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AEM EV Tesla LDU Inverter Control Board Installation Manual



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Disclaimer



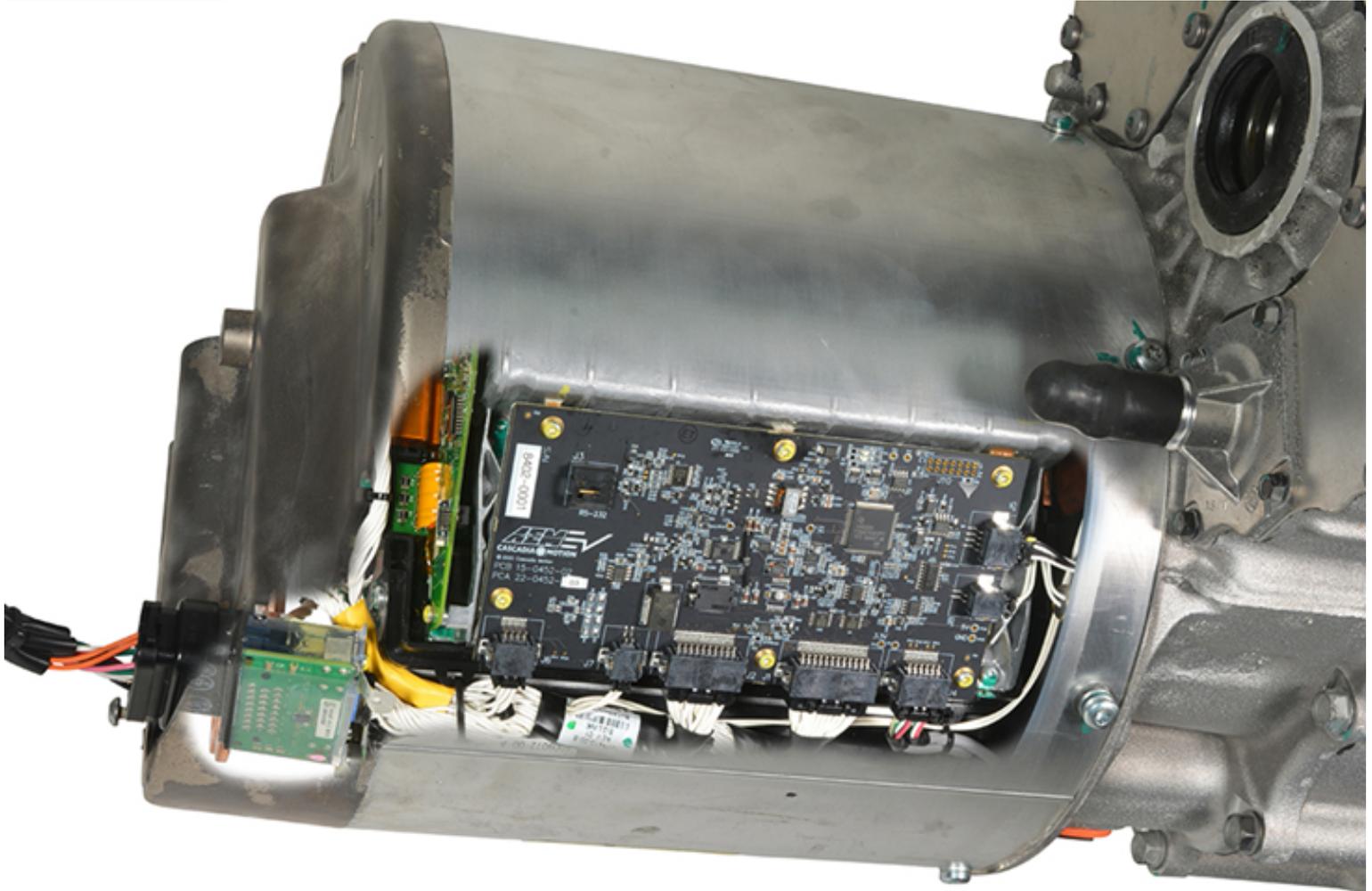
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Introduction



This document describes the installation, setup and configuration of the AEM EV Tesla LDU Inverter Control Circuit Board (Control Board). It describes the new functionality and required configuration that exists with the replacement of the OE Tesla Control Board.

The OE Tesla LDU inverter works by taking “throttle” commands directly from the accelerator pedal along with commands via CAN to control vehicle direction, etc. All torque mapping and limiting is hard coded within the Tesla inverter itself and can never be changed.

The AEM LDU Control Board works differently in that no direct accelerator pedal input to the inverter is required and that all control commands are executed via CAN with an AEM VCU. The AEM VCU is the main vehicle control module that receives all driver control inputs (accelerator pedal, drive direction, variable regen, etc) that allows for direct user adjustable torque mapping and then executes the motor torque control commands to the inverter purely by CAN.

The scope of this document is limited to just the install and setup of the AEM LDU Control Board. It is assumed that all other e-propulsion systems including HV ESS (including management, charging & safety systems), contactors, driver interface devices, thermal management and other general vehicle requirements (drivetrain integration, steering, brakes, safety, etc) are already established and correctly installed into the vehicle.



Information

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change Description
A	9/13/2021	Initial Release

Document Conventions

Information Type	Font Convention
VCU calibration <i>options, channels, and tables</i>	<i>Italics</i>
VCU calibration option value	Bold

Symbol	Information
	When you see this sign, PAY ATTENTION! This indicates that something important is about to be said that concerns your safety and the proper operation of the product. Use caution and be conservative. Use the product in the manner described.
	When you see this sign, you are being alerted to an IMMEDIATE DANGER . You MUST review these sections carefully and do everything possible to comply with installation and operation requirements or you risk injury or even death. Failure to comply with safety requirements will void all warranties and could expose you as the installer to liability in the event of an injury.

