UX400-OSA Module

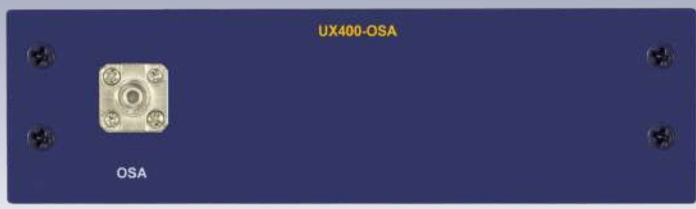
CWDM and DWDM Testing

VePAL UX400

Universal Test Platform

Optical Spectrum/Channel Analyzer for CWDM and DWDM Networks

Using superior micro-optic design and MEMS tuning technology, the UX400 OSA module measures key optical parameters such as wavelength, channel power, and OSNR.



Platform Highlights

- Precise measurement of WDM wavelengths
- Wide wavelength range
- High wavelength accuracy and resolution
- Built-in wavelength reference
- High power sensitivity
- Excellent power accuracy
- Compact, light-weight, 1 slot module
- Rugged, reliable design - No moving parts
- Superior shock resistance
- Periodic calibration not required
- Ultra-low power consumption
- Low temperature sensitivity
- Intuitive operation with dedicated test functions
- Touch screen for simple zooming and navigation

Key Features

- S, C and C+L band wavelength ranges
- Fast continuous scanning - full spectrum in < 4 sec
- Simultaneous measurements of up to 160 channels
- DWDM channel spacing down to 50 GHz
- Channel power measurement
- Channel threshold detection
- High wavelength accuracy: ± 50 pm
- High dynamic range: >50 dB
- OSNR measurement: >30 dB
- Low Polarization Dependent Loss (PDL): < 0.3 dB
- Universal optical interface with industry standard optical adaptor types
- Supports different modulation schemes used for 10/40/100 GHz transmission systems

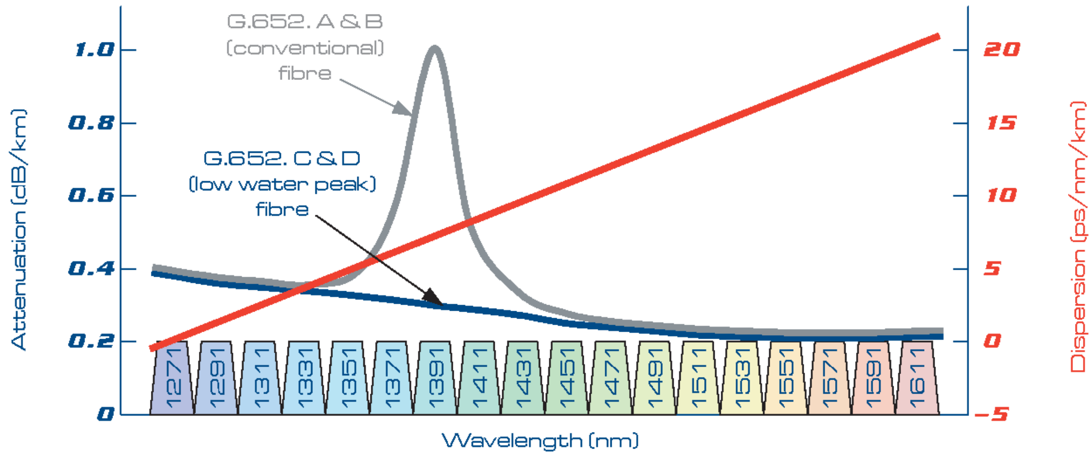
Applications

The OSA module is a perfect compromise between a full blown OSA and an optical channel analyzer. The unit features the most important spectrum analysis capabilities required to install, commission and troubleshoot DWDM and CWDM networks. High reliability is achieved through a rugged mechanical design which features no moving parts and does not require periodic calibration. The hardware and user interface are optimized for simplicity - measurements settings are also kept to a minimum, making it easy to use for any skill level. Despite its simple operation, the unit still features the most critical OSA measurement capabilities such as precise power and wavelength characterization.

