

**15 March 2011**

**RE: Power-Up Fix for Alta Interface Cards**

Dear Customer:

Alta has released new card revisions that fix a startup problem with several product models. The problem was a random, intermittent failure of the card's main FPGA to load properly at startup. A subsequent power reset would usually fix the problem. The new revision requires the card(s) to be returned to the factory for reprogramming, or for Alta and the customer to arrange in-field re-programming via a simple JTAG test fixture.

The root cause was identified as an incorrect design with a main clock reference between the CPLD and FPGA parts. The CPLD part programs the main FPGA at startup. The previous CPLD design could cause an improper clock phase to the FPGA at startup preventing a proper card startup. The inappropriate startup sequence is extremely rare and may not affect most customers.

Alta has redesigned the CPLD clock circuit and has performed millions of successful restart cycles to prove the new design is successful. Alta is confident this new design will provide a more reliable design for long term product usage.

The following card models with the given starting serial numbers have the issue. Also provided is the most recent "99" assembly number revision that has the corrected CPLD design (prior revisions would not have the fix).

<b>Model</b>	<b>Start SN</b>	<b>Revision with Fix</b>
PC104P-1553	0909-00375	<b>99301-XXXXX-B2</b>
PCI-1553	0907-00373	<b>99201-XXXXX-D1</b>
PMC-1553	0908-00343	<b>99101-XXXXX-D1</b>
PC104P-A429	1001-00211	<b>99102-XXXXX-C1</b>
PCI-A429	0910-00250	<b>99202-XXXXX-B2</b>
PMC-A429	0909-00215	<b>99102-XXXXX-B2</b>

This update is considered non-serious and voluntary. Alta has 1000s of these card models in the field over the last several years and only two customers have noticed the potential problem.

Alta will pay freight costs for return of any cards for update. The update should only take a few days to coordinate and return back to the customer. Please contact [alta.support@altadt.com](mailto:alta.support@altadt.com) or 505-994-3111 x1 to arrange an RMA number for any updates.

We apologize for any inconvenience. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Best Regards,



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