Reference Files and Documents

File Name	Location
AEM EV Tesla LDU Control Board CAN Protocol	AEM LDU ICB 30-8402 CAN Protocol

Cautions and Warnings



Working on tractive systems (which includes but is not limited to motor(s), inverter(s), high voltage battery packs and high voltage cables) requires special experience and training. AEM EV has implemented fault detection and failsafe logic into its vehicle control units (“VCU”), however this does not mean that your VCU installation will be safe or effective, or that your VCU installation will not interfere with other systems on your vehicle and create a hazardous situation. It is the responsibility of the installer to understand the implications of each stage of tractive system installation and testing and to recognize what might be unique about your application that presents potential hazards or safety issues – and it is the responsibility of the installer to solve or address any such hazards or issues.

The following list includes basic recommended practices. ***This is not a comprehensive list; as noted below, if you are not well-versed in the appropriate installation and testing procedures, you should refer the installation and calibration to a reputable installation facility or contact AEM EV for a referral in your area.***

- When access is required near the battery pack, the cell segments must be separated by using an appropriate maintenance disconnect plug.
- When working on the battery pack or tractive system, safety gloves with side shields and appropriate insulated tools must be used.
- Always wear Class 0 gloves rated at 1000V with leather protectors.
- Only use CAT III rated digital multimeters (DMM) and test leads.
- When working on the battery pack or tractive system, work with one hand while keeping the other behind your back.
- During initial system power up and testing, the vehicle must be raised off the ground and supported appropriately. Wheels and tires should be removed.
- During the VCU firmware upgrade process, battery cell segments must be separated using an appropriate maintenance disconnect plug.
- Do not make calibration changes when the inverter pulse width modulation (PWM) is enabled.



USE THIS VCU WITH EXTREME CAUTION. MISUSE AND/OR IMPROPER INSTALLATION CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE AND PROPERTY BELONGING TO YOU OR OTHERS, AS WELL AS PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH. IF YOU ARE NOT WELL VERSED IN THE INSTALLATION OF TRACTIVE SYSTEMS OR CONFIGURING THE CALIBRATIONS IN THE AEM EV VCU THAT ARE NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE VEHICLE, YOU SHOULD REFER THE INSTALLATION AND VCU CALIBRATION TO A REPUTABLE INSTALLATION FACILITY, OR CONTACT AEM EV FOR A REFERRAL IN YOUR AREA. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLER TO ULTIMATELY CONFIRM THAT THE INSTALLATION AND CALIBRATIONS ARE SAFE FOR ITS INTENDED USE.

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Electrical Safety Insulation Monitoring



The high voltage system in an electric vehicle is designed to be ungrounded (floating) with respect to the vehicle chassis (frame). Insulation faults can cause electric shock, personal injury and even death. An insulation monitoring device (IMD) must be used to protect against these faults. See Bender <https://www.benderinc.com/> for more information.

Hardware Overview

AEM EV Part Number	30-8402		
Inverter LV DC Voltage	10-16		Volts
Inverter LV DC Current	6 ¹		Amps
	Base LDU	Sport LDU	
Min HV DC Voltage	250		Volts
Max HV DC Voltage	450 ²		Volts
Nominal HV DC Voltage	350		Volts
Max Speed	18000 ³		RPM
Max DC Current, Motoring	1060	-	Amps
Max DC Current, Generating	160	-	Amps
Max DC Power, Motoring	390	-	kW
Max DC Power, Generating	60	-	kW
Max Torque Command, Motoring	450	-	Nm
Max Torque Command, Generating	70 ⁴	-	Nm
Max Stator Temp	180	-	°C
Max Inverter Temp	80	-	°C
Pre-Charge Resistor, Resistance	30-100		Ohms

¹ 10 amp fuse recommended.

² LDU inverter DC link capacitors show rating of 450v. DC voltages >400v have not been tested by AEM.

³ Possible drive unit degradation due to extended high rpm motor usage has not been thoroughly tested by AEM.

⁴ Inverter Control Board is hardcoded with variable regen torque limit based on rpm - see [Regen Torque Limit Profile](#) ²².

CAN Network Configuration



The following diagram describes the basic network requirements. Four separate CAN networks are represented. The network channel assignment for each device is not reconfigurable by the end user. All CAN channels in the VCU200 are internally terminated. The VCU must always be located at the physical end of a bus. All busses must be terminated with a 120 ohm resistor at the physical end. CAN network wiring should be accomplished by a skilled harness builder familiar with vehicle networking.

