TP44100SG-TPPFC520-EVB

520 W Totem-Pole PFC Evaluation Board Using Tagore Technology's Superior GaN HEMT (TP44100SG)

User Manual

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About this document

Objective and Purpose:

This application note describes Tagore Technology's 520 W Totem-Pole PFC (TP-PFC) Converter Evaluation Board (TP44100SG-TPPFC520-EVB) using its 90 m Ω superior GaN HEMT TP44100SG. The user will be able to perform a complete evaluation of the EVB by following the procedures outlined in this document and all the necessary supporting information (circuit schematics, BOM, layout, key operating waveforms, etc.) is provided to facilitate a quick adaption to a production design.

Intended audience:

This application note is intended for Tagore Technology's customers and partners using its 90 m Ω Superior GaN HEMT TP44100SG.

Revision History

Document version	Date of release	Description of changes
Rev 1.0	22-Sept-2023	First release.

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1 Introduction

In most of the power supplies and battery chargers connected to grid, ac-dc power conversion serves as the first-stage power conversion block. Above 75 W output power, regulations require incorporation of a Power Factor Correction (PFC) stage in the ac-dc converter.

The **TP44100SG-TPPFC520-EVB** is a highly efficient single phase Totem Pole PFC (TP-PFC) solution, which is built using the advantages of Tagore Technology's Superior GaN HEMT **TP44100SG**. The EVB can operate over the universal input ac voltage range (90 V to 265 V) providing output power up to 520 W with efficiency more than 98%. Such high efficiency cannot be achieved using a standard Boost PFC due to high power loss in the Diode Bridge Rectifier (DBR) at its input. The Totem Pole PFC topology replaces the inefficient diodes bridge with semiconductor switches. Tagore Technology's "Enhancement Mode High Electron Mobility GaN Transistors (E-HEMTs) with ESD protection" parts have very low output charge (Q_{oss}), while the reverse recovery charge (Q_{rr}) is completely absent. These advantages of Tagore Technology's Superior GaN part **TP44100SG** are leveraged here to design this TP-PFC solution with low switching loss and enhanced efficiency.



Figure 1-1: Photograph of TP44100SG-TPPFC520-EVB.

Lower device loss allows the GaN HEMTs to operate continuously without any need for external heatsink. This significantly helps reduce the volume and weight of the EVB. The TP44100SG parts are Surface Mount Devices (SMDs) that come in small QFN 5x7 package. This further enables a very compact PCB layout design and helps improve the EMI performances of the converter by controlling the switching voltage oscillations. Utilizing these advantages, the TP-PFC solution has been designed to have a small form factor, and hence, high power density. Additional thermal management like fan and heatsink are not required. The use of SMD components makes the assembly process faster and cheaper. Thus, this TP-PFC solution using Tagore Technology's Superior GaN is an ideal candidate for a simple, compact, and cost-effective PFC application.

1.1 Working Principle

The TP-PFC has four switching devices, distributed in two switching legs. The two High Frequency (HF) GaN HEMT, S1 and S2, and two Low Frequency (LF) Super-Junction (SJ) MOSFETs, S3 and S4 as shown in Figure 1-2. The LF devices are turned ON and OFF alternately in each line cycle. This divides



the TP-PFC into two different functional boost converters with synchronous rectification. The HF leg GaN HEMTs change their role between boost switch and boost diode every half line cycle. During the positive half line cycle, the LF MOSFET S4 is turned ON and S3 is turned OFF. Here, the GaN HEMT S2 acts as the boost switch, driven with duty cycle D, and S1 acts as the boost diode, driven with complementary PWM signal of duty (1-D). Similarly, during the negative half line cycle, S3 remains ON and SRL OFF. The GaN HEMT S2 acts as the boost diode and S1 as the boost switch.



Figure 1-2: Functional block diagram of EVB.

The NCP1680 is a Critical Conduction Mode (CrM) PFC controller IC dedicated for TP-PFC topology. In a switching cycle, when the boost switch is turned on, the inductor current rises in magnitude. After the boost switch is turned off, this inductor current gradually returns to zero as the output capacitor gets charged. The controller needs to detect the exact instant when the inductor current just falls to zero so that it can initiate the next switching cycle as per the CrM operating mode. This is achieved through negative dc bus current sensing (ZCD sense through the current sense resistor R_{sns}) as shown in Figure 1-2. The TP-PFC also operates at DCM at light loads, and during some part of the line cycle to prevent the switching frequency going very high. During this time, the boost GaN switches are turned on at the Quasi Resonant (QR) valleys of switching node voltage to reduce the turn on switching losses and to improve the EMI performance. The switch node valleys are being sensed using an auxiliary winding, coupled to the boost inductor, and the information is fed to the controller IC as shown in Figure 1-2. Three resistor potential divider networks are used: The first two for sensing the line voltage (not shown here), and the rest for output dc bus voltage sense as shown by the resistors R1 and R2.

