



	CW only PSG-L Series	Analog PSG-A Series
250 kHz to 20 GHz	E8241A	E8251A
250 kHz to 40 GHz	E8244A	E8254A

All specifications and characteristics apply over a 0 to 55°C range (unless otherwise stated) and apply after a 45 minute warm-up time. Supplemental characteristics, denoted as typical or nominal, provide additional (non-warranted) information.

Definitions

Specifications (spec): represent warranted performance.

Typical (typ): performance is not warranted. It applies at 25°C. 80% of all products meet typical performance.

Nominal (nom): values are not warranted. They represent the value of a parameter that is most likely to occur; the expected or mean value. They are included to facilitate the application of the product.

Standard (std): No options are included when referring to the signal generator unless noted otherwise.



Specifications

L and A Series

Frequency				
Range ¹				
Frequency Range	PSG-L Series	PSG-A Series		
250 kHz to 20 GHz	E8241A	E8251A		
250 kHz to 40 GHz	E8244A	E8254A		
Resolution		0.01 Hz	0.01 Hz	
Accuracy		Calibration = aging rate ± line voltage effects	Calibration = aging rate ± temperature effects ± line voltage effects	
Switching speed (typi	ical) ²			
Analog modulation		< 15 ms		
Modulation off		< 15 ms		
Phase offset		Adjustable in nominal 0.1° increments.		
Frequency bands				
Band		Frequency range	N #	
1		250 kHz to 250 MHz	1/8	
2		> 250 to 500 MHz	1/16	
3		> 500 MHz to 1 GHz	1/8	
4		> 1 to 2 GHz	1/4	
5		> 2 to 3.2 GHz	1/2	
6		> 3.2 to 10 GHz	1	
7		> 10 to 20 GHz	2	
8		> 20 to 40 GHz	4	

Internal timebase reference oscillator

Digital sweep

Operating modes

	Standard	Option UNJ	
Aging rate	< ±1 x 10 ⁻⁷ /year or < ±4.5 x 10 ⁻⁹ /day after 45 days	< ±3 x10 ⁻⁸ /year or < ±2.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /day after 24 hours	
Temperature effects (typical)	< ±5 x 10 ⁻⁸ 0 to 55°C	$< \pm 4.5 \times 10^{-9}$ 0 to 55°C	
Line voltage effects (typical)	< ±2 x 10 ⁻⁹ for +5% –10% change	< ±2 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ for ±10% change	
External reference frequency	1, 2, 2.5, 5, 10 MHz (within 1 ppm)	10 MHz only (within 1 ppm)	
Reference output			
Frequency	10 MHz		
Amplitude	> +4 dBm typical into 5	> +4 dBm typical into 50Ω load	
External reference input			
Amplitude	> –3 dBm		
Opt UNJ	$5 \text{ dBm} \pm 5 \text{ dB}^3$	$5 \text{ dBm } \pm 5 \text{ dB}^3$	
Input impedance	50Ω⇔ nominal		

¹ Useable to 100 kHz

² To within 0.1 ppm of final frequency above 250 MHz or within 100 Hz below 250 MHz

 3 To optimize phase noise 5 dBm \pm 2 dB

Step sweep of frequency or amplitude or both (Start to stop)

List sweep of frequency or amplitude or both (Arbitrary list)

Sweep range		
Frequency sweep	Within instrument frequency range	
Amplitude sweep	Within attenuator hold range	
Dwell time	1 ms to 60 s	
Frequency settling time	28 ms typical	
Amplitude settling time	10 ms typical	
Number of points	2 to 1601	
Triggering	Auto, external, single, or GPIB	

Output

Power ⁴ (dBm)		
Frequency range	Standard	Option 1EA
20 GHz Models		
250 kHz to 3.2 GHz	-20 to +13	-20 to +16
> 3.2 to 20 GHz	-20 to +13	-20 to +20
40 GHz Models		
250 kHz to 3.2 GHz	-20 to +9	-20 to +15
> 3.2 to 20 GHz	-20 to +9	-20 to +18
> 20 to 40 GHz	-20 to +9	-20 to +14
20 GHz Models with option 1E1		
250 kHz to 3.2 GHz	-135 to +11	-135 to +15
> 3.2 to 20 GHz	-135 to +11	-135 to +18
40GHz Models with option 1E1		
250 kHz to 3.2 GHz	-135 to +7	-135 to +14
> 3.2 to 20 GHz	-135 to +7	-135 to +16
> 20 to 40 GHz	-135 to +7	-135 to +12
Option 1E1 step attenuator	0 dB and 5 to 115	dB in 10 dB steps