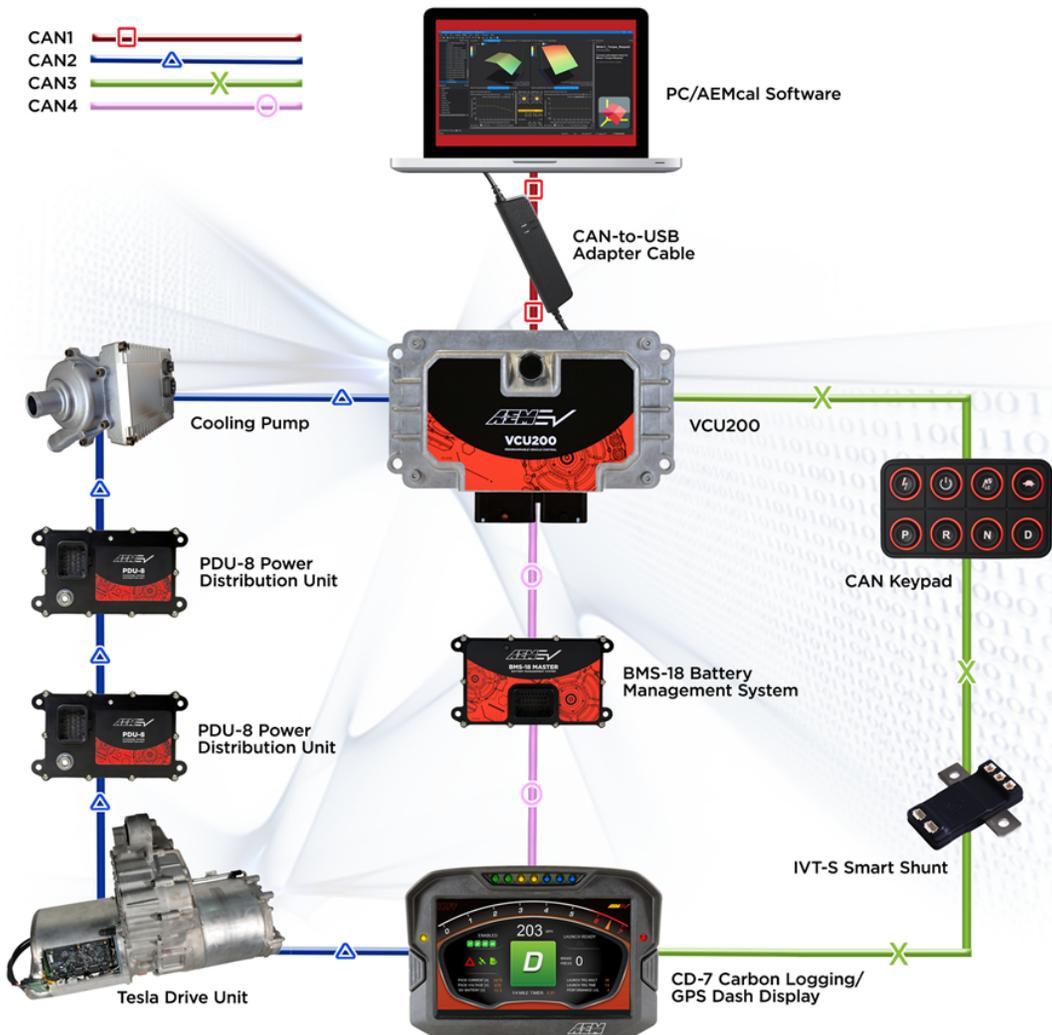
Network Summary

CAN1 – PC comms

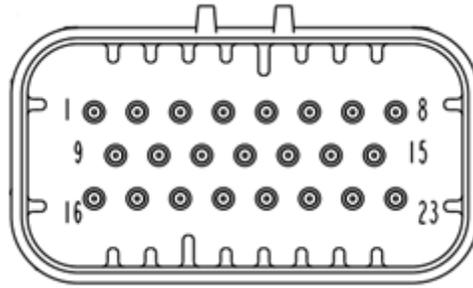
CAN2 – Inverter, EMP Pump(s), PDU-8(s) & AEM CD Dash Port 1

CAN3 – CAN Keypad, Orion BMS2 (optional), VCU Data Transmit & AEM CD Dash Port 2

CAN4 – AEM CD Dash Port 2



Hardware Pinout



Pin #	Pin Function	Application Notes
1	12V Power	Switched 12v power, fuse to 10A
2	-	Not used
3	-	Not used
4	CAN Hi	Connect to VCU CAN 2, also internally connected to Pin 19
5	CAN Lo	Connect to VCU CAN 2, also internally connected to Pin 20
6	-	Not used
7	HVIL In	High Voltage Interlock Loop safety input
8	HVIL Out	High Voltage Interlock Loop safety output
9	Encoder 5V Power	5v power for encoder, 5v ref for GUI mode
10	Encoder Ch. A/RS232 Serial Tx	Encoder channel A, serial comms tx in program or GUI mode
11	Ground	Chassis ground
12	5v	5v analog sensor power
13	Analog In 1	0-5v input, 300kOhm pull up, voltage tx'ed over CAN
14	Analog In 2	0-5v input, 300kOhm pull up, voltage tx'ed over CAN
15	Sensor Ground	Use for sensor 0v reference only, do not connect to chassis
16	Encoder Ch. B/RS232 Serial Rx	Encoder channel B, serial comms rx in program or GUI mode
17	Encoder Ground	Sensor ground for encoder, ground ref for Program Enable mode
18	Shield Drain	Encoder cable shield drain
19	CAN Hi	Same CAN network as Pin 4
20	CAN Lo	Same CAN network as Pin 5
21	Program Enable	Ground = firmware flash mode, 5v = GUI mode
22	-	Not used
23	-	Not used

Tesla LDU Inverter Control Board Installation

The following describes how to install the Control Board into the Tesla inverter. Start by putting the drive unit on a steady work surface in a position that allows access to the bottom side of the inverter. The motor end of the drive unit is very heavy and will allow the drive unit to be placed on a strong work bench with the inverter end hanging off. Alternatively, the drive unit can be suspended using an engine hoist, etc.



Be sure to exercise great caution when working beneath the drive unit.



The drive unit must be completely disconnected from any high voltage source.

Tools Required

- 4 mm Hex Key
- Pry Tool
- 13mm Socket
- T-30 Torx
- T-10 Torx

Use hex key to completely unscrew protective cover retaining screw.



Behind the cover are two rubber o-rings that seal passageways. Carefully pry the cover away to disengage the o-rings and then fully remove cover.



Use T-10 Torx to remove the inverter connector mounting screws.



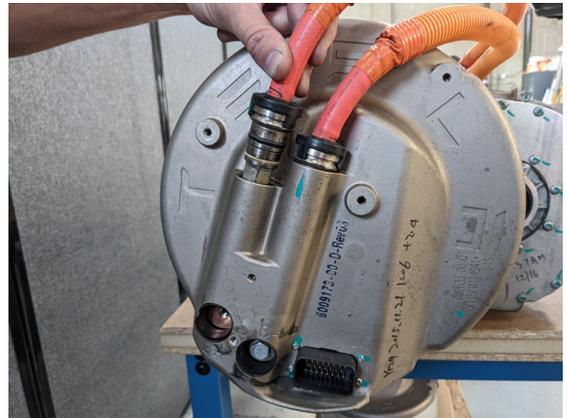
Use 13mm socket to remove HV cable mounting bolts.



