

# Silicon Labs Simplifies IoT Connectivity with Multiprotocol Wireless Gecko SoCs

## New Wireless SoC Portfolio Provides Scalable Solutions Supporting ZigBee®, Thread, Bluetooth® Smart and Proprietary Protocols

*“From Bluetooth Smart to Thread and ZigBee to proprietary stacks, our Wireless Gecko SoCs offer the industry’s most balanced set of protocol combinations to address diverse customer use cases.”*

NUREMBERG, Germany--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Silicon Labs](#) (NASDAQ: SLAB) has introduced its [Wireless Gecko portfolio](#) of multiprotocol system-on-chip (SoC) devices, providing flexible connectivity and price/performance options for Internet of Things (IoT) devices. Silicon Labs' new Wireless Gecko SoCs integrate a powerful ARM® Cortex®-M4 core, energy-friendly Gecko technology, a 2.4 GHz radio with up to 19.5 dBm output power, and advanced hardware cryptography. Wireless Gecko SoCs speed wireless design with best-of-breed [Thread](#) and [ZigBee®](#) stacks for mesh networks, intuitive radio interface software for [proprietary protocols](#), [Bluetooth® Smart](#) for point-to-point connectivity, and [Simplicity Studio™](#) tools to simplify wireless development, configuration, debugging and low-energy design.

*Get all the details about Silicon Labs' Wireless Gecko portfolio including pricing and availability, development tools and data sheets at [www.silabs.com/WirelessGecko](http://www.silabs.com/WirelessGecko).*

The Wireless Gecko portfolio features three families of multiprotocol SoCs optimized for real-world IoT use cases and the most popular wireless protocols:

- Blue Gecko family – Bluetooth Smart connectivity with unmatched output power and range
- Mighty Gecko family – Best-in-class ZigBee and Thread connectivity for mesh networks
- Flex Gecko family – Flexible proprietary wireless protocol options for diverse applications

“The Wireless Gecko portfolio provides customers with a much-needed one-stop-shop approach to multiprotocol IoT connectivity with flexible cost/performance options supported by best-in-class software stacks and a common development environment that greatly simplifies wireless design,” said Daniel Cooley, vice president of marketing for IoT products at Silicon Labs. “From Bluetooth Smart to Thread and ZigBee to proprietary stacks, our Wireless Gecko SoCs offer the industry’s most balanced set of protocol combinations to address diverse customer use cases.”

Silicon Labs' pin- and software-compatible Wireless Gecko families enable customers to leverage their development tool and software investments. Developers can select the wireless protocol to meet their application needs today and can easily migrate to other protocols within the portfolio with the assurance of hardware/software reuse.

Wireless Gecko SoCs combine Silicon Labs' energy-friendly [Gecko MCU technology](#) with a multiprotocol 2.4 GHz RF transceiver in a single-die solution with scalable memory options (up to 256 kB flash and up to 32 kB RAM). Hallmarks of Gecko technology include well-architected energy modes, ultra-fast wake-up/sleep transitions, and the Peripheral Reflex System (PRS), enabling autonomous operation of low-power peripherals while the MCU core sleeps. Based on an ARM Cortex-M4 processor with powerful floating point and DSP capabilities, the Gecko MCU consumes only 63 µA/MHz in active mode. The Wireless Gecko SoCs also integrate a software-programmable power amplifier (PA) and balun to reduce bill of materials (BOM) cost and design complexity while providing scalable output power ranging from -30 dBm up to +19.5 dBm for applications requiring long-range connectivity.

“Low-power connectivity is a key factor in the deployment of IoT nodes at scale, and Silicon Labs’ new Wireless Gecko SoC portfolio offers a broad choice of connectivity standards,” said John Ronco, vice president, product management, ARM. “Silicon Labs already has an impressive range of highly efficient ARM-based MCUs, and we see the addition of wireless interoperability as a key step in enabling developers to realize the potential of the IoT market.”

Further enhancing energy efficiency and application code footprint, Wireless Gecko SoCs feature a built-in hardware cryptographic accelerator providing fast, energy-efficient autonomous encryption and decryption of Internet security protocols such as TLS/SSL with minimal CPU intervention. The on-chip accelerator supports advanced algorithms such as AES with 128- or 256-bit keys, elliptical curve cryptography (ECC), SHA-1 and SHA-224/256. Hardware cryptography enables developers to meet evolving IoT security requirements more efficiently than with software-only techniques required by competing solutions.

