QUANTIFI PHOTONICS®
A Teradyne Company

VOA

SERIES

Variable Optical Attenuator

PXIE USER MANUAL

quantifiphotonics.com

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Table of contents

1 What's in this user manual? 7

2 Conventions 8

3 Safety information 9

3.1 Optical laser radiation precautions 9

3.2 Electromagnetic compatibility 9

3.3 Electrostatic discharge precautions 10

4 Introducing the VOA Series 11

4.1 Hardware description 12

4.2 Status LEDs 13

4.3 Environmental conditions 13

5 Multimode models - VOA 1100 Series 14

5.1 Encircled flux compliance 14

5.2 Optical fiber mismatch 14

6 Setting up hardware 15

6.1 Install the module in a PXIe chassis 16

6.2 Uninstall the module from a PXIe chassis 17

7 Installing software 18

7.1 Install the Cohesion Installer software package 19

7.2 Cohesion Manager 21

7.3 Cohesion Firmware Updater 22

8 CohesionUI - Overview 23

8.1 Access a module with CohesionUI 24

8.2 Display modules in a chassis 25

8.3 Select a module to work with 26

8.4 Set values 27

8.5 SET values and ACTUAL values 28

8.6 Manage CohesionUI settings 29
8.7 Synchronize and reinitialize CohesionUI 31
8.8 SCPI CohesionUI Command Console 33
8.9 View system information 36
8.9.1 PXIe Chassis 36
8.9.2 Module 36
9 Controlling your product with CohesionUI 37
9.1 Setting channel parameter values 37
9.2 Setting channel control mode 38
10 VOA operation mode overview 39
10.1 Functional diagram - no offset 39
10.2 Functional diagrams - offset 40
10.3 Attenuation mode 42
10.3.1 Absolute mode 42
10.3.2 Relative mode 43
10.3.3 Offset mode 44
10.4 Power mode 45
11 Controlling your product with SCPI commands 46
11.1 Overview 46
11.2 Programming conventions 46
11.2.1 Index addressing of modules (slot, source) and units (channel) 47
11.3 Status and event registers 47
11.3.1 Standard Event Status Register 47
11.3.2 Standard Event Status Enable Register (Mask) 47
11.3.3 Status Byte Register 48
11.3.4 Service Request Enable Register (Mask) 48
11.3.5 Status and event registers diagram 49

11.4 PXIe Multi Chassis mode operation 50
11.4.1 NI-MAX application Multi Chassis mode 50
11.4.2 SCPI Multi Chassis commands 51
11.5 Command summary 53
11.5.1 Common commands 53
11.5.2 System commands 53
11.5.3 Slot commands 54
11.5.4 Configuration commands 55
11.6 Command descriptions 57
11.6.1 Common commands 57
11.6.2 System commands 59
11.6.3 Slot commands 60
11.6.4 Configuration Commands 65
11.7 Triggering example 74
11.7.1 System commands 74
11.7.2 Module commands 74
11.8 Programming example: Control of the VOA Series with SCPI 76
12 Programming applications 77
12.1 Setting up NI-MAX application 78
12.2 Setting up NI-VISA application 79
12.3 Python® code example 80
12.4 MATLAB® code example 81
13 Working with optical fibers 82
14 System requirements 84
15 Maintenance 85
15.1 Annual calibration schedule 85
16 Technical Support 86

16.1 Contacting the Technical Support Group 86
16.2 Transportation 86
17 Warranty Information 87
17.1 General information 87
17.2 Liability 87
17.3 Exclusions 87
17.4 Certification 88
17.5 Service and repairs 88

1 What's in this user manual?

You can find the following information in this document:

Before you begin	Conventions Safety information Working with optical fibers System requirements
Getting started	Introducing the VOA Series Setting up hardware Installing software
Working with your device	VOA operation mode overview **CohesionUI GUI:** CohesionUI - Overview Controlling your product with CohesionUI **SCPI commands:** Controlling your product with SCPI commands Programming applications
Maintenance	Cohesion Manager Cohesion Firmware Updater

2 Conventions

Please make yourself familiar with these conventions; we use them throughout this user manual:

WARNING

Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in **death or serious injury**.

Do not proceed unless the required conditions are met and understood.

CAUTION

Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in **minor or moderate injury** or **component damage**.

Do not proceed unless the required conditions are met and understood.

NOTE

Indicates relevant information that requires your attention.

3 Safety information

Carefully read all safety information before using your Quantifi Photonics product.

3.1 Optical laser radiation precautions

WARNING

To protect yourself from harm caused by optical radiation:

- Do not install or terminate fibers while the light source is active.
- Turn the Quantifi Photonics product OFF before inspecting the end face(s) of the product, or any optical patch cords connected to it.
- Never look directly into a live fiber; ensure that your eyes are protected at all times.
- Equip all unused ports with protective caps or blanking covers.

CAUTION

The use of controls, adjustments, and procedures other than those specified in this document may result in exposure to hazardous situations involving optical radiation.

3.2 Electromagnetic compatibility

CAUTION

For electromagnetic compatibility, this product is a Class A product. It is intended for use in an industrial environment. There may be potential difficulties in ensuring electromagnetic compatibility in other environments, due to conducted as well as radiated disturbances.

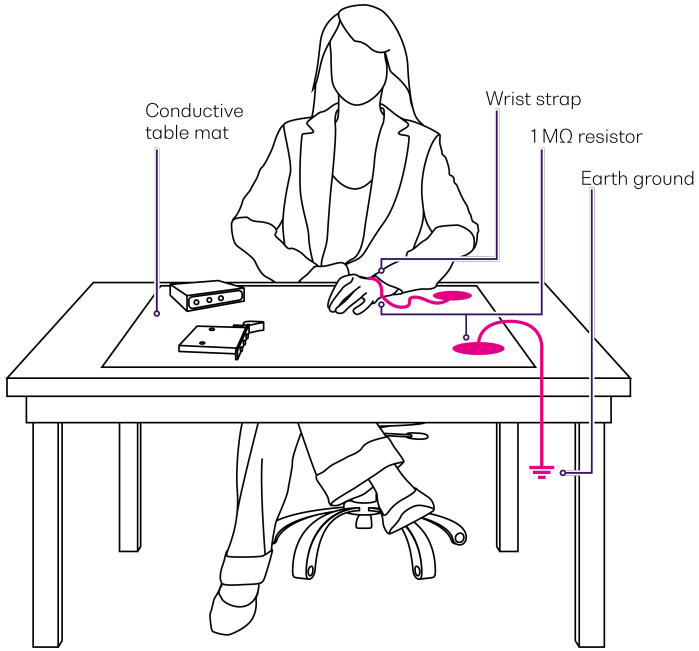
This symbol on the unit refers to documentation provided with the product for related safety information. Ensure that the required conditions are met and understood before using the product.

3.3 Electrostatic discharge precautions

CAUTION

The product is sensitive to electrostatic discharge (ESD). To ensure that you do not cause ESD damage to the product:

- Always follow proper grounding and ESD management practices.
- Store the unused product in the original protective electrostatic packaging that it was shipped in.
- Use a wrist strap and grounding table mat when unpacking or handling the product.



4 Introducing the VOA Series

The VOA Series is a reliable, fast, and high-density optical attenuation solution for research and production environments with a built-in power meter.

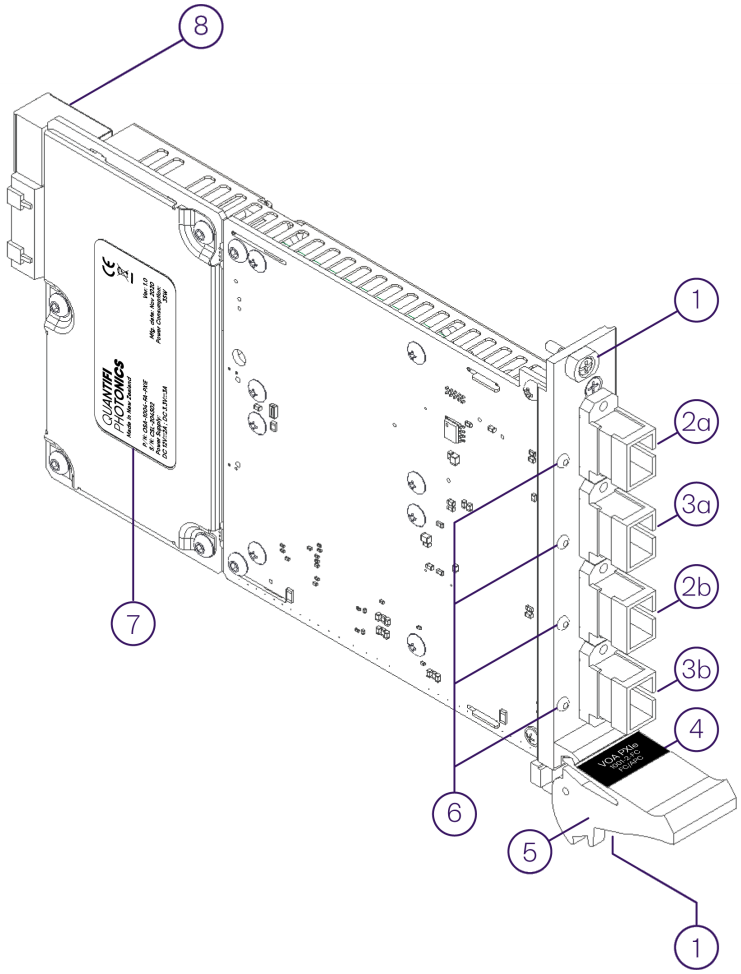
Programming interfaces

Through its programming interfaces you can take advantage of the SCPI-compliant command language and choose from programming tools such as LabView, C++, Python, or any of the other popular programming languages used to control automatic test equipment (ATE).

CohesionUI™

Quantifi Photonics' web-based graphical user interface CohesionUI is hosted on Microsoft Windows® and enables you to control your device from any supported web browser.

4.1 Hardware description



1	Fastening screws	4	Module identifier information
2a	Channel 1 optical input port	5	Fastening clip
2b	Channel 2 optical input port	6	Status LEDs
3a	Channel 1 optical output port	7	Module information
3b	Channel 2 optical output port	8	PXIe headers

4.2 Status LEDs

The LED shows the status of the channel:

LED	Meaning
OFF	Product is powered OFF
solid RED	Indicates that there is an error during the initialization of the product.
flashing RED	Indicates that there is an error, and the product is busy.
solid GREEN	Indicates that the product is operational.
flashing GREEN	Indicates that initialization was successful, and the module is busy.

4.3 Environmental conditions

Range of environmental conditions:

Indoor or outdoor use	Indoor only
Altitude	Max. 2000m
Operating temperature range	5°C to 45°C | 41°F to 113°F
Storage temperature range	-40°C to 70°C | -40°F to 158°F
Relative humidity range	20% to 80%
Supply voltage	12VDC, 2A & 3.3VDC, 3A

5 Multimode models - VOA 1100 Series

The VOA 1100 Series represents the multimode variant of the VOA product line, using MEMS based attenuators.

When using the VOA 1100 Series products, it is necessary to consider the following information for optimal performance of the product.

5.1 Encircled flux compliance

When using multimode fiber in testing and instrumentation, it is important to consider the cross-sectional fill of the optical fiber. An overfilled fiber could result in overestimated signal power loss, while an underfilled fiber could result in underestimated signal loss.

To mitigate against these issues with multimode fiber link-loss measurements, the TIA-526-14-B (formerly IEC 61280-4-1) standard defines a certain input fill radius to ensure that fiber of a given diameter will produce repeatable loss values.

This is particularly important when launching light into the VOA 1100 Series product, since any extra or less loss in the optical path may incorrectly manifest itself as the product attenuating incorrectly. It is recommended that a Mode Conditioner is used on the optical input to the VOA, to ensure EF compliance, and hence dependable results.

The use of a Mode Conditioner would also ensure repeatable launch conditions of the input signal into the product and help to mitigate the modal dependency that is seen with all multimode fiber-based components.

5.2 Optical fiber mismatch

To ensure repeatable performance using the VOA 1100 Series product, it is recommended that the input and output cables be of the same fiber type as the VOA product to avoid optical fiber mismatch, which could induce extra loss into the optical path.

The fiber type of a given model can be found in the VOA spec sheet on the Quantifi Photonics website.

NOTE

Ensure EF compliance is satisfied with an appropriate Mode Conditioner used on the input of the VOA 1100 Series product.

Correct optical fibres should be used to mitigate against optical fibre mismatch induced loss.

6 Setting up hardware

Quantifi Photonicsmodules are designed for easy installation in a PXIe-compatible chassis.

Make sure to follow these instructions when installing or removing a Quantifi Photonics module from a PXIe chassis.

Ensure that the chassis being used supports PXIe (or contains PXI-hybrid compatible slots). If you are unsure if your chassis is compatible with your Quantifi Photonics product, please contact Quantifi Photonics Customer Support.

CAUTION

The product is sensitive to electrostatic discharge (ESD). To prevent damage from ESD:

- Do not remove the product from the antistatic packaging until required to do so.
- Wear a grounded wrist strap at all times when handling the product.

CAUTION

Skin contact may leave corrosive residue and damage a connector:

- Always clean optical end faces before mating.

NOTE

Please check for the fiber end-face type of the optical ports, such as PC or APC, and only use the same type optical connector to avoid damaging the end-face.

For advice on connector and fiber care, please refer to Working with optical fibers.

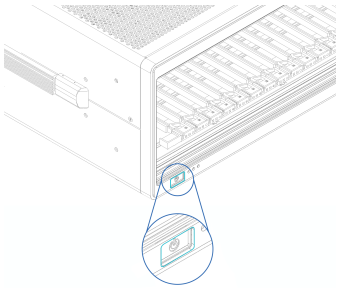
6.1 Install the module in a PXIe chassis

WARNING

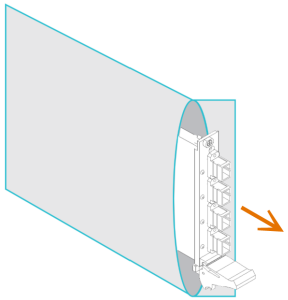
When attempting to install or remove a module or any component of the PXIe chassis:

- Power the chassis OFF.
- Follow these installation instructions.
- After powering the PXIe chassis ON, please wait at least 2 minutes before attempting to communicate with the module. This gives the chassis time to boot and initialize the communication server.

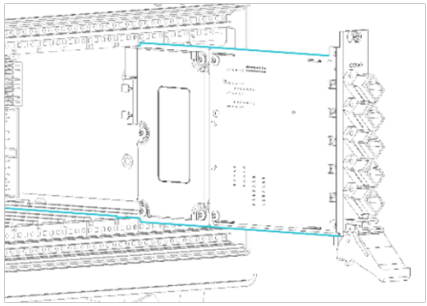
1 Power the chassis OFF.



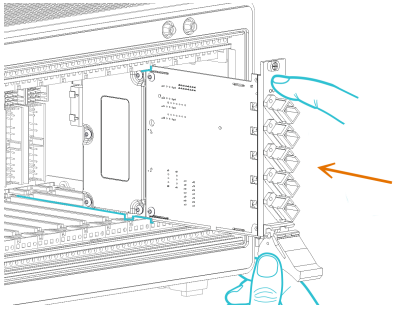
2 Remove the module from the anti-static bag. Retain the bag.



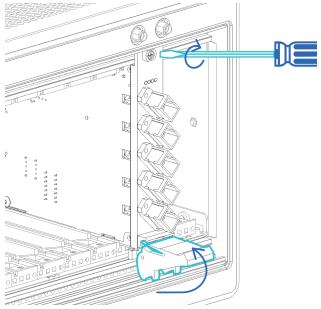
3 Align the module with the slot guide rails.



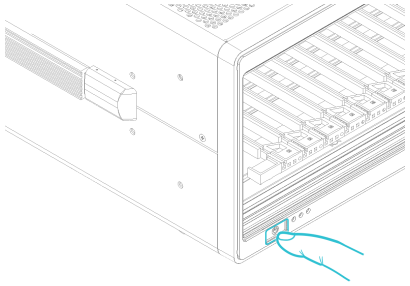
4 Push module into slot until you feel resistance from the backplane connection.



5 Engage the fastening clip. Secure all fastening screws.



6 Power the chassis ON.



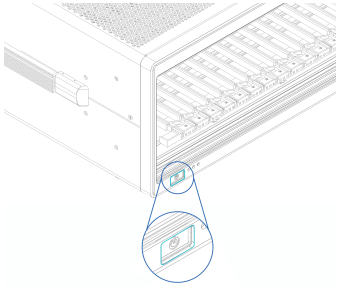
6.2 Uninstall the module from a PXIe chassis

WARNING

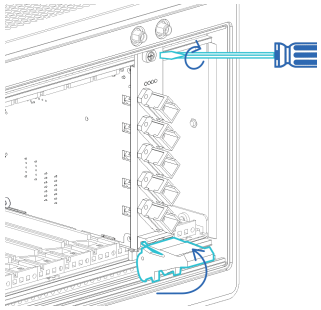
When attempting to install or remove a module or any component of the PXIe chassis:

- Power the chassis OFF.
- Follow these installation instructions.