The controller IC does not have integrated gate drivers to drive the semiconductor switches. So, external half-bridge level-shifted gate driver ICs (NCP 51530) are required to drive both the HF and LF legs of the TP-PFC converter (shown in the schematic). These gate drivers take PWM signals from the controller IC as inputs and generate gate drive output pulses of 12 V as high level and 0 V as low level. Since the GaN HEMTs need +6V/0V gate drive signals, interface circuit/level-down-shifter circuit has been used between the gate terminal of each GaN HEMT and its respective gate driver output. The detailed interface circuit is illustrated in Figure 1-3.



Figure 1-3: Gate Interface Circuit.

The controller does not have self-startup functionality. It needs external bias supply for startup and run. The entire control circuit, including gate drivers, has been designed to work with 12 V_{dc} supply. An auxiliary power supply daughter board is used. It takes power from the output dc bus (~400 V) and provides 12 V_{dc} to the controller circuit. During startup, the output dc bus capacitor initially gets peak charged to the peak of the line voltage through the body diodes of the LF MOSFETs S3 and S4, and the bypass diodes (shown in the schematic) to provide the initial bias power. The bias power supply has been designed to operate from very low voltage (~50 V_{dc}) to maximum possible dc bus voltage (~400 V).

At input voltages below 180 V_{ac} , the output power should be derated to 240 W. So, the user should be careful to connect proper load depending on the input ac supply voltage conditions.



Figure 1-4: Recommended derating of maximum output power vs input ac voltage at 25° C or less.



2 Physical Details and Specifications Of EVB

Photographs of both the top and the bottom sides of the TP-PFC EVB are shown in Figure 2-1 with key components identified.



Top Side

Bottom Side

Figure 2-1: Top (Left) and Bottom (Right) views of the EVB with key circuit blocks identified.

2.1 Dimension Measurements

Table 2-1 : Mechanical Dimensions

Mechanical Dimensions	Value	Unit
Length of EVB PCB	98.02	mm
Width of EVB PCB	67.21	mm
Thickness of EVB PCB	1.6	mm
Height of tallest component on Top Side	28	mm
Height of tallest component on Bottom Side	2.8	mm
Gross Volume of EVB	213.45	CC

2.2 Technical Data

Table 2-2 : Key Technical Specifications

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	NOM	MAX	UNIT
Input RMS Voltage (Vin)		90*		265	V _{ac}
Line Frequency		47		63	Hz
Output voltage		395	400	405	V _{dc}
Output current				1.3	А
Rated output voltage ripple	Peak -to- Peak			20	V
Output power				520*	W
Efficiency	V _{in} = 230V, full load.		99.2		%
Switching frequency		35		120	kHz

* At input voltages below 180 V_{ac}, the maximum output power should be derated to 240 W.

3 Operating Procedure

3.1 List Of Instruments and Hardware Items Required

For testing the Eval Board, following list of instruments and hardware items are required:

- TP44100SG-TPPFC520-EVB
- AC Power Source: Output voltage within 90 Vac to 265 Vac; capable of delivering 250 W power.
- Load: Electronic Load or Resistive Load (400 V_{dc} min., 520 W)
- Observation Instruments:
 - Digital Power Meter GWInstek GPM-8213 or equivalent
 - Digital Multimeters for measuring voltages and currents (300 V_{ac} min., 5 A min.)
 - Digital Storage Oscilloscope (DSO) (Preferably with 4 Channels, BW ≥ 300 MHz)
 - High Voltage Differential Probes (min. 500 V) compatible with the DSO
 - Current Clamp Probes (min. 10 Å) compatible with the DSO
- Wires and cables for making electrical connections.

3.2 Operating Procedure Steps

- Ensure that the dc bus capacitors are discharged, the output voltage of EVB is zero, and the ac power source is turned off.
- Connect the input power terminals of the EVB to the output terminals of the ac power source. (Optional: Connect a power meter in between the EVB input and ac power source output).
- Set electronic load value to 0A in constant current mode and ensure loading is disabled. Connect the output terminals of the EVB to the electronic load in correct polarity.
- Connect voltage, current probes from DSO to the desired observation points.
- Set the output of the ac power source to 0 Vac and then switch it on. Gradually increase the ac output to 90 Vac. Observe that the EVB output voltage will rise to ~400 Vdc and maintain the same value indicating that the EVB startup is complete.
- Enable the electronic load and then gradually increase the loading to the desired value not exceeding the maximum output power rating of the EVB while doing these experiments. At input voltage below 180 Vac adhere to the recommended derating of the maximum output power.
- After completing experiments, turn off the ac input power source. Wait for some more time for the output dc bus to get discharged before touching the board.



