ISL73847SEH 4-Phase Design Example with Calculations

The purpose of this document is to provide an example of how to calculate supporting components for the ISL73847SEH 4-phase applications. This document also introduces an Excel design calculator that automatically calculates all these values.

Contents

1. 4-Phase Design

1.1 Initial Design Values

List out all the initial design values and any ISL73847SEH required parameters.

- V_{IN} = 5V
- V_{OUT} = 0.8V
- V_{REF} = 0.6V
- $I_{OUT(MAX)}$ = 100A
- n = 4 (number of phases)
- f_{SW} = 1000kHz
- A_{CSA} = 8mV/mV
- I_{STEP} = 50A
- $tran_{percent}$ = 2%
- $g_{m(EA)}$ = 4mA/V
- $DRP_{percent}$ = 4%
- I_{DROOP} = 19.9µA
- t_{SS} = 1ms
- I_{SS} = 10µA

1.2 Determining the Frequency Select Resistor

In this 4-phase calculation, use an external 1000kHz clock on SYNC-I. The datasheet recommends setting the internal oscillator to 85% of the external clock using the R_{FS} resistor so if the external clock stops, the converter continues running by switching to the ISL73847SEH internal oscillator. The 15% margin prevents the oscillator from switching randomly between the external and internal clock. The required internal clock is 85%×1000kHz = 850kHz.

Refer to the EC table in the datasheet for the recommended R_{FS} resistor values for 250kHz, 500kHz, 1MHz, and 1.5MHz switching frequencies, as these have been verified extensively. Use Equation 1 for other frequencies to calculate R_{FS} with less than 10%.

(EQ. 1) $$R_{FS}[k\Omega] = \left(\frac{56497}{f_{SW}[kHz]}\right) - 20.96$$

$$R_{FS} = \left(\frac{56497}{850}\right) - 20.96$$

$$\therefore R_{FS} = 45.5k\Omega$$

The equation suggests using a 45.5kΩ R_{FS} resistor. A good option is 43.2kΩ.

1.3 Determining the Output Voltage Feedback Resistors

The required output voltage is 0.8V, the internal voltage reference is 0.6V typical, and as a starting point Renesas suggests making R_1 4.99kΩ.

(EQ. 2) $$V_{OUT} = V_{REF} \times \left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)$$

Rearrange the equation:

(EQ. 3) $$R_2 = \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{REF}} - 1\right) \times R_1$$

$$R_2 = \left(\frac{0.8}{0.6} - 1\right) \times 4.99k\Omega$$

$$\therefore R_2 = 1.67k\Omega$$

A good option for R_2 is a 1.67kΩ resistor with ±0.1% tolerance. Calculating the output voltage with this value gives an output voltage of 0.801V.

1.4 Determining the Current-Sense Resistor

The target current-sense amplifier input voltage is 50mV, maximum output current is 100A, the number of phases is four, and the OCP1 sense voltage is 75mV.

(EQ. 4) $$R_{SEN}[\Omega] = \frac{V_{SEN}[V] \times n}{I_{OUT(MAX)}[A]}$$

$$R_{SEN} = \frac{50 \times 10^{-3} \times 4}{100}$$

$$\therefore R_{SEN} = 2m\Omega$$

(EQ. 5) $$P_{RSEN}[W] = \frac{V_{OCP1}[V]^2}{R_{SEN}[\Omega]}$$

$$P_{RSEN} = \frac{75 \times 10^{-3}{}^2}{2 \times 10^{-3}}$$

$$\therefore P_{RSEN} = 2.8W$$

1.5 Determining the Output Inductor

Use Equation 6 to calculate a good estimate for the output inductor based on a required ripple current, where $I_{OUT} = n \times I_{PHASE}$.