1 Power the chassis OFF.

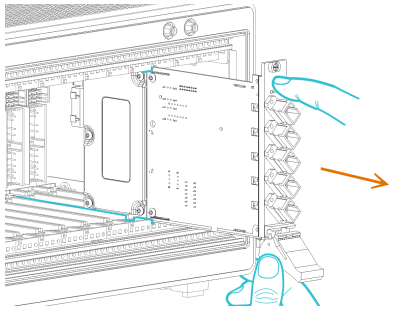


2 Unsecure the fastening screws and fastening clip.

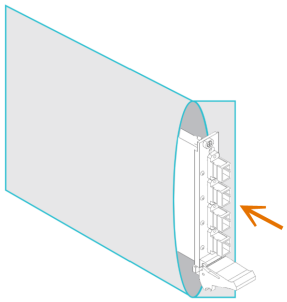


3 Pull out the module.

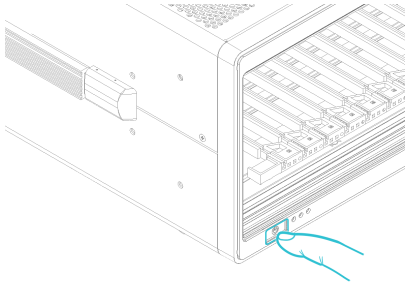
Use the fastening clip to pull. Do NOT pull on the connectors.



4 Store the module in its antistatic bag.



5 Power ON the chassis.



7 Installing software

The Cohesion Installer software package enables communication between the PXIe controller and Quantifi Photonics modules installed in a chassis.

The Cohesion Installer contains all required drivers and software:

CohesionDriver	Driver Service for Quantifi Photonics PXIe modules
CohesionSCPI	VXI11 compliant server for remote SCPI communication
CohesionUI	Web-based Graphical User Interface
Cohesion Manager	Single-window utility application that shows the status of all Cohesion Software Services running on the system.
Cohesion Firmware Updater	Single-window utility application that shows the current firmware status of all Quantifi Photonics PXIe modules installed in the chassis.

7.1 Install the Cohesion Installer software package

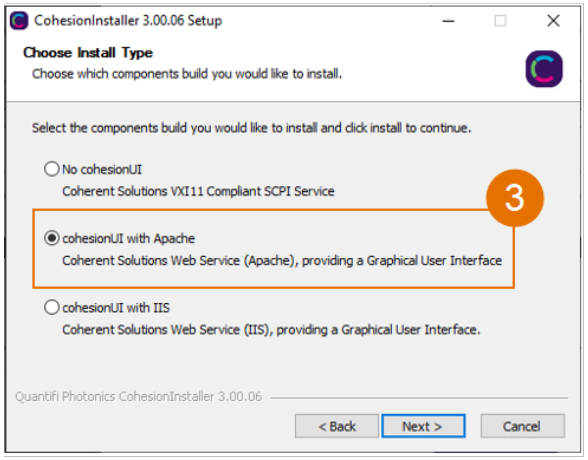
Install Cohesion Installer on:

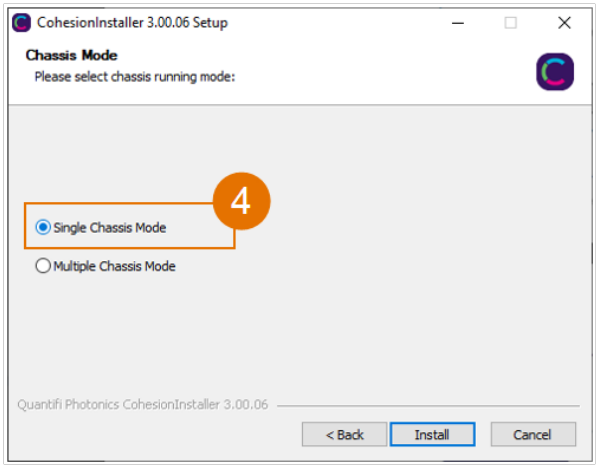
- the PXIe controller of the PXIe Chassis in which the Quantifi Photonics module(s) will be installed, or
- the controller PC (multi-chassis MXI setup)

▶ To install Cohesion Installer:

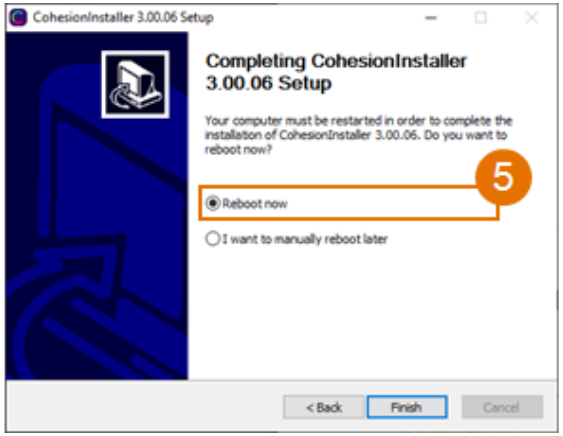
1. We recommended that you save your work and close open programs before installing Cohesion Installer.
2. Locate and run **CohesionInstaller-<version_number>.exe** from the provided USB media device (or download it from the Quantifi Photonics website) and follow the on-screen installation prompts.
3. Select the Installation Type: **CohesionUI with Apache** (this is the default setting)
4. Select the Chassis Mode: **Single Chassis Mode** (this is the default setting). If unsure, select this default setting.

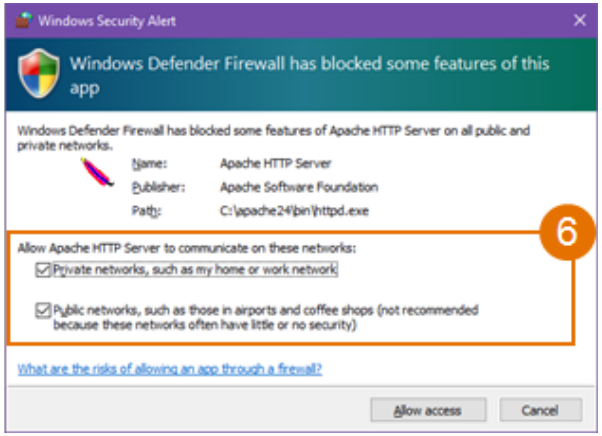
   To operate in Multiple Chassis Mode, additional hardware modules are required. As you can change the Chassis Mode later, we recommend to select **Single Mode** unless all other configuration requirements have been met.





5. At the end of the installation, we recommend you select the **Reboot now** option, and click **Finish** to complete the installation process.
6. A Windows Security Alert may prompt the user for network access. We recommend that **both options are ticked**, to allow any network configuration.





7. On startup after rebooting the system a User Account Control prompt might be displayed.
   Click **Yes** to allow running of the **Cohesion Firmware Updater Utility** and proceed with the application.

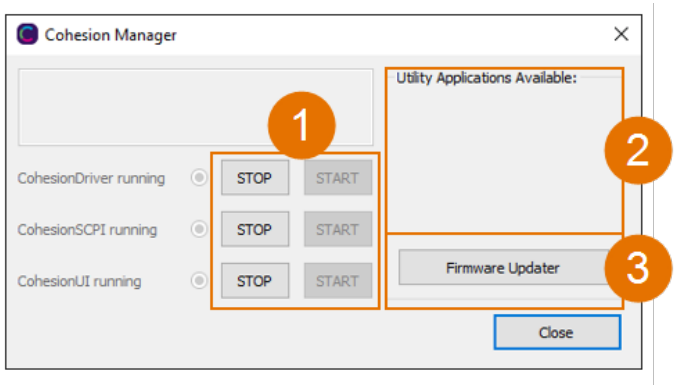
7.2 Cohesion Manager

Cohesion Manager is a single-window utitlity application that shows the status of all Cohesion Software Services running on the system.

By default, these Cohesion Software Services will start automatically on startup of Windows and need to be running to facilitate proper communication with the Quantifi Photonics PXIe modules.

CohesionDriver	required	manages installed Quantifi Photonics modules
CohesionSCPI	required	VXI11 compliant SCPI interface for TCP communication with the installed Quantifi Photonics modules
CohesionUI	optional	web service providing a graphical interface for simplified operation of installed Quantifi Photonics modules

- To open Cohesion Manager:
  - Search for Cohesion Manager in the Windows Start Menu.
- From Cohesion Manager you can:
  1. Start or stop the CohesionDriver service, CohesionSCPI service, or CohesionUI service independently.
  2. View all installed Quantifi Photonics system utilities.
  3. In this example you can open the Cohesion Firmware Updater application.



- If you can't detect or communicate with modules:
  - Open Cohesion Manager.
  - Check the status of software services, and start a service if required.

7.3 Cohesion Firmware Updater

Cohesion Firmware Updater launches automatically when you install a new version of Cohesion Installer on the system and reboot. Or, you can open it via the Cohesion Manager application.

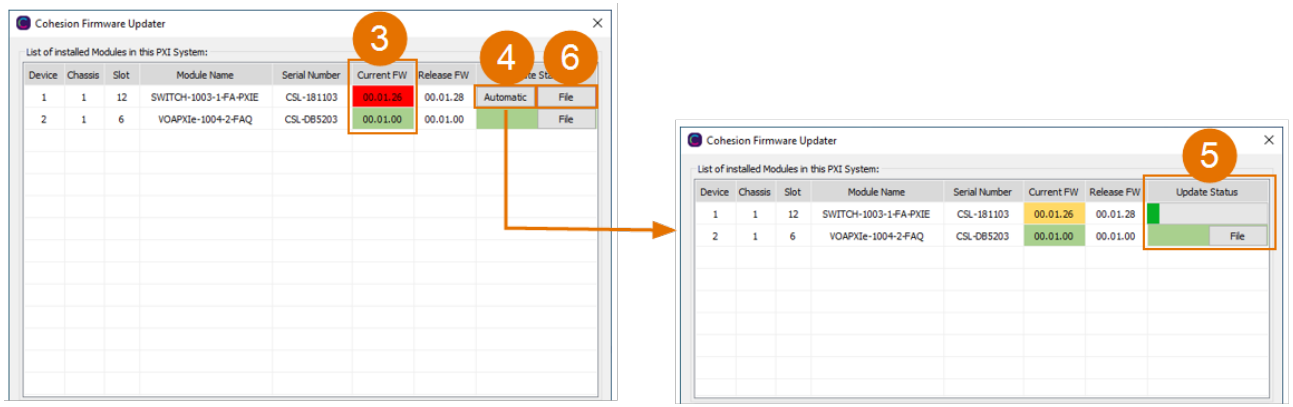
It is a single-window summary application that enables you to:

- view the current firmware status of all Quantifi Photonics PXIe modules installed in the chassis.
- update firmware to a new version if available.

> We recommended that you update firmware if a new version is available.

▶ To upgrade firmware:

1. Open **Cohesion Manager**, for example by searching for it in the Windows Start Menu.
2. In **Cohesion Manager**, click **Firmware Updater**.
3. Modules with out-of-date firmware are highlighted red.
4. Click **Automatic** to update automatically.
5. Progress will be displayed in **Update Status**.
6. Click **File** to update to a specific firmware package.

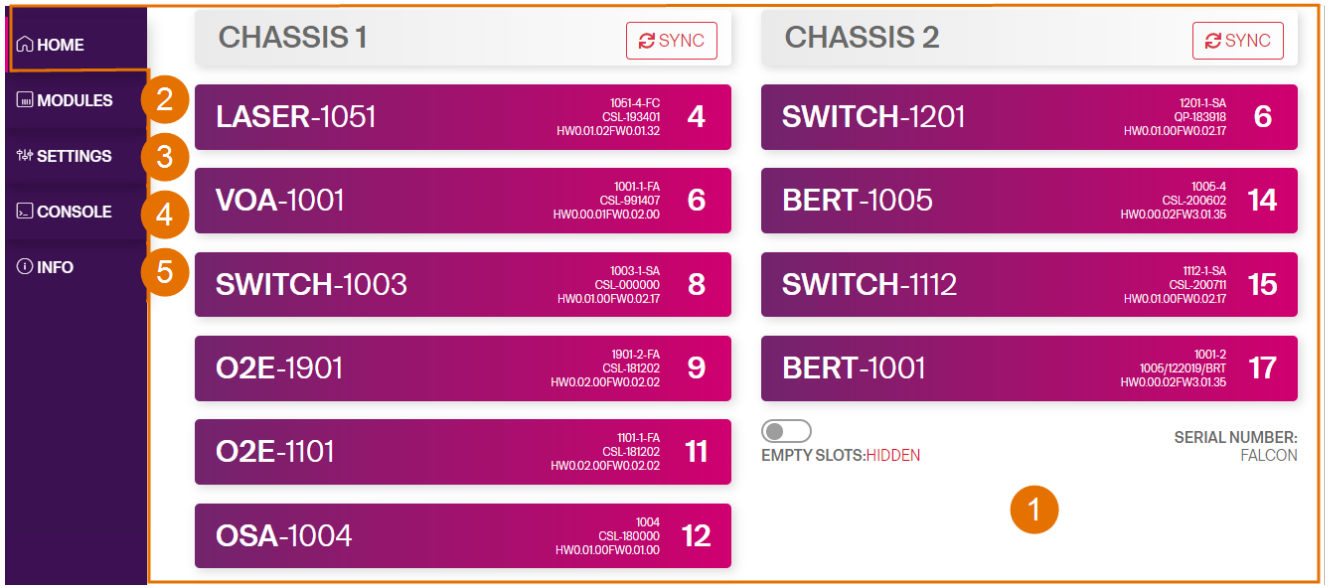


8 CohesionUI - Overview

CohesionUI is a web-based graphical interface that you can use to work with your Quantifi Photonics products.

> CohesionUI is part of the Cohesion Installer software package.

1. **HOME**: View all modules in the chassis
2. **MODULES**: Access a module
3. **SETTINGS**: Change CohesionUI settings
4. **CONSOLE**: Communicate with modules using SCPI commands
5. **INFO**: Display chassis information



8.1 Access a module with CohesionUI

You can access Quantifi Photonics modules via CohesionUI from the chassis controller, or from a controller PC.

To connect with a module, you need the IP address of the chassis the module is installed in.

▶ To obtain the IP address of the chassis:

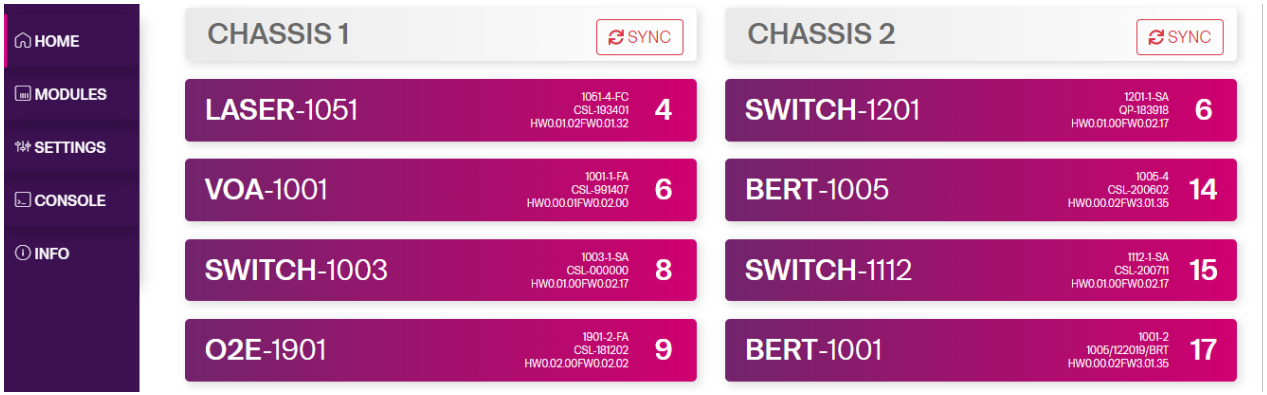
1. Open the **Command Prompt** window on the chassis controller.
2. Run the `ipconfig` command.
3. Note down the IPv4 address that is displayed.

▶ To connect with modules via CohesionUI:

1. On the controller or controller PC, open CohesionUI, for example by double-clicking the desktop icon, or open a supported browser.
2. Enter the IP address of the chassis as the URL.

   On the controller you can use `127.0.0.1` as the URL instead.