## Wireless Gecko Portfolio Highlights

## EFR32BG Blue Gecko Family

- Supports Bluetooth Smart (Bluetooth Low Energy or “BLE”) including the BLE 4.2 specification as well as proprietary wireless protocols
- Offers the highest output power for BLE designs (up to +19.5 dBm), enabling BLE products to deliver excellent range and long battery life regardless of the chosen output power
- Supported by Silicon Labs’ market-proven Bluetooth Smart software stack and easy-to-use BGScript scripting language, enabling customers to get to market quickly
- Enables customers to migrate from Silicon Labs’ pre-certified Blue Gecko BLE module to SoC-based designs while preserving their software and engineering investments

## EFR32MG Mighty Gecko Family

- Provides a best-in-class multiprotocol SoC solution for low-power 802.15.4 mesh networking
- Supports Silicon Labs’ industry-leading ZigBee PRO software stack for ZigBee applications and Silicon Labs’ pre-certified Thread protocol stack for IP-based mesh networks
- Offers a seamless migration path for customers needing to support connected devices using ZigBee or Thread
- Gives developers the flexibility to select the optimal protocol (ZigBee, Thread, Bluetooth Smart or proprietary) for their IoT applications

## EFR32FG Flex Gecko Family

- Supports popular proprietary protocol options for diverse applications including M2M links, building automation, security and electronic shelf labels, giving developers the freedom to optimize their designs without constraints from industry alliances and standards
- Provides a flexible SoC architecture with built-in support for a variety of differentiated physical layer and packet formats and modulation schemes
- Features Silicon Labs’ new, intuitive radio abstraction interface layer (RAIL) software, easing the complexity of proprietary wireless development by simplifying radio configuration and enabling developers to migrate their application code across Silicon Labs’ Wireless Gecko products and future wireless ICs

## Simplifying Wireless Gecko Development

The Wireless Gecko SoC portfolio is supported by Silicon Labs’ [Simplicity Studio development platform](#), a unified environment for concurrent MCU and RF design. Simplicity Studio tools include AppBuilder, allowing developers to easily configure wireless applications while ensuring software reuse across Wireless Gecko SoC-based designs; Desktop Network Analyzer, providing full visibility and debugging of wireless networking activity by using the SoC’s packet trace port; and Energy Profiler, enabling developers to minimize the energy consumption of their code and extend battery life.

## Pricing and Availability

Engineering samples for Wireless Gecko SoCs are available now in 5 mm x 5 mm QFN32 and 7 mm x 7 mm QFN48 packages; production parts are planned for Q2 2016. USD pricing in 100,000-unit quantities begins at \$2.11 for Mighty Gecko SoCs; \$2.06 for Flex Gecko SoCs; and \$0.99 for Blue Gecko SoCs. The full-featured SLWSTK6000A Mighty Gecko Mesh Development Kit, supporting ZigBee, Thread, Bluetooth Smart and proprietary protocols, is priced at \$499. The SLWSTK6066A Flex Gecko Proprietary Starter Kit is priced at \$229. The SLWSTK6020A Blue Gecko Starter Kit is priced at \$99. (All kits USD MSRP.) To order Wireless Gecko SoC product samples and development kits, visit [www.silabs.com/WirelessGecko](http://www.silabs.com/WirelessGecko).

## Connect with Silicon Labs

Follow Silicon Labs at <http://news.silabs.com/>, at <http://blog.silabs.com/>, on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/siliconlabs> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/siliconlabs>. Explore Silicon Labs’ diverse product portfolio at [www.silabs.com/parametric-search](http://www.silabs.com/parametric-search).

## Silicon Labs

Silicon Labs (NASDAQ: SLAB) is a leading provider of silicon, software and solutions for the Internet of Things, Internet infrastructure, industrial automation, consumer and automotive markets. We solve the electronics industry’s toughest problems, providing customers with significant advantages in performance, energy savings, connectivity and design simplicity. Backed by our world-class engineering teams with unsurpassed software and mixed-signal design expertise, Silicon Labs empowers developers with the tools and technologies they need to advance quickly and easily from initial idea to final product. [www.silabs.com](http://www.silabs.com)

## **Cautionary Language**

This press release may contain forward-looking statements based on Silicon Labs' current expectations. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. For a discussion of factors that could impact Silicon Labs' financial results and cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements, please refer to Silicon Labs' filings with the SEC. Silicon Labs disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Note to editors: Silicon Labs, Silicon Laboratories, the "S" symbol, the Silicon Laboratories logo and the Silicon Labs logo are trademarks of Silicon Laboratories Inc. All other product names noted herein may be trademarks of their respective holders.

## **Contact:**

Silicon Labs  
Dale Weisman, +1-512-532-5871  
[dale.weisman@silabs.com](mailto:dale.weisman@silabs.com)

---

Additional assets available online:  [Images \(2\)](#)  [Documents \(3\)](#)

<https://news.silabs.com/2016-02-23-Silicon-Labs-Simplifies-IoT-Connectivity-with-Multiprotocol-Wireless-Gecko-SoCs>