(EQ. 6) $$L_{REC}[H] = \frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT})[V] \times D \times n}{k \times f_{SW}[Hz] \times I_{OUT(MAX)}[A]}$$

The input voltage is 5V, the calculated output voltage is 0.801V, the duty cycle is D = 0.8V/5V = 0.16, the output switching frequency is 1000kHz, the number of phases is 4, the required ripple current (k) is 30% and the max output current is 100A (4x25A).

$$\therefore L_{REC} = \frac{(5 - 0.801) \times 0.16 \times 4}{1000 \times 10^{3} \times 100} = 90nH$$

A good option for the inductor is L_{SEL} = 120nH. This value is also close to the recommended value of 100nH. Use Equation 7 to calculate the actual inductor ripple percentage for the chosen inductor.

(EQ. 7) $$ripple[\%] = \frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT})[V] \times D \times n}{f_{SW}[Hz] \times I_{OUT(MAX)}[A] \times L_{SEL}[H]}$$

$$\therefore ripple = \frac{(5 - 0.801) \times 0.16 \times 4}{(500 \times 10^{3}) \times 100 \times (100 \times 10^{-9})} = 27\%$$

1.6 Determining the Slope Compensation Resistor

Use Equation 8 to calculate the slope compensation resistor. R_{SEN} is 2mΩ, R_{FS} is 43.2kΩ, V_{OUT} is 0.801V, k is 25kV/s, L_{SEL} is 120nH. If the R_{SLOPE} calculated is less than 25kΩ, decrease the L_{SEL}, and vice versa if R_{SLOPE} is greater than 100kΩ.

(EQ. 8) $$R_{SLOPE}[\Omega] = \frac{R_{SEN}[\Omega] \times R_{FS}[\Omega] \times V_{OUT}[V]}{k \times L_{SEL}}$$

$$\therefore R_{SLOPE} = \frac{2 \times 10^{-3} \times 43.2 \times 10^{3} \times 0.801}{25 \times 10^{3} \times 100 \times 10^{-9}} = 29.15k\Omega$$

The equation suggests a 29.15kΩ R_{SLOPE} value, which is between 25kΩ and 100kΩ. A good option is 30.1kΩ.

1.7 Determining the Error-Amplifier Compensation Resistor

To calculate the output capacitor and compensation values, ΔV_{OUT} and ΔI_{OUT} must be known. ΔV_{OUT} is the amount of output voltage deviation during a load step, in this example it is 2%×0.801V = 16mV, and ΔI_{OUT} is the load step which is 50A. With these two known values, use Equation 9 to calculate the equivalent load-line output impedance R_{LL}.

(EQ. 9) $$R_{LL} = \frac{\Delta V_{OUT}}{\Delta I_{OUT}}$$

$$\therefore R_{LL} = \frac{16 \times 10^{-3}}{50} = 0.32m\Omega$$

With the load-line impedance, use Equation 10 to calculate RCOMP, where V_{OUT} is 0.801V, R_{SEN} is 2mΩ, A_{CSA} is 8mV/mV, n is 4, V_{REF} is 0.6V, $g_{m(EA)}$ is 4mS, and R_{LL} is 0.32mΩ.

(EQ. 10) $$R_{COMP} = \frac{V_{OUT}[V] \times R_{SEN}[\Omega] \times A_{CSA}[mV/mV]}{n \times V_{REF}[V] \times g_{m(EA)}[A/V] \times R_{LL}[\Omega]}$$

(EQ. 11) $$R_{COMP} = \frac{0.801 \times 2 \times 10^{-3} \times 8}{2 \times 0.6 \times 4 \times 10^{-3} \times 0.32 \times 10^{-3}} = 4.17k\Omega$$

A good compensation resistor is a 4.22kΩ.

1.8 Determining the Output Capacitance

Use Equation 12 to determine the minimum output capacitance. The compensation resistor is 4.22kΩ, the error amplifier transconductance is 4mA/V or 4mS, the internal voltage reference is 0.6V, f_T is the converter unity-gain frequency, which Renesas recommends setting a decade below the switching frequency ($f_T = f_{SW}/10$ = 1000kHz/10 = 100kHz), A_{CSA} is 8mV/mV, and the calculated output voltage is 0.801V.

