Iridium® 9604 FAQ

General Questions

What is Iridium 9604?

Iridium 9604 is a groundbreaking product for the IoT ecosystem, uniquely combining Iridium Short Burst Data® (SBD®) satellite service, LTE CAT-M cellular connectivity, and GNSS technology into a single, compact transceiver. Designed to elevate your IoT applications, Iridium 9604 ensures seamless coverage and reliable performance, whether your needs are hybrid network IoT or satellite-only IoT. Elevate your operations with the power of Iridium 9604 and experience global connectivity and efficiency.

What services are supported with Iridium 9604?

- Iridium Short Burst Data (SBD)
- Cellular LTE CAT-M
- GNSS

What applications are best suited for Iridium 9604?

Iridium 9604 is tailored for a variety of demanding IoT applications, including personal communications, lone worker safety, asset tracking, fleet management, remote monitoring, predictive maintenance, smart grid/utilities, and agriculture to name a few. With Iridium 9604, you gain a cost-effective, compact solution that meets the diverse needs of both satellite and cellular IoT industries, ensuring seamless and reliable connectivity.

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Will Iridium 9604 support Iridium Burst®?

Iridium 9604 supports the same SBD capabilities as the Iridium 9602N and Iridium 9603N transceivers. However, Iridium Burst functionality will not be available at launch. Iridium plans to introduce the Iridium Burst service on the Iridium 9604 later in 2026.

How does a partner enable Cellular and Satellite Service on Iridium 9604?

Iridium 9604 enables SBD over the Iridium® network through an IMEI for provisioning, and requires an external SIM card, physical or embedded, for cellular LTE-M service. A user enables cellular network access through their own MNO or cellular carrier. Note that Iridium 9604 functions in a single mode at any given time - either cellular or satellite.

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Ordering & Commercial Information

What is the minimum order quantity for Iridium 9604?

Iridium 9604 is shipped in reels with a Minimum Order Quantity (MOQ) of 250 units.

Who will have access on the orders portal?

Any partner currently enabled for SBD ordering has access. No new enrollment is required. If you're unsure of your access status, reach out to your Iridium account manager.

Is there a smaller quantity available?

Yes, Iridium is introducing a Development Pack (DevPack) containing 25 units intended to support product development, testing, and certification efforts.

In addition to the developer documentation, what other tools are available?

The Iridium 9604 transceiver is launching alongside the Iridium 9604 Development Kit, which includes all the necessary hardware, such as antennas, to test both satellite and cellular services. This Development Kit comes pre-provisioned for the SBD service on the Iridium network.

What is the expected commercial availability for both Iridium 9604 and the Development Kit?

Iridium is planning commercial launch on June 23, 2026.

When will shipments begin for the Iridium 9604 transceiver and Development Kit?

Shipments begin in June/July 2026.

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How does Iridium 9604 and SBD service differ from Iridium NTN Direct℠?

SBD on Iridium 9604 is a higher power, lower latency service compared to Iridium NTN Direct, making it ideal for high-demand IoT applications. Additionally, Iridium 9604 supports LTE-M for Cellular IoT, while Iridium NTN Direct will support NB-IoT.

How does Iridium 9604 and the SBD service differ from Iridium Certus™ 9704?

Iridium Certus 9704 is a more capable, higher-powered device that supports larger messages up to 100KB via the Iridium Messaging Transport® (IMT®) service.

Can partners purchase IoT cellular SIMs or cellular IoT services from Iridium?

Iridium currently does not sell cellular SIMs or services. However, partners should stay tuned for potential updates as Iridium evaluates new ways to support your needs.

What regulatory approvals will Iridium 9604 have at launch?

Iridium 9604 will be FCC, CE-RED, ISED and UK-CA certified. It will also have PTCRB and GCF conformance approval. For the American markets Iridium 9604 will come with AT&T type approval alongside FirstNet certification.

What is the pricing for 9604 and the Devkit?

Contact your sales rep for pricing.

How to order the Iridium 9604 module, development pack and development kit?

Visit the Iridium Order Portal to place your equipment orders https://iridium.dynamics365portals.us/orders/ and order by using the following part numbers:

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- SBDLTE9604DEV2501 for the Development Kit (suitable for first time evaluations and application simulation)
- SBDLTE9604-25 for the DevPak (intended for product prototype phase; before Iridium certification)
- SBDLTE9604 for the reel of 250 (intended for partner mass production phase after Iridium certification)

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Partner Access and Onboarding

Are existing partners with Iridium 9602 and Iridium 9603 agreements in place able to begin development and access Iridium 9604 documentation?

