AN13386

RT600 Flash Loader For Custom Flash Device

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Application note

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	AN13386, i.MX RT600, RT685, RT600, MIMXRT685, boot, flash loader
Abstract	The RT600 flash loader is a family of dual-core microcontrollers for custom flash device.



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1 Introduction

The RT600 is a family of dual-core microcontrollers for embedded applications featuring an Arm® Cortex® - M33 CPU combined with a Cadence Xtensa HiFi4 advanced Audio Digital Signal Processor CPU. The RT600 provides up to 4.5 MB of on-chip SRAM (plus an additional 128 KB of tightly coupled HiFi4 ram) and several high-bandwidth interfaces to access off-chip flash. The FlexSPI flash interface supports two channels and includes a 32 KB cache and an on-the-fly decryption engine. The RT600 is designed to allow the Cortex-M33 to operate at frequencies of up to 300 MHz and the HiFi4 DSP to operate at frequencies of up to 600 MHz.

2 Boot features

Since the RT600 has no internal flash for code and data storage, images must be stored elsewhere for loading upon reset or the CPU can execute-in-place(XIP) from external memory. Images can be loaded into on-chip SRAM from external flash or downloaded via the serial ports (UART, SPI, I2C, or USB). The code is then validated, and boot ROM jumps to on-chip SRAM.

The evaluation kit for the RT600 uses an octal flash connected to port B as an option for booting in addition to the pSRAM connected to port A. This document describes the necessary steps to boot from port A using the MIMXRT685-EVK with different external memories.

3 Boot settings

Depending on the values of the OTP bits, ISP pins, and the image header type definition, the bootloader decides whether to download code into the on-chip SRAM or run from external memory. The bootloader checks the OTP bit settings first, and then the ISP pins. If bits [3:0] in OTP word BOOT_CFG [0] are not programmed (4b'0000), the boot source is determined by the states of the ISP boot pins (PIO1_15, PIO1_16, and PIO1_17) as shown in Table 1. The focus in this application note is boot mode: FLEXSPI BOOT PORT A.

Table 1. Boot mode and ISP Downloader modes based on ISP pins

Boot mode	ISP2 pin PIO1_17	ISP1 pin PIO1_16	ISP0 pin PIO1_15	Description
-	LOW	LOW	LOW	Reserved
SDIO 0 (SD CARD)	LOW	LOW	HIGH	Boot from an SD card device connected to SDIO 1 interface. The RT6xx looks for a valid image in the SD card device. If there is no valid image found, the RT6xx enters the ISP boot mode based on OTP DEFAULT_ISP_MODE bits (6:4, BOOT_CFG[0]).
FLEXSPI BOOT PORT B	LOW	HIGH	LOW	Boot from Quad or Octal SPI Flash devices connected to the FlexSPI interface 0 Port B. The RT6xx looks for a valid image in external Quad/Octal SPI Flash device. If there is no valid image found, the RT6xx enters recovery boot or ISP boot mode.
FLEXSPI BOOT PORT A	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	Boot from Quad/Octal SPI Flash devices connected to the FlexSPI interface 0 Port A. The RT6xx looks for a valid image in external Quad/Octal SPI Flash device. If there is no valid image found, the RT6xx enters recovery boot or ISP boot mode.
SDIO 0 (eMMC)	HIGH	LOW	LOW	Boot from an eMMC device conncted to SDIO O interface. The RT6xx looks for a valid image in the eMMC device. If there is no valid image found, the RT6xx enters the ISP boot

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Table 1. Boot mode and ISP Downloader modes based on ISP pins...continued

Boot mode	ISP2 pin PIO1_17	ISP1 pin PIO1_16	ISP0 pin PIO1_15	Description
				mode based on the value of OTP DEFAULT_ISP_MODE bits (6:4, BOOT_CFG [0]).
-	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	Reserved
SERIAL ISP (UART,SPI, I2C, USB-HID)	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	The Serial Interface (UART, SPI, and I2C,USB-HID) is used to program OTP, external Flash, SD or eMMC device.
111	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	Serial Master boot (SPI Slave, I2C Slave, or UART, USB-HID) is used to download a boot image over the serial interface (SPI Slave, I2C Slave or UART, USB-HID)

4 Hardware modifications

This section provides an overview on replacing the pSRAM with with a flash device and changing ISP pins to select FlexSPI Port A.