CWDM Technology

Coarse Wavelength Multiplexing (CWDM) technology is used frequently in enterprise or metro networks to increase bandwidth capacity economically. CWDM transmission systems can transport up to 16 channels (wavelengths) in the 1270 nm to 1610 nm spectrum with a 20 nm channel interval. The width of each channel is 13 nm while the remaining 7 nm is designed to be the guard band to the next channel. Due to the 20 nm channel spacing, cost-effective un-cooled lasers can be used.

CWDM technology is often used to transport different types of services, e.g. Ethernet, SDH/SONET, and Fibre Channel (FC) but it has limitations in the distance over which the traffic is transported and also in the total channel count.



ITU-T G.694.2 - CWDM Wavelength Grid

Testing CWDM Networks

Test parameters in a CWDM network are normally less stringent compared to DWDM systems – due in part to more lenient laser wavelength tolerances and wide pass-band filters being used. Since there are no active components like Erbium Doped Fibre Amplifiers (EDFA) to create noise in a CWDM network, using a complex and expensive OSA would be an overkill and inappropriate for field testing.

The UX400 wide band OSA option quickly determines the presence/absence of each of the 16 wavelengths and checks their power levels accurately. Thanks to excellent sensitivity and a large 50 dB dynamic range, the OSA can be connected to a 20 dB monitoring tap on the OADM, making it ideal for non-intrusive channel analysis.

Sophisticated MEMS tuning technology that has no moving parts, allows the unit to make faster measurements than most complex OSAs, enabling quick troubleshooting of a CWDM network.

Applications *cont'd*

DWDM Technology

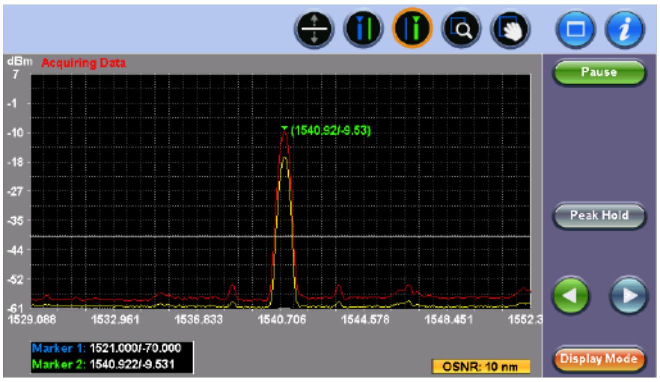
DWDM technology is particularly suitable for long-haul transmission systems because its supports Erbium Doped Fiber Amplification (EDFA). The ITU-T G.694.1 recommendation defines the wavelengths found in the C-band (1525-1565 nm) and L-band (1565-1620 nm) with channel spacing at 50 GHz (0.4 nm), 100 GHz (0.8 nm) or 200 GHz (1.6 nm). Densely packed channels aren't without their limitations especially as precision lasers must keep channels exactly on target.

Testing DWDM Networks

Boasting impressive specifications, the OSA is suitable for lab operation or harsh field environments. An Athermal design assures calibration is valid over all temperature ranges resulting in accurate power and wavelength measurement in adverse or controlled conditions. The OSA supports C-band or C+L-band measurements with superior wavelength and channel resolution. The unit is an indispensable tool for checking critical parameters responsible for transmission faults.

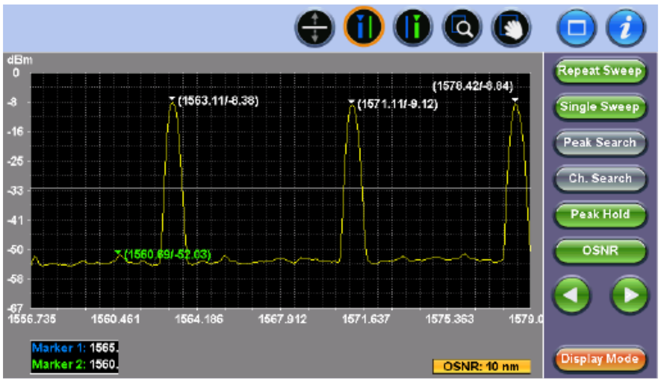
Critical DWDM Parameters

- Channel Wavelength or Frequency stability
- Levels below threshold or fluctuating over time
- Optical Signal-to-Noise Ratio (OSNR) below limits
- Excessive noise level per channel bandwidth
- Noisy amplifiers (EDFA)
- Channel Crosstalk (channels too close together)
- Power Tilt for channel equalization
- EDFA gain flatness and balancing