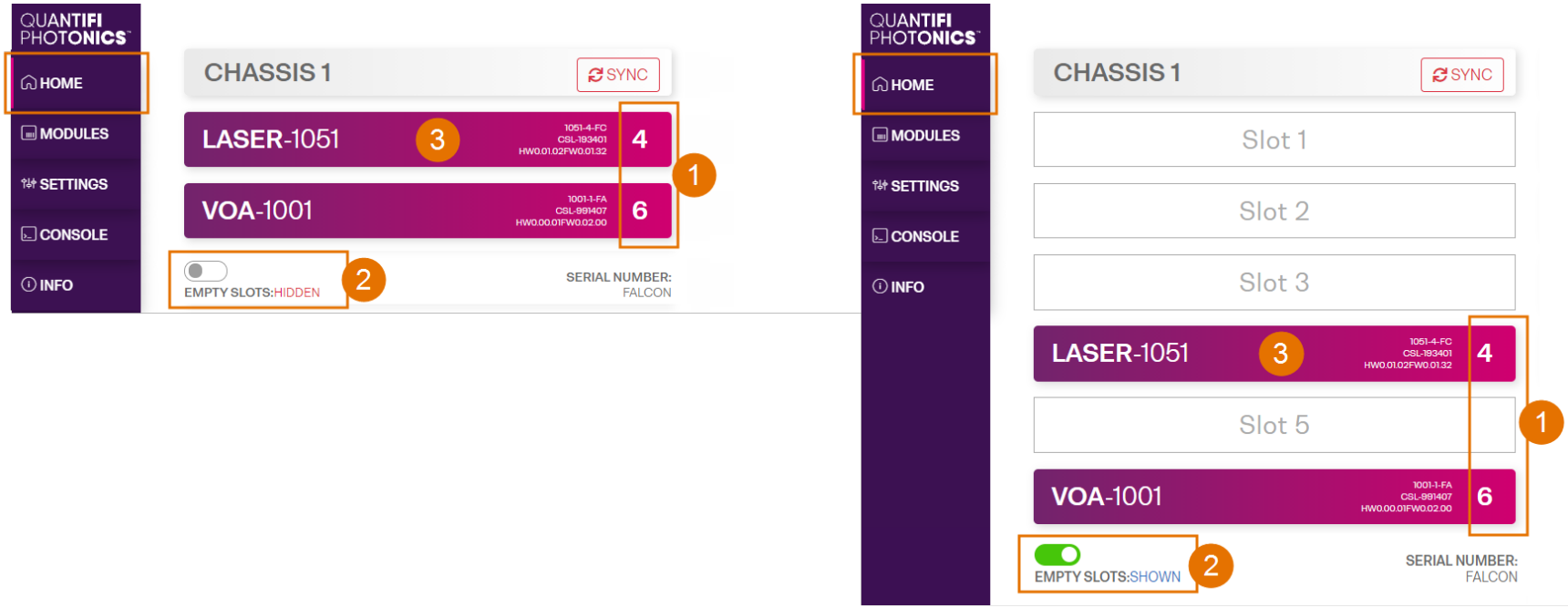
3. CohesionUI will launch in the browser, listing all available Quantifi Photonics modules installed in the chassis.



8.2 Display modules in a chassis

The **HOME** page is the main landing page in CohesionUI; it displays all available Quantifi Photonics modules in the PXIe chassis.

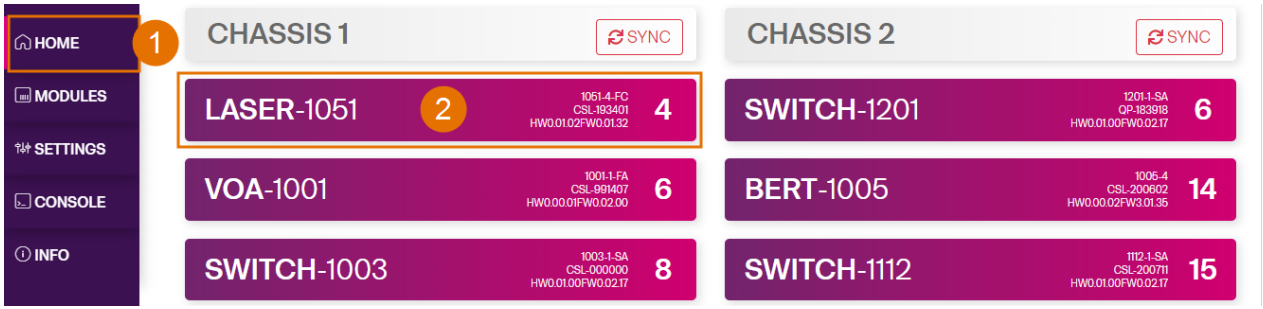
1. Numbers indicate the slots the modules are installed in.
2. You can hide (default setting) or show empty slots in the PXIe chassis by toggling the **EMPTY SLOTS** button.
3. You can select a module to work with by clicking it.



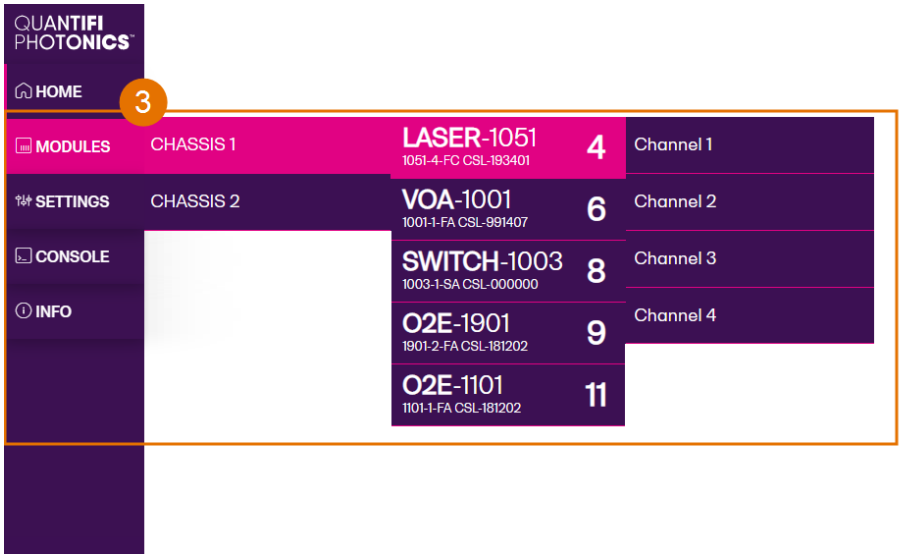
8.3 Select a module to work with

To select a module:

1. Go to the **HOME** page.
2. Click the on the module.



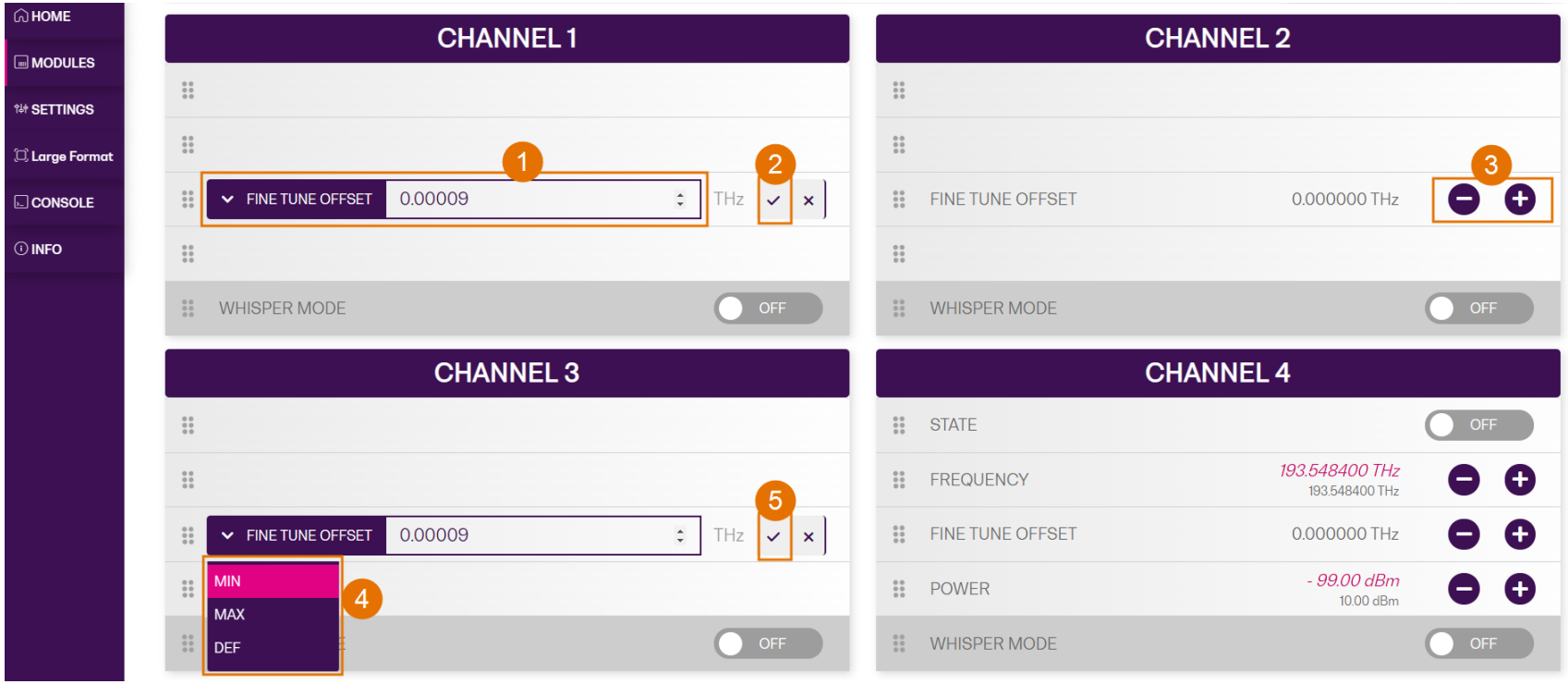
3. Or, hover over the **MODULES** menu and select a module or channel from the list.



8.4 Set values

In CohesionUI you can set values for parameters where applicable.

- To set a value:
  1. Click on a parameter and enter a value.
  2. Confirm the value.
  3. Alternatively, you can use + and - to increase or decrease the value. You can edit the step size in the **SETTINGS** menu.
- To set a pre-defined value, for example **MIN**, **MAX** or **DEF**:
  4. Click on a parameter and select a value from the dropdown menu.
  5. Confirm the value.

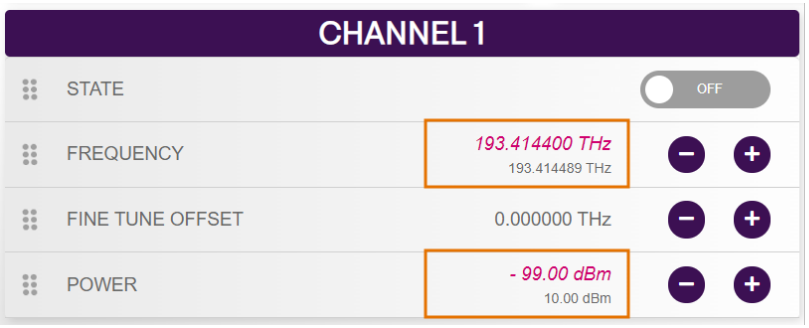


For details on how to change the step size, refer to Manage CohesionUI settings.

8.5 SET values and ACTUAL values

In some cases you can manually set a value that will be displayed alongside the actual value as follows:

- ***ACTUAL***: The actual value of the parameter as queried by the product.
- SET: The intended value of a given parameter as set by the user.



8.6 Manage CohesionUI settings

On the **SETTINGS** page you can configure CohesionUI settings and unit preferences.

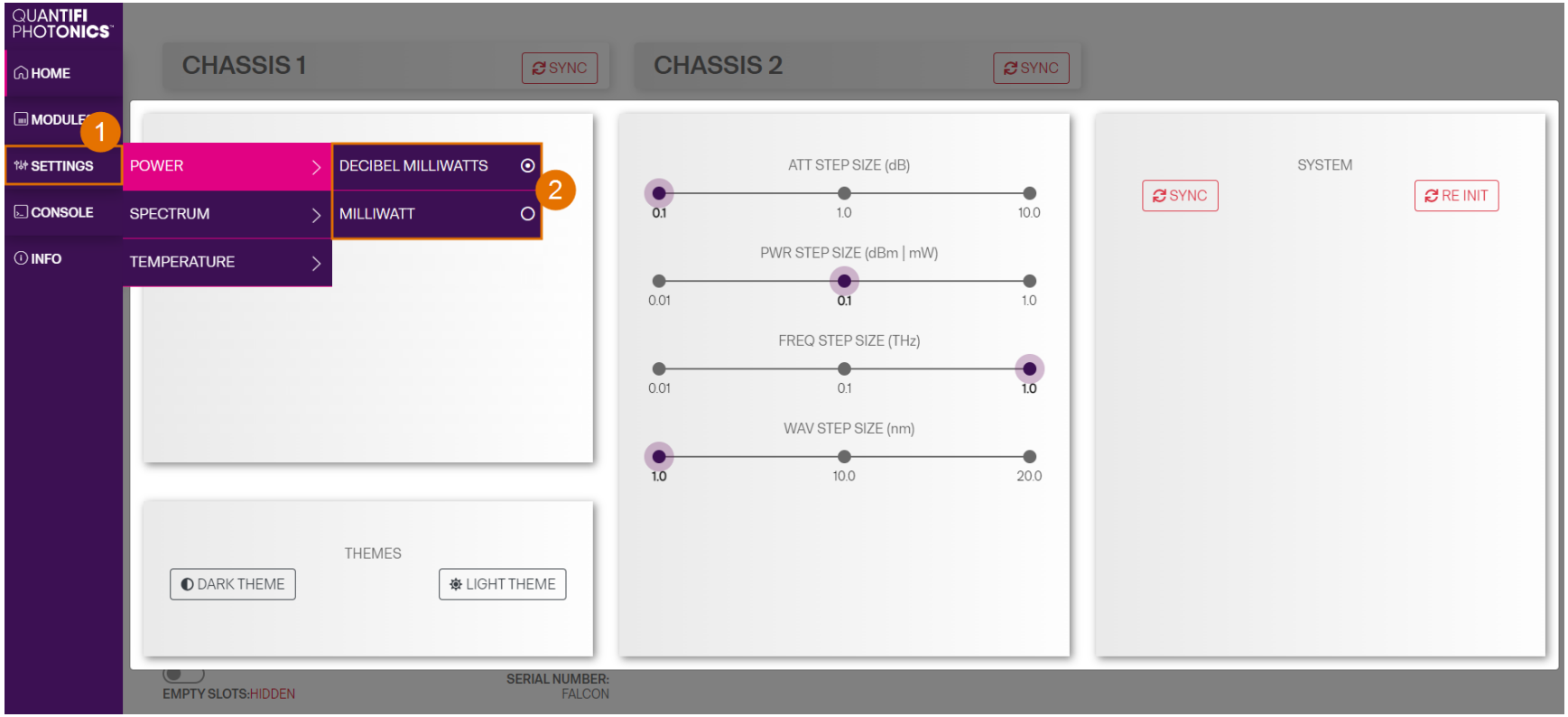
> **NOTE**
>
> CohesionUI reverts to default settings when power-cycling the chassis.

▶ To view all settings and unit preferences and adjust as required:

1. Click **SETTINGS**.
2. Change settings or unit preferences as required, for example temperature units.
   Please note that the units displayed on this page are not always relevant for each product.
3. **Step size** refers to the amount by which a value is increased or decreased when clicking the **+** or **-** button.

To adjust unit preferences one at a time:

1. Hover over **SETTINGS**.
2. Select a unit from the dropdown, for example the power unit.



8.7 Synchronize and reinitialize CohesionUI

You can update CohesionUI with the latest information from your Quantifi Photonics modules by synchronizing or reinitializing.

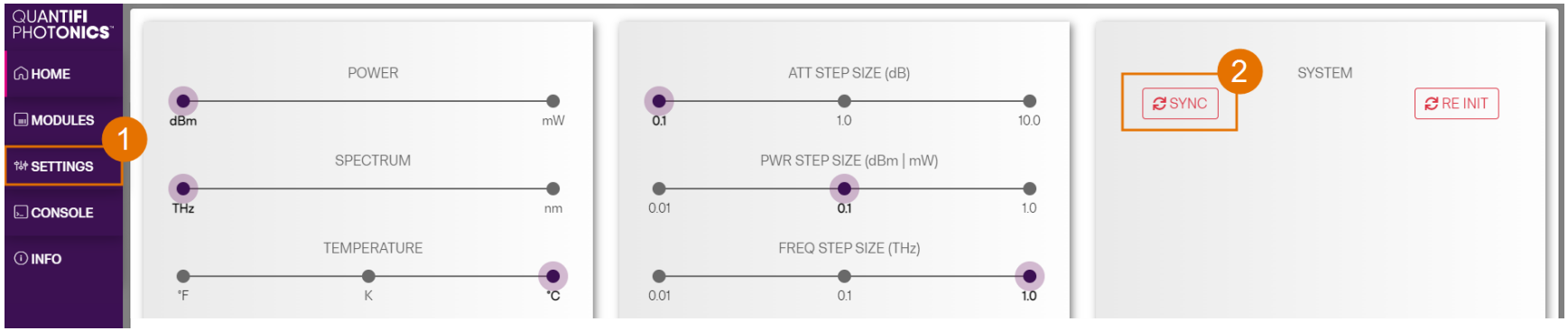
Synchronizing	Updates **CohesionUI** with the latest information from the **CohesionSCPI service**
Reinitializing	Updates **CohesionUI and the CohesionSCPI service** with the latest information from the **CohesionDriver service**

This can be particularly useful when operating a multi-chassis MXI setup and enables you to:

- Re-discover modules that CohesionUI does not display as expected.
- Discover modules that have been installed after the initial startup.