4.1 Replacing the pSRAM with a flash device

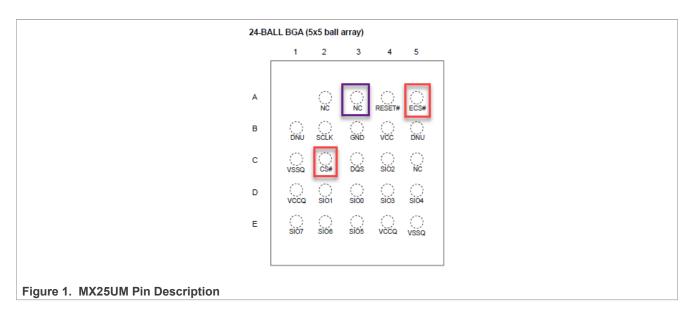
The footprint of the evaluation board for port A supports the memories listed below; however, it is not limited to this list. Consider how the memory must be connected to choose which resistors should be populated.

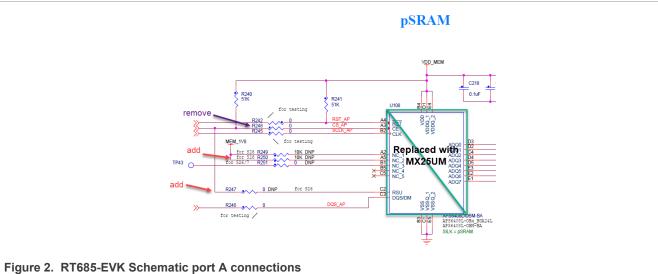
- S26KS256SDDPBHV02
- S27KS0641DPBHI023
- APS6408L-OBM-BA
- MX25UM51345GXDI00

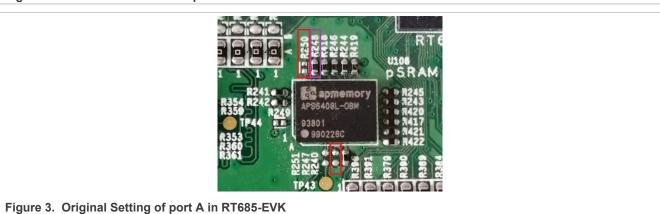
In this example, the MX25UM51345GXDI00 that is on port B is removed and placed on port A. Verify the memory signals that are needed by looking at the data sheet and comparing the signals to the EVK schematics. See below the necessary hardware changes.

The evaluation board has several 0 Ω resistors that can be added or removed depending on the device that is used. In this case, the original setting shows that R250 (corresponds to A5) and R247 (corresponds to C2) are not populated. It means that there is no connection to these pins. However, for this memory these pins are necessary as they provide the chip select signal and the ECC correction signal, so they must be added (shown in red). In addition, A3 in this memory is not connected (NC), it corresponds to R248 that must be removed (shown in purple). See Figure 1.

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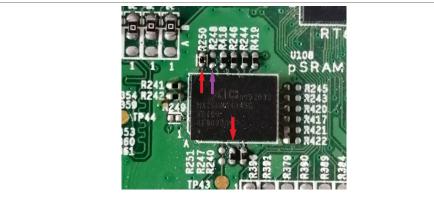


Figure 4. New Setting of port A in RT685-EVK

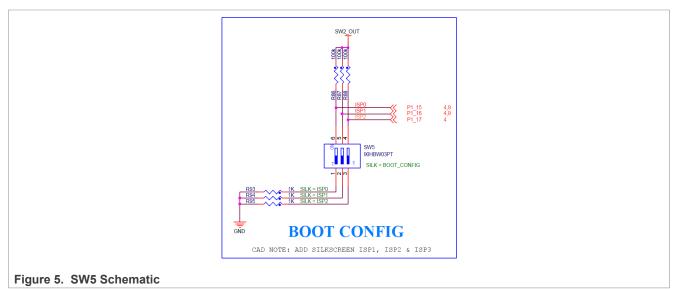
4.2 Changing ISP pins to select FlexSPI Port A

As mentioned previously, if the PRIMARY_BOOT_SRC bits in OTP are not set, the i.MX RT600 reads the status of the ISP pins to determine the boot source. Therefore, to boot from port A instead of port B, the ISP switches on the evaluation board must be changed to:

ISP0 -> High. SW5 pin 1 is off to create a pull-up.