4 Experimental Results

4.1 Efficiency

Efficiency measurement test is done by measuring the input power using a digital power meter, while the output voltage and currents were measured by the electronic load. Measured efficiency of the EVB at various loads for different input voltages is shown in Figure 4-1.



Figure 4-1: EVB Efficiency measured at two different input voltages: 115 Vac and 230 Vac.

4.2 Power Factor

Power factor curves vs output power at different input voltages are shown in Figure 4-2.



Figure 4-2: Power Factor vs Output Power at 115 Vac and 230 Vac.

4.3 Steady-State Input Waveforms

Typical steady state input voltage and current waveforms of the EVB for different cases:

- Input Voltage: 180 V_{ac} and Output Power: 520 W is shown in Figure 4-3.
- Input Voltage: 230 V_{ac} and Output Power: 520 W is shown in Figure 4-4.
- Input Voltage: 230 V_{ac} and Output Power: 240 W is shown in Figure 4-5.
- Input Voltage: 115 Vac and Output Power: 240 W is shown in Figure 4-6.



Figure 4-3: Input voltage and current waveforms at 520 W load and 180 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input voltage (100 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Input current (5 A/div.); time: 5 ms/div.



Figure 4-4: Input voltage and current waveforms at 520 W load and 230 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input voltage (100 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Input current (5 A/div.); time: 5 ms/div.



Figure 4-5: Input voltage and current waveforms at 240 W load and 230 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input voltage (100 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Input current (5 A/div.); time: 5 ms/div.



Figure 4-6: Input voltage and current waveforms at 240 W load and 115 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input voltage (100 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Input current (5 A/div.); time: 5 ms/div.

THD of the input current at two input voltages 230 V_{ac} and 115 V_{ac} for different loads are given in the table below:

Table 4-1: Inpu	t Current THD	at Different I	nput Voltages
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Output Power (W)	THD % at 230 V _{ac}	THD % at 115 V _{ac}
520	2.3	-
240	3.7	4.5
120	5.0	2.9



4.4 Start-up

The EVB is designed to limit the initial inrush current at the input during start-up. The output voltage gradually builds up from the peak of the line voltage to its final reference value without having any overshoot. The no load start-up waveforms of the EVB at 115 V_{ac} and 230 V_{ac} are shown in Figure 4-7 and Figure 4-8 respectively. These indicate that the start-up procedure is completed in less than 0.5 s.



Figure 4-7: No-load start-up at 115 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input ac voltage (200 V/div); Channel 2(Red): Input ac current (5 A/div); Channel 3(Green): TP-PFC high frequency leg switch node voltage (200 V/div); Channel 4(Orange): Output voltage (200 V/div); time: 50 ms/div.



Figure 4-8: No-load start-up at 230 V_{ac} input. Channel 1(Blue): Input ac voltage (500 V/div); Channel 2(Red): Input ac current (5 A/div); Channel 3(Green): TP-PFC high frequency leg switch node voltage (200 V/div); Channel 4(Orange): Output voltage (200 V/div); time: 50 ms/div.

4.5 Load Step Change Transient Response

The TP-PFC EVB has been designed to have fast load dynamic response. Output voltage responses to a step change in load between 0 - 240 W and vice-versa are shown in Figure 4-9 and Figure 4-10 respectively, for both 115 V_{ac} and 230 V_{ac} input voltages. Voltage undershoots and overshoots are less than 0.8% of the nominal output voltage. It should be noted that the noise signal around the load current waveforms (Red) is due to current probe pickup noise, which is not present in the actual current.



Figure 4-9: PFC output voltage transient due to 0-240 W load step change at (Left) 115 V_{ac} and (Right) 230 V_{ac}. Channel 1 (Blue): Output voltage (10 V/div); Channel 2(Red): Output load current (1 A/div); time: 50 ms/div.



Figure 4-10: PFC output voltage transient due to 240-0 W load step change at (Left) 115 V_{ac} and (Right) 230 V_{ac}. Channel 1 (Blue): Output Voltage (10 V/div); Channel 2(Red): Output Load current (1 A/div); time: 50 ms/div.