(EQ. 12) $$C_{OUT(MIN)} = \frac{n \times R_{COMP}[\Omega] \times g_{m(EA)}[V/A] \times V_{REF}[V]}{2\pi \times f_T[Hz] \times A_{CSA}[mV/mV] \times R_{SEN}[\Omega] \times V_{OUT}[V]}$$

$$\therefore C_{OUT(MIN)} = \frac{2 \times 4.22 \times 10^{3} \times 4 \times 10^{-3} \times 0.6}{2\pi \times 100 \times 10^{3} \times 8 \times 2 \times 10^{-3} \times 0.801} = 5032\mu F$$

A good option is paralleling twenty-four 220µF capacitors, or twelve per phase, which gives 5280µF of bulk output capacitance. Optimizing this value is outside the scope of this paper; however, it is explained in the application note *Selecting Input and Output Capacitors for the ISL73847SEH.*

With the actual output capacitor value chosen, recalculate f_T by rearranging Equation 12 to create Equation 13.

(EQ. 13) $$f_T[Hz] = \frac{n \times R_{COMP}[\Omega] \times g_{m(EA)}[V/A] \times V_{REF}[V]}{2\pi \times C_{OUT}[F] \times A_{CSA}[mV/mV] \times R_{SEN}[\Omega] \times V_{OUT}[V]}$$

$$\therefore f_T[Hz] = \frac{4 \times 4.22 \times 10^{3} \times 4 \times 10^{-3} \times 0.6}{2\pi \times 5280 \times 10^{-6} \times 8 \times 2 \times 10^{-3} \times 0.801} = 95.3kHz$$

1.9 Determining the Error-Amplifier Compensation Capacitor

Use Equation 14 to determine the error-amplifier compensation capacitor. f_Z is the zero frequency of the error amplifier. Renesas recommends setting the zero formed by R_{COMP} and C_{COMP} a decade smaller than the f_T ($f_Z = f_T/10 = 95.3kHz/10 = 9.53kHz$), where R_{COMP} is 4.22kΩ.

(EQ. 14) $$C_{COMP}[F] = \frac{1}{2\pi \times f_Z[Hz] \times R_{COMP}[\Omega]}$$

$$\therefore C_{COMP} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times 9.53 \times 10^3 \times 4.22 \times 10^3} = 3.96nF$$

A good option for the compensation capacitor is 4.3nF.

1.10 Determining the Pole Capacitor

Adding a pole capacitor is recommended to cancel out the zero formed by the equivalent bulk output capacitance and ESR. To determine the pole capacitor, first determine the equivalent total ESR of the parallel combination of output capacitors. The 220µF output capacitors chosen have 6mΩ of ESR individually, so the parallel combination of twenty-four of these output capacitors have an equivalent total ESR of 6mΩ/24 = 0.250mΩ, as shown in Equation 15.

Note: This equation and the ones that follow apply only if all capacitors in parallel are identical with equal capacitance and ESR values.

(EQ. 15) $$ESR_{TOTAL}[\Omega] = \frac{ESR[\Omega]}{\#\text{ of capacitors}}$$

$$\therefore ESR_{TOTAL} = \frac{6 \times 10^{-3}}{24} = 0.250m\Omega$$

Optimizing this value is outside the scope of this paper; however, it is explained in the application note *Selecting Input and Output Capacitors for the ISL73847SEH.*

Lastly, add a pole to the controller loop at the same frequency as the zero formed by the equivalent C_{OUT} and ESR, using Equation 16.

(EQ. 16) $$C_{POLE}[F] = \frac{C_{OUT}[F] \times ESR[\Omega]}{R_{COMP}[\Omega]}$$

$$\therefore C_{POLE} = \frac{5280 \times 10^{-6} \times 0.25 \times 10^{-3}}{4.22 \times 10^3} = 313pF$$

A good option for the pole capacitor is 330pF.

1.11 Determining the Droop Regulation Resistor and Capacitor

Use Equation 17 to determine the droop resistor. The required percentage of droop regulation at full load is 4%, the internal voltage reference is 0.6V, the droop current is 19.9µA, the number of phases for this design is 4, and two ISL73847SEH Controllers.