ISP1 -> High. SW5 pin 2 is off to create a pull-up.

ISP2 -> Low. SW5 pin 3 is on to create a pull-down.



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Figure 6. ISP pin configuration to boot from port A

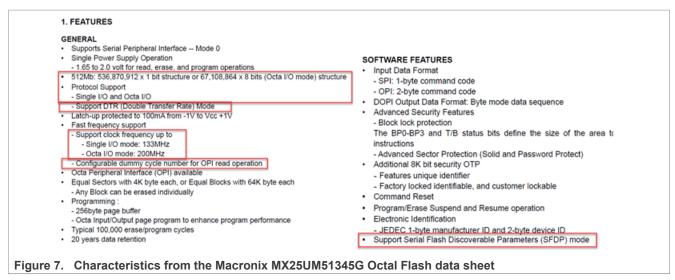
5 Flash loader modifications

For the debuggers to be able to load the SDK examples correctly, a flash loader is used. It contains various configurations for the external memory in use. In addition, the flash loader is configured to use Port B. To download and debug your application from the correct flash device on Port A, change the flash loader source code. The steps for flash loader modifications for MCUXpresso, IAR, and Keil are listed below.

5.1 Characteristics and register settings

To understand how the characteristics of the device are translated into the register settings, look at the following characteristics from the Macronix MX25UM51345G Octal Flash data sheet.

Several characteristics are needed from the general and software features of the device. For example, the general features state that the device supports a single-bit structure as well as an 8-bit structure that can be applied to the number of bits in the data pad for flash access. Additionally, there is support for DTR and the maximum frequencies at which it can run depending on the mode chosen. There is also a configurable dummy cycle number for the OPI operation and that SFDP is supported on this device.



Although these are not all the characteristics to set the necessary register bits, you can understand how they can or cannot be configured. Examine the CONFIG_OPTION0 register.

Note: See <u>Section 6</u>, for the register options.

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Option	Description					
device_type	For the Macronix Octal Flash devices, there are two options: 4- Macronix Octal DDR 5- Macronix Octal SDR Both of these options are possible according to the data sheet of the devices. Choose the setting appropriately for your application. In this example, the SDR setting is chosen.					
	24-BGA, 68-WLCSP	Octa I/O STR (MHz)				
		Octa I/0 DTR (MHz)				
query_pad	The query pad is the necessary number of pad supported on this device, for more details of thi sheet of MX25UM. The sequence of issuing RDSFDP instruction in	s communication see section 11-1 of the data n SPI is CS# goes low → send RDSFDP				
	instruction (5Ah) → send 3 address bytes on S code on SO → to end RDSFDP operation can see the second of the seco	use CS# to high at any time during data out.				
	SFDP in SPI is a JEDEC standard, JESD216D. The sequence of issuing RDSFDP instruction in OPI/DOPI mode: CS# low→ send RDSFDP instruction (5Ah/A5h) → send 4 address bytes on SIO pin → send 20 dummy cycles → read SFDP code on SIO [7:0]→ to end RDSFDP operation can use CS# to high at any time during data out. According to the data sheet, it is possible to configure it for serial or octal communication. However, since SPI is a JEDEC standard, this paper uses the first setting for the 1-bit structure.					
		g Query command (read SFDP or read MID)				
	0-1 2-4 3-8					
	Figure 8. Data pad options provided for qu	ery command				
cmd_pad	the 8-bit structure are available. This example u	access. For this device, the 1-bit structure and uses the octal setting. ds during Flash access command				
	Figure 9. Data pad options provided for flash access command					
quad_mode_setting	In Quad mode, flash transmits/receives data on 4 Data pin. This device does not support quad mode; therefore, the setting is 0.					
misc_mode	Miscellaneous mode allows experimental settings, these settings are not recommended for a product and must be 0. If any setting applies to your device, review the data sheet.					
max_freq	You can configure the frequency using the ser Configuration block from the user manual. See SDR mode 24 MHz in normal boot mode.					

The settings chosen are written in the CONFIG_OPTION0 and CONFIG_OPTION1 within the source code. The steps for each IDE are described below and the same setting is applied to all three.

```
CONFIG_OPTION0 = 0xC0503001
CONFIG_OPTION1 = 0x00000000
```

Note: See Section 6, for OTP settings.