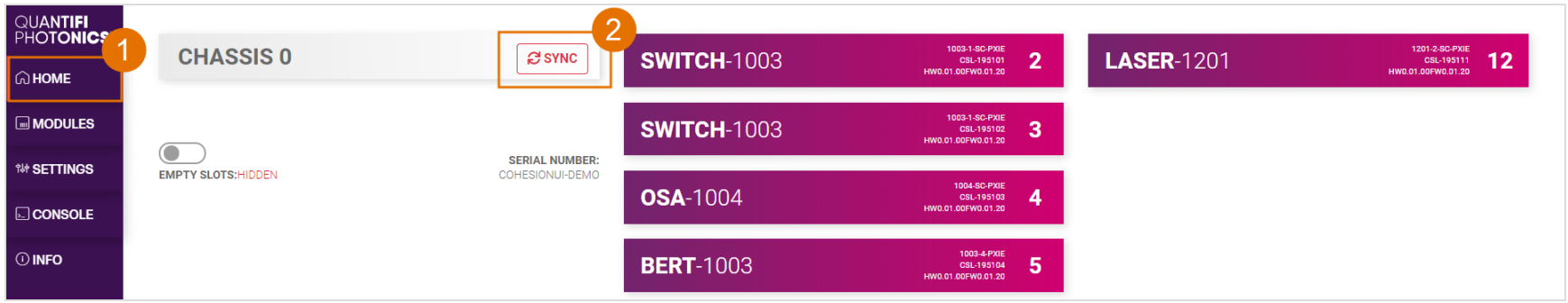
▶ To **synchronize** CohesionUI across **all modules in all chassis**:

1. Click **SETTINGS**.
2. Click **SYNC**.
3. The page will be disabled while synchronizing.



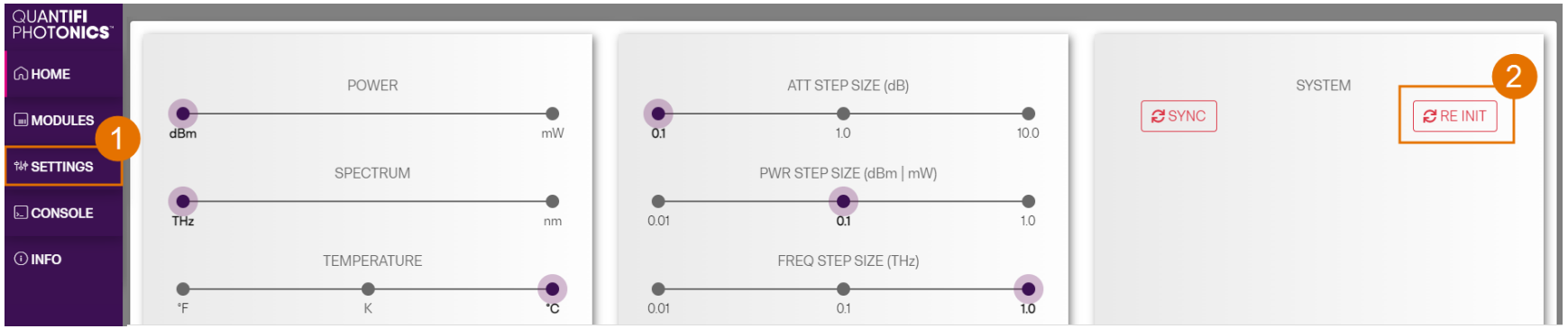
- To **synchronize** CohesionUI across **all modules in a selected chassis** only:

  1. Click **HOME**.
  2. Click **SYNC** for a selected chassis.
  3. The page will be disabled while synchronizing.



- To **reinitialize** CohesionUI across **all modules in all chassis**:

  1. Click **SETTINGS**.
  2. Click **RE-INIT**.
  3. All modules will be disabled and temporarily disconnected while reinitializing.



8.8 SCPI CohesionUI Command Console

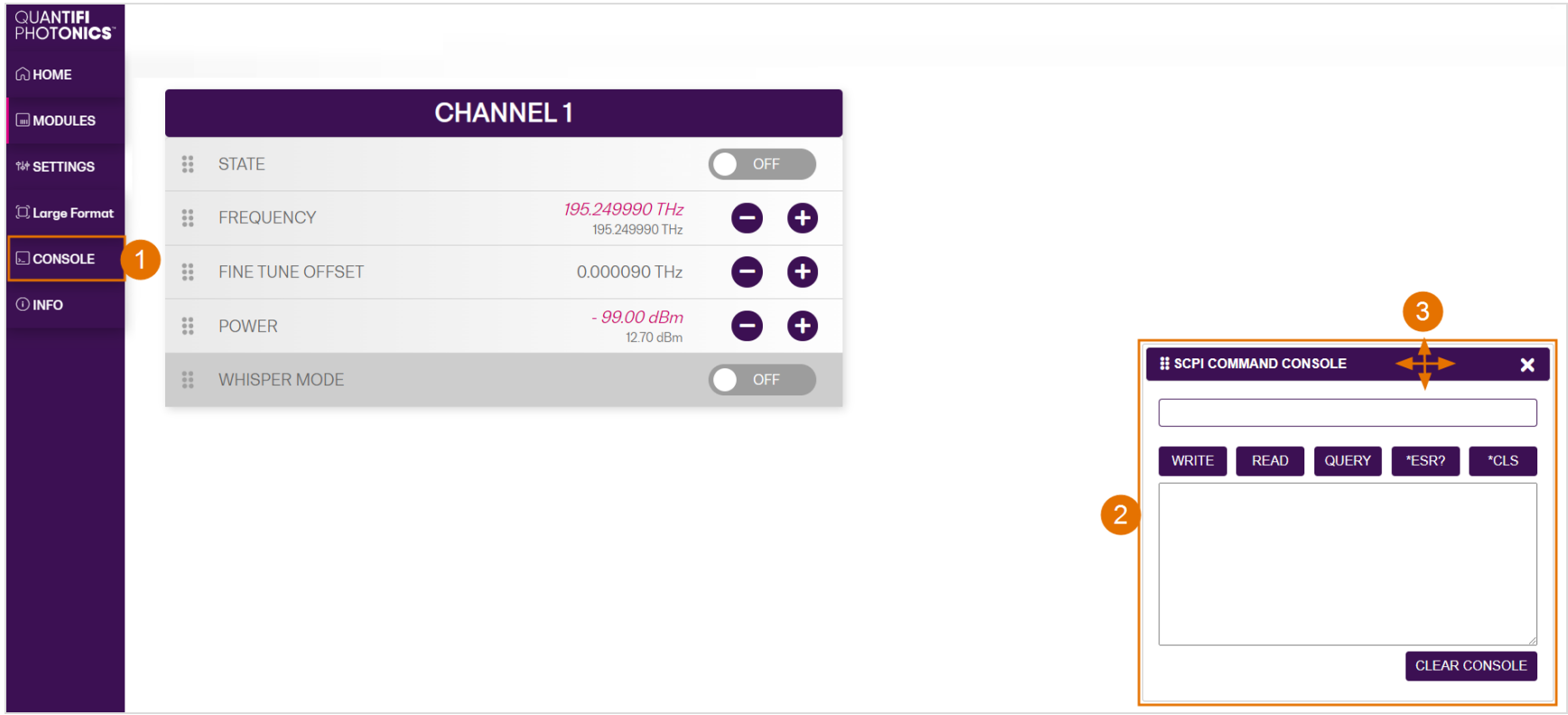
The CohesionUI SCPI Command Console enables you to communicate with Quantifi Photonics PXIE modules via SCPI commands. It enables you to test commands and verify their syntax.

For details on available SCPI commands, refer to the SCPI command section.

▶ To open the SCPI Command Console:

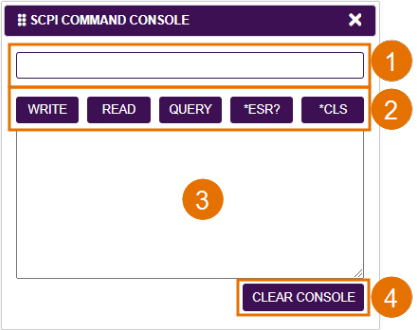
1. On the CohesionUI menu, click **CONSOLE**.
2. The console will appear in the bottom right corner of the screen.
3. You can move the console by clicking on the title bar and dragging it to any position on the screen. On closing and re-opening, the console will re-appear at its last position.

The console remains open when navigating between different modules. It floats on top of the UI so that you can observe the effect of SCPI commands on a module in real-time.



▶ To communicate with a module via the SCPI Command Console:

1. Enter a command.
2. Select action(s).
3. Review the action response in the output area.
4. (optional) Clear the output area.



You can choose from these SCPI command actions:

Action	Meaning	FAILED response
WRITE	Send the command to the instrument	The command is invalid. Please check the command and syntax.
READ	(after WRITE) Request the response from the instrument	Response buffer is empty.
QUERY	WRITE and READ	
*ESR?	Query the status event status register (ESR) – this will give you more details and specific information about command failures. For details on error codes, please refer to the programming guide in this manual.	
*CLS	Clear the response buffer and start fresh – useful when getting out of sync with WRITE and READ actions	

Example 1: Send instrument identification query `*idn?`

1. Enter the command: `*idn?`
2. Click **QUERY**.
3. The module returns the requested information.

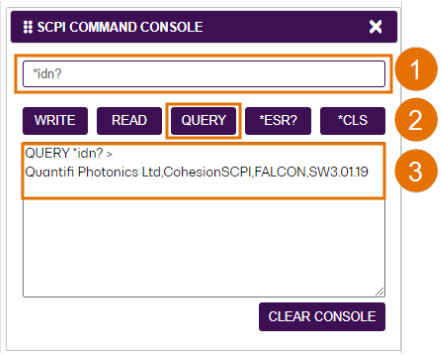
Example 2: What happens when I send an incorrect command?

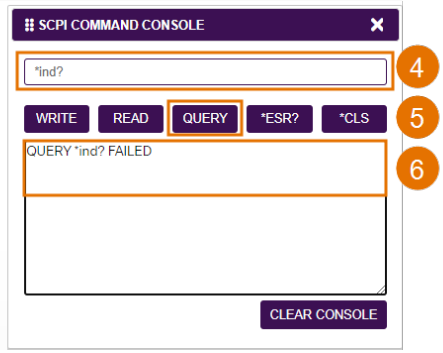
4. Enter an incorrect command, for example: ***ind?**
5. Click **QUERY**.
6. The module returns **FAILED**.

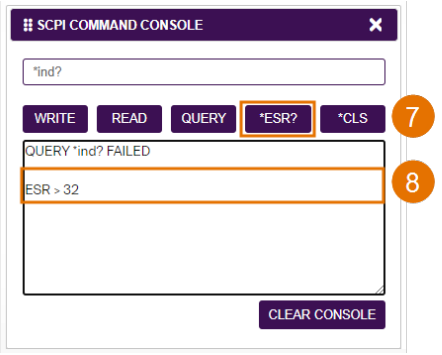
Example 3: Investigate a command failure:

7. Click `*ESR?` to query the event status register and request information about the command failure.
8. The instrument returns the error code, for example 32.

   For details on error codes, please refer to the *ESR? command in the programming guide.





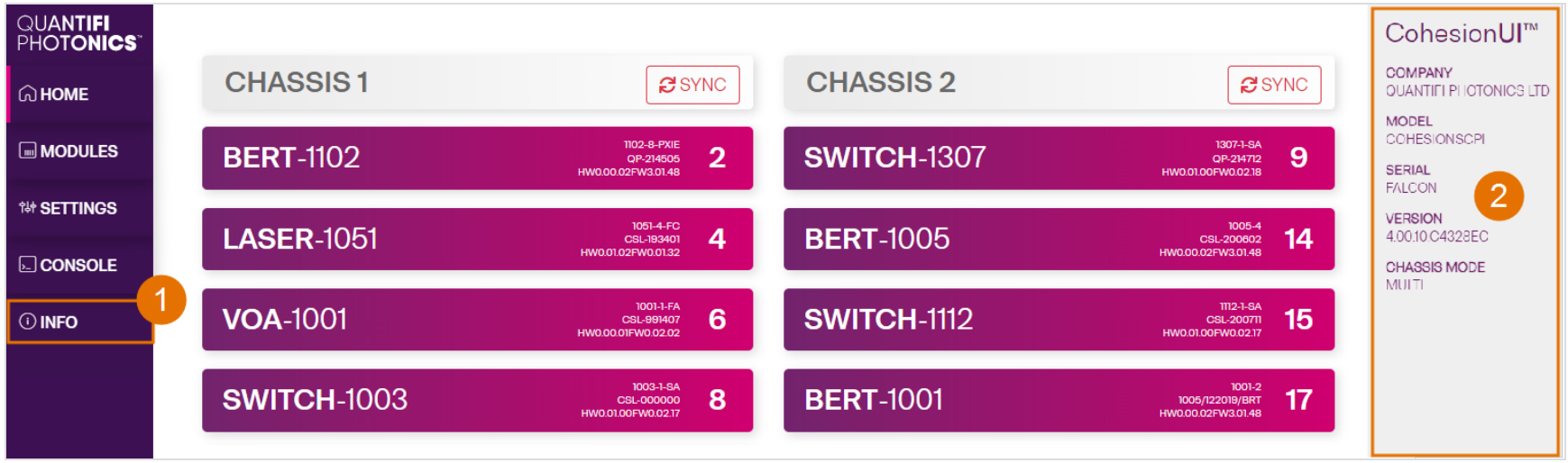


8.9 View system information

8.9.1 PXIe Chassis

- To display chassis information:

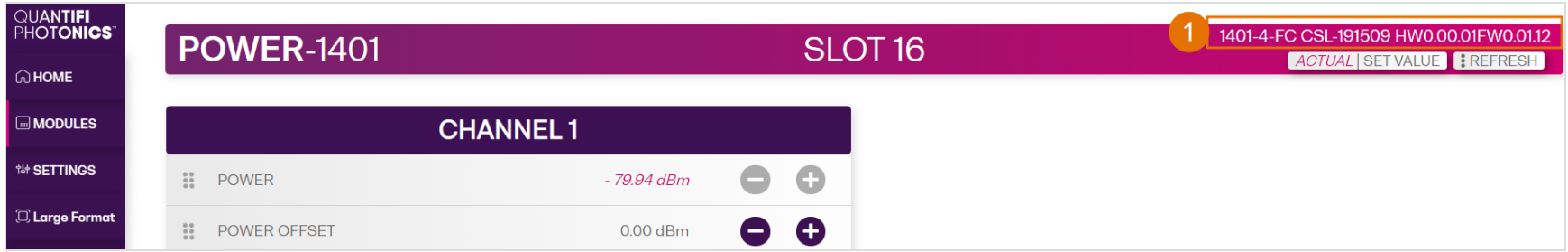
1. Click **INFO**.
2. The information panel will display operation mode, manufacturer, model, and serial number of the chassis, and the version of CohesionUI and CohesionSCPI service running on the chassis.