40 GHz Models with option 1EA Measured maximum available power



Attenuator hold range

(Same as max power sweep range)

Minimum		From –20 dBm to ma Can be offset using (From –20 dBm to maximum specified output power. Can be offset using Option 1E1 attenuator.		
Amplitude switching	speed ⁵				
CW or analog modula	ation	< 25 ms, typical			
When using power search		< 25 ms, typical			
CW level accuracy ⁶ (dB)				
Frequency	> +10 dBm	+10 to –10 dBm	–10 to –20 dBm		
250 kHz to 2 GHz	±0.6	±0.6	±1.4		
2 GHz to 20 GHz	±0.8	±0.8	±1.2		
> 20 to 40 GHz	±1.0	±0.9	±1.3		

- ⁴ Maximum power specification is warranted from 15 to 35°C, and is typical from 0 to 15°C. Maximum power over the 35 to 55°C range typically degrades less than 2 dB.
- ⁵ To within 0.1 dB of final amplitude within one attenuator range
- ⁶ Specifications apply over the 15 to 35°C temperature range. Degradation outside this range, for power levels > -10 dBm, is typically < 0.3 dB.</p>

For instruments with type-N connectors (Option 1ED), specifications are degraded typically 0.2 dB above 18 GHz.

CW level accuracy with option 1E1⁷ (dB)

Frequency	> +10 dBm	+10 to –10 dBm	–10 to –70 dBm	–70 to –90 dBm	–90 to –110 dBm
250 kHz to 2 GHz	±0.6	±0.6	±0.7	±0.8	±1.4
> 2 to 20 GHz	±0.8	±0.8	±0.9	±1.0	±1.7
> 20 to 40 GHz	±1.0	±0.9	±1.0	±2.0	

40 GHz level accuracy

20 GHz level accuracy



Measured level accuracy +5 dBm option 1E1

1.0	1.0	
Image: Constraint of the second se	0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0	
Resolution	0.01 dB	
Temperature stability	0.01 dB/°C, typical	
User flatness correction		
Number of points	2 to 1601 points/table	
Number of tables	Up to 10,000, memory limited	
Path loss	Arbitrary, within attenuator range	
htry modes Remote power meter ⁸ , remote bus, manual (user edit/view)		
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal	
SWR (internally leveled, typical)		
250 kHz to 2 GHz	< 1.4:1	
> 2 GHz to 20 GHz	< 1.6:1	
> 20 GHz to 40 GHz	< 1.8:1	
Leveling modes	Internal leveling, external detector leveling, millimeter source module, ALC Off	
External detector leveling		
Range	–0.2 mV to –0.5 V, nominal (–36 dBm to +4 dBm using Agilent 33330D/E detector)	
Bandwidth	Typically 10 kHz (Note: not intended for pulsed operation)	
Maximum reverse power	1/2 Watt nominal	
Spectral purity		
Harmonics ⁹ (dBc at +10 dBm or maximum specified output power, whichever is lower)		
< 1 MHz	–30 dBc typical	

⁷ Specifications apply over the 15 to 35°C temperature range, with attenuator lock off (normal operating mode). Degradation outside this range, for ALC power levels > -10 dBm, is typically < 0.3 dB.

For instruments with type-N connectors (Option 1ED), specifications are degraded typically 0.2 dB above 18 GHz. Level accuracy is not specified below -110 dBm.

- ⁸ Compatible with Agilent Technologies EPM Series (E4418B and E4419B) power meters.
- ⁹ Specifications for harmonics beyond maximum instrument frequencies are typical.