Remove both HV cables.



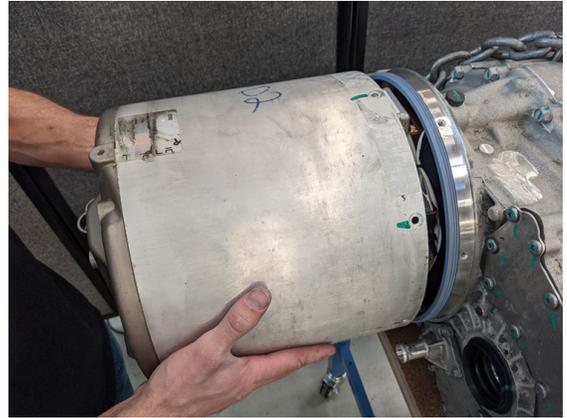
Note – cables are different lengths which prevents them from being re-installed in the wrong polarity.



Use T-30 Torx to remove the inverter cover attachment screws.



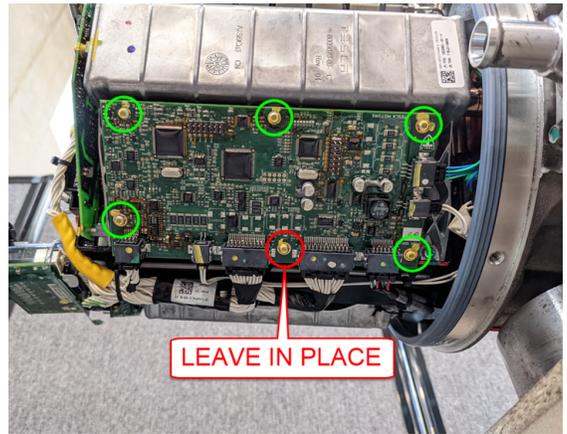
Gently move the end of the cover up/down & left/right to release it from the sealing o-ring. While doing this, give attention to also disengage the inverter connector from the end of the cover. Once fully released, completely remove the cover by sliding it straight off.



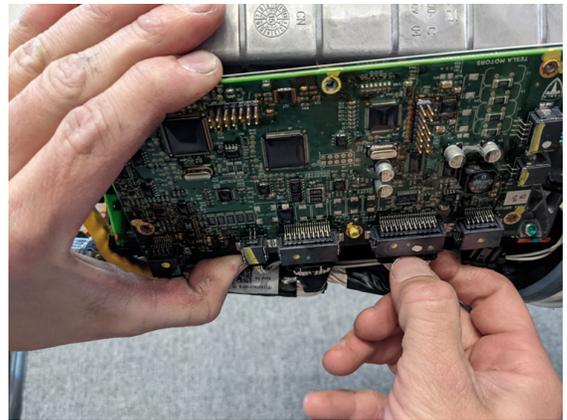
Start the removal of the stock Tesla board by removing the screws indicated (green).



Leaving the connectors plugged in will hold the board in place allowing for easier removal once all the screws have been removed.



Carefully unplug all the connectors and then remove the board.



The board will come off with a metal EMI shield attached behind it.



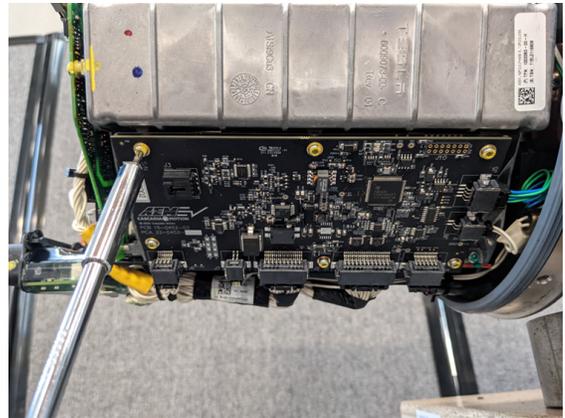
Remove the remaining screw, remove the Tesla board, put the AEM Control Board in place, and secure with the one hold down screw. Line up the other Control Board mounting holes with the EMI shield and then lightly snug up the screw. This will allow adjustment of the Control Board and shield while remounting.



Position the Control Board back in the inverter and plug in connectors to hold it in place.

