ADVACAM
Imaging the Unseen

AdvaPIX TPX3

Datasheet

Model No.: APXMD3-Xxx170704
APXT3M-Xxx180119

ADVACAM
Imaging the Unseen

General features

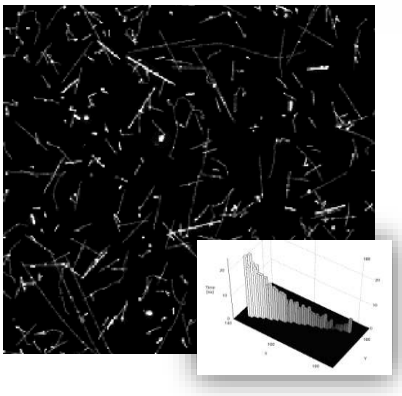


Illustration of single particle sensitivity of Timepix3 device. The tracks of different particles of radiation background (mostly muons and few protons) were recorded in 5 minutes on board of airplane. No noise (clean zero) is seen in dark regions. Inset shows the time profile along one muon track.

The **ADVAPIX TPX3** modules were designed with special emphasis to performance and versatility which is often required in a scientific experimental work. They contain CERN detector Timepix3 for particle tracking and imaging with Si or CdTe sensor. The **ADVAPIX TPX3** modules can be used in different configurations: telescope of several layers for better particle tracking and/or side-by-side for larger area coverage. Each module contains one Timepix3 device with fast sparse data readout to acquire up to 40 Mhits per second. A separate USB 3.0 channel for each module assures fast read-out of the whole modular system. The sensor type and thickness is of customer's choice.

The typical and intended applications of **ADVAPIX TPX3** include:

- **Spectral X-ray and gamma ray imaging:** X-ray fluorescence imaging, X-ray radiography (low flux), scintigraphy or SPECT, radiography with isotopes.
- **Energy dispersive XRD, SAXS or WAXS:** Monochromatic X-ray source is NOT needed! Even high energy for thick samples is possible (e.g. 100 keV)!
- **Particle tracking and ion beam monitoring:** detectors can be used for tracking and tagging of primary particles (e.g. ions) as well as secondary radiation (spallation, fragmentation, recoiled, bremsstrahlung, prompt/delayed decays, neutrons[1] …).
- **Neutron imaging:** The sensors can be adapted for neutron imaging by deposition of converter layers[1].

Recording shapes of individual hits together with advanced data processing allows increasing the spatial resolution in some applications to units of microns or even sub-micrometric level (for ions).

Main Features

- Readout chip type Timepix3
- Pixel size ..... 55 x 55 µm
- Sensor resolution ..... 256 x 256 pixels
- Time resolution ..... 1.6 ns
- Power ..... External or via second USB 3.0
- Interface ..... USB 3.0 (Super-Speed)
- Maximum readout speed ..... 40 million pixels / s
- Dimensions ..... 125 x 79 x 25.5 mm
- Weight ..... 503 g

[1] Convertors based on ^{6}LiF or $^{10}B_4C$ for slow neutrons (efficiency up to 4%) or PE for fast neutrons.

Device parameters

Operating conditions

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Units	Comment
TA	Ambient Temperature Range	0-50	°C	
Φ	Humidity	<80	%	Not condensing
	Altitude*	<2000	m	Above sea level
IP	IP rating	IP40		With cover

*for use in vacuum chamber, operate only with air pressure lower than 10^{-3}Pa
Location: Intended for indoor use, dust free.

Electrical Specification

T_A = 25°C, USB voltage V_{CC} = 4.8V

Symbol	Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Units	Comment
V_{CC}	Supply Voltage	4.0	5.0	5.5	V	
I_{CC}	Supply Current					
I_{CC1}	Chip active		800	1500	mA	
P1	Power Dissipation			7.5	W	
I/O Conn. Input CMOS (pin 5,6,7,8,9)						
V_{INL}	Voltage Low	-0.3		0.7	V	
V_{INH}	Voltage High	1.7		2.8	V	
I/O Conn. Input LVDS (pin 3,4)						
V_{IN}	Voltage Range	0		2.5	V	
V_{INDIFF}	Differential Voltage	250		600	mV	
I/O Conn. +5V (pin 2)						
I_{MAX}	Maximum current	0		1.15	V	
V_{+5V}	Pin Voltage		4.5		V	V_{CC} – 0.5V
Bias Voltage Source for Sensor Diode						
V_{BIAS}	Bias Voltage	0		±450	V	Polarity is sensor dependent