Harmor specifie < 1 MHz 1 MHz to 2 GHz

> 2 GHz to 20 GHz > 20 GHz to 40 GHz

- –55 dBc
- -50 dBc typical

—30 dBc

20 GHz Measured harmonics

40 GHz Measured harmonics



Sub-harmonics: ¹⁰ (dBc at +10 dBm or maximum specified output power, whichever is lower)

250 kHz to 10 GHz	None
> 10 GHz to 20 GHz	< -60 dBc
> 20 GHz to 40 GHz	< –50 dBc
Non-harmonics: (dBc at +10 dBm or	

maximum specified output power, whichever

> 3.2 to 10 GHz

> 10 to 20 GHz

> 20 to 40 GHz

is lower, for offsets > 3 KHz (>300 Hz with Option UNJ))¹¹

Frequency	Spec	Typical
250 kHz to 250 MHz	<65	-72 for > 10 kHz offsets
> 250 MHz to 1 GHz	<80	<88
> 1 to 2 GHz	<74	<82
> 2 to 3.2 GHz	<68	-76
> 3.2 to 10 GHz	<62	-70
> 10 to 20 GHz	<56	-64
> 20 to 40 GHz	< -50	58
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz)		
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz) Frequency	20 kHz	20 kHz typical
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz) Frequency 250 kHz to 250 MHz	20 kHz –130	20 kHz typical —134
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz) Frequency 250 kHz to 250 MHz > 250 to 500 MHz	20 kHz –130 –136	20 kHz typical –134 –140
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz) Frequency 250 kHz to 250 MHz > 250 to 500 MHz > 500 MHz to 1 GHz	20 kHz 130 136 130	20 kHz typical –134 –140 –134
SSB phase noise (CW) Offset from Carrier (dBc/Hz) Frequency 250 kHz to 250 MHz > 250 to 500 MHz > 500 MHz to 1 GHz > 1 to 2 GHz	20 kHz -130 -136 -130 -124	20 kHz typical -134 -140 -134 -128

-110

-104

-98

¹⁰ Specifications for harmonics beyond maximum instrument frequencies are typical.

¹¹ Performance is typical for spurs at frequencies above the maximum operating frequency of the instrument. Specifications apply for CW mode only. Performance typically is -60 dBc between 200 and 250 MHz.

-113

-108

-102

Option UNJ: Improved SSB phase noise Offset from carrier (dBc/Hz)

Frequency	100 Hz spec (typ)	1 kHz spec (typ)	10 kHz spec (typ)	100 kHz spec (typ)
250 kHz to 250 MHz	-94 (-115)	-110 (-123)	-128 (-132)	-130 (-133)
> 250 to 500 MHz	-100 (-110)	-124 (-130)	-132 (-136)	-136 (-141)
> 500 MHz to 1 GHz	-94 (-104)	-118 (-126)	-130 (-135)	-130 (-135)
> 1 to 2 GHz	-88 (-98)	–112 (–120)	-124 (-129)	-124 (-129)
> 2 to 3.2 GHz	-84 (-94)	-108 (-116)	-120 (-125)	-120 (-125)
> 3.2 to 10 GHz	-74 (-84)	-98 (-106)	-110 (-115)	-110 (-115)
> 10 to 20 GHz	-68 (-78)	-92 (-100)	-104 (-107)	-104 (-109)
> 20 to 40 GHz	-62 (-72)	-86 (-94)	-98 (-101)	-98 (-103)
Residual FM	< N x 6 Hz, typical			

Option UNJ < N x 4 Hz, typical

(rms, 50 Hz to 15 kHz bandwidth)

Broadband noise (CW mode at +10 dBm output,

for offsets > 10 MHz)

> 0.25 to 20 GHz

> 20 to 40 GHz

- < -148 dBc/Hz typical
- < –141 dBc/Hz typical

40 GHz

10 GHz

1 GHz

10K 100K L(f) [dBc/Hz] vs f [Hz] $1\,\mathrm{M}$

10M

100M



Measured Standard vs. Option UNJ at 10 GHz



Measured AM noise at 10 GHz

100

1K



Frequency modulation

Maximum deviation	N x 8 MHz
Resolution	0.1% of deviation or 1 Hz, whichever is greater
Deviation accuracy	$< \pm 3.5\%$ of FM deviation + 20 Hz (1 kHz rate, deviations < N x 800 kHz)