Viewing Modes

Measurements can be viewed in graphical and tabular formats and the display can be optimized "on the fly" during or after the test depending on what information needs to be presented. A level threshold can be set to display channels above a defined limit or it can also be used to reduce the number of overall channels viewed.



Zooming - Specific channel/s can be analyzed in detail by defining a zoomed area on screen using a stylus or finger.

Channel Search - Quickly identifies valid DWDM channels. Markers are placed automatically on the channel along with wavelength and level information.

Peak Search/Hold – Simplifies channel measurement and enables long-term stability testing of wavelength or level with drift function. Peak hold is also very useful to verify power levels before and after signal amplification (EDFA).

EDFA Testing

Erbium-Doped Fiber Amplifiers (EDFAs) are commonly used in DWDM networks. Ideally, amplifier gain is supposed to be flat, but several factors including wavelength, polarization, and input power influence the gain performance and thus the tilt of channels. The DWDM OSA models offers very good polarization sensitivity to ensure level measurements are not overly impacted by wavelengths having different states of polarization. With ± 0.5 dB power accuracy and < 0.3 dB Polarization Dependent Loss (PDL), the OSA is able to perform EDFA gain tilt measurements with an uncertainty of <1 dB.

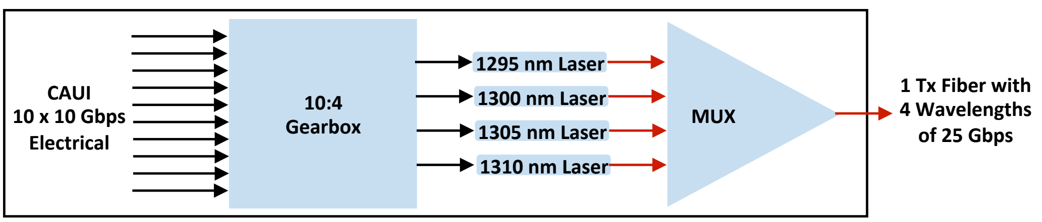
Applications *cont'd*

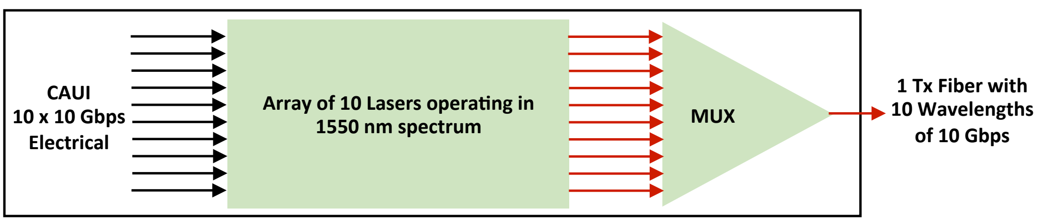
100G Transmission Systems

100G systems are being deployed rapidly, resulting in a transition to multi-wavelength CFPs (C form-factor pluggable) transceivers (client-side). CFPs are key to reliable system deployment, so operators need to make sure these optical modules work error-free and can interoperate with other standards-compliant modules. CFPs presents a new set of challenges, and testing power and wavelength performance of each optical lane has become increasingly important.

10X10 Multi Source Agreement (MSA)

The key impediment to faster 100GE adoption has been the high-cost and high-power footprint of the IEEE standardized client side CFP modules using four wavelengths. The 10X10 MSA defines a CFP module that maps 10 electrical lanes at 10 Gbps directly onto 10 lasers over single-mode fiber up to 40 km. Designed primarily for 100 Gigabit Ethernet (100 GE) systems using 10 lanes of 10.3125 Gbps (total 103.125 Gbps), the specification also supports 10 lanes of 11.18 Gbps for Optical Transport Unit 4 (OTU4) applications at 111.81 Gbps.