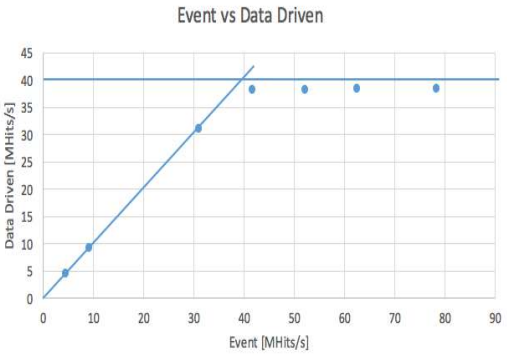
Performance characteristics of Timepix3

Symbol	Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Units	Comment
f	Hit-rate			40	MPixels/s	with USB 3.0 cable
	Data rate			2.4	Gbit/s	with USB 3.0 cable
TREAD	Frame Readout Time[3]		33		ms	with USB 3.0 cable
dT	Time resolution	1.56			ns	
FREAD	Read-out frequency		320		MHz	½ of maximum ROC freq

[1] **ADVAPIX$_{TPX3}$** is not certified dosimetric device. It serves as the first level indicator and monitor of radiation fields allowing identification of a radiation type. Radiation protection of people cannot be based on measurements of **ADVAPIX$_{TPX3}$**.
[2] Dynamic range of final picture is theoretically unlimited; the only limiting factor is exposure time.
[3] During Readout time (or Dead time), no signal is collected from the sensor.

Pixel mode hit-rate measurement

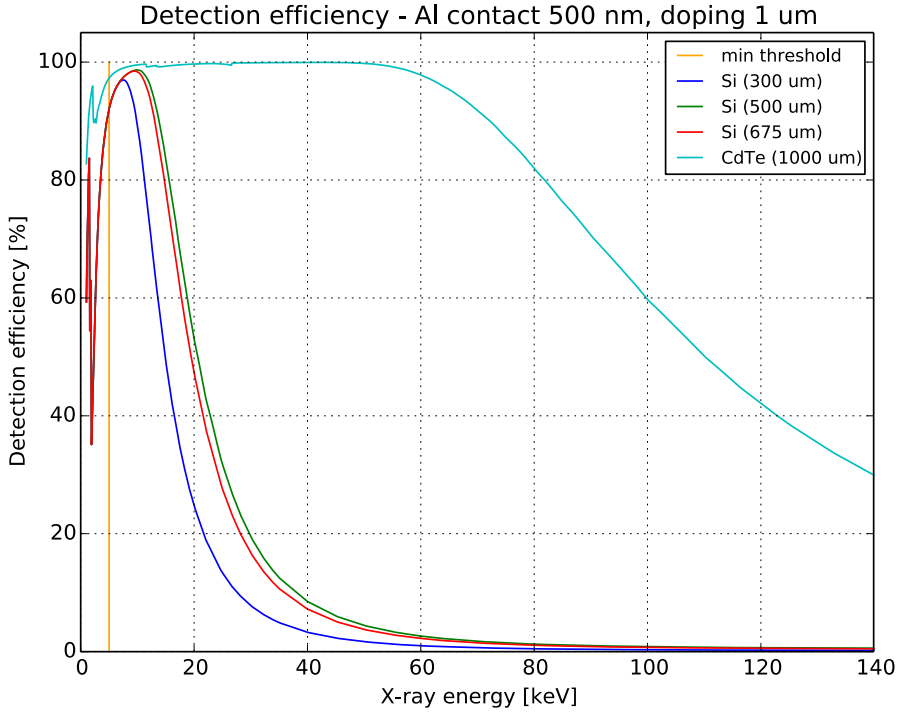
The whole detector is exposed to homogenous perpendicular irradiation from X-ray tube operated at 18 kVp with 2 mm Aluminum filter. The measurement type is set to "**Pixels**" and mode to "**ToT+ToA**" all other parameters are set to factory defaults (as stored in configuration file delivered with device). The exposure time is set to 0.1 s. The "Clustering" tool of PiXet-Pro is used to analyze measured data. The number of hit pixels per second is drawn as function of X-ray tube current searching for saturation. The real number of events is verified for each step using frame type measurement when all hits are accumulated in single frame.



Sensor parameters

T_A = 25°C

Symbol	Parameter	Si				CdTe	Units	Comment
	Thickness	100	300	500	675	1000	µm	
σ	Energy resolution of energy discrimination threshold (σ @ 23 keV)	0.5				1.1	keV	
σ	Energy resolution of energy discrimination threshold (σ @ 60 keV)	0.6				1.5	keV	
σ	Energy resolution in full spectral mode (σ @ 23 keV)	0.7				3.0	keV	
σ	Energy resolution in full spectral mode (σ @ 60 keV)	1.0				3.6	keV	
	Typical detectable energy range for X-rays4	5 to 60				5 to 500	keV	See chart below
	Pixel size	55				55	µm	



Basic principles, measurement types and modes

The ionizing radiation particle interacts with the sensor material creating an electric charge. This charge is collected by electric field and brought to pixel preamplifier where it is amplified and shaped forming triangular voltage pulse. The amplitude and duration of this pulse is proportional to energy deposited by particle within the pixel. The situation when the voltage pulse amplitude in particular pixel exceeds preselected threshold value is called “event” or “hit”.

