the microcontroller will determine the frequency of the external reference. When a signal is injected at the REF in port, the front panel EXT REF LED will light to indicate that an external reference signal was detected. If the EXT REF light lights and the LO FAULT LED is not lit the translator has synchronized the selected bands local oscillator to the external reference. When an external reference is detected the microcontroller shuts off the internal 5 MHz VCXO. If a proper reference is not present, then an LO fault in the 35 MHz PLO of the selected bands LO will be indicated.

3.3.3 REF OUT

The REF OUT BNC connector contains the 5 MHz reference currently being used to synchronize the selected bands LO. If an external reference is not present this port is the internal 5.00 MHz reference. If an external 5 or 10 MHz reference is present on J4, then J5 will be the external reference loop out of the translator. If the external reference is 10 MHz, J5 will contain that reference divided by 2 or once again 5 MHz.

3.3.4 Test Fault (J5)

The Test Fault DB 9-pin connector (J5) contains summary fault form-C contact and phase lock loop voltages for the six phase lock loops found in the translator.

The pinouts of this connector are as follows:

Pin #	Signal
1	Summary Fault common
2	Summary Fault N.O.
3	Summary Fault N.C.
4	GND
5	VTPR 1.785 GHz Loop Voltage
6	VT25 C-Band 35 MHz Loop Voltage

- 7 Not Used
- 8 Not Used
- 9 Not Used

Correct voltage levels for the VTPRI loop should 1.5 to 7.8 volts, and 1 to 3.9 volts for the VTPRI loop.

3.3.5 User Serial Port (J6)

The user serial port is a DB 9-pin female connector at the rear of the translator. This port provides a serial interface that can be configured as either an RS232, RS422 or RS485 interface. This port allows the user to remotely control all of the features outlined in the Serial Protocol (Section 5). The serial port comes configured as an RS-232 Serial port for DCE unless indicated otherwise. The pinouts of the D sub 9-pin socket connector configured for RS232 or RS422 are as follows:

Operator Serial I/O Connector (Rear Panel)

<u>J6 DB 9 Pin#</u>	<u>RS232 (Factory)</u>	<u>RS422</u>	<u>AS/1036 J6</u>
1	N/C	RXData\	1
2	TXData	TXData	3
3	RXData	RXData	5
4	DTR----to pin 6	DTR---to pin 6	7
5	GND	Gnd	9
6	DSR----to pin 4	DSR ---to pin 4	2
7	RTS----to pin 8	RTS----to Pin 8	4
8	CTS----to pin 7	CTS----to pin 7	6
9	N/C	TXData\	8

Note that in order to obtain these signals at the output connector, the jumper configuration on the AS/1030 Controller PWB must have been performed as outlined in Appendix C. A summary of jumper selections is as follows:

Configuration	JP1-1	JP1-2	JP1-3	JP1-4	JP1-5	JP1-6	JP8	JP4	JP7	JP5	JP6
RS232	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	IN	IN	OUT	OUT	IN	OUT	OUT
RS422	IN	IN	IN	IN	OUT	OUT	OUT*	OUT	OUT	OUT	IN
RS485	IN	IN	IN	IN	OUT	OUT	OUT*	OUT	OUT	OUT	IN
485 1/2 DPLX	IN	OUT	OUT	IN	OUT	OUT	OUT*	IN	OUT	IN	IN

3.3.6 GND

A #10 ground lug is provided on the rear of the chassis for permanently grounding the chassis of the translator equipment.

3.3.7 100/240 Vac Power Entry Module

The Power Entry Module on the rear of the translator allows for a standard 3-prong power cord to be inserted. The power entry module also contains the AC power switch.

Section 4 - Maintenance

4.0 Periodic Maintenance

4.1 Confidence Test and Troubleshooting

This section provides two functions. Primarily, this section describes a procedure for performing a confidence test on the translator. During this process, fault identification and isolation can be performed. The confidence test section is also appropriate for incoming inspection of the unit.

4.1.1 Confidence Test Procedure

The confidence test procedure requires the following test equipment:

Signal Source/Sweep Generator, 3-15 GHz, +5 dBm leveled output.

Spectrum Analyzer

(Alternately a scalar network analyzer can be used for transfer characteristics testing)

Dumb Terminal (VT100)

Voltmeter

4.1.2 Power On Testing

Connect the VT100 to the serial port connector. Configure the VT100 for 9600 baud, 8 data bits, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity. This connector is wired as a DCE and should allow for interface to a terminal without the aid of a null-modem cable. Apply power and turn the translator On. The Power On LED should illuminate. The LO fault should not be lit at this time. A momentary fault as bands are selected is normal, but the light should go out and stay out at all times when a band is selected. When all bands have been selected, and no faults are indicated, confidence in the PLO portion of the translator is complete.