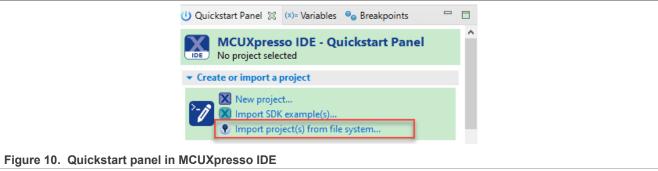
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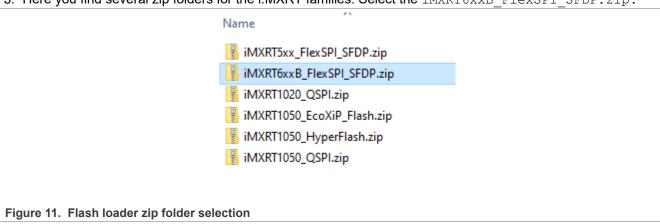
5.2 Steps for the flash loader modifications for MCUXpresso

Note: Currently, the following steps are based on MCUXpresso + LPC-Link2. SEGGER's JLINK is not supported for the custom driver using MCUXpresso.

1. Open MCUXpresso IDE and select the "Import project(s) from file system..." option from the Quickstart panel.

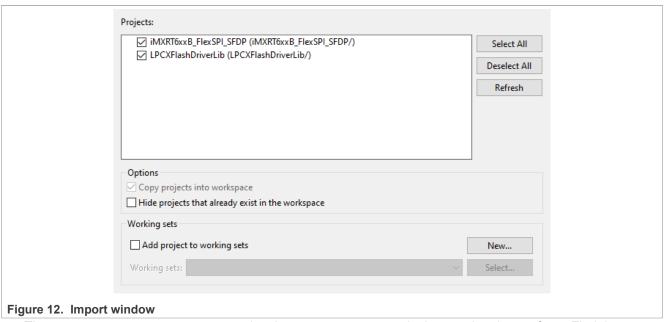


- 2. In the Project archive (zip), browse for the following path where the flash loader drivers are located: C:\nxp\LinkServer_24.9.75\Examples\Flashdrivers\NXP\iMXRT
- 3. Here you find several zip folders for the i.MXRT families. Select the iMXRT6xxB FlexSPI SFDP.zip.

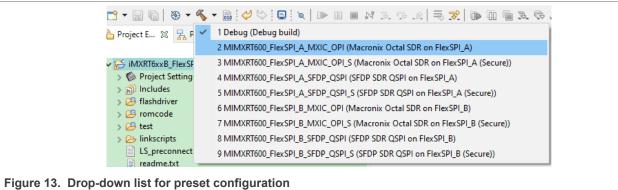


4. Once the zip folder has been selected, click **Next** and select both projects: iMXRT6xxB_FlexSPI_SFDP andLPCXFlashDriverLib.

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5. The iMXRT6xxB_FlexSPI_SFDP project has some presets ready that can be chosen from. Find these options using the **drop-down** list in the **Build** icon when selecting the project.



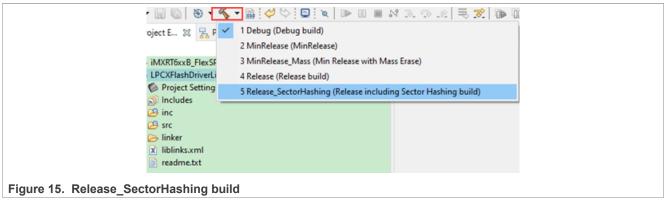
There are settings ready and available for both ports A and B using the Macronix Octal flash device, as well as flash devices that support SFDP.

6. Open the FlashConfig.h file and scroll down to the enabled section for this option. It is presented as an if-else statement that enables or disables the configuration based on the chosen device. Replace the value for CONFIG OPTIONO and CONFIG OPTION1 with the setting chosen in section 5.1.