Modulation frequency response

Path	Rates (at 100 kHz devia	Rates (at 100 kHz deviation)		
	1 dB Bandwidth	3 dB Bandwidth, typic	al	
FM 1	dc/20 Hz to 100 kHz	dc/5 Hz to 10 MHz		
FM 2	dc/20 Hz to 100 kHz	dc/5 Hz to 1 MHz		
dc FM ¹² carrier offset ±0.1% of set deviation + (N × 8 Hz)		+ (N x 8 Hz)		
Distortion		< 1% (1 kHz rate, deviations < N x 800 kHz)		
Sensitivity		±1 Vpeak for indicated deviation		
Paths		FM1 and FM2 are summed internally for composite modulation. Either path may be switched to any one of the modulation sources: Ext1, Ext2, internal1, internal2. The FM2 path is limited to a maximum rate of 1 MHz. The FM2 path must be set to a deviation less than FM1.		
Phase modulation				
Maximum deviation	aximum deviation N x 80 radians (N x 8 radians in high-bandwidth mode)		bandwidth mode)	
Resolution		0.1% of set deviation		
Deviation accuracy		< ±5% of deviation + 0.01 radians (1 kHz rate, normal BW mode)		
Modulation frequency	/ response			
Mode		Maximum Deviation	Rates (3 dB BW)	
Normal BW		N x 80 rad	dc – 100 kHz	
High BW		N x 8 rad	dc – 1 MHz (typ)	
Distortion		< 1 % (1 kHz rate, THD, dev < N x 80 rad, normal BW mode)		
Sensitivity		±1 Vpeak for indicated deviation		
Path		$\Phi M1$ and $\Phi M2$ are summed internally for composite modulation. Either path may be switched		

composite modulation. Either path may be switched to any one of the modulation sources: Ext1, Ext2, internal1, internal2. The Φ M2 path must be set to a deviation less than Φ M1.

¹² At the calibrated deviation and carrier frequency, within 5°C of ambient temperature at time of user calibration.

Amplitude modulation (f_c > 2 MHz)¹³ (typical)

Depth	Linear mode	Exponential (log) mode (Downward modulation only)	
Maximum	> 90%	> 20 dB	
Settable ¹⁴	0 - 100 %	0 to 40 dB	
Resolution	0.1%	0.01 dB	
Accuracy (1 kHz rate)	< ±(6 % of setting + 1 %)	$< \pm (2\% \text{ of setting } + 0.2 \text{ dB})$	
Ext sensitivity	±1 Vpeak for indicated depth	–1 V for indicated depth	
Rates (3 dB bandwid	dth, 30% depth)	dc/10 Hz to 100 kHz typical (useable to 1 MHz)	
Distortion (1 kHz rat	te, linear mode, THD)		
30% AM		< 1.5%	
90% AM		< 4 %	
Path		AM1 and AM2 are summed internally for composite modulation. Either path may be switched to any one of the modulation sources: Ext1, Ext2, internal1, internal2.	
External modula	tion inputs (Ext1 & Ext2)		
Modulation types		AM, FM, and ΦM	
Input impedance		50 or 600 Ω , nominal, switched	
High/low indicator			
(100 Hz to 10 MHz BW, ac coupled inputs only)		Activated when input level error exceeds 3%, nominal	
Simultaneous m	odulation	All modulation types may be simultaneously enabled except: FM with Φ M, and linear AM with exponential AM. AM, FM, and Φ M can sum simultaneous inputs from any two sources (Ext1, Ext2, internal1, or internal2) Any given source (Ext1, Ext2, internal1, or internal2) may be routed to only one activated modulation type.	
Internal modulation source		Dual function generators provides two independent signals (internal1 and internal2) for use with	

 13 For f c < 2 MHz AM is usable but not specified. AM specifications apply with ALC on, and envelope peaks < maximum specified power. For instruments without Option 1E1 attenuator, specs apply for carrier amplitude > -2 dBm.

Sine

- 14 For AM depth settings > 90% or > 20 dB, deep AM mode or 1 kHz ALC BW is recommended.
- ¹⁵ Internal2 is not available when using swept sine or dual sine modes.
- Waveforms Sine, square, positive ramp, negative ramp, triangle, Gaussian noise, uniform noise, swept sine, dual sine¹⁵ Rate range 0.5 Hz to 1 MHz Square, ramp, triangle 0.5 Hz to 100 kHz 0.5 Hz Resolution Accuracy

AM, FM, ΦM, or LF Out.