4.1.3 Transfer Characteristics Testing

Built-in test of the converters is not a function that can be monitored internally on the translator. For this reason, a manual test must be performed to test the performance of all the converter bands. The test for procedure requires that a CW input signal be applied to the translator input at -5 dBm (nominal). The spectrum analyzer start and stop frequencies should be set to those that correspond to the band under test. Prior to performing the test the operator should calibrate the test setup by connecting the cables used on the input and output port together. This test allows insertion loss in the cables to be measured, the actual input power level determined and the frequency of the sweeper to be determined. The latter determination is useful when the signal generator is not synthesized.

Next, the signals are presented to the translator at a known power level and frequency. By observing the frequency and power of the translated output signal, the conversion loss and functionality of the PLO for the selected band can be determined. With the spectrum analyzer set at the correct stop and start frequencies, the sweeper can be swept across the required input frequency range. With the attenuation

set to zero, the frequency response of the band can be tested. Conversion loss is nominally -15 to -18 dB. Test data provided with the translator should be consulted to verify that the gain and transfer characteristics are as was tested at the factory.

With the attenuator set to zero, increase the power to +5 dBm and make sure that the converter signal also increases by 10 dB. Compression on all bands is tested to provide 1 dB compression of greater than +7 dBm.

4.1.4 Attenuator Calibration Testing

Next, the attenuator calibration can be tested. The spectrum analyzer resolution bandwidth should be adjusted to provide dynamic range on the display to be 6-10 dB greater than the maximum attenuation of the translator. Next, the vertical scale on the spectrum analyzer should be adjusted to 1 dB/division. With the attenuator set to zero and the amplitude on the analyzer set to the top line on the display, set the relative offset on the analyzer to indicate 0 dB relative. The attenuator can now be stepped 1 dB at a time. With every 5 dB, the reference level can be adjusted 5 dB so that the analyzer reads out in relative attenuation identically to the thumbwheel switches. At the factory, calibration is performed at mid-band in each band. At the high end of the attenuation range, the nonlinearity of the attenuator versus frequency is the greatest. During calibration the attenuator is calibrated mid-band. Nonlinearity from band edge to band edge should not exceed ± 1 dB. Errors not due to nonlinearity can be removed by performing attenuator calibration. Calibration of the attenuator can be performed via the terminal for any setting that does not meet the operators requirements. Refer to the Serial Protocol Section (Section 5) for performing attenuation calibration.

4.1.5 Spectral Response Testing

Beyond frequency amplitude response and attenuator calibration, the operator should check the spurious responses. Spurious responses in-band can be seen by sweeping the input while looking at the output bandwidth. Out-of-band spurious signals are usually limited to harmonics of the local oscillator and input out isolation.

LO harmonics are easier to measure if you calculate integer harmonics of the LO that fall near the band edges of the selected band. Some of the signals are near -90 dBm and are difficult to spot unless you know exactly where they are in frequency.

LO harmonics that are visible are a useful way of measuring the performance of the PLO. A synthesized Spectrum Analyzer can measure the frequency of a low level spur with accuracy. Also, for troubleshooting of an LO fault this technique will be useful in verifying the nature of the fault. For example, an LO that is sweeping or false locked to the wrong frequency can be identified.

4.2 Troubleshooting

4.2.1 LO Fault

LO fault indications mean that one or both of the two phase lock loops is indicating an output voltage beyond an acceptable limit. Phase lock loop voltage limits for the various oscillators are set in software to the following:

Oscillator Model	Freq. Band	Limits
AS/5003B C-Band	Primary Loop	1 - 4 Vdc
	35 MHz Loop	1 - 7 Vdc

These voltages can be measured at the test fault connector located at the rear of the translator. Check the voltage to determine which loop has failed. If an acceptable DC level is read, make sure that it is not an average DC value by putting the voltmeter on AC and making sure that the voltmeter reads zero. An AC measurement other than zero indicates a sweeping or oscillating PLL. If you suspect sweeping, look at a harmonic on the output with a spectrum analyzer to verify.

Look for the presence of 5.000 MHz at the REF OUT jack at the rear of the translator. If the fault has been isolated, the faulty module should be repaired or replaced by a qualified person. Contact the Radyne Customer Service department to arrange for repair.

4.2.2 Transfer Characteristics Faults

Faults with the ability of the translator to translate the input signal within the limits of acceptable conversion loss over the specified range of attenuation are more difficult to troubleshoot.