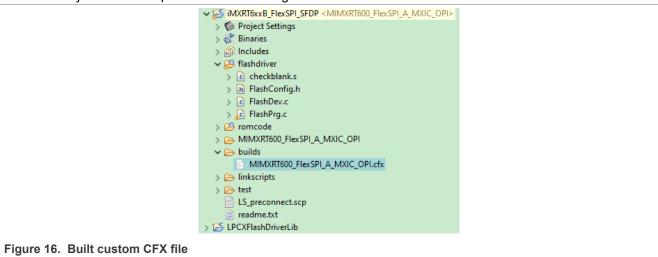
7. Before building the project, select "Release_SectorHashing" for the LPCXFlashDriverLib project and build.

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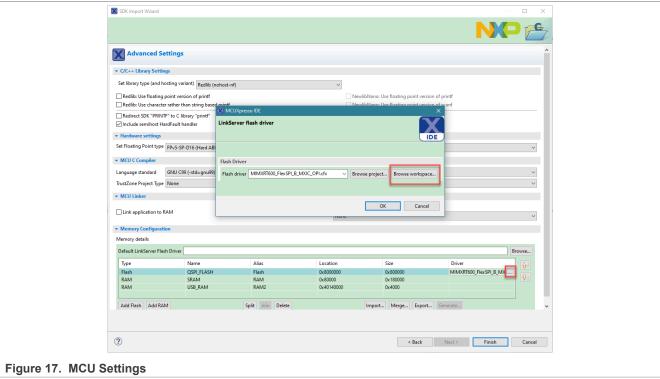


8. Build the iMXRT6xxB_FlexSPI_SFDP project, the "builds" folder is created. It contains the CFX file necessary to boot from port A with the settings chosen for the Macronix Octal flash device.

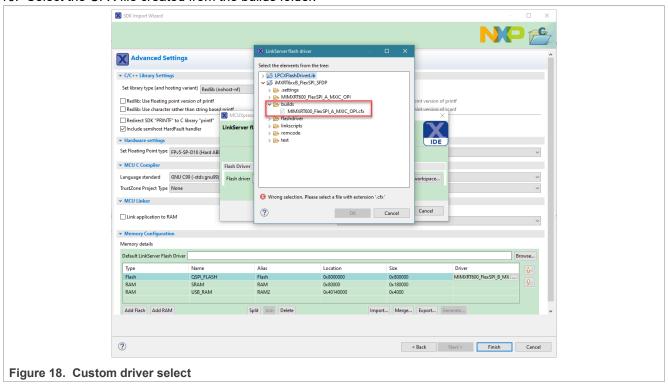


9. To test that this flash loader works, import the <code>gpio_led_output</code> example in the same workspace that flash loader drivers are in. In the **Advanced Settings** window of the **SDK Import** wizard, select the **driver** from the workspace option as seen below.

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10. Select the CFX file created from the builds folder.



11. Click Finish to close the SDK Import wizard. Next, open the flash_config.c source file in the flash_config folder of the gpio_led_output project. Change the sflashAlSize = 0 to the BOARD FLASH SIZE macro and replace the sflashBlSize with 0.

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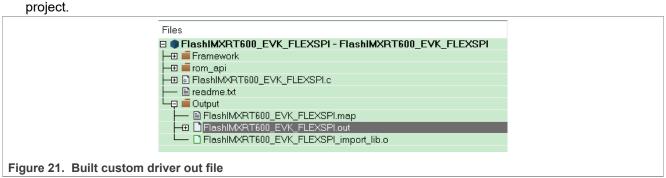
```
(1u << kFlexSpiMiscOffset_SafeConfigFreqEnable) | (1u << kFlexSpi
               58
                               .deviceType
                                             = 0 \times 1
                               .sflashPadType = kSerialFlash_8Pads,
               59
               50
                               .serialClkFreq = kFlexSpiSerialClk_DDR_48MHz,
                               .sflashA1Size = BOARD_FLASH_SIZE,
               51
                               .sflashA2Size = 0,
                52
                               .sflashB1Size = 0,
               53
                54
                               .sflashB2Size = 0,
                               .lookupTable =
                56
Figure 19. Modify board flash size to match port A
```

12. Rebuild the project and run. You have successfully booted from port A.

5.3 Steps for the flash loader modifications for IAR

- 1. For IAR, open the flash loader project from the following path in your PC:
 C:\Program Files\IAR Systems\Embedded Workbench 9.0\arm\src\flashloader\NXP
 \FlashIMXRT600 EVK FLEXSPI
- 2. To keep the changes locally, copy the flash loader project folder to your workspace.
- 3. In the FlashIMXRT600_EVK_FLEXSPI.c source file, replace the values for configOption.option0.U and configOption.option1.U with the setting discussed in section 5.1.