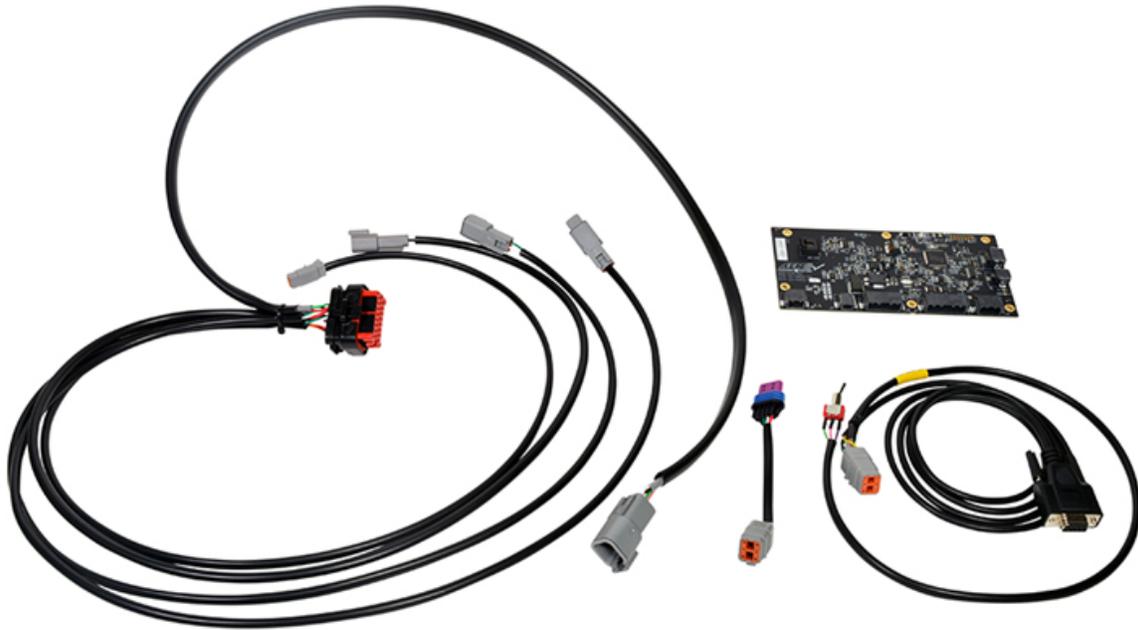


Align the screw holes and install the mounting screws. Be sure to tighten the one shield mounting screw. Double check that all connectors have been plugged in.



Control Board installation complete. Re-install inverter cover, HV cables, all mounting screws and orange plastic protective cover. Installation is the reverse of removal.

Drive Unit Harness Installation



INVERTER

Plug 23 way connector into inverter.

Route encoder branch toward motor end of drive unit.

Route all other branches to most convenient location to make remaining connections.



PWR/GND

Connect RED to 10A fused power that turns on with VCU Wake.

Connect BLACK to chassis ground.

Do NOT power the inverter using the power/ground circuits from an AEMnet cable.

Deutsch DT plug and terminals included in kit.

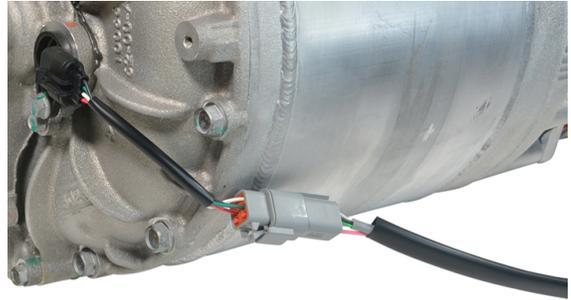


ENCODER BREAK OUT

The encoder break out connection serves two purposes.

First is to connect to the encoder sensor itself.

Second is to provide an interface point for directly programming the Control Board.



ENCODER

Plug 4 way connector into encoder sensor. Plug 6 way DTM connector into encoder break out connection.

Note that encoder must be connected in order for the motor to operate.



CAN 1/2

High speed CAN bus network into and out of the inverter. One CAN lead will have 120 Ohm CAN termination plug installed. Other open CAN connection should be connected to VCU CAN 2 for inverter control.

Leave the CAN termination plug in place if the inverter is the node that's physically furthest away from the VCU.

Deutsch DTM plug and terminals included in kit.



HVIL

High Voltage Interlock Loop. Optional but highly recommended.

ORG/RED is HVIL In and ORG/BLK is HVIL Out. Connect accordingly for VCU being used.

Deutsch DTM receptacle and terminals included in kit.





Temperature and Analog Inputs

The Control Board uses the LDU's internal temperature sensors for referencing temperatures from different points within the drive unit. These temperatures are transmitted out over the Control Board CAN datastream – see [Reference Files and Documents](#) ⁵ for CAN protocol. Additional external temperature sensors are not required.

CAN Channel	Description
i1_Power_Stage_A_Temp	Phase A transistor temperature, limit to 70°C, inverter faults at 80°C
i1_Power_Stage_B_Temp	Phase B transistor temperature, limit to 70°C, inverter faults at 80°C
i1_Power_Stage_C_Temp	Phase C transistor temperature, limit to 70°C, inverter faults at 80°C
i1_Motor_1_Temp	Stator temperature, limit to 170°C, inverter faults at 180°C
i1_Motor_2_Temp	Stator temperature, limit to 170°C, inverter faults at 180°C
i1_Motor_Temp	The higher of Motor 1 & 2 Temp, used by VCU as motor temp reference
i1_Housing_Temp_Inlet	Coolant temperature before inverter, used by VCU as inverter temp reference
i1_Housing_Temp_Outlet	Coolant temperature after inverter
i1_Micro_Temp	Control Board temperature

The Control Board has two available 0-5v analog inputs – see [Hardware Pinout](#) ⁹. The inputs have a 300kOhm pull up resistor and may be connected to any standard 0-5v output sensor such as a pressure transducer or can be connected to a temperature sensor (additional pull up resistor may be required). Additionally, switches that connect to ground when on (open circuit when off) may also be used. These inputs are **NOT** 12v tolerant. The voltage of these inputs is transmitted out over the Control Board CAN datastream.

CAN Channel	Description
i1_Analog_Input_1	0-5v analog input voltage for add-on sensor inputs
i1_Analog_Input_2	0-5v analog input voltage for add-on sensor inputs

Control Board Parameter Settings

The Control Board comes from the factory pre-loaded with firmware and initial configuration parameter settings and is essentially ready to use right from the package. The following is a list of configurable parameters that may be adjusted using the Cascadia RMS GUI (Graphic User Interface) software. See Appendix at end of this manual for more info.



Active inverter HV discharge is disabled by default. It is imperative that active discharge only be enabled once correct VCU contactor sequencing control has been established. Having HV contactors closed with HV still present to the inverter will damage the inverter's discharge hardware. The active discharge is triggered via an on-board relay output. This output will go into an uncontrolled state during programming thus it is imperative that HV not be present to the inverter any time the inverter is put into programming mode.



Except for enabling active HV discharge, setup changes to the Control Board using the RMS GUI is typically not needed in most cases and the default settings should work very well as they are.