Converter modules contain no serviceable components and must be returned to the factory for repair. A change in gate voltage could render a converter inoperative. Data sheets shipped with the converter indicate what the gate voltages were when the unit was shipped. It may be possible to return the unit to operation by returning the gate voltage to the proper value. This adjustment should not be attempted by an unqualified person. Typical gate voltages range from -1 to -3 Vdc.

4.3 Attenuator DAC and Calibration

Attenuation error in all bands may indicate a DAC problem. DAC Range is 0-10 V. Zero and full scale can be jumpered (see AS/1030) or controlled remotely via the serial port. See the section on serial protocol (Section 5) and performance testing to gain insight into the calibration procedure.

Section 5 - Serial Interface Protocol

5.1 Serial Interface Protocol

This section describes the operation of the Serial Interface, the Serial Commands, and the Command Structure. The command set is described in three groups. The first group contains the User Control Commands, the second group is the User Status Commands, and the third group covers the calibration Commands.

5.2 Command Structure

All commands can be communicated to the test translator over the full duplex asynchronous RS-232 serial port. The RS-232 interface hardware comes configured at 9600 baud, 1 start bit, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity. Other baud rates are switch selectable. All command sequences are constructed from ASCII character data. As such, it is possible to control the translator from a dumb terminal.

Command structure consists of the command header, the command, the command variables, and the command delimiter. The command header prevents random character data from triggering an undesired response. The command and command variable data will be described in detail below.

5.3 Status Prompt

Upon power-up, the unit will send a status prompt in the following form:

STATUS: BAND: {bb} ATT: {aa} {mode} {fault} >

Where bb represents the selected band; aa represents the selected attenuation; and **{mode}** contains the current mode as follows:

LOC: Band and attenuation set by front panel switches

REM: Band and attenuation set by terminal

CAL: Unit in calibrate mode.

Any valid command entered from the terminal will put the unit in remote (**REM:**) mode. With the unit in remote or calibrate (**CAL:**) mode, any change in the front panel switch settings will put the unit in local (**LOC:**) mode and update the current status from the front panel. If a fault is detected **{fault}** will contain **FLT:** otherwise, nothing will appear.

5.4 Control Commands

Control commands allow the user to select the desired translator band and to control the level of signal attenuation. When a control command is issued, the current settings of the translator will be changed. The remote light will illuminate to indicate that the setting was requested remotely. In the case of attenuation, the remote light indicates that the value displayed by the thumbwheel switches may not be the true value. If a band selection or attenuation value is selected from the front panel while the unit is in remote control, operation of the translator will revert to the front panel and the remote light will be extinguished

5.4.1 Set-Attenuation

The Set Attenuation command sets the level of attenuation in dB from 0 to 59.9 dB for the selected band. The command structure is as follows:

MMA{##.#{CR}

In this case, the three numbers are ASCII digits where the last digit is the attenuation specified in tenths of a dB. If accuracy to 1 tenth of a dB is not required, a zero must still be included when executing the command. Of significance is the fact that when the gain is remotely set, the value of attenuation is stored in non-volatile memory and will be recalled upon power-up.

5.4.2 Select-Band

The Select Band command selects one of two translator frequency conversion bands. The set band command is 3 bytes in length and consists of the following:

MMB#{#}{CR}

where {#} is the ASCII number from one through two where:

0=Mute

1=1.785 GHz

5.4.3 Force Update from Front Panel Switches and Enter Local Mode

The LOCAL command forces an update from the front panel switch settings and puts the unit in local mode. The command structure is as follows:

MMLOC{CR}

Note: On a test translator equipped with the outdoor option this command although functional is of no consequence.

5.5 Status Commands

Return Analog-to-Digital Converter Value

The command:

MMR#{#}{cr}

Allows the operator to read ADC input #, where # must be from 0 to 7.

A/D INPUT #

- 0 Spare
- 1 C-35 MHz Loop Voltage
- 2 C-Primary Loop Voltage
- 3 Spare
- 4 Spare
- 5 Spare
- 6 Spare
- 7 Spare

The translator will return the following string:

[1]{cr}

Where byte 1 is the hexadecimal 8 bit value read from the ADC. To convert this reading to an actual voltage convert the hex number to decimal and multiply by 19 mv/bit.

5.5.1 Return DAC Value

Often it would be good to know what the current DAC value is before issuing any commands to change that value. The Return DAC Value command is useful for either double checking the DAC value prior to storage or simply determining what the value is prior to issuing a new value. To request the current DAC value enter:

MMV{cr}

The translator will return the following string:

[1][2]{cr}

Where bytes 1 and 2 are the hexadecimal 16-bit value of the right justified 12-bit DAC value.