4. Build this project. The FlashIMXRT600_EVK_FLAXSPI.out file is generated in the Output folder of the



5. Locate the IAR path:

C:\Program Files\IAR Systems\Embedded Workbench 9.0\arm\config\flashloader\NXP The .flash, .board, and .mac files are stored here for different NXP devices. Make a copy of the FlashIMXRT600_EVK_FLEXSPI.board and FlashIMXRT600_EVK_FLEXSPI.flash files. Add them to your application project folder, in this case the gpio_led_output folder. In this example, the copies are renamed:

- FlashIMXRT600 EVK FLEXSPI v2.flash
- FlashIMXRT600 EVK FLEXSPI v2.board

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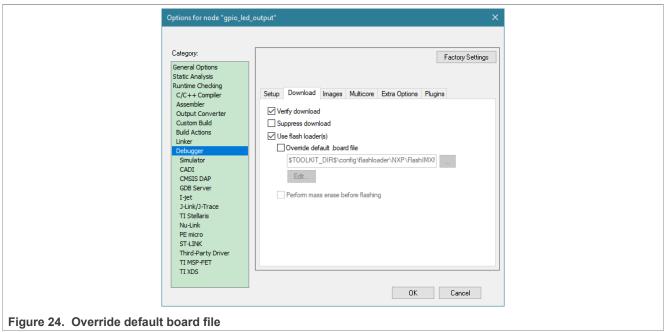
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6. Open the .flash file and replace the path where your local .out file is stored from step 4.

It is not necessary to modify the page or the block value. However, do so if your memory device has different values. They are recognized in the flashInit.

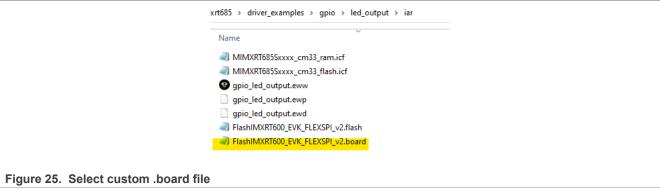
7. Open the .board file and replace the path that points to the new modified .flash file.

- 8. Save your changes and open the gpio led output example for the IAR IDE.
- Select the project and open the project options. Locate the Debugger > Download tab and select override default .board file.



10. Find the gpio led output project path and select the newly modified .board file and click OK.

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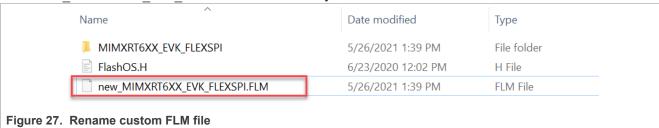


11. Rebuild the project and run. You have successfully booted from port A.

5.4 Steps for the flash loader modifications for KEIL

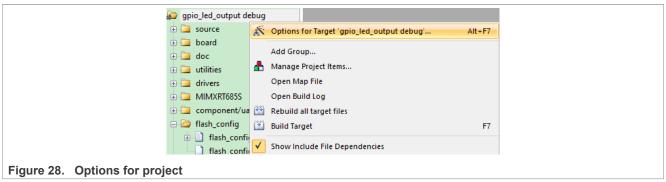
- 1. For KEIL, open the flash loader project provided in the SW package.
- 2. In the FlashPrg.c source file, replace the values for CONFIG_OPTION0 and CONFIG_OPTION1 with the setting from section 5.1.

- 3. Build the project inside the workspace.
- 4. A MIMXRT6XX_EVK_FLEXSPI.FLM file is generated in the Output folder of the project. Change the name to new MIMXRT6XX EVK FLEXSPI.FLM to identify it later on.

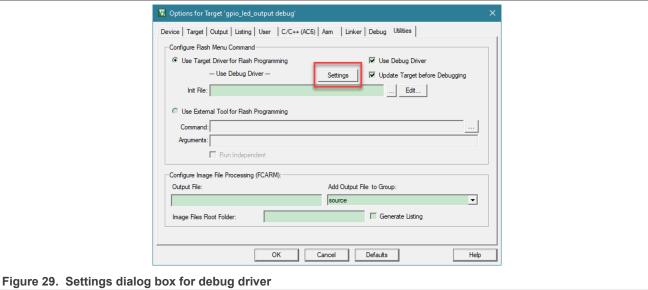


- 5. Copy and paste this file in the following path:
 - C:\Keil v5\ARM\Flash
- 6. Select the project and open the Options for Target.... Locate the Utilities tab.

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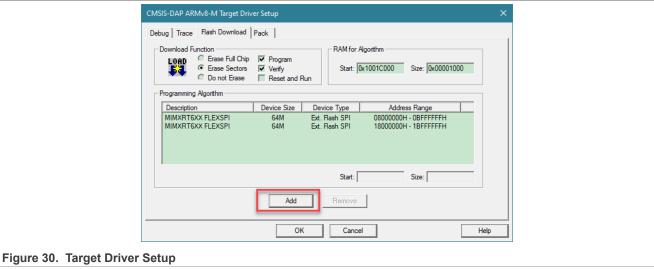


7. Click the settings and open the Target driver setup dialog box.



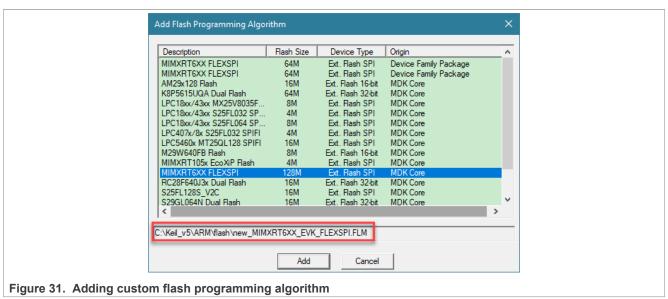
Note: See Section 6, for .init file modifications.

- 8. The two loader paths that are shown are available from the predetermined settings. In this example, these two are removed and a new one with the modified flash loader is created.
- 9. Click the Add button to find the modified flash loader.



10. Find the driver created and click Add.

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- 11. To save the project changes, click **OK**.
- 12. Rebuild the project and download. You have successfully booted from port A.

6 Required options, settings, and modifications

It gives required information on Option 0 and Option 1 definition, FlexSPI flash configuration block, FlexSPI boot configurations in OTP, settings of the shadow register, and LUT Section from .init file that may need to be modified.

1. Option0 definition in table 1004 of the RT6xx User manual.

Table 2. Table 1004. Option0 definition

Field	Bits	Description
tag	31:28	The tag of the config option, fixed to 0x0C
option_size	27:24	Size in bytes = (Option Size + 1) * 4
		It is 0 if only option0 is required.
device_type	23:20	Device Detection Type
		0 - Read SFDP for SDR commands
		1 - Read SFDP for DDR Read commands
		2 - HyperFLASH 1V8
		3 - HyperFLASH 3V
		4 - Macronix Octal DDR
		5 - Macronix Octal SDR
		6 - Micron Octal DDR
		7 - Micron Octal SDR
		8 - Adesto EcoXiP DDR
		9 - Adesto EcoXiP SDR
query_pad	19:16	Data pads during Query command (read SFDP or read MID)
		0- 1
		2- 4
		3– 8
cmd_pad	15:12	Data pads during Flash access command

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Table 2. Table 1004. Option0 definition ...continued

Field	Bits	Description
		0- 1 2- 4 3- 8
quad_mode_setting	11:8	Quad Mode Enable Setting 0 - Not configured 1 - Set bit 6 in Status Register 1 2 - Set bit 1 in Status Register 2 3 - Set bit 7 in Status Register 2 4 - Set bit 1 in Status Register 2 vis 0x31 command This setting the flash to be configured into QPI mode. User code must reset the flash into SPI mode, the ROM does not do this automatically. Note: This field will be effective only if device is compliant with JESD216 only (9 longword SFDP table)
misc_mode	7:4	Miscellaneous Mode 0 - Not enabled 1 - Enable 0-4-4 mode for High Random Read performance 3 - Data Order Swapped mode (for MXIC OctaFlash only) 5 - Select the FlexSPI data sample source as internal loop back, more details please refer FlexSPI usage 6 - Config the FlexSPI NOR flash running at stand SPI mode Note: Experimental feature, do not use in products, keep it as 0.
max_freq	3:0	Max Flash Operation speed 0 - Don't change FlexSPI clock setting Others – See fuse map of FlexSPI clock setting

2. Option 1 definition in table 1005 of the RT6xx User manual.

Table 3. Table 1005.Option1 definition

Field	Bits	Description
flash_connection	31:28	Flash connection option:
		0 - Single Flash connected to port A
		1 - Parallel mode
		2 - Single Flash connected to Port B
drive_strength	27:24	The Drive Strength of FlexSPI Pads
dqs_pinmux_group	23:20	The DQS pin mux Group Selection
pinmux_group	19:16	The pin mux group selection
status_override	15:8	Override status register value during device mode configuration
dummy_cycles	7:0	Dummy cycles for read command
		0 - Use detected dummy cycle
		Others - dummy cycles provided in flash data sheet

3. Flash frequency in the FlexSPI flash configuration block. Table 997 in RT6xx User manual.

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Table 4. Table 997. FlexSPI flash configuration block

Field	Offset	Size in bytes	Description
serialClkFreq	0x046	1	Flash Frequency. In Normal boot mode[BOOT_CFG[0]:bit7==0]
•			SDR mode:
			1 - 24 MHz
			2 - 48 MHz
			DDR mode:
			1 - 48 MHz
			In High speed boot mode mode[BOOT_CFG[0]:bit7==1]
			SDR mode:
			1 - 30 MHz
			2 - 50 MHz
			3 - 60 MHz
			4 - 80 MHz
			5 - 100 MHz
			6 - 120 MHz
			7 - 133 MHz
			8 - 166 MHz
			9 - 200 MHz
			DDR mode:
			1 - 30 MHz
			2 - 50 MHz
			3 - 60 MHz
			4 - 80 MHz
			5 - 100 MHz
			6 - 120 MHz
			7 - 133 MHz
			8 - 166 MHz
			9 - 200 MHz

4. The boot ROM is set to find devices that support 3B read by default. In some devices, the commands are different. Therefore, the OTP fuses must reflect the correct device.

Table 5. Table 998. FlexSPI boot configurations in OTP

Field Name	Enum Name	Description	Offset	Width	Value
FLEXSPI_FLASH_ TYPE		Define typical Serial NOR Flash types	4	3	
	QSPI_ADDR_3B	Device supports 3B read by default			000b
		Reserved			001b
	HYPER_1V8	HyperFlash 1V8			010b
	HYPER_3V3	HyperFlash 3V3			011b
	OSPI_DDR_MXIC	MXIC Octal DDR			100b
	OSPI_DDR_ MICRON	Micron Octal DDR			101b
		Reserved			110b
		Reserved			111b

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For development purposes, use the OTP shadow registers. It identifies the type of memory used while the device remains powered. If a power-on-reset occurs, this setting must be reconfigured.

For example, if you use a hyper flash in which the 3B read command is not supported, set the shadow register at the end of the main function as shown below.

5. If the specific memory requires, the .init file may be modified with respect to the LUT. Refer to the user manual to provide the correct settings of the LUT. In this application note example, it is not necessary since the LUT reflects the settings needed for the QSPI flash. Shown below is the section of the .init file that may need to be modified.

```
// Config look up table
__WDWORD(0x40134018, 0x5AF05AF0);
__WDWORD(0x4013401C, 0x2);
__WDWORD(0x40134200, 0x08200413);
__WDWORD(0x40134204, 0x00002404);
__WDWORD(0x40134208, 0x0);
__WDWORD(0x4013420C, 0x0);

Figure 33. LUT Section from .init file
```

7 Conclusion

This application note describes how to modify the flash loader source code step by step to boot from port A using the MIMXRT685-EVK. For more information, refer to "RT6xx User Manual".

8 References

- RT6xx User manual (document: UM11147)
- MX25UM51345G Datasheet

9 Revision history

Table 6 summarizes the revisions to this document.

Table 6. Revision history

Revision number	Date	Substantive changes
AN13386 v.1.0	,	Updated Section 5.2 Changed the "Appendix A" to Section 6
0	01 September 2021	Initial release

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RT600 Flash Loader For Custom Flash Device

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