4.6 Output Voltage Ripple Switching Waveforms

Output voltage ripple waveform at 240 W and 115 V_{ac} , and at 520 W and 230 V_{ac} are shown in Figure 4-11. The measured peak-to-peak ripple is less than 20 V.



Figure 4-11: Output voltage ripple waveforms on full load at (Left) 115 Vac and (Right) 230 Vac. Channel 1(Blue): Output voltage ripple (10 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Output Load current (0.5 A/div.).

4.7 Switching Waveforms

The high frequency switch node voltage and the corresponding Gate-Source voltage waveform of the Low side GaN HEMT S2 of the high frequency leg of the TP-PFC are shown in Figure 4-12.



Figure 4-12: Channel 1(Blue): High Frequency switch node voltage (100 V/div.); Channel 2(Red): Gate-Source voltage of the Low side GaN FET (10 V/div.); Channel 3(Green): Input current (2 A/div.); (Above) Waveforms captured over few line cycles, (Below) zoomed to 5 µs/div.



4.8 Thermal Performance

The thermal performance of the GaN HEMTs is captured at 230 V_{ac} and 115 V_{ac} input voltages and maximum output power of 520 W and 240 W, respectively. The thermal images are shown in Figure 4-13. It shows that there is a temperature rise of 31 °C over the ambient temperature of 25°C.



Figure 4-13: Temperature measurement of GaN HEMTs at 520 W, 230 Vac (Left) and 240 W, 115 Vac (Right).

5 PCB Layout

This section presents the PCB layout for the different layers of the main 4-layer power board.



Figure 5-1: Top layer.

Figure 5-2: Mid layer 1

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Figure 5-3: Mid layer 2.

Figure 5-4: Bottom layer.

6 Bill Of Materials

Table 6-1: Bill of Materials (BOM)

	520 W TP-PFC EVB BOM										
SI #	Qty	Reference	Description	Value	Rating	Package	Part Number	Manufacturer			
1	1	CM1	Common Mode Choke	0.45 mH	6.5 A		7448227005	Wurth Elektronik			
2	1	CM2	Common Mode Choke	35 mH	3.5 A		7448040435	Wurth Elektronik			
3	1	C1	MLCC, X7R, 10%	1 µF	630 V	2220	885342214001	Wurth Elektronik			
4	3	C2, C41, C47	MLCC, X7R, 10%	1 µF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
5	1	C3	Electrolytic Capacitor	220 µF	16 V		Standard Part				
6	1	C4	Film Capacitor, X2, 20%	0.47 µF	560 V	2220	R46KI347045P2M	KEMET			
7	1	C5	MLCC, X7R, 10%	22 nF	50 V	2220	2220YA300223KJTS3X	Knowless Syfer			
8	1	C6	Film Capacitor, 10%	1 µF	630 V		B32672P6105K000	EPCOS/ TDK			
9	2	C7, C12	MLCC, X7R, 10%	1000 pF	630 V	1206	CC1206KKX7RZBB102	Yageo			
10	3	C8, C18, C19	MLCC, X7R, 10%	0.1 µF	1 kV	1812	C1812C104KDRACTU	KEMET			
11	1	C9	Electrolytic Capacitor	220 µF	450 V		450HXW220MEFR18X45	Rubycon			
12	2	C10, C11	Ceramic Cap., 20%	2200 pF	300 V		DE6E3KJ222MA3B	Murata Electronics			
13	1	C13	MLCC, X7R, 10%	33 pF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
14	2	C14, C38	MLCC, X7R, 10%	4.7 nF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
15	1	C15	MLCC, X7R, 20%	10 nF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
16	2	C16, C20	MLCC, X7R, 20%	320 pF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
17	2	C39, C40	MLCC, X7R, 10%	100 pF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
18	1	C17		DNP		0603					
19	2	C21, C44	MLCC, C0G, 5%	2.2 nF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
20	1	C22	MLCC, X7R, 10%	47 pF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
21	1	C23	Al. Electrolytic Cap., 20%	100 µF	35 V		865080545012	Wurth Elektronik			
22	1	C24	MLCC, X7R, 10%	2.2 µF	50 V	0805	Standard Part				
23	5	C25, C28, C32, C36, C37	MLCC, X7R, 20%	0.1 µF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
24	5	C26, C27, C33, C34, C35	MLCC, X7R, 10%	22 µF	50 V	0805	Standard Part				
25	1	C29	MLCC, X7R, 10%	220 pF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				
26	2	C30, C31	MLCC, X7R, 10%	1 nF	50 V	0603	Standard Part				