Each pixel contains three digital counters (10, 14 and 4 bits). These counters are used differently according to measurement type and mode. There are four basic values which can be measured and stored in counters of each pixel:

Measurement modes:

Number of Events = number of events (hits) in the pixel during exposure time (this mode is suitable mainly for frame type readout).

Time-**o**ver-**T**hreshold (ToT) = measured as number of periods of 40 MHz clock signal (25 ns step) when amplifier output signal stays over the energy threshold. The ToT can be transformed to energy in keV using per-pixel-calibration function. The coefficients for per-pixel-calibration are unique for each detector pixel and they are stored in configuration file delivered with device. The energy calibration is valid only for given values of other detector parameters as delivered in configuration file (especially threshold).

Time-**o**f-**A**rrival (ToA) = number of periods of 40 MHz clock signal (25 ns step) from start of exposure till the event is registered by pixel (i.e. pulse in pixel crosses the threshold). The range is 409.6 µs. Additional 16 bits are added in FPGA in readout electronics so that the total range is 26.8 seconds. The additional bits are usable only if the pixel hit rate is below maximal value (see f_p in table of Performance characteristics).

Fast-**T**ime-**o**f-**A**rrival (FToA) = time difference between event detection and next clock signal measured with step of 1.5625 ns. Range is 4 bits. The combination of ToA and FToA gives precise time of event detection in nanoseconds using following formula:

$$\text{Time [ns]} = \text{ToA}*25 - \text{FToA}*1.5625$$

ToA and FTOA are combined together by software. If saved then ToA and FToA are stored as separate items.

Measurement types:

Frame type measurement — No data is sent out of device during the exposure time. All measured events are accumulated in counters of pixels. Event counter is incremented and ToT is integrated for all events. The measured data is read-out after end of exposure time for all pixels with nonzero content. No measurement can be performed during readout process.

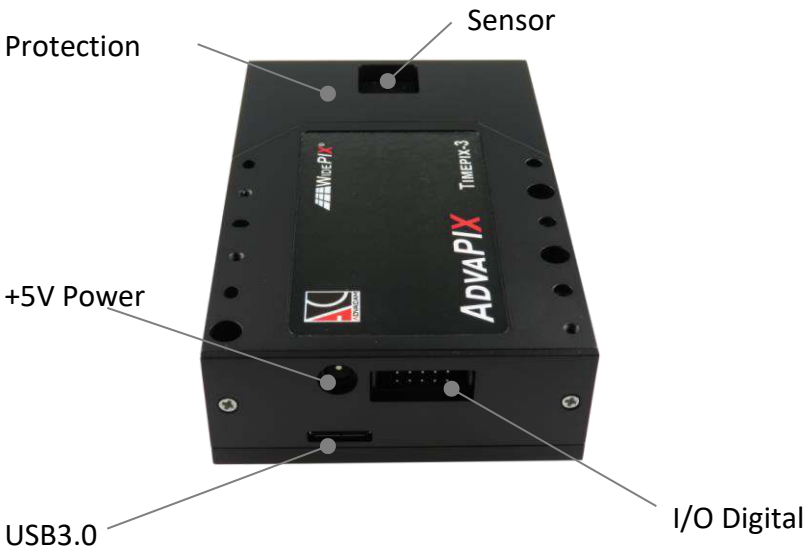
Pixel type measurement — Information about all hit pixels is read-out immediately and continuously during exposure time. If hit rate is below maximal value (see fp in table of Performance characteristics) then there is virtually no deadtime.

Major modes and types of operation (rarely used combinations are shown with gray background):

Type	Mode	Range	Description
Frame (reading all pixels after end of exposure)	Event+iToT	10 bit + 14 bit	2 output frames per exposure: 1st Events = Number of events in pixel, 2nd iToT = total time over threshold for all events in pixel.
	iToT	14 bit	1 output frame: iToT = total time over threshold for all events in pixel.
	ToA	18 bit	1 output frame: ToA+FToA[Error! Bookmark not defined.] = Time of Arrival of first event in pixel.

Pixel (reading only hit pixels continuously during exposure)	ToT+ToA	10 bit + 18 bit	4 numbers per pixel per event: Position, ToT, ToA and FToA.
	ToA	18 bit	3 numbers per pixel per event: Position, ToA and FToA[Error