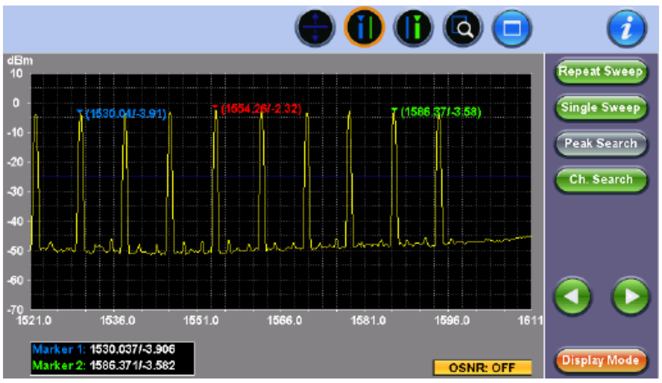


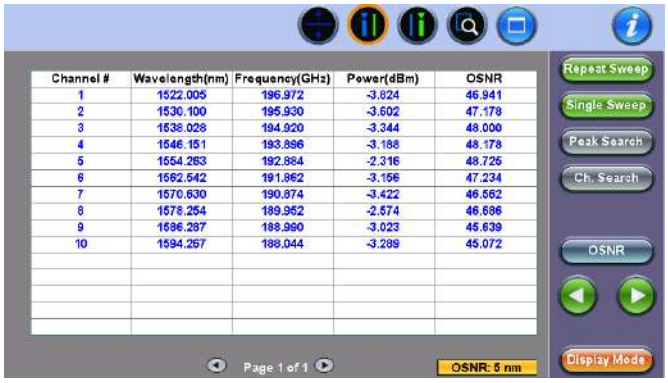
100G Service Testing

Since 4X25 and 10X10 CFPs use WDM technology, simple aggregate power measurement of the wavelengths will not prove the system is operating correctly. Depending on the CFP range, wavelength levels can differ significantly due to channel insertion loss, Transmission and Dispersion Penalties (TDP). It is imperative to check that the receive power level of each optical lane falls within the CFP's sensitivity limits and not to rely on the internal diagnostics of the CFP itself.

Reliable 100G Measurement

The UX400 OSA is ideal for testing CFP based WDM optical networks. Different models cover the required wavelength spectrum ranging from 1250 – 1650 nm. Center wavelengths are measured precisely in GHz and dBm, and are presented in both graphic and tabular formats for simplified viewing and diagnostics.





Specifications

Parameter	Unit	Full Band	C+L Band	C Band
Wavelength Range	nm	1250 - 1650	1521 - 1611	1527 - 1567
Number of Channels	#	Up to 160 Channels		
Channel Spacing	GHz	50, 100 GHz or User Defined		
Maximum Input Power	dBm	30	30	30
Input Power Range	dBm	+15 to -50	+15 to -50	+15 to -50
Absolute Channel Power Accuracy	dB	± 1.0	± 0.5	± 0.5
Power Measurement Repeatability	dB	± 0.1	± 0.1	± 0.1
Polarization Dependent Loss (PDL)	dB	< 0.5	< 0.3	< 0.3
Absolute Wavelength Accuracy	pm	± 500	± 50	± 50
Wavelength Repeatability	pm	± 100	± 10	± 10
Wavelength Resolution (FWHM)	nm	3.5 typical	0.35 typical	0.16 typical
Wavelength Readout	pm	10	1	1
Optical Rejection Ratio (ORR)	dB	> 40	> 40	> 40
Noise Floor	dBm	-55	-55	-55
Sweep Time	s	3 max	3 max	3 max
Optical Interface		Universal base with interchangeable FC, SC, LC, E2000 adaptors		

Notes: Unless noted, all specifications are valid at 23°C ± 2°C (73.4°F ± 3.6°F) using FCUPC connectors.

The Verification Experts

VeEX Inc.
2827 Lakeview Court
Fremont, CA 94538 USA
Tel: +1.510.651.0500
Fax: +1.510.651.0505
www.veexinc.com
customercare@veexinc.com

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