(EQ. 17) $$R_{DROOP}[\Omega] = \frac{DRP_{percent} \times V_{REF}[V]}{I_{DROOP}[\mu A] \times n} \times \#\text{ of Controllers}$$

$$\therefore R_{DROOP} = \frac{4\% \times 0.6}{(19.9 \times 10^{-6}) \times 4} \times 2 = 0.603k\Omega$$

A good option for R_{DROOP} is 0.604kΩ. Use Equation 18 to determine the droop capacitor. The compensation resistor is 4.22kΩ, and the compensation capacitor is 4.3nF.

(EQ. 18) $$C_{DROOP}[F] = \frac{R_{COMP}[\Omega] \times C_{COMP}[F]}{R_{DROOP}[\Omega]}$$

$$\therefore C_{DROOP} = \frac{4.22 \times 10^{3} \times 4.3 \times 10^{-9}}{0.604 \times 10^{3}} = 30nF$$

A good option for C_{DROOP} is 30nF.

1.12 Determining the Soft-Start Capacitor and In-Rush Current

Use Equation 19 to determine the soft-start capacitor. The required soft-start time is 1ms, the soft-start current is 10µA and the voltage reference is 0.6V.

(EQ. 19) $$C_{SS}[F] = \frac{t_{SS}[s] \times I_{SS}[A]}{V_{REF}[V]}$$

$$\therefore C_{SS} = \frac{0.001 \times 10 \times 10^{-6}}{0.6} = 17nF$$

A good option for C_{SS} is 22nF.

Use Equation 19 to calculate the expected soft-start time with this C_{SS} value.

(EQ. 20) $$t_{SS}[s] = \frac{0.022 \times 10^{-6} \times 0.6}{10 \times 10^{-6}}$$

$$\therefore t_{SS} = 0.0013s$$

Use Equation 21 to calculate the in-rush current. The output capacitance is 5280µF, the calculated output voltage is 0.801V, and the duty cycle is 0.16.

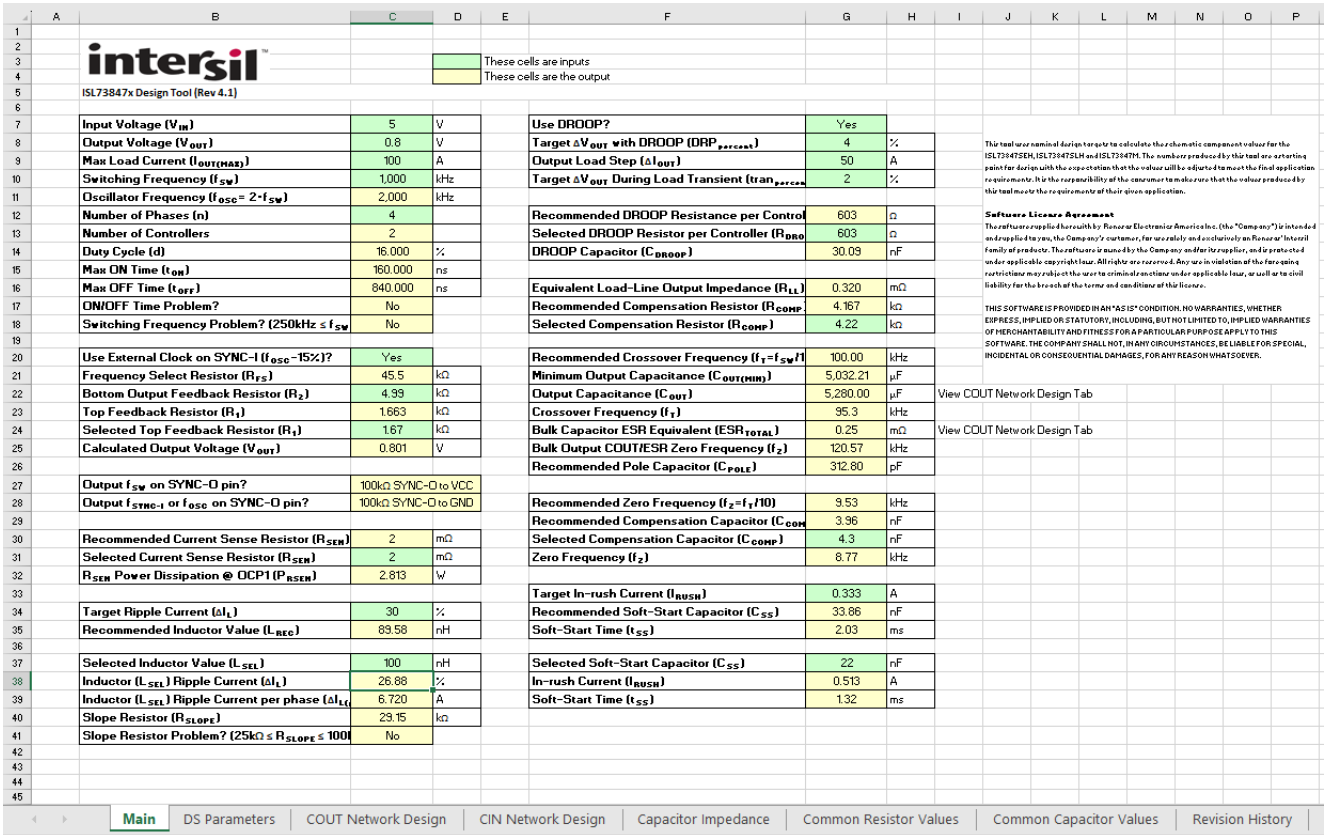
(EQ. 21) $$I_{RUSH}[A] = \frac{D \times V_{OUT}[V] \times C_{OUT}[F]}{t_{SS}[s]}$$