Same as timebase

LF out	
Output	Internal1 or internal2. Also provides monitoring of internal1 or internal2 when used for AM, FM, or $\Phi M.$
Amplitude	0 to 3 Vpeak, nominal into 50 Ω
Output impedance	50 Ω , nominal
Swept sine mode: (frequency, phase continuous)	
Operating modes	Triggered or continuous sweeps
Frequency range	1 Hz to 1 MHz
Sweep rate	0.5 Hz to 100 k sweeps/s, equivalent to sweep times 10 us to 2 s
Resolution	0.5 Hz (0.5 sweep/s)

Pulse modulation

	\geq 500 MHz to \leq 3.2 GHz^{16}	> 3.2 GHz
Power range		
Internally leveled	0 to +10 dBm	0 to +10 dBm
With option 1E1	-110 to +10 dBm	-110 to +10 dBm
On/off ratio	80 dB typical	80 dB
Rise/fall times (T _r , T _f)	100 ns typical	10 ns (6 ns typical)
Pulse width		
Internally leveled	\ge 2 µs typical	≥ 1µs
ALC Off	$\geq 0.5~\mu s$ typical	\geq 20 ns typical
Repetition freq		
Internally leveled	10 Hz to 250 kHz typical	10 Hz to 500 kHz typical
ALC Off	dc to 1 MHz typical	dc to 10 MHz typical
Level accuracy (relative to CW)		
Internally leveled	±0.5 dB	±0.4 dB (±0.15 typical)
ALC Off with power search ¹⁷	±0.5 dB typical	\leq 20 GHz ±0.8 dB typical \leq 40 GHz ±1.2 dB typical
Width compression	±50 ns typical	±5 ns typical
Video feedthrough ¹⁸	< 200 mV typical	< 2 mV typical
Pulse delay (ext input to RF output)	300 ns nominal	70 ns nominal
Pulse overshoot (V _{or})	< 10% typical	
Input level	+1 Vpeak = RF On	
Input impedance	50 Ω , nominal	

- ¹⁶ For improved performance ≤ 3.2 GHz, special Option HE6 is available. Contact your local Agilent Online representative.
- ¹⁷ Power search is a calibration routine that improves level accuracy in ALC-off mode. Unpulsed RF power will be present typically up to 5 ms when executing power search.
- ¹⁸ With attenuator in 0 dB position. Video feed-through decreases with attenuator setting.

Measured pulse modulation envelope



Internal pulse generator		
Modes	Free-run, triggered, triggered with delay, doublet, and gated. Triggered with delay, doublet, and gated require external trigger source.	
Period (PRI) (T _n)	70 ns to 42 s	
۲	(Repetition frequency: 0.024 Hz to 14.28 MHz)	
Pulse width (T _w)	10 ns to 42 s	
Delay (T _d)		
Free-run mode	0 to ±42 s	
Friggered with delay and doublet modes	75 ns to 42s with ± 10 ns jitter	
Resolution	10 ns (width, delay, and PRI)	
RF delay (T _m)	< 20 ns typical	
T _d Video delay (variable) Sync T _w Video pulse width (variable) Output P _p Pulse period (variable) T _m RF delay		

T_{rf} RF pulse width T_f RF pulse width T_f RF pulse fall time T_r RF pulse rise time V_{or} Pulse overshoot V_f Video feedthrough



L and A Series

Remote programming	
Interfaces	GPIB (IEEE-488.2,1987) with listen and talk, RS-232, and 10-base T-LAN interface.
Control languages	SCPI version 1992.0. Also will emulate most applicable Agilent 836xxB, Agilent 8373xB, and Agilent 8340/41B commands, providing general compatibility with ATE systems which include these signal generators.
IEEE-488 functions	SH1, AH1, T6, TE0, L4, LE0, SR1, RL1, PP0, DC1, DT0, C0, E2.
VXI <i>plug&play</i> drivers	Are available.