Motor Type EEPROM	Used to select different motor types (Base vs Sport) or different pre-programmed motor control settings. Base LDU =XXX
Relay Output State EEPROM	Relay output to trigger inverter HV discharge. Default setting is OFF. Must be enabled for active HV discharge to function – see WARNING above. Value is shown in Hex. Default value is 0x000C. Change to 0x002C to enable.
Discharge Enable EEPROM	Must be enabled for active inverter HV discharge to function – see WARNING above. Default setting is OFF.
CAN ID Offset EEPROM	Used to set CAN ID offset if using multiple controllers on the same CAN network. Default offset is 0x0A0. Range of CAN IDs is 0x0A0 – 0x0CF.
DC UnderVolt Thresh EEPROM	Sets the HV under-voltage fault threshold voltage. Set to 0 to disable HV under-voltage fault function. HV under-voltage protection typically handled by VCU.
Inv OverTemp Limit EEPROM	Sets the inverter temperature limit in °C x 10. The inverter temp is sampled from each of the 3 power phase module temp sensors. If temperature exceeds this value, the inverter will go into a fault state. Hard coded with a max value of 80°C.
Mtr OverTemp Limit EEPROM	Sets the motor temperature limit in °C x 10. There motor temp is sampled from each of the 2 stator temp sensors. If temperature exceeds this value, the inverter will go into a fault state. Hard coded with max value of 180°C.
Full Torque Temp EEPROM	Sets the temperature threshold below which full torque is available. As the motor temperature increases from Full Torque Temp to Zero Torque Temp, the allowed motor torque is decreased linearly. Temp based derating typically handled by VCU – can use this function as a backup.
Zero Torque Temp EEPROM	Sets the temperature where motor torque will be limited to zero. Temp based derating typically handled by VCU – can use this function as a backup.



Shudder Compensation Enable EEPROM	Used to enable or disable shudder compensation.
Kp Shudder EEPROM	Sets the control gain x 100 of the shudder compensation function. Default value is 20 (parameter setting of 2000).
TCLAMP Shudder EEPROM	Defines the maximum amount of shudder compensation torque x 10 to be applied. Default value is 19.1 (parameter setting of 191).
Shudder Filter Freq EEPROM	Defines the low-pass filter frequency x 10 used for shudder compensation calculation. Default value is 3.0 (parameter setting of 30).
Shudder Speed Fade EEPROM	Defines the point in RPM where maximum shudder torque compensation is applied for low RPM usage. Between this value and Shudder Speed Lo, full shudder torque is applied. Must be lower than Shudder Speed Lo value. Default value is 20.
Shudder Speed Lo EEPROM	Defines the start point in RPM where shudder torque begins to ramp out (decrease). Shudder torque ramp out is reduced linearly between Shudder Speed Lo & Shudder Speed Hi. Must be higher than Shudder Speed Fade but lower than Shudder Speed Hi. Default value is 300.
Shudder Speed Hi EEPROM	Defines the end point in RPM where shudder torque is reduced to zero and shudder compensation is turned off. Must be higher than Shudder Speed Lo. Default value is 400.

Using the Programming Cable



HV must NOT be present at the inverter when in programming mode!

With the Control Board mounted inside the inverter cover, direct physical access for programming or firmware updates is not possible. Some means for communicating with the Control Board is necessary and this was accomplished by re-purposing the original encoder A & B signal input circuits to also act as the serial communication interface (SCI). The main LDU harness has a connection break in the encoder branch that allows for SCI connection. This is where the programming cable is plugged in to interface with the control board.

Along with the encoder A & B circuits, the programming cable also makes use of the encoder sensor ground and 5v circuits. In the encoder branch of the main LDU harness is the Program Enable circuit. If Program Enable is put to ground, the Control Board will go into programming mode and is readied to receive firmware. If Program Enable is put to 5v, the Control Board will go into GUI mode to allow parameter changes using RMS GUI software. The programming cable has a switch built into it to toggle between ground for programming mode or 5v for GUI mode.

