

# ANNOUNCEMENT



## High-performing computing unit (HPCU) with on-device AI

*Epec (Finland) announced the development of the HPCU designed for demanding, real-time machine applications. Hiab (Finland) will act as the lead customer, with the solution planned to be integrated as the central computing unit for autonomous systems in Hiab's Multilift demountables product portfolio.*

Designed to support modern software-defined architectures, HPCU is intended to enable OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) to consolidate functions and scale advanced features such as automation assistance (AA) and on-device AI (artificial intelligence), alongside responsive HMI (human-machine interface) and connected services, while meeting industrial requirements for robustness and lifecycle management. According to the company, the HPCU is planned to provide six CAN FD interfaces primarily intended for integration with existing machine networks and for safety-related communication. From a protocol point of view, CANopen support is feasible on top of the CAN FD interfaces, subject to the final software configuration and project-specific requirements. At this stage, the exact CANopen profile support and configuration options are still under definition.

The HPCU is developed in collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies and is based on its Snapdragon Ride platform. With Snapdragon Ride, the HPCU will be equipped to provide the compute performance, connectivity, and software scalability required to support software-defined machines, advanced HMI concepts, and assistive functions at the edge.

The design win with Hiab confirms the HPCU's suitability for high-demand deployments where performance, safety, reliability, and long-term support in varying environments are critical. As the central computing unit for autonomous systems in Hiab Multilift products, HPCU is intended to help manufacturers shorten development cycles and enable differentiated, software-driven user experiences.

"Hiab's selection of our upcoming HPCU is a major milestone for Epec as we expand our high-performance computing portfolio," says Jyri Kylä-Kaila, CEO of Epec. "With Hiab as our lead customer and design win, we're developing a product that supports advanced control and compute workloads, enabling AA and AI capabilities while maintaining industrial- and automotive-grade reliability."

"Hiab is focused on delivering smarter, more capable solutions to our customers," says Hannu Hyttinen, Director,

R&D, Hiab's Demountables and Defence division. "Epec's HPCU provides the performance foundation we need for next-generation features and digital capabilities in our Multilift products. This design win reflects strong alignment between our product ambitions and Epec's technology roadmap from heavy machinery to automotive excellence."

"Epec's HPCU represents an important expansion of high-performance central computing into new industrial, on-road and off-road segments," said Anshuman Saxena, VP and GM, ADAS & Robotics, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. "By building on the Snapdragon Ride Platform, Epec is bringing automotive grade compute, connectivity, and AI capabilities to a new class of machines. Hiab's selection of HPCU underscores the strong industry demand for scalable, software defined control systems, and we're excited to support Epec as they help OEMs accelerate the shift toward smarter, safer, and more capable equipment."

The HPCU is an upcoming series product. OEMs and partners interested in early discussions can contact Epec for further information.

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### Fanless edge-AI box computer with CAN ports

Aaeon (Taiwan) has released the Boxer-8653AI-Plus host controller, suitable for edge-AI (artificial intelligence) applications. The computer platform is powered by the Jetson Orin NX processor from Nvidia. It is intended for applications, using multiple cameras. For connecting of peripherals, the device provides among other interfaces a CAN interface.

Established in 1992, the Taiwanese company offers a broad range of edge-AI and IoT (Internet-of-Things) products. Several of them (e.g., Boxer-8645AI and VPC-5640S) support CAN communication. These products address in-door autonomous-driving passenger vehicles and airport service robots, for example, respectively automate-guided vehicles (AGVs) on factory floors and in logistic centers. hz