5.6 Calibration Commands

The calibration shell resident in the test translator firmware is used to load calibration data into the EEPROM for the purpose of linearizing the PIN diode attenuator. This calibration was performed at the factory and should not be needed to be performed in the field. However, there are situations where the user may want to re-calibrate the attenuator on the translator. One reason may be to eliminate interconnect cable frequency response variations in gain. In this situation a user may want to calibrate the gain to some port other than the one on the translator itself.

Note: Calibration of the translator is only as accurate as the equipment used in making the calibration. Normally the calibration requires that a test signal be input to the translator at a known level and then the

translator output power be measure with a spectrum analyzer. Few power meters have the required dynamic range and selectivity.

Alternately, a scalar network analyzer may be used for calibration. Calibration can be performed manually (i.e. at every point for both bands) or the calibration can be computer automated with an ATE setup.

Calibration can be performed on any one of the two active bands. Calibration is performed at precise 1 dB increments. The calibration sequence and associated commands are now presented.

5.7 Set-Calibrate-Mode Command

The set calibrate command is a key that allows entry into the calibration firmware shell. To enter calibration mode enter the following command:

MMCAL{cr}

Once in calibrate mode the cal prompt, STATUS: BAND:{bb} ATT: {aa} CAL: >, will be sent where bb and aa represent the band and attenuation selected.

5.8 Valid commands while in CAL mode

When the unit is in CAL mode the following commands are valid:

- U** Coarse Increment DAC Value
- u** Fine Increment DAC value
- D** Coarse Decrement DAC value
- d** Fine Decrement DAC value
- C** Store DAC value at this location
- N** Increment ATT location being calibrated while maintaining current DAC value
- P** Decrement ATT location being calibrated while maintaining current DAC value
- X** Exit CAL mode

These commands do not require a carriage return, and all other commands are invalid. Any change of the front panel switches will take the unit out of CAL mode. Both the increment and decrement DAC value commands will wrap around when they reach full scale.

Appendix A

Technical Specifications

A.1 Introduction

Performance Specifications for the Model LTT6400/A03 C-Band Test Translator are as follows:

Performance Specifications

Input Frequency	5.050 - 5.290 GHz
Output Frequency	6.835 - 7.075 GHz
Translation Frequency	1.785 GHz
Return Loss RF Ports	>18 dB
Conversion Gain	-15 dB
Gain Control	0-59.9 dB
Gain Ripple	± 1 dB/500 MHz $\pm .25$ dB/40 MHz
Noise Figure	19 dB
Input P1 dB	> +7 dBm
Third Order Intercept	+17 dBm

Spurious (In Selected Output Frequency Band)

Input Signal Related	-55 dBC
LO Related	-65 dBm
LO Harmonics (Out band)	-60 dBm max.

LO Phase Noise

10 Hz offset	-60 dBc
100 Hz offset	-80 dBc
1 KHz offset	-96 dBc
10 KHz offset	-106 dBc
100 KHz offset	-110 dBc
1 MHz offset	-125 dBc

Frequency Stability:	(5 MHz Internal Ovenized SC-cut):
Temperature	(0-50°C) 1×10^{-8} max.
Aging	5×10^{-10} /day max.
External Reference Input	5/10 MHz 0 dBm \pm 5 dB
Front Panel Controls:	Pushbutton Panel, Internal 5.000 MHz Reference Frequency Adjust
Front Panel Indicators:	Power, LO Fault, Remote Indicator, External LO Lock
Front Panel Monitors:	-15 dB Receive signal Monitor, LO I/O Service Loop
Rear Panel Connections:	RF In, N-Type RF Out, N-Type External Reference In, BNC 100-240 Vac Line In, Fused Power Entry Unit/Power Switch Summary Fault Contact (DB 9-pin) RS-232 Interface, (DB 9-pin)
Power Requirements:	100-240 Vac, 50-60 Hz, 0.5 A Max.
Regulatory Compliances:	EMC: EN55022, Class B EN50082-1 IEC801-2, 4 KV CD, 8 KV AD IEC801-3, 27-500 MHz, 3 V/M IEC801-4, 0.5 KV Signal, 1 KV Power Safety: EN60950
Dimensions:	19" W x 1.71" H x 10" D
Weight:	10 lb.

Note: These specifications are subject to change.

Appendix B
LTT6400 C-Band Loop Test Translator
Configuration Drawings