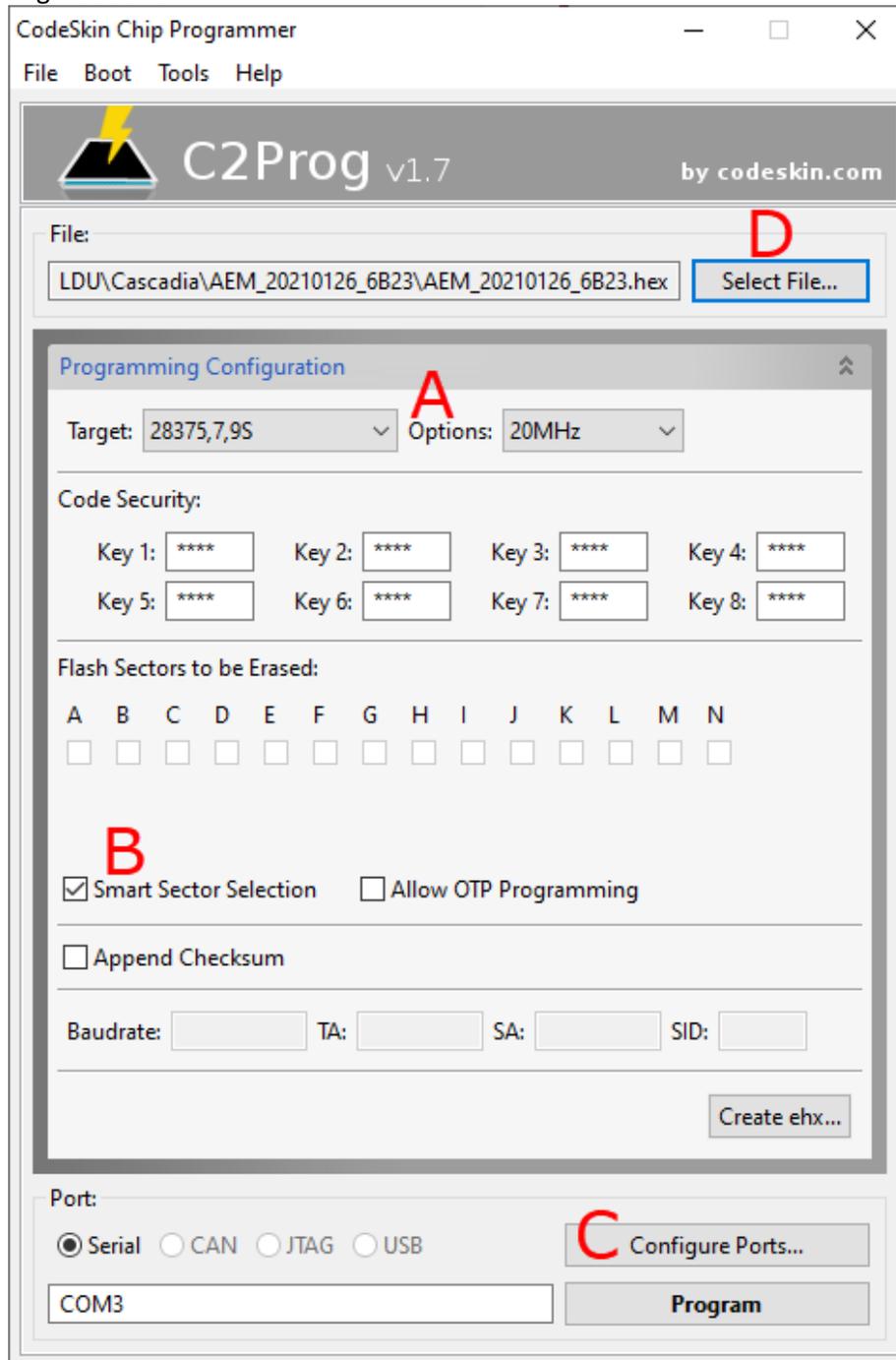
<p>PROGRAMMING MODE Point switch towards PURPLE wire for PROGRAMMING mode.</p> <p>PURPLE → P → PROGRAMMING</p>	
<p>GUI MODE Point switch towards GREEN wire for GUI mode.</p> <p>GREEN → G → GUI</p>	

When putting the Control Board into programming mode, the programming cable switch should be put to PURPLE and the inverter must be power cycled before programming mode will be active.

Flashing Control Board Firmware

Firmware is uploaded to the Control Board over SCI using C2Prog software. Use the following steps to load new firmware onto the control board.

1. Download and install **C2Prog_v1.7e-b5721** from <https://www.cascadiamotion.com/documents> > General Link to All Files > 02 Tools > C2000Prog > C2Prog_v1.7e-b5721.zip
2. Launch C2Prog and configure as shown:



- a. Set *Target* to **28375,7,9S** and set *Options* to **20MHz**.
- b. Enable only **Smart Sector Selection**.



- c. Click on **Configure Ports...** If comm port being used is known, select it from Serial port drop down otherwise click on Scan Ports to try and identify the port being used. Once port has been identified, click OK.
 - d. Click on **Select File...** and navigate to directory where Control Board firmware is saved. Select appropriate file – contact AEM EV Tech Support for info on latest firmware files.
3. With programming cable connected and switch pointed toward purple wire for programming, turn on low voltage (12v) inverter power.
 4. Click on **Program** to start programming. Monitor the programming status.
 5. Once programming is complete, click **OK** to close the status window and turn the inverter off. Either disconnect the programming cable or if GUI changes are necessary, point the programming cable switch toward green wire for GUI mode. When the inverter is repowered, the new firmware will be operational.

Using RMS GUI Software

The RMS GUI (graphic user interface, “gooey”) is a Windows application that communicates with the Control Board via RS232 serial communications interface (SCI) to program certain EEPROM parameters. The list of adjustable EEPROM parameters is discussed in a previous section of this manual. A parameter “symbols” files that defines the EEPROM settings to be configured is required to match the Control Boards current firmware version. This file will be provided by AEM EV.