$$\therefore I_{RUSH}[A] = \frac{0.16 \times 0.801 \times 5280 \times 10^{-6}}{0.0013} = 0.513A$$

1.13 Summary of all the Calculated Component Values

- R_{FS} = 45.5kΩ ≈ 43.2kΩ
- R_1 = 1.66kΩ ≈ 1.67kΩ, with ±0.1% tolerance
- R_2 = 4.99kΩ
- V_{OUT} = 0.801V
- R_{SEN} = 2mΩ
- R_{FIL} = 30.1Ω
- C_{FIL} = 680pF
- L_{OUT} = 100nH/phase
- R_{SLOPE} = 29.15kΩ ≈ 30.1kΩ
- R_{COMP} = 4.17kΩ ≈ 4.22kΩ
- C_{OUT} = 220µF×24 = 5280µF (2640µF/phase)
- C_{COMP} = 3.96nF ≈ 4.3nF
- R_{DROOP} = 0.603kΩ ≈ 0.604kΩ
- C_{DROOP} = 30nF
- C_{SS} = 17nF ≈ 22nF
- C_P = 330pF

Figure 1 shows an image of the ISL73847x Design Tool (Excel file) that automatically calculates all of these values for the 4-phase application design.



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ISL73847x Design Tool (Rev 4.1)