ISO compliant This family of signal generators is manufactured in an ISO-9001 registered facility in concurrence with Agilent Technologies commitment to quality. General Power requirements 90 to 132 Vac 50 to 60 Hz, or 195 to 267 Vac 50 to 60 or 400 Hz, (automatically selected), 300 W maximum. 0 to 55°C Operating temperature range Storage temperature range -40 to 71°C Shock and vibration Meets MIL-STD-28800E Type III, Class 3. EMC Conducted and radiated interference and immunity meets IEC/EN 61326-1 and MIL-STD-461C Part 2, RE02. Meets radiated emission requirements of CISPR Pub 11/1997 Group 1 class A. Storage registers Memory is shared by instrument states, user data files, sweep list files, and waveform sequences. Depending on the number and size of these files, up to 800 storage registers and 10 register sequences are available. Security Display blanking. Compatibility Agilent 83550 Series millimeter heads Self-test Internal diagnostic routine tests most modules (including microcircuits) in a preset condition. For each module, if its node voltages are within acceptable limits, then module "passes" the test. Weight < 22 kg (48 lb.) net, < 30 kg (68 lb.) shipping. Dimensions 178 mm H x 426 mm W x 498 mm D (7" H x 16.8" W x 19.6" D in.).

Front panel connectors

(All connectors are BNC female unless otherwise noted.)

RF output	Nominal output impedance 50 Ω .
For 20 GHz models	Precision APC-3.5 male, or Type-N with Option 1ED
For 40 GHz models	Precision 2.4 mm male; plus 2.4-2.4 mm and 2.4-2.9 mm female adaptors also included.
ALC input	Used for negative external detector leveling. Nominal input impedance 120 $k\Omega,$ damage level ±15 V.
LF output (PSG-A Series only)	Outputs the internally generated LF source. Nominal output impedance 50 $\Omega_{\rm \cdot}$
External input 1 (PSG–A Series only)	Drives either AM, FM, or $\Phi M.$ Nominal input impedance 50 or 600 $\Omega,$ damage levels are 5 Vrms and 10 Vpeak.
External input 2 (PSG-A Series only)	Drives either AM, FM, or $\Phi M.$ Nominal input impedance 50 or 600 $\Omega,$ damage levels are 5 Vrms and 10 Vpeak.
Pulse/trigger gate input (PSG–A Series only)	Accepts input signal for external fast pulse modulation. Also accepts external trigger pulse input for internal pulse modulation. Nominal impedance 50 Ω. Damage levels are 5 Vrms and 10 Vpeak.
Pulse video out (A series only)	Outputs a signal that follows the RF output in all pulse modes. TTL-level compatible, nominal source impedance 50 $\Omega.$

Pulse sync out (A series only)	Outputs a synchronizing pulse, nominally 50 ns width, during internal and triggered pulse modulation. TTL-level compatible, nominal source impedance 50 Ω.
Rear panel connectors (All connectors are BNC female unless otherwise noted.)	
Serial interface	Used for serial communication (9-pin RS-232 connector female).
GPIB	Allows communication with compatible devices.
LAN	Allows LAN communication
10 MHz input	Accepts an external reference (timebase) input (at 1, 2, 2.5, 5, 10 MHz for standard and 10 MHz only for option UNJ) Nominal input impedance 50 Ω . Damage levels > +10 dBm
10 MHz output	Outputs internal or external reference signal. Nominal output impedance 50 $\Omega.$ Nominal output power +4 dBm
Sweep output	Generates output voltage, 0 to +10 V when signal generator is sweeping. Output impedance < 1 Ω , can drive 2000 Ω .
Trigger output	Outputs a TTL signal: high at start of dwell, or when waiting for point trigger in manual sweep mode; low when dwell is over or point trigger is received, high or low 4 us pulse at start of LF sweep.
Trigger input	Accepts TTL signal for triggering point-to-point in manual sweep mode, or to trigger start of LF sweep. Damage levels \geq +10 V or \leq -4 V.
Source module interface	Provides bias, flatness correction, and leveling connections to the model 83550 Series mm-wave source modules.
Source settled output	Provides an output trigger that indicates when the signal generator has settled to a new frequency or power level (open-collector output).
EFC	> 0.25 ppm for -5 to +5 V
Recommended calibration cycle	24 months

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(fax) 1 0800 650 0121 Europe:

(tel) (31 20) 547 2323 (fax) (31 20) 547 2390

(tel) (81) 426 56 7832

(fax) (65) 836 0252 tm_asia@agilent.cm (fax) (81) 426 56 7840

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Agilent Technologies

Korea: (tel) (82 2) 2004 5004 (fax) (82 2) 2004 5115

Latin America: (tel) (305) 269 7500 (fax) (305) 269 7599

Other Asia Pacific **Countries**: (tel) (65) 375 8100