8.9.2 Module

- To view module information when working with a module in CohesionUI:

1. Model number, serial number and firmware versions are displayed in the top right corner.



9 Controlling your product with CohesionUI

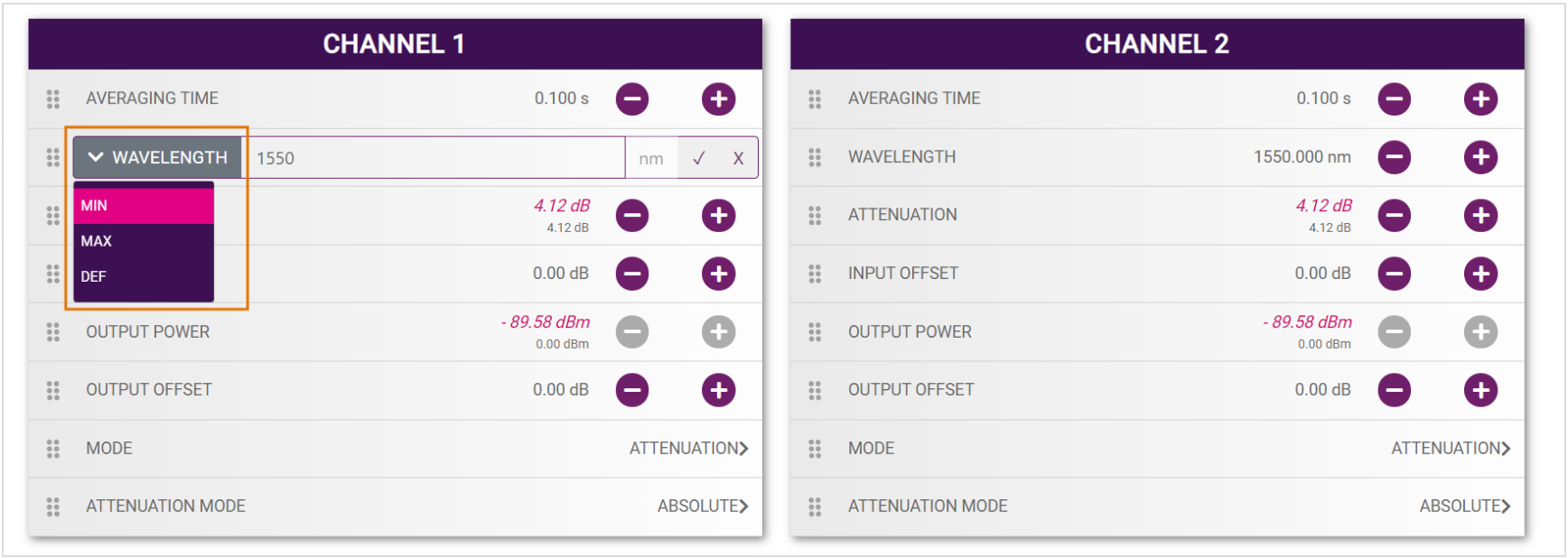
You can use Quantifi Photonics' graphical user interface CohesionUI to work with your module. For details on how to get started with CohesionUI, refer to CohesionUI - Overview.

9.1 Setting channel parameter values

Specific control parameters for a given channel in the product can be set by clicking the parameter button, or by using the **+** and **–** control buttons to increase or decrease the value field by a set amount. This step size is set in the **SETTINGS** menu. Alternatively, the parameter can also be set to the **MIN** and **MAX** value by clicking the dropdown in the name of the parameter.

This applies to the following parameters:

AVERAGING TIME	The amount of time the optical power is logged for before calculating an average power reading.
WAVELENGTH	The wavelength (frequency) of the input light. This is used to set the correct responsivity for calculating optical input power.
ATTENUATION	In **ATTENUATION** control mode, set the desired attenuation. In **POWER** control mode, the current attenuation is displayed.
INPUT OFFSET	If desired, enter the amount of fixed external attenuation which you wish to include as part of the VOA attenuation.
OUTPUT OFFSET	If desired, enter the amount of fixed external attenuation which you wish to include as part of the VOA attenuation.
OUTPUT POWER	In **POWER** control mode, set the output power. In **ATTENUATION** control mode, the measured output power is displayed.

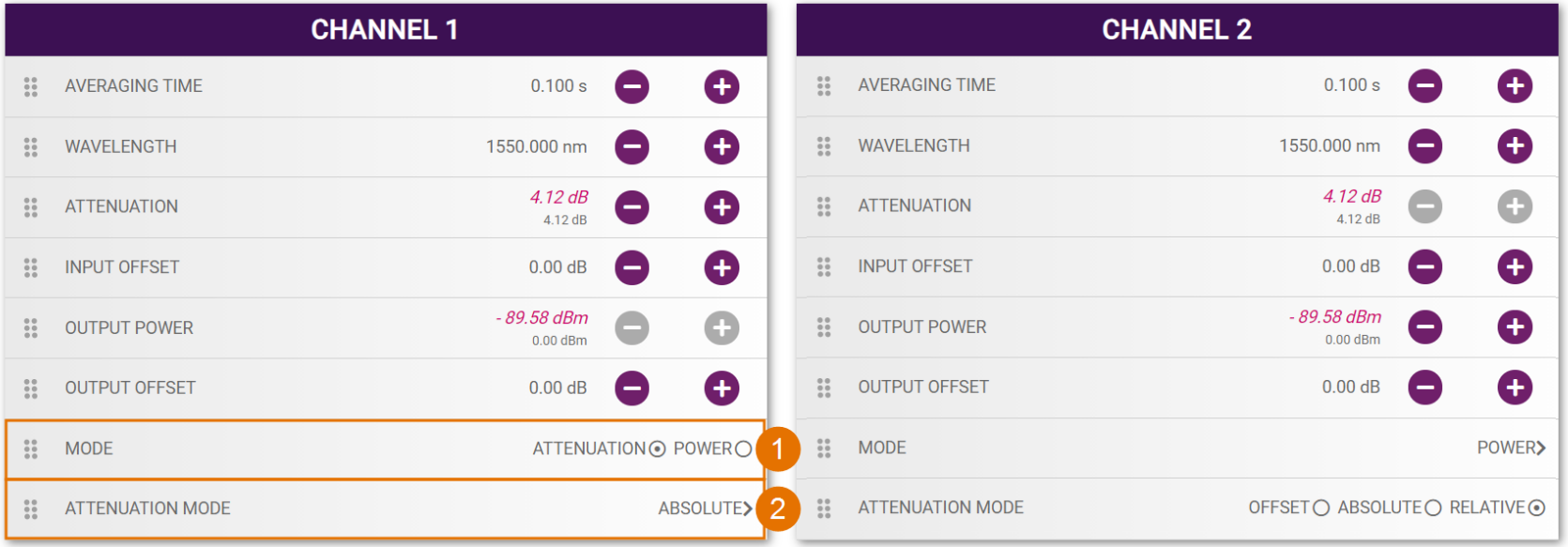


In the above example, the **WAVELENGTH** for CHANNEL 1 has been set to **1550 nm** by manual input. To apply the change, click the tick mark on the right.

9.2 Setting channel control mode

The VOA can operate in **POWER** control mode or **ATTENUATION** control mode. See VOA operation mode overview for more information.

1. Select the control mode: **ATTENUATION** or **POWER**.
2. In **ATTENUATION** control mode, select an available option: **OFFSET**, **ABSOLUTE** (default) or **RELATIVE**.



10 VOA operation mode overview

The VOA product enables to operate in two control modes: **ATTENUATION** control mode and **POWER** control mode:

- **ATTENUATION** control mode: The VOA maintains the set attenuation value by applying a constant amount of attenuation to the input optical signal. There are three sub-modes available in **ATTENUATION** control mode: **ABSOLUTE**, **RELATIVE** and **OFFSET** (see Attenuation mode).
- **POWER** control mode: The VOA maintains the set output power value by applying an automatically calculated amount of attenuation to the input optical signal. **POWER** control mode can be used with / without specifying **OFFSETS** (see Power mode).

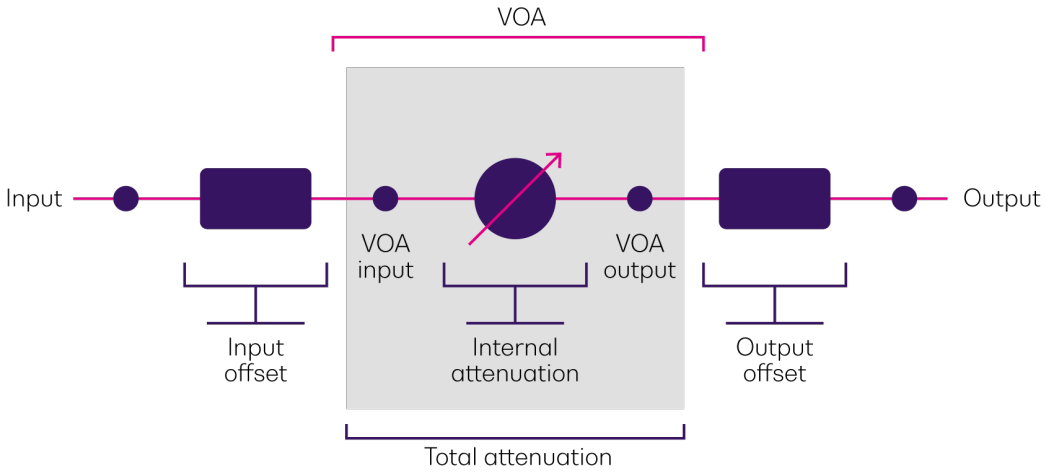
10.1 Functional diagram - no offset

The VOA comprises an Internal Attenuator along with input and output offsets.

The functional diagram below illustrates the operation of the VOA product in the following modes:

- ABSOLUTE ATTENUATION mode
- RELATIVE ATTENUATION mode
- POWER control mode with NO OFFSETS

No offsets specified:



If some input and / or output offsets are specified, the VOA works as described in Functional diagrams - offset.

10.2 Functional diagrams - offset

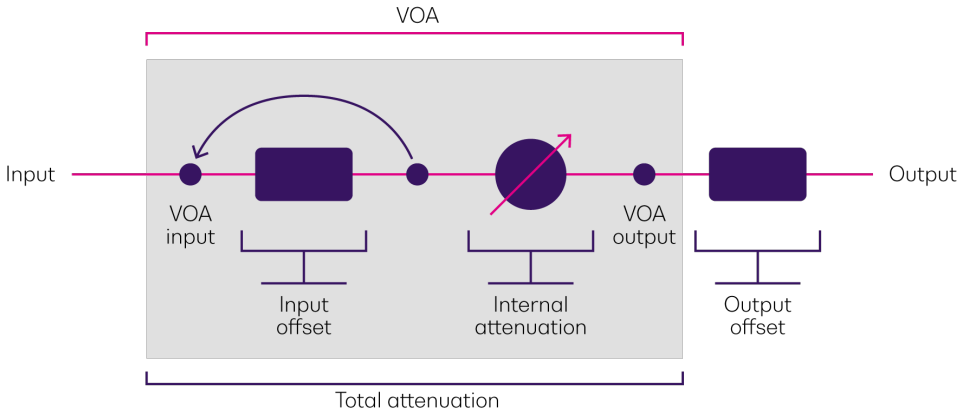
The VOA accounts for any given input or output offsets when operating in the following modes:

- OFFSET ATTENUATION mode
- POWER OFFSET mode

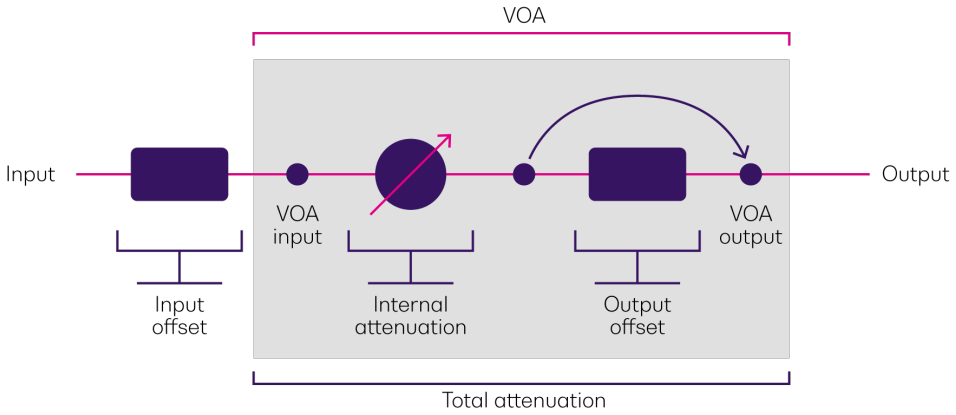
In a test setup, this operation mode is useful if there are test components that must be accounted for before or after the VOA product. For example, splitters, amplifiers, optical stub attenuators, or fiber coils. Because of this offset inclusion, the VOA automatically adjusts any set parameters.

The functional diagrams below illustrate how the VOA accounts for input and/or output offsets:

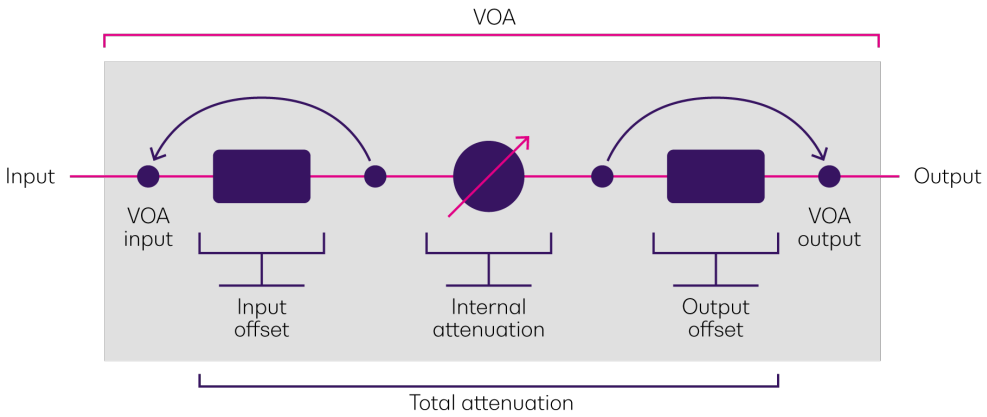
Input offset only:



Output offset only:



Both offsets:



For examples of input and output offset operation with the VOA see Attenuation mode and Power mode.

10.3 Attenuation mode

When the VOA product is in an **ATTENUATION** control mode, it has three possible attenuation sub-modes:

- **ABSOLUTE**
- **OFFSET**
- **RELATIVE**

When operating in **ABSOLUTE** or **RELATIVE ATTENUATION** control modes, the VOA will ignore all **OFFSET** values.

10.3.1 Absolute mode

When **ABSOLUTE** is selected for the **ATTENUATION** mode, the VOA evaluates the attenuation using only the internal loss of the VOA. This means that the minimum attenuation that can be applied is equal to the Insertion Loss (IL) of the VOA, as measured at factory calibration; and the maximum attenuation is equal to the Calibrated Maximum Attenuation (CAL MAX), as measured at factory calibration.

MIN Attenuation	IL
MAX Attenuation	CAL MAX

Example:

VOA Input	Set attenuation	Insertion Loss (IL)	Internal attenuation	VOA output
10 dBm	MIN	0.8 dB	0.8 dB	9.2 dBm
	5 dB		5 dB	5 dBm
	MAX		CAL MAX	10 dBm - CAL MAX

10.3.2 Relative mode

When **RELATIVE** is selected for the attenuation mode, the VOA channel attenuation is calculated with respect to the Insertion Loss (IL) of the VOA. This means that the applied attenuation of the VOA is offset by the Insertion Loss.

As a result, the minimum attenuation is 0 dB, and the maximum attenuation is less than the maximum attenuation as applied in the ABSOLUTE attenuation mode.

MIN Attenuation	0 dB
MAX Attenuation	CAL MAX - IL

Example:

VOA Input	Set attenuation	Insertion Loss (IL)	Internal attenuation	VOA output
10 dBm	MIN	0.8 dB	0 dB	9.2 dBm
	3 dB		3 dB	6.2 dBm
	MAX		CAL MAX - 0.8 dB	10 dBm - CAL MAX - IL

10.3.3 Offset mode

When **OFFSET** is selected for the attenuation mode, the input and output offset values can be set for a given VOA channel.

The VOA channel attenuation is evaluated as the difference between the Internal Loss (IL) of the VOA (ABSOLUTE) and the sum of all the user specified input and output offset values.

The convention for the offset value is as follows:

- **Positive for loss**, eg. 1x2 50:50 splitter will have an offset of 3 dB
- **Negative for gain**, eg. An EDFA with 23dB of gain will have an offset of -23 dB

MIN Attenuation	IL + (Input Offset + Output Offset)
MAX Attenuation	CAL MAX + (Input Offset + Output Offset)

Example:

Input power	Input offset	Output offset	Set attenuation	Total attenuation	Internal attenuation	VOA output
10 dBm	0 dB	0 dB	15 dB	15 dB	15 dB	-5 dBm
	3 dB	0 dB			12 dB	
	0 dB	2 dB			13 dB	
	3 dB	2 dB			10 dB	

10.4 Power mode

Unlike the **ATTENUATION** control mode, the **POWER** control mode has no sub control mode options. If an **OFFSET** is specified in the **POWER** control mode, it is always applied.

Nominally, in **POWER** control mode, the VOA always works to ensure that the set output power value is maintained, which means that the VOA automatically adjusts the internal attenuation to satisfy this condition.