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	520 W TP-PFC EVB BOM								
SI #	Qty	Reference	Description	Value	Rating	Package	Part Number	Manufacturer	
27	2	C42, C43	MLCC, X7R, 10%	4.7 µF	50 V	0805	Standard Part		
28	1	C46	Al. Electrolytic Cap., 20%	47 µF	35 V		Standard Part		
29	1	D1	LED Green				APT1608ZGC-AMT	Kingbright	
30	2	D2, D3	Rectifier	1 kV		SMC	S8MC-13	Diode Incorporated	
31	3	D4, D8, D11	Schottky Diode	30 V	400 mW	SOD-123	BAT54T1G	Onsemi	
32	1	D5	Zener Diode	5.1 V	200 mW	SOD-323	BZT52-B5V1S	Panjit	
33	1	D6	Zener Diode	15 V	400 mW	SOD-323F	D3Z15BF-7	Diode Incorporated	
34	2	D7, D10	Diode	600 V	1 A	DO-214	ES1JAF	Onsemi	
35	2	D9, D12	Zener Diode	6.2 V	300 mW	SOD-323	SZMM3Z6V2ST1G	Onsemi	
36	1	D13	Schottky Diode	100 V	2 A	SOD-123FA	S210FA	Onsemi	
37	1	F1	Fuse		6.3 A		38316300410	Littlefuse	
38	1	K1	Relay	12 V	10 A		PR6-12V-450-1A	CUI Devices	
39	2	L1, L2	Inductor	150 µH	5.4 A		7447055	Wurth Elektronik	
40	1	L4	Inductor	4.7 µH	0.6 A		74479775247	Wurth Elektronik	
41	1	PS1	Isolated dc-dc Converter		12 V	SIP-4	PDS1-S12-S12-S	CUI Inc.	
42	2	Q1, Q2	N channel MOSFET	70 mΩ	650 V	2-10AF1A	TK090U65Z	Toshiba	
43	1	Q3	N channel MOSFET			SOT-23	2N7002	Onsemi	
44	1	RT1	NTC	100 kΩ	100 mW	0603	NCU18WF104D60RB		
45	2	RT2, RT3	PTC	50 Ω			B59870C0130A070	EPCOS/ TDK	
46	1	RV1	Varistor	275 V	250 A	3220	V430CH8	Littlefuse	
47	7	R1, R3, R5, R17, R25, R39, R41	Resistor, 1%	10 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
48	2	R2, R4	Resistor, 1%	20 Ω	100 mW	0805	Standard Part		
49	1	R6	Resistor, 1%	4.7 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
50	2	R7, R19	Resistor, 1%	0 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
51	1	R8	Resistor, 1%	4.99 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
52	1	R9, R10	Current sense Resistor	200 mΩ	2 W	2512	MFHA2512R2000FE	Eaton	
53	2	R11, R18	Resistor, 1%	100 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
54	1	R12	Resistor, 1%	200 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
55	2	R13, R40	Resistor, 1%	49.9 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
56	3	R14, R37, R38	Resistor, 1%	2.2 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
57	6	R15, R16, R23, R24, R28, R29	Resistor, 1%	3.3 MΩ	250 mW	1206	Standard Part		
58	3	R20, R26, R30	Resistor, 1%	7.5 MΩ	250 mW	1206	Standard Part		
59	1	R21	Resistor, 1%	DNP	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
60	1	R22	Resistor, 1%	10 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
61	2	R27, R43	Resistor, 1%	1 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
62	2	R31, R33	Resistor, 1%	100 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
63	1	R32	Resistor, 1%	2 Ω	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
64	2	R34, R36	Resistor, 1%	100 Ω	100 mW	0805	Standard Part		
65	1	R35	Resistor, 1%	143 kΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
66	1	R42	Resistor, 1%	1 MΩ	100 mW	0603	Standard Part		
67	1	R44		DNP			Standard Part		
68	1	R45	Resistor, 1%	0 Ω	100 mW	1210	Standard Part		
69	1	R46	Resistor, 1%	0 Ω	100 mW	0805	Standard Part		
70	1	U1	ac-dc Converter	12 V	3 W		LS03-13B12R3	Mornsun America	
71	1	U2	PFC Controller			SOIC-16	NCP1680AAD1R2G	Onsemi	
72	2	U3, U6	GaN HEMT, 90 mΩ		650 V	QFN-5x7	TP44100SG	Tagore Technology	
73	2	U4, U5	Gate Driver			SOIC-8	NCP51530BDR2G	Onsemi	
74	1	PCB					TTPMH01901723	Tagore Technology	





7 Schematic Diagram

The electrical schematic diagram of the EVB is provided in this section.