In line with our existing agreements, Iridium provides access to the development and service platforms based on individual products and services. Iridium would be happy to add Iridium 9604 to any current agreements. Please get in touch with your account manager in order to start those conversations.

Is there a special service plan for Iridium 9604?

No, SBD pricing for the Iridium 9604 will be equivalent to the Iridium 9602/9603 transceivers.

Are there special Iridium Certification or support processes for Iridium 9604?

No. Iridium uses a very similar certification and support procedures for Iridium 9604 as it does for other Iridium transceiver products. The Iridium team would be happy to discuss more details during the onboarding process.

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Technical / Specifications

How does Iridium 9604 compare to the UBLOX SARA-R520M10?

The Iridium 9604 transceiver enhances the SARA-R520's architecture. While the LTE RF path largely remains the same, it is bypassed/deactivated when the transceiver switches to satellite mode. The main differences from the UBLOX module can be found in the SAT/GNSS RF path, which includes Iridium's proprietary technology designed to support a new Radio Access Technology (RAT) with higher transmission power, specialized filtering, and enhanced RF performance to operate seamlessly on the Iridium network.

Are there any major considerations for manufacturing purposes?

Iridium 9604 is a Surface Mount Device (SMD) with a Moisture Sensitivity Level (MSL) 4.

Are you using same LTE-M AT commands as the UBLOX SARA-R520?

Yes.

What about the SBD AT commands?

The SBD AT commands function in the same manner as they do in other SBD transceivers. Some commands have been optimized or renamed to avoid duplication with LTE commands and to simplify development for Iridium partners. Additionally, there are a few extra AT commands to enable switching between LTE and SAT, as well as for testing purposes.

Can LTE and satellite modes operate at the same time?

No, only one mode operates at any one time. Partner applications have the ability to control the selection of the appropriate mode at the appropriate time based on their use case.

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Can GNSS and satellite modes operate at the same time?

Yes, GNSS signal is received anytime Iridium is receiving (not actively transmitting).

What is the power consumption in each mode?

The power consumption for LTE mode remains consistent with the UBLOX SARA-R520. Power consumption in SBD mode for Iridium 9604 is similar to that of Iridium 9602 and Iridium 9603 transceivers.

How many IMEIs are associated with each transceiver?

Each Iridium 9604 will have 2 IMEIs printed on the label, one for Iridium and one for LTE.

Does Iridium 9604 register on the network based on IMEI or SIM?

The Iridium SBD service is provisioned based on IMEI, similar to other existing SBD transceivers. For LTE-M, a physical or embedded SIM card is necessary to set up the service on your preferred cellular network.

Does Iridium 9604 support hosted SIM?

No, the Iridium 9604 does not support a hosted SIM, providing flexibility for partners to choose their best integration strategy. Partners can opt for either a physical SIM or an eSIM solution.

Does GNSS require a separate antenna?

No, GNSS uses the Iridium antenna. A second antenna is only necessary for LTE.

Are you using the same pinout as the SARA-R520?

The pinout is similar but not identical to the SARA-R520M10 module. Some GPIO pins have been re-purposed to accommodate Iridium SBD functionality.

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Do you have an Iridium Sync signal accessible in the transceiver?

Yes, the exact pin used is configurable (GPIO 1 or 3).

What are the supply voltages?

Nominal is 3.8V, with a supported range of 3.0 to 4.5V

What antennas for Iridium SBD are available for Iridium 9604?

All antennas previously qualified for use with the Iridium 9602 and 9603 transceivers are supported with the Iridium 9604 transceiver. However, because the Iridium 9604 shares the SBD RF path with an integrated GNSS receiver, the selected antenna must also provide adequate coverage and performance across the applicable GNSS frequency bands.

Is the temperature range the same as the Iridium 9602/9603?

Yes, the supported temperature range is -40 to +85C.

Can Iridium 9604 receive over the air firmware updates?

No, however, it may be supported as a future product enhancement.

Does the Iridium 9604 Development Kit support LTE-M operation?

Yes, the command interface will allow a user to send and test any LTE-M AT command.

Does the Iridium 9604 Development Kit support GNSS?

Yes, the Development Kit allows for receiving, processing, and transmitting of GNSS location data.

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