These cells are inputs
These cells are the output

Input Voltage (V_{IN})	5	V	Use DROOP?	Yes	
Output Voltage (V_{OUT})	0.8	V	Target ΔV_{OUT} with DROOP ($DRP_{percent}$)	4	%
Max Load Current ($I_{OUT(MAX)}$)	100	A	Output Load Step (ΔI_{OUT})	50	A
Switching Frequency (f_{SW})	1,000	kHz	Target ΔV_{OUT} During Load Transient ($tran_{percen}$	2	%
Oscillator Frequency (f_{OSC}= 2*f_{SW})	2,000	kHz			
Number of Phases (n)	4		Recommended DROOP Resistance per Control	603	Ω
Number of Controllers	2		Selected DROOP Resistor per Controller (R_{DRO}	603	Ω
Duty Cycle (d)	16.000	%	DROOP Capacitor (C_{DROOP})	30.09	nF
Max ON Time (t_{ON})	160.000	ns			
Max OFF Time (t_{OFF})	840.000	ns	Equivalent Load-Line Output Impedance (R_{LL})	0.320	mΩ
ON/OFF Time Problem?	No		Recommended Compensation Resistor (R_{COMP}	4.167	kΩ
Switching Frequency Problem? (250kHz ≤ f_{SW}	No		Selected Compensation Resistor (R_{COMP})	4.22	kΩ
Use External Clock on SYNC-I (f_{OSC}-15%)?	Yes		Recommended Crossover Frequency (f_T=f_{SW}/1	100.00	kHz
Frequency Select Resistor (R_{FS})	45.5	kΩ	Minimum Output Capacitance ($C_{OUT(MIN)}$)	5,032.21	µF
Bottom Output Feedback Resistor (R_2)	4.99	kΩ	Output Capacitance (C_{OUT})	5,280.00	µF
Top Feedback Resistor (R_1)	1.663	kΩ	Crossover Frequency (f_T)	95.3	kHz
Selected Top Feedback Resistor (R_1)	1.67	kΩ	Bulk Capacitor ESR Equivalent (ESR_{TOTAL})	0.25	mΩ
Calculated Output Voltage (V_{OUT})	0.801	V	Bulk Output COUT/ESR Zero Frequency (f_2)	120.57	kHz
			Recommended Pole Capacitor (C_{POLE})	312.80	pF
Output f_{SW} on SYNC-O pin?	100kΩ SYNC-O to VCC				
Output f_{SYNC-I} or f_{OSC} on SYNC-O pin?	100kΩ SYNC-O to GND		Recommended Zero Frequency (f_Z=f_T/10)	9.53	kHz
			Recommended Compensation Capacitor (C_{COM}	3.96	nF
Recommended Current Sense Resistor (R_{SEN})	2	mΩ	Selected Compensation Capacitor (C_{COMP})	4.3	nF
Selected Current Sense Resistor (R_{SEN})	2	mΩ	Zero Frequency (f_Z)	8.77	kHz
R_{SEN} Power Dissipation @ OCP1 (P_{RSEN})	2.813	W			
			Target In-rush Current (I_{RUSH})	0.333	A
Target Ripple Current (ΔI_L)	30	%	Recommended Soft-Start Capacitor (C_{SS})	33.86	nF
Recommended Inductor Value (L_{REC})	89.58	nH	Soft-Start Time (t_{SS})	2.03	ms
Selected Inductor Value (L_{SEL})	100	nH	Selected Soft-Start Capacitor (C_{SS})	22	nF
Inductor (L_{SEL}) Ripple Current (ΔI_L)	26.88	%	In-rush Current (I_{RUSH})	0.513	A
Inductor (L_{SEL}) Ripple Current per phase (ΔI_{LL}	6.720	A	Soft-Start Time (t_{SS})	1.32	ms
Slope Resistor (R_{SLOPE})	29.15	kΩ			
Slope Resistor Problem? (25kΩ ≤ R_{SLOPE} ≤ 100	No				

View COUT Network Design Tab

View COUT Network Design Tab

This tool uses nominal design targets to calculate the schematic component values for the ISL73847SEH, ISL73847SLH and ISL73847M. The numbers produced by this tool are a starting point for design with the expectation that the values will be adjusted to meet the final application requirements. It is the responsibility of the consumer to make sure that the values produced by this tool meet the requirements of their given application.

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Main | DS Parameters | COUT Network Design | CIN Network Design | Capacitor Impedance | Common Resistor Values | Common Capacitor Values | Revision History

Figure 1. Automatic Design Results for a 4-Phase ISL73847x Application Design

2. Conclusion

An Excel ISL73847x Design Tool that automatically calculates all the values derived in this document and more is available. However, it is beneficial to know how they were derived and to hand calculate some of the values.

3. Revision History

Revision	Date	Description
1.00	Dec 18, 2023	Initial release.

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