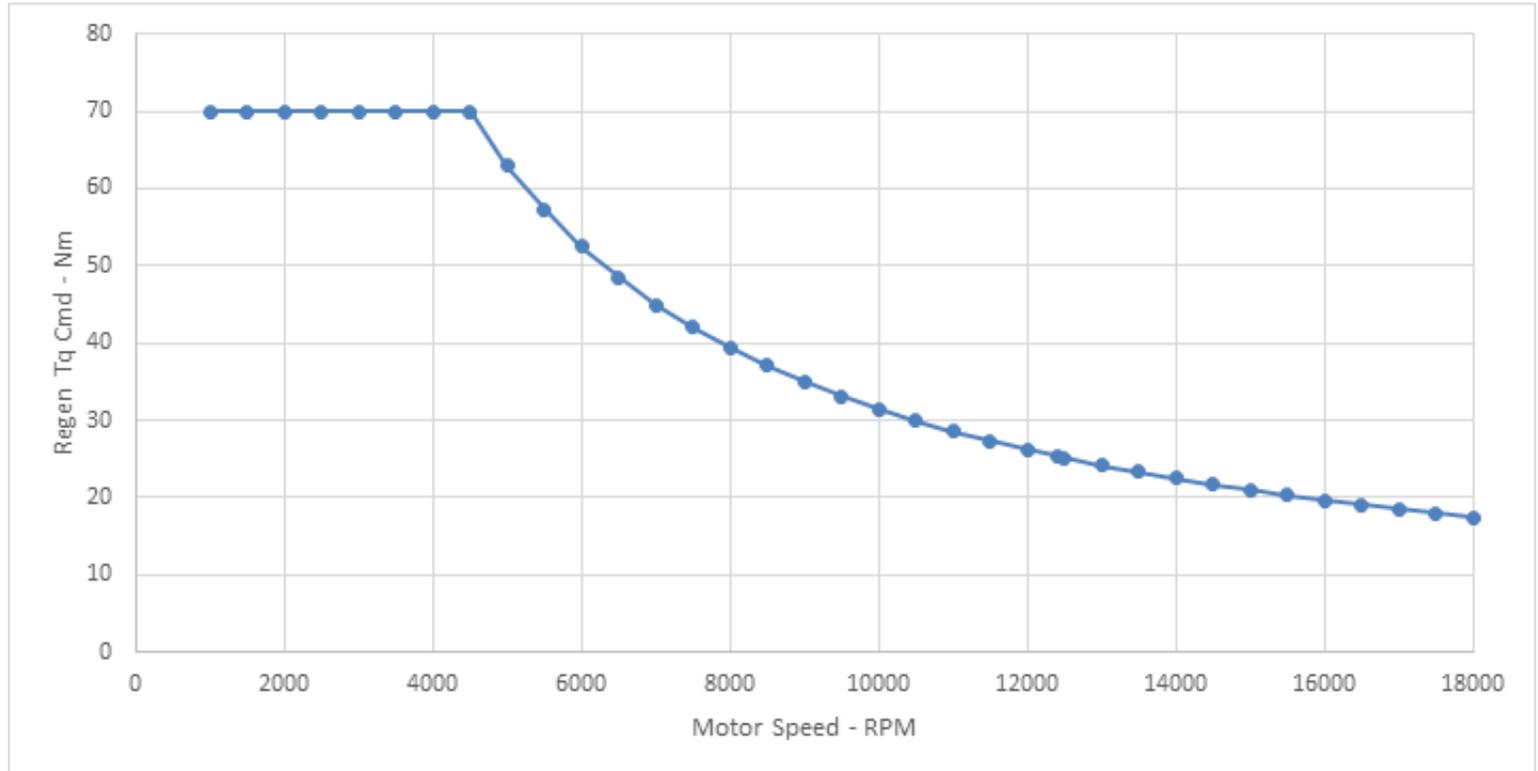
Use the following steps to change EEPROM parameters on the Control Board. This example will show how to enable the HV active discharge feature. Use the same steps to change other EEPROM settings.

1. Download and install **RMS GUI 148.exe** and **gtk+-2.8.9-setup-1.exe** from <https://www.cascadiamotion.com/documents> > General Link to All Files > 02 Tools > RMS GUI
2. With programming cable connected and switch pointed toward green wire for GUI mode, turn on low voltage (12v) inverter power.
3. Ensure appropriate symbols files is in the RMS GUI directory and then launch the GUI app.
4. The GUI app will open and display on the Memory View tab. To change EEPROM settings, click on **EEPROM View** tab.
5. Find the EEPROM parameter to be changed. – in this case, *Relay_Output_State_EEPROM* & *Discharge_Enable_EEPROM*.
6. Change *Relay_Output_State_EEPROM* from **0x000c** to **0x002c**. Change *Discharge_Enable_EEPROM* from **0** to **1**. Hit Enter on keyboard to commit parameter change.
7. Once EEPROM values have been change, click on Program **EEPROM** button. Status message will appear to confirm that programming has been completed.
8. Follow on-screen instructions to power cycle inverter, then click on the Refresh button.
9. Confirm that EEPROM values have successfully been changed.
10. Disconnect programming cable from inverter harness and reconnect encoder harness. The drive unit is now ready to be operated.



Regen Torque Limit Profile

The Control Board has a variable regen torque command limit profile programmed into it. The regen torque command limit function compares the VCU's commanded regen torque value to the limit profile value and allows the lesser value to be the actual regen torque allowed. The regen torque limit profile is shown below.



For example, if the VCU's commanded regen torque value is 50Nm at 8000 rpm, the actual regen torque allowed will be limited to 40Nm. Alternatively, if the VCU's commanded regen torque value is 50Nm at 4000 rpm, the actual regen torque allowed will be 50Nm.



Warranty

AEM Performance Electronics warrants to the consumer that all AEM Electronics products will be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of twelve months from the date of the original purchase. Products that fail within this 12-month warranty period will be repaired or replaced when determined by us that the product failed due to defects in material or workmanship. This warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of the AEM Electronics part. This warranty applies only to the original purchaser of the product and is non-transferable. All implied warranties shall be limited in duration to the said 12-month warranty period. Improper use or installation, accident, abuse, unauthorized repairs or alterations performed by the user on any AEM Electronics products voids this warranty.

In no event shall this warranty exceed the original purchase price of the AEM Electronics part nor shall AEM Electronics be responsible for special, incidental or consequential damages or cost incurred due to the failure of this product.

AEM Electronics disclaims any liability for consequential damages due to breach of any written or implied warranty on all of its products.

Warranty returns will only be accepted by AEM Electronics when accompanied by a valid Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number and a dated proof of purchase. The product must be received by AEM Electronics within 30 days of the date the RMA is issued. Warranty claims to AEM Electronics must be shipped to us prepaid (we recommend a shipping service with package tracking capability). Once your package is received by our warranty and repairs department you will be notified and provided with updates.

PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF A RETURN MERCHANDISE AUTHORIZATION (RMA) NUMBER

Please note that before AEM Electronics can issue an RMA for any product, it is first necessary for the installer or enduser to contact our technical support team to discuss the problem. Most issues can be resolved over the phone. Under no circumstances should a system be returned, or an RMA requested before our support team is contacted. This will ensure that if an RMA is needed that our team is able to track your product through the warranty process.

You can reach our Tech Support Team for support on all AEM Electronics performance products by phone at 1-800-423-0046. To contact us by email for engine management systems, email us at emstech@aemelectronics.com. For all other products, email us at gen.tech@aemelectronics.com.

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