The convention for the offset value is as follows:

- **Positive for loss**, eg. 1x2 50:50 splitter will have an offset of 3 dB
- **Negative for gain**, eg. An EDFA with 23dB of gain will have an offset of -23 dB

MIN Output Power	Input Power – (CAL MAX + (Input Offset + Output Offset))
MAX Output Power	Input Power – (IL + (Input Offset + Output Offset))

Example:

Input power	Input offset	Output offset	Set output power	Total attenuation	Internal attenuation	VOA output
10 dBm	0 dB	0 dB	-5 dBm	15 dB	15 dB	-5 dBm
	3 dB	0 dB			12 dB	
	0 dB	2 dB			13 dB	
	3 dB	2 dB			10 dB	

11 Controlling your product with SCPI commands

Remote communication with the CohesionSCPI service is achieved through the Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments (SCPI).

Support for VISA I/O API over TCP/IP is provided by the VXI-11 compliant CohesionSCPI service. With VISA communication drivers installed on the client, the implementation of VISA programming within environments such as MATLAB becomes available.

This section details the programming and measurement conventions to follow while executing the commands for the CohesionSCPI service.

NOTE

In NI-MAX a RIO interface will show up, however there are no communication methods available or implemented on this interface. Quantifi Photonics products are **ONLY** accessible through the **VISA TCPIP INSTR** interface provided by the CohesionSCPI service installed on the system.

11.1 Overview

You can operate your Quantifi Photonics module using SCPI commands.

For details on available SCPI commands, refer to:

- Command summary
- Command descriptions

11.2 Programming conventions

This section details the programming and measurement conventions to follow while executing the commands for the CohesionSCPI service.

Parameter	Default Unit	Alternative Units
Power	DB	MDB
Wavelength	NM	M, MM, UM, PM
Time	S	MS, US, NS
Rate	HZ	

Argument	Data Format
`<wsp>`	Specifies whitespace character (01_{16} – 09_{16}, $0B_{16}$ – 20_{16})
`<value>`	Is numerical data, an integer, a decimal, exponential (10e-9 or 5.8e6) or string
`[VALUE1 | VALUE2]`	A parameter choice. The '|' separates the unique parameters available, only one of the choices can be used. In the example, either the input parameter `[VALUE1]` or `[VALUE2]` can be used, but not both. Some commands may have more than two choices available. This parameter can be omitted where the command has a default defined in the command description.

11.2.1 Index addressing of modules (slot, source) and units (channel)

When executing commands, it is almost always necessary to provide the index of a specific module or an index of a specific installed unit.

For the commands that require index values:

Index	Description	Value
<c>	the chassis index in which the specific blade module is installed	integer, inclusive of 0
<n>	the slot (or source) index of the specific blade module	integer <1 to 18>
<m>	the channel index of a specific unit in the module	integer <1 to 4>

Message queues

Information is exchanged in the form of messages. These messages are held in input and output queues.

The output queue stores responses to query commands. The CohesionSCPI service transmits any data in the output queue when a read request is received. Unless specified, all output response data is transmitted in ASCII format.

11.3 Status and event registers

11.3.1 Standard Event Status Register

The Standard Event Status Register (SESR) is modified by the Quantifi Photonics product with the results of the command operations.

Bit	Description
7 (MSB), 6	Not used
5	Is set when a Command Error event has been detected
4	Is set when a command Execution Error has been detected
3	Is set when a Device Dependent Error event has been detected
2	Is set when there a Query Error event has been detected
1	Not used
0 (LSB)	Is set when an Operation Complete event has been generated

11.3.2 Standard Event Status Enable Register (Mask)

The Standard Event Status Enable Register (SESR Mask) is used to build the Event Status Bit (ESB) within the Status Byte Register (STB). To ignore any of the events detected and set in the SESR, set the corresponding bit within the SESR Mask to 0. The STB can then be queried and the value of the ESB can be used to determine service request requirements based on the SESR Mask applied.

NOTE

The 0 (LSB) value within the SESR Mask is 0.

11.3.3 Status Byte Register

The Status Byte Register (STB) is built from all other status registers and masks. This register can be used in queries to determine if an event has been detected and where that event has been detected.

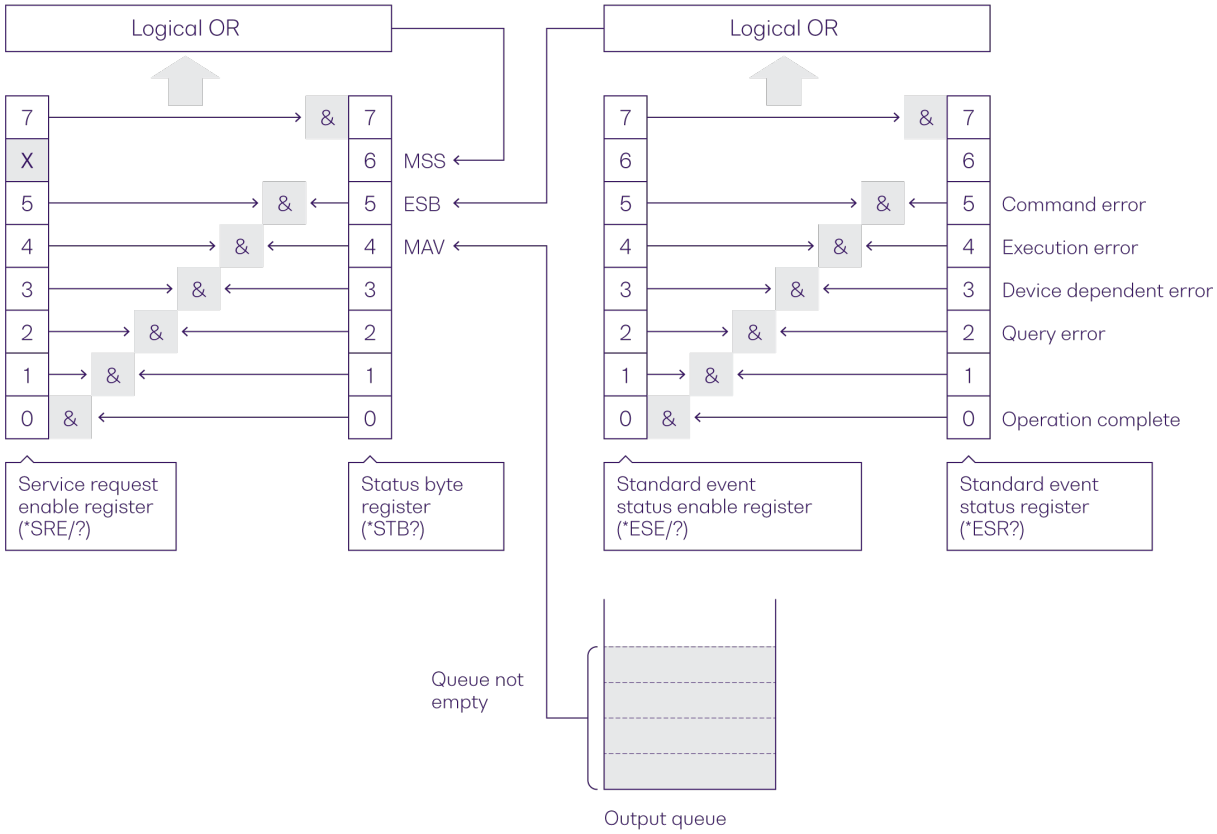
Bit	Description
7 (MSB)	Not used
6	The Master Summary Status (MSS) bit is set from the STB and SRE Mask
5	The Event Status Bit (ESB) is set from the SESR and the SESR Mask
4	Message Available (MAV) is set when there is data in the output queue
3, 2, 1, 0 (LSB)	Not used

11.3.4 Service Request Enable Register (Mask)

The Standard Request Enable Register (SRE Mask) is used to build the Master Summary Status Bit (MSS) within the Status Byte Register (STB). To ignore any of the events detected and set in the STB register itself, set the corresponding bit within the SRE Mask to 0. The STB can then be queried and the value of the MSS can be used to determine the type of service request required based on the SRE Mask applied.

Bit	Description
7 (MSB)	Not used
6	The Master Summary Status (MSS) bit is set from the STB and SRE Mask
5	The Event Status Bit (ESB) is set from the SESR and the SESR Mask
4	Message Available (MAV) is set when there is data in the output queue
3, 2, 1, 0 (LSB)	Not used

11.3.5 Status and event registers diagram



11.4 PXIe Multi Chassis mode operation

Multiple chassis can be connected to operate in **Multi Chassis Mode**.

To operate in Multi Chassis Mode, **CohesionSCPI service must be version 1.02.06 or later**.

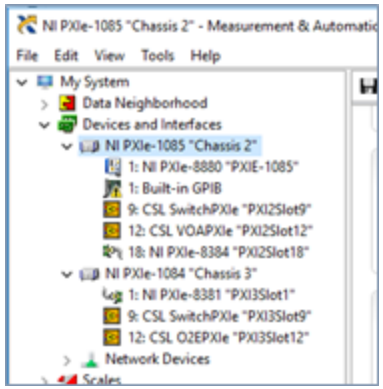
11.4.1 NI-MAX application Multi Chassis mode

NOTE

The CohesionSCPI service does not manage the chassis numbers. These are controlled by the NI Platform Services (and through NI-MAX).

Even if the CohesionSCPI service is in Multi Chassis mode, if a chassis is connected but has no installed modules, it will not show up when `*OPT?` is run.

In the example shown below, there are two chassis connected via the PXIe-8384 to PXIe-8381 connection. Chassis #2 has the controller running CohesionSCPI service, and Chassis #3 is the 'extended' chassis.



11.4.2 SCPI Multi Chassis commands

NOTE

Changing the CohesionSCPI service Chassis Mode will rediscover all Chassis and installed modules.

Command	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS?`
Syntax	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS?<wsp>[LIST|MODE]`
Description	Query the Chassis Mode configuration
Parameters	No parameters
Response	**`List`**: Returns a comma separated list of valid chassis index numbers discovered by the CohesionSCPI service. These are chassis that have modules installed.
	`MODE`: Returns the current Chassis Mode the CohesionSCPI service is operating in (SINGLE or MULTI).
	`None`: Returns the number of chassis managed by the CohesionSCPI service. If this is greater than 1, then the system should be set to MULTI mode for correct operation.

Example	In Single chassis mode:
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? -> 1`
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? LIST -> 0`
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? MODE -> SINGLE`
	
	In Multi chassis mode:
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? -> 2`
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? LIST -> 2,3`
	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS? MODE -> MULTI`

Command	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS`
Syntax	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS<wsp>[SINGLE|MULTI]`
Description	Set the Chassis Mode configuration
Parameters	**`SINGLE`**: Set CohesionSCPI service to operate in SINGLE Chassis Mode
	`MULTI`: Set CohesionSCPI service to operate in MULTI Chassis Mode
Response	No response
Example	`:SYSTEM:CHASSIS SINGLE`

In Multi chassis mode, all commands listed in the command summary section will still work, but they must be prefixed with `:CHASSIS<c>`.

Common command example:

Single Chassis Mode	`:SLOT2:IDN?`
Multi Chassis Mode	`:CHASSIS1:SLOT2:IDN?`

Specific command example:

Single Chassis Mode	`:SOUR2:CHAN2:POW? MAX`
Multi Chassis Mode	`:CHASSIS1:SOUR2:CHAN2:POW? MAX`

11.5 Command summary

11.5.1 Common commands

Command	Description
*CLS	Clear session message queues >>
*IDN?	Query the CohesionSCPI service identification >>
*OPC?	Query the Operation Complete Status >>
*OPT?	Query the modules managed by the CohesionSCPI service >>
*ESR?	Query the Standard Event Status Register >>

11.5.2 System commands

Command	Description
:SYSTEM	
:PRESet	Restore module settings of all modules to power-on default values >>

11.5.3 Slot commands

Slot commands	Description
:SLOT<n>	
:OPC?	Query the Operation Complete Status of the module >>
:OPTions?	Query the modules managed by the CohesionSCPI service >>
:IDN?	Query the slot identification >>
:TeST?	Query the module self-test status >>
:ReSeT	Reset the module to default power-on settings >>
:PRESet	Restore module settings to power-on default values >>
:POWer	
:RESolution?	Query resolution of the power value >>
:RESolution	Set resolution of the power value to an integer number of decimal places >>
:ATTenuation	
:RESolution?	Query resolution of the attenuation value >>
:RESolution	Set resolution of the attenuation value to an integer number of decimal places >>
:TRIGger<n>	
:DELay?	Query the trigger delay >>
:DELay	Set the trigger delay >>
:MODE?	Query the Trigger Line event mode of the module >>
:MODE	Set the Trigger Line event mode of the module >>
:SOURce?	Query the Trigger Line(s) used for events >>
:SOURce	Set the Trigger Line(s) used for events >>
:ARM?	Query the Trigger ARMed state >>
:ARM	Set the Trigger ARMed state >>

11.5.4 Configuration commands

Configuration commands	Description
:CONTrol<n>	
:CHANnel<m>	
:MODE?	Query the control mode >>
:MODE	Set the power measurement offset >>
:INPut<n>	
:CHANnel<m>	
:AMODE?	Query the attenuation mode >>
:AMODE	Set the attenuation mode >>
:ATTenuation?	Query the attenuation >>
:ATTenuation	Set the attenuation >>
:OFFSet?	Query the attenuation mode offset >>
:OFFSet	Set the attenuation mode offset >>
:POWer?	Query the input optical power >>
:WAVelength?	Query the input optical wavelength configuration >>
:WAVelength	Set the input optical wavelength configuration >>
:OUTPut<n>	
:CHANnel<m>	
:OFFSet?	Query the output power offset >>
:OFFSet	Query the output power offset >>
:POWer?	Query the output optical power >>
:POWer	Set the output optical power >>
:AVERagingtime?	Query the output power averaging time >>
:AVERagingtime	Set the output power averaging time >>
:NULLing	Perform dark current nulling >>
:TIMEnulling?	Query the amount of time remaining for dark current nulling to complete >>
:TRACE	
:CoMPlete?	Query the trace completion status >>
:PoinTS?	Query the number of trace buffer data elements >>
:PoinTS	Set the number of trace buffer data elements >>
:RATE?	Query the trace buffer sampling rate >>

Configuration commands	Description
:RATE	Set the trace buffer sampling rate >>
:TRIGger	Set the trace trigger mode >>
:TRACE<m>?	Query the trace buffer >>

11.6 Command descriptions

11.6.1 Common commands

Command	***CLS**	Summary >>
Syntax	`*CLS`	
Description	Clear session message queues	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	N/A	
Example	`*CLS`	

Command	***IDN?**	Summary >>
Syntax	`*IDN?`	
Description	Query the CohesionSCPI service identification	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	Comma separated string with the <manufacturer>,<server name>,<chassis controller name>,<server version>	
Example	`*IDN? -> Quantifi Photonics, CohesionSCPIService,PXIE-8133,FW2.0.15`	

Command	***OPC?**	Summary >>
Syntax	`*OPC?`	
Description	Query the Operation Complete Status	
Parameters		
Response	**1**: all modules installed in the chassis are ready to execute commands	
	0: modules installed in the chassis still have commands to execute in the input queue	
	NOTE: Any commands sent to the module when `:MODUle:OPC?` is NOT equal `1`, may not execute or return an error.	
Example	`*OPC? -> 1`	

Command	***OPT?**	Summary >>
Syntax	`*OPT?`	
Description	Query the modules managed by the CohesionSCPI service	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	Comma separated string of the installed modules in the chassis	
Example	`*OPT? -> ,LASER-2001-1-FA-PXIE,SWITCH-1003-1-FC-PXIE,,VOA-1001-2-FA-PXIE,,,,O2E-1001-1-FC-PXIE,,,,,,,,`	

Command	***ESR?**		Summary >>
Syntax	`*ESR?`		
Description	Query the Standard Event Status Register		
Parameters	N/A		
Response	Unsigned integer 8 bit value for the register <0 to 255>, as a string.		
	Bit	Description	Decimal Value
	7 (MSB)	Not used	0
	6	Not used	0
	5	Command error	32
	4	Command Execution Error	16
	3	Device Dependent Error	8
	2	Not used	0
	1	Not used	0
	0 (LSB)	Operation Complete	1
Example	`*ESR? -> 8` `*ESR? -> 32`		

NOTE

It is recommended to use the `*ESR?` command query after every command that is sent to the device. The `*ESR?` query will be able to catch:

- **Device dependent Error** – the device is reporting an error in operation.
- **Execution Error** – SCPI was unable to execute the given command.
- **Command Error** – SCPI was unable to parse the given command, likely due to an incorrect command.

11.6.2 System commands

Command	**:SYSTEM:PRESet** Summary >>
Syntax	:SYSTEM:PRESet
Description	Restore module settings of all modules to power-on default values Sets resolution of the power value to the default value. Sets resolution of the attenuation value to the default value. Disables triggering by setting the trace trigger mode to STOPped. Disables Trigger ARM by setting the Trigger ARMed state to DISABLE.
Parameters	N/A
Response	N/A
Example	:SYSTEM:PRES

11.6.3 Slot commands

Command	**:SLOT<n>:OPC?** Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:OPC?
Description	Query the Operation Complete Status of the module
Parameters	N/A
Response	**1**: the module is ready to accept a new command
	0: the module is busy performing a previous operation
	NOTE: Any commands sent to the module when :SLOT:OPC? is NOT 1, may not execute or return an error.
Description	:SLOT1:OPC? -> 1

Command	**:SLOT<n>:OPTions?** Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:OPTions?
Description	Query the modules managed by the CohesionSCPI service
Parameters	N/A
Response	A comma separated array, or a single integer value based on the arguments given. If a module is not installed in a channel, it will not return any identification string.
Example	:SLOT1:OPT? -> 1,1,,

Command	**:SLOT<n>:IDN?** Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:IDN?
Description	Query the slot identification
Parameters	N/A
Response	A comma-separated string containing "<manufacturer>,<part number>,<serial number>,<hardware version><firmware version>". Note that the hardware and firmware versions are not comma separated.
Example	:SLOT1:IDN? -> Quantifi Photonics, VOA-1003-2-FC-PXIE,QP-991100, HW0.01.00FW01.00.00

Command	**:SLOT<n>:TeST?** Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:TeST?
Description	Query the module self-test status
Parameters	N/A
Response	Functional readiness status of the module. A non-zero response reports an error.
Example	:SLOT1:TST? -> 0

Command	**:SLOT<n>:ReSeT**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:ReSeT	
Description	Reset the module to default power-on settings	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	N/A	
Example	:SLOT1:RST	

Command	**:SLOT<n>:PRESet**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:PRESet	
Description	Restore module settings to power-on default values Sets resolution of the power value to the default value. Sets resolution of the attenuation value to the default value. Disables triggering by setting the trace trigger mode to STOPped. Disables Trigger ARM by setting the Trigger ARMed state to DISABLE.	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	N/A	
Example	:SLOT1:PRES	

Command	**:SLOT<n>:POWer:RESolution?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:POWer:RESolution?[<wsp><MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL>]	
Description	Query resolution of the power value	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum value	
	MAX: Returns the maximum value	
	DEF: Returns the default value	
	SET: Returns the set value	
	ALL: Returns all above values in a comma-separated string	
	None: Returns the set value	
Response	Returns an integer number of decimal places	
Example	:SLOT1:POW:RES? DEF -> 2	

Command	**:SLOT<n>:POWer:RESolution**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:POWer:RESolution<wsp><value|MIN|MAX|DEF>	
Description	Set resolution of the power value to an integer number of decimal places	
Parameters	**<value>**: Sets this value	
	MIN: Sets the minimum value	
	MAX: Sets the maximum value	
	DEF: Sets the default value	
Response	N/A	
Example	:SLOT1:POW:RES DEF	

Command	**:SLOT<n>:ATTenuation:RESolution?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:ATTenuation:RESolution?[<wsp><MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL>]	
Description	Query resolution of the attenuation value	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum value	
	MAX: Returns the maximum value	
	DEF: Returns the default value	
	SET: Returns the set value	
	ALL: Returns all above values in a comma-separated string	
	None: Returns the set value	
Response	Returns an integer number of decimal places	
Example	:SLOT1:ATT:RES? DEF -> 2	

Command	**:SLOT<n>:ATTenuation:RESolution**	Summary >>
Syntax	:SLOT<n>:ATTenuation:RESolution<wsp><value|MIN|MAX|DEF>	
Description	Set resolution of the attenuation value to an integer number of decimal places	
Parameters	**<value>**: Sets this value	
	MIN: Sets the minimum value	
	MAX: Sets the default value	
	DEF: Sets the minimum value	
Response	N/A	
Example	:SLOT1:ATT:RES DEF	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:DELay?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:DELay?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the trigger delay of the module in seconds	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable value	
	MAX: Returns the maximum programmable value	
	DEF: Returns the default value	
	SET: Returns the current set value	
	ALL: Returns all of the above values in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:TRIG3:DEL? -> 0.0000,10.0000,0.0000,0.5000	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:DELay**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:DELay<wsp><value>	
Description	Set the trigger delay of the module in seconds	
Parameters	**<value>**: A valid numerical value for the desired delay (default units of seconds)	
Response	N/A	
Example	:TRIG3:DEL 0.5	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:MODE?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:MODE?	
Description	Query the Trigger Line event mode of the module	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	The current user set mode	
Example	:TRIG3:MODE? -> OR	

NOTE

Any changes to the Trigger Mode will automatically disable the current ARM state.

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:MODE**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:MODE<wsp>[OR|AND]	
Description	Set the Trigger Line event mode of the module	
Parameters	**OR**: Any of the configured lines will trigger an event	
	AND: Only upon all configured	
Response	N/A	
Example	:TRIG3:MODE OR	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:SOURce?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:SOURce?	
Description	Query the Trigger Line(s) used for events	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	a comma separated array of the current source list	
Example	:TRIG3:SOUR? -> 0, 6, 7 :TRIG1:SOUR? -> "NONE"(Return if the source list is cleared)	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:SOURce**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:SOURce<wsp><<value1>[,<value2>,..,<value8>]|CLEAR>	
Description	Set the Trigger Line(s) used for events	
Parameters	**<value1 ... 8>**: Up to 8 integer values representing valid PXI trigger lines to add to the event source list	
	CLEAR: Will remove all lines from the source list	
Response	N/A	
Example	:TRIG3:SOUR 0, 6, 7	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:ARM?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:ARM?	
Description	Query the Trigger ARMed state	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	the current state of the Trigger ARM	
Example	:TRIG3:ARM? -> ENABLE	

Command	**:TRIGger<n>:ARM**	Summary >>
Syntax	:TRIGger<n>:ARM<wsp><ENABLE|DISABLE>	
Description	Set the Trigger ARMed state	
Parameters	**ENABLE**: Enable the Trigger ARM, which will trigger on the next event	
	DISABLE: Disable the Trigger ARM	
Response	N/A	
Example	:TRIG3:ARM ENABLE	

11.6.4 Configuration Commands

Command	**:CONTrol<n>:CHANnel<m>:MODE?** Summary >>
Syntax	:CONTrol<n>:CHANnel<m>:MODE?
Description	Query the control mode
Parameters	N/A
Response	A string (non-abbreviated) of the current control mode for the specified channel
Example	:CONT1:CHAN1:MODE? -> ATTENUATION

Command	**:CONTrol<n>:CHANnel<m>:MODE** Summary >>
Syntax	:CONTrol<n>:CHANnel<m>:MODE<wsp>[ATT|POW]
Description	Set the power measurement offset
Parameters	**ATT**: Set to Attenuation mode
	POW: Set to Power control mode
Response	N/A
Example	:CONT1:CHAN1:MODE ATT

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:AMODE?** Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:AMODE?
Description	Query the attenuation mode
Parameters	N/A
Response	A string (non-abbreviated) of the current attenuation mode for the specified channel
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:AMODE? -> ABSOLUTE

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:AMODE** Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:AMODE<wsp>[ABS|REL|OFFSET]
Description	Set the attenuation mode
Parameters	**ABS**: Set the attenuation reference to absolute
	REL: Set the attenuation reference to relative
	OFFSET: Set the attenuation reference to the user offset
Response	N/A
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:AMODE ATT

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:ATTenuation?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:ATTenuation<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ACT|ALL]	
Description	Query the attenuation	
Parameters	**MIN**: Query the minimum programmable attenuation value	
	MAX: Query the maximum programmable attenuation value	
	DEF: Query the default attenuation value	
	SET: Query the current set attenuation value	
	ACT: Query actual attenuation value	
	ALL: Query all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	Depending on the parameters the response will be a single value or a comma separated string of values.	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:ATT? DEF -> 5.00	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:ATTenuation**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:ATTenuation<wsp>[<value>|MIN|MAX|DEF] [DB|MDB]	
Description	Set the attenuation	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user attenuation value with the specified units (DB default)	
	MIN: Set to the minimum programmable attenuation value	
	MAX: Set to the maximum programmable attenuation value	
	DEF: Set to the default attenuation value	
Response	N/A	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:ATT 5.0	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the attenuation mode offset	
Parameters	**MIN**: Query the minimum programmable offset value	
	MAX: Query the maximum programmable offset value	
	DEF: Query the default offset value	
	SET: Query the current set offset value	
	ALL: Query all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:OFFS? -> 5.00	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet<wsp><value>[DB|MDB]	
Description	Set the attenuation mode offset	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user offset value with the specified units (DB default)	
Response	N/A	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:OFFS 5.0	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ACT|ALL]	
Description	Query the input optical power	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable power value	
	MAX: Returns the maximum programmable power value	
	DEF: Returns the default power value	
	SET: Returns the current set power value	
	ACT: Returns the actual power value	
	ALL: Returns all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:POW ALL -> -45.00,20.00,10.00,5.00,4.99	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:WAVelength?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:WAVelength?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the input optical wavelength configuration	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable wavelength	
	MAX: Returns the maximum programmable wavelength	
	DEF: Returns the default programmable wavelength	
	SET: Returns the current set wavelength	
	ALL: Returns all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:WAV? ALL -> 1271,1550,1550,1550	

Command	**:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:WAVelength**	Summary >>
Syntax	:INPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:WAVelength<wsp><value>[NM|M|MM|UM|PM]	
Description	Set the input optical wavelength configuration	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user wavelength of the channel with the specified units (NM default)	
Response	N/A	
Example	:INP1:CHAN1:WAV 1310 NM	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the output power offset	
Parameters	**MIN**: Query the minimum programmable offset value	
	MAX: Query the maximum programmable offset value	
	DEF: Query the default offset value	
	SET: Query the current set offset value	
	ALL: Query all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:OFFS? -> 5.00	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:OFFSet<wsp><value>[DB|MDB]	
Description	Set the output power offset	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user offset value with the specified units (DB default)	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:OFFS 5.0	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer?** Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ACT|ALL]
Description	Query the output optical power
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable power value
	MAX: Returns the minimum programmable power value
	DEF: Returns the default power value
	SET: Returns the current set power value
	ACT: Returns the actual power value
	ALL: Returns all the above parameters in a comma separated string
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:POW ALL -> -45.00,20.00,10.00,5.00,4.99

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer** Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer<wsp>[<value>|MIN|MAX|DEF] [DB|MDB]
Description	Set the output optical power
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user power value with the specified units (DB default)
	MIN: Set to the minimum programmable power value
	MAX: Set to the maximum programmable power value
	DEF: Set to the default power value
Response	N/A
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:POW 5.0

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:AVERagingtime?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:AVERagingtime?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the output power averaging time	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable averaging time value	
	MAX: Returns the maximum programmable averaging time value	
	DEF: Returns the default averaging time value	
	SET: Returns the current set averaging time value	
	ALL: Returns all the above values in a comma separated string	
Response	A single value, or a comma-separated array of values	
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:POW:AVER? MIN -> 0.0000	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:AVERagingtime**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:AVERagingtime<wsp>[<value>|MIN|MAX|DEF][S|MS|US|NS]	
Description	Set the output power averaging time	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set to the user averaging time value with the specified units (S default)	
	MIN: Set the minimum programmable averaging time value	
	MAX: Set the maximum programmable averaging time value	
	DEF: Set the default averaging time value	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:POW:AVER 0.5	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:NULLing**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:NULLing	
Description	Perform dark current nulling on the channel Note: Use this command in conjunction with *OPC? to check for dark power nulling completion.	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP1:CHAN1:POW:NULL	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:TIMEnulling?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:CHANnel<m>:POWer:TIMEnulling?	
Description	Query the amount of time remaining for dark current nulling to complete	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	Averaging time in seconds	
Example	:OUTP2:CHAN1:POW:TIME? -> 0.00	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:CoMPlete?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:CoMPlete?	
Description	Query the trace completion status	
Parameters	N/A	
Response	**1**: the trace has been acquired and the buffer is ready to be read out	
	0: the trace acquisition is still in progress, or the buffer is not ready to be read out	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:CMP? -> 1	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:PoinTS?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:PoinTS?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the number of trace buffer data elements	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum programmable number of points	
	MAX: Returns the maximum programmable number of points	
	DEF: Returns the default number of points set at power on	
	SET: Returns the current set number of points	
	ALL: Returns all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	Returns the number of points captured after each trigger	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:PTS? ALL -> 1,1024,1024,512	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:PoinTS**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:PoinTS<wsp>[|MIN|MAX|DEF|<value>]	
Description	Set the number of trace buffer data elements	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set the desired number of points per trigger	
	MIN: Set the minimum programmable number of points	
	MAX: Set the maximum programmable number of points	
	DEF: Set the default number of points which is also set at power on	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:PTS 512	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:RATE?**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:RATE?<wsp>[MIN|MAX|DEF|SET|ALL]	
Description	Query the trace buffer sampling rate	
Parameters	**MIN**: Returns the minimum sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	MAX: Returns the maximum sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	DEF: Returns the default sample rate set at power on	
	SET: Returns the current set sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	ALL: Returns all the above parameters in a comma separated string	
Response	Sample rate for the trace in seconds per sample	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:RATE? ALL -> 0.183,12000.000,12000.000,5000.000	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:RATE**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:RATE<wsp>[<value>|MIN|MAX|DEF]	
Description	Set the trace buffer sampling rate	
Parameters	**<value>**: Set the desired sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	MIN: Set the minimum sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	MAX: Set the maximum sample rate in samples per second (Hz)	
	DEF: Set the default sample rate set at power on	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:RATE 5000	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:TRIGger**	Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE:TRIGger<wsp>[STOP|IMMEDIATE|FORCE|SWEXT|HWINT|HWEXT|HWCLK]	
Description	Set the trace trigger mode	
Parameters	**STOPped**: Triggering is disabled	
	IMMEDIATE|FORCE: Software trigger, start sampling immediately (default)	
	SWEXT: Software trigger event, sampling aligned to PXIe clock	
	HWINT: PXIe line trigger event, sampling aligned to internal timer	
	HWEXT: PXIe line trigger event, sampling aligned to PXIe clock	
	HWCLK: PXIe line trigger event, sampling aligned to PXIe line edge	
	Note: OUTP<n>:TRACE:PTS samples is required before OUTP<n>:TRACE:CMP? completes.	
Response	N/A	
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:TRIG FORCE	

Command	**:OUTPut<n>:TRACE<m>?** Summary >>
Syntax	:OUTPut<n>:TRACE<m>?
Description	Query the trace buffer Note: the user should wait for :OUTP<n>:TRACE:CMP? to complete before reading this. Note: this command will error out if no sample points have been triggered.
Parameters	N/A
Response	Comma separated list of values for each channel, new lines [ie '\n'] separated rows per sample. The :OUTP<n>:TRACE? command will return a comma separated string of values units of dBm.
Example	:OUTP2:TRACE:PTS 10 :OUTP2:TRACE:RATE 0.183 :OUTP2:TRACE:TRIG :OUTP2:TRACE:CMP? -> 1 :OUTP2:TRACE2? -> 10.01,10.01,10.02,10.01,10.01,10.01,10.02,10.02,10.02,10.02,10.01,10.01 :OUTP2:TRACE:TRIG :OUTP2:TRACE:CMP? -> 1 :OUTP2:TRACE2? -> 10.01,10.01,10.02,10.01,10.01,10.01,10.02,10.02,10.02,10.02,10.01,10.01

11.7 Triggering example

This is an example of the commands and procedure for configuration and use of the system (or chassis) triggering features of the Quantifi Photonics products.

11.7.1 System commands

```
:TRIGger<slot>:DELay 0              #Set the Triggering delay for the slot.
                                    #Delay is from 0 to 10 seconds, with a resolution of 0.001 seconds.
                                    #Default is 0 seconds.

:TRIGger<slot>:MODE OR              #Set the desired Triggering Line detection Mode to AND or OR.
                                    #This represents triggering upon events on single, any or specific lines/signals.

:TRIGger<slot>:SOURce 0             #Set the desired Triggering source(s).
                                    #The sources represent the PXI trigger lines (integer values from 0 to 7)
                                    #that the module can be configured for events.

:TRIGger<slot>:ARM ENABLE           #Arm the triggering in preparation for the next event.
```

11.7.2 Module commands

The following is the example of a VOA PXIe module installed in slot 3:

```
:OUTP3:TRACE1:TRIGGER SWEXT         #Once the above system commands are configured, set the module to the desired Trigger
                                    #event mode.
                                    #This is for the sampling to be started upon a PXIe trigger line event
                                    #and samples aligned to the PXIe Clock.

:OUTP3:TRACE1:COMPLETE? -> 1        #Monitor the Trace completion status.

:OUTP3:TRACE1? -> “x1,x2,x3,….,xn”  #Query (Read) the Trace buffer once populated (data elements depend on trace
                                    #configuration)
```

Name	Trigger Event	Sampling Event	Description
`STOP`	None	None	triggering is disabled (or cancelled), no events will occur
`FORCED | IMMEDIATE`	Software	Internal Clock	triggered upon command execution and sampling aligned to internal timer
`SWEXT | SWEXTERNAL`	Software	PXIe Clock	triggered upon command execution and sampling aligned to PXIe Clock
`HWINT | HWINTERNAL`	PXIe Line	Internal Clock	triggered upon PXIe Line edge and sampling aligned to internal timer
`HWEXT | HWEXTERNAL`	PXIe Line	PXIe Clock	triggered upon PXIe Line edge and sampling aligned to PXIe Clock
`HWCLK`	PXIe Line	PXIe Line	triggered upon command execution and sampling aligned to PXIe Line edge

11.8 Programming example: Control of the VOA Series with SCPI

The following is a simple example of how to control the VOA Series product using SCPI commands. See the previous section for specific details and extra parameters that the listed commands accept.

We recommend that you use the `*ESR?` query after every command that is sent to the device. This enables you to debug unreceived or incorrect commands sent to the product.

```
#Identifying the product
:*IDN?                                  #Query to confirm the correct PXIe chassis is setup
:*OPT?                                  #Query the available module configuration
:SLOT3:IDN?                             #Query the identification information for a specific slot module

#Running a Trace on the VOA product
:OUTP3:TRACE:RATE 1000                  #Set up the Trace parameters
:OUTP3:TRACE:POINTS 1024
:OUTP3:CHAN1:POW:AVER 0.02
:OUTP3:CHAN2:POW:AVER 0.02
:OUTP3:TRACE:TRIGGER IMMEDIATE          #Trigger the Trace acquisition
:OUTP3:TRACE:COMPLETE?                  #Query the status of the Trace (for completion)
:OUTP3:TRACE?                           #Query the Trace data once complete
```

12 Programming applications

Remote communication with the CohesionSCPI service is achieved through the Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments (SCPI).

Support for VISA I/O API over TCP/IP is provided by the VXI-11 compliant CohesionSCPI service. With VISA communication drivers installed on the client, the implementation of VISA programming within environments such as MATLAB becomes available.

This section details the programming and measurement conventions to follow while executing the commands for the CohesionSCPI service.

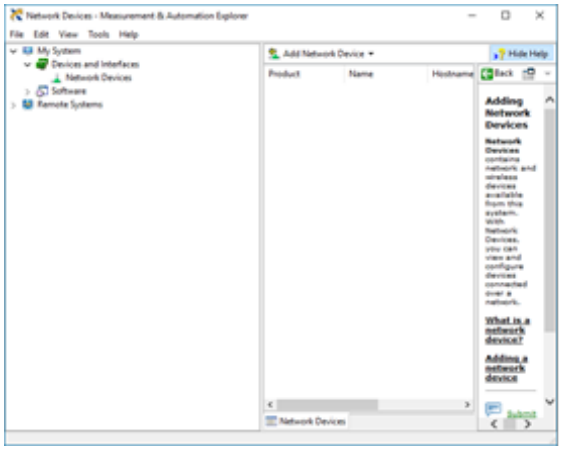
NOTE

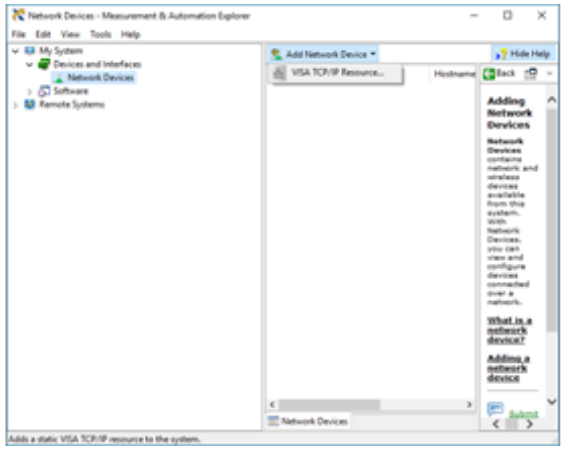
In NI-MAX a RIO interface will show up, however there are no communication methods available or implemented on this interface. Quantifi Photonics products are **ONLY** accessible through the **VISA TCPIP INSTR** interface provided by the CohesionSCPI service installed on the system.

12.1 Setting up NI-MAX application

To communicate with any Quantifi Photonics product, the chassis / benchtop product must first be setup as a TCP/IP instrument.

1. After installing NI-MAX, launch the application. In the left side panel of the window, click the **Devices and Interfaces** option. A drop down of available instruments detected will show up.
2. Click on **Network Devices**, then click **Add Network Devices** and select **VISA TCP/IP Resource**.



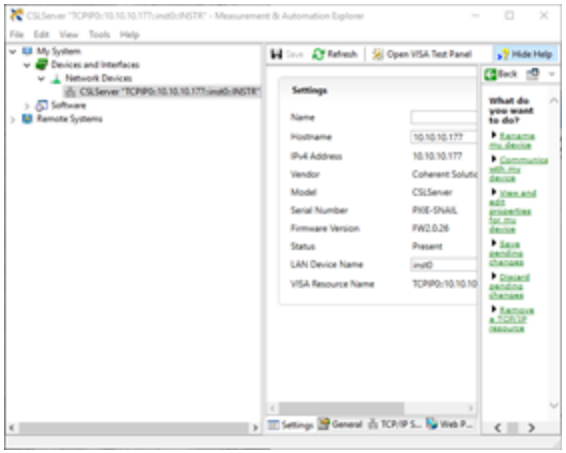


3. Select **Manual Entry of LAN Instrument**. Enter in the Hostname or IP Address.
   Note when operating locally, enter in the localhost IP address of **127.0.0.1**. Click **Finish** to end the setup process.

12.2 Setting up NI-VISA application

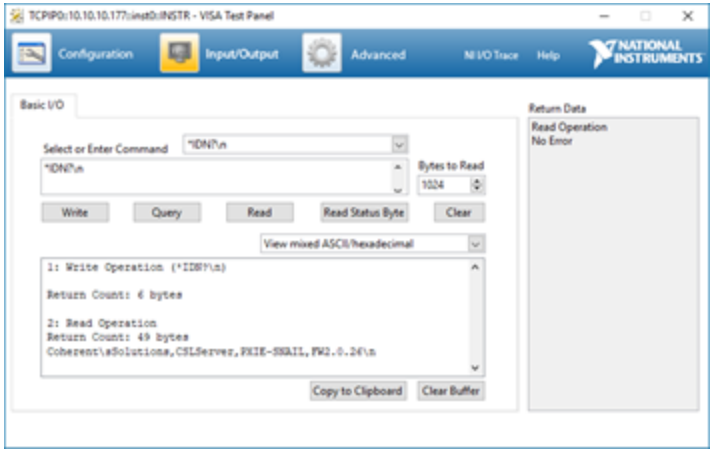
NI-VISA is used to communicate with the PXIe chassis or installed modules / instruments. The above steps must be completed before attempting to communicate using NI-VISA.

1. Launch NI-MAX. In the left-hand side menu, select an instrument from the **Network Devices** list.



2. On the right-hand side panel, select **Open VISA Test Panel**. A new window will popup. Click the **Input / Output** button from the window menu.

   Valid chassis and module commands can be entered in, and their returns queried



12.3 Python® code example

The following example shows how to communicate with the Quantifi Photonics product using Python code.

```
# You can get VXI11 from pip:
# pip install python-vxi11==0.9
import vxi11
from vxi11.vxi11 import Vxi11Exception
# replace this with the IP of your device
ip = "127.0.0.1"
try:
    print("connecting to " + ip + " ... ")
    instrument = vxi11.Instrument(ip)
    print("connected")
    print("checking IDN...")
    command = "*IDN?"
    data = instrument.ask(command)
    print("IDN: " + data)
    print("checking OPT...")
    command = "*OPT?"
    data = instrument.ask(command)
    print("OPT: " + data)
    # replace this with a valid command for your device (read # the programming guide section for examples)
    command = ""
    print("writing a specific command")
    instrument.write(command)
    print("checking ESR")
    command = "*ESR?"
    data = instrument.ask(command)
    print("*ESR?: " + data)
except Vxi11Exception as e:
    # pass
    print("ERROR" + str(e) + ", command: " + str(command))
```

12.4 MATLAB® code example

To communicate with the Quantifi Photonics product in MATLAB® the installation of a VISA IO driver is required. These drivers enable the creation of the Interface Object for instrument communication.

If developing locally on the PXIE Platform, then these will already be installed. However, if development is on a remotely connected system the VISA Libraries, e.g. National Instruments NI-VISA will have to be installed.

NOTE

MATLAB 2010x or later with the Instrument Control Toolbox is required to execute the code detailed in this section.

The following example shows how to communicate with a Quantifi Photonics product using MATLAB code.

```
% Find a VISA-TCPIP object. This is if the VISA object has already been
% created with tmtool or has been removed from the workspace without
% first being closed (cleanly disconnected).
PXIE_Chassis = instrfind('Type', 'visa-tcpip', ...
'RsrcName', 'TCPIP0::10.10.10.89::inst0::INSTR', 'Tag', '');
% Create the ‘agilent’ VISA-TCPIP object if it does not exist
% otherwise use the object that was found.
if isempty(PXIE_Chassis)
    PXIE_Chassis = visa('agilent', 'TCPIP0::10.10.10.89::inst0::INSTR');
else
    fclose(PXIE_Chassis);
    PXIE_Chassis = PXIE_Chassis (1);
end
% Open the connection to the VISA object.
fopen(PXIE_Chassis);
% Query the PXIE_Chassis.
response = query(PXIE_Chassis, '*IDN?');
disp('The *IDN query response:');
disp(response);
response = query(PXIE_Chassis, '*OPT?');
disp('The *OPT query response:');
disp(response);
% Replace this with a valid command for your device (read the programming
% guide section for examples)
command = ''
% Close the connection to the object.
```

13 Working with optical fibers

Quantifi Photonics products are equipped with high quality optical connectors in compliance with EIA-455-21A standards.

CAUTION

Keep connectors clean and in good condition to ensure maximum power and to avoid erroneous readings. Quantifi Photonics is not responsible for damage or errors caused by bad fiber cleaning or handling.

- Always inspect fiber end faces for cleanliness using a fiber inspection probe before inserting them into a port..
- If required, clean fibers and faces as detailed below.

NOTE

- To avoid damaging ferrules or fiber faces due to mismatched connectors, always check ports and connector type information before inserting a connector. All Quantifi Photonics units are labeled with connector type information.
- Failing to align and/or connect fiber-optic cables properly will result in significant signal loss and reflection.

▶ When connecting a fiber-optic cable to a port:

1. Visually inspect the fiber end face using a fiber inspection microscope.
2. If a **connector end face** is dirty:
    - Wipe the connector end face using a reel-type cleaner and inspect again.
    - For stubborn hard to clean connectors:
        - Use lint-free fiber-cleaning wipes soaked in a fiber optic cleaning solution.
        - Wipe the connector on the soaked part.
        - Dry the connector by wiping on the dry part of the wipe, or by using a reel-type cleaner.
    - Repeat the process until connector inspection shows a clean fiber face.
3. If a **bulkhead inner connector face** is dirty:
    - Use a pen-type dry cleaner, align the cleaning tip with the port and push the cleaner until you hear the characteristic click. Inspect again.
    - For stubborn hard to clean bulkhead connectors:
        - Use a stick-type cleaner dipped in a fiber optic cleaning solution.
        - Carefully align and insert the stick into the connector and gently rotate the stick for several seconds applying light pressure.
        - Use a pen-type cleaner to dry the connector.
    - Repeat the process until connector inspection shows a clean fiber face.
4. If the fiber end face is clean:
    - Carefully align the connector and port to prevent the fiber end from touching the outside of the port or other surfaces. If the connector features a key, mate it correctly into the corresponding notch of the port bulkhead.

- Push the connector in so that the fiber-optic cable is firmly in place with adequate contact. If your connector features a screw sleeve, tighten the connector to firmly maintain the fiber in place. Do not over-tighten, as this will dam-age the fiber and the port bulkhead.

14 System requirements

Quantifi Photonics PXIe modules

Supported browsers for working with CohesionUI	Google Chrome™ Microsoft Edge®
Chassis	PXIe-compatible chassis that • supports PXIe, or • contains PXI hybrid compatible slots
Recommended PXIe controller operating system	Microsoft Windows® 10 (64-bit)

Quantifi Photonics MATRIQ / EPIQ instruments

Supported browsers for working with CohesionUI	Google Chrome™ Microsoft Edge®
Recommended client computer operating system	Microsoft Windows® 10 (64-bit)

15 Maintenance

To help ensure long, trouble-free operation:

- Always inspect fiber-optic connectors before using them and clean them if necessary.
- Keep the unit free of dust.
- Store the unit at room temperature in a clean and dry area. Keep the unit out of direct sunlight.
- Avoid high humidity or significant temperature fluctuations.
- Avoid unnecessary shocks and vibrations.
- If any liquids are spilled on or into the unit, power off the chassis immediately. Remove the unit and allow to dry completely.

WARNING

The use of controls, adjustments, and procedures other than those specified herein may result in exposure to hazardous situations or impair the protection provided by this unit.

15.1 Annual calibration schedule

To ensure that the unit is performing within specification, we recommend it is re-calibrated every 12 months.

All Quantifi Photonics products are calibrated during manufacture, and each product is shipped to the customer with a Calibration Certificate. On this certificate, the calibration date, as well as the next calibration due date are mentioned.

We recommend your product is returned for re-calibration before the listed due date, to ensure continued performance of the product. For re-calibration service information, or to send in a product for re-calibration service, email support@quantifiphotonics.com.

If the Calibration Certificate has been misplaced, or the calibration due date is not known, email support@quantifiphotonics.com.

16 Technical Support

16.1 Contacting the Technical Support Group

To obtain after-sales service or technical support for this product, contact Quantifi Photonics:

support@quantifiphotonics.com

To accelerate the process, please provide information such as the name and the serial number of the product (see the product identification label), as well as a description of your problem.

16.2 Transportation

Maintain a temperature range within specifications when transporting the unit.

Transportation damage can occur from improper handling.

The following steps are recommended to minimize the possibility of damage:

- Pack the product in its original packing material when shipping. If the original packaging is unavailable, use appropriate foam packaging to provide shock absorption and avoid displacement of the product inside the shipping box. Please keep all input connectors covered with the supplied anti-static plastic covers during transport and avoid any shipping material making contact with the sensitive connectors of the product.
- Avoid high humidity or large temperature fluctuations.
- Keep the product out of direct sunlight.
- Avoid unnecessary shocks and vibrations.

17 Warranty Information

17.1 General information

Quantifi Photonics Ltd (Quantifi Photonics) warrants from the date of the original shipment (the Warranty Period) that this product will conform to specifications and will be free from defects in material and workmanship for the applicable Warranty Period. Quantifi Photonics also warrants that the equipment will meet applicable specifications under normal use.

NOTE

The warranty can become null and void if:

- The unit has been tampered with, repaired, or worked upon by unauthorized individuals or non-Quantifi Photonics personnel.
- The warranty sticker has been removed.
- The unit has been opened, other than as explained in this guide.
- The unit serial number has been altered, erased, or removed.
- The unit has been misused, neglected, or damaged by accident.

THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESSED, IMPLIED, OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL QUANTIFI PHOTONICS BE LIABLE FOR SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

For full warranty terms and conditions, please visit quantifiphotonics.com.

17.2 Liability

Quantifi Photonics shall not be liable for damages resulting from the use of the product, nor shall be responsible for any failure in the performance of other items to which the product is connected or the operation of any system of which the product may be a part.

Quantifi Photonics shall not be liable for damages resulting from improper usage, transportation or unauthorized modification of the product, its accompanying accessories and software.

The external power supply that has been supplied by Quantifi Photonics with the unit can only be used with that unit, do not use it with any other product.

17.3 Exclusions

Quantifi Photonics reserves the right to make changes in the design or construction of any of its products at any time without incurring obligation to make any changes whatsoever on units purchased. Accessories, including but not limited to fuses, pilot lamps, batteries and universal interfaces (EUI)

used with Quantifi Photonics products are not covered by this warranty.

This warranty excludes failure resulting from: Improper use or installation, normal wear and tear, accident, abuse, neglect, fire, water, lightning or other acts of nature, causes external to the product or other factors beyond the control of Quantifi Photonics.

17.4 Certification

Quantifi Photonics certifies that this equipment met its published specifications at the time of shipment from the factory.

17.5 Service and repairs

To send any equipment for service, repair or calibration please contact the Technical Support Group: support@quantifiphotonics.com.

QUANTIFI PHOTONICS®
A Teradyne Company

Test. Measure. Solve.™

Quantifi Photonics is transforming the world of photonics test and measurement. Our portfolio of optical and electrical test instruments is rapidly expanding to meet the needs of engineers and scientists around the globe. From enabling ground-breaking experiments to driving highly efficient production testing, you'll find us working with customers to solve complex problems with optimal solutions.

To find out more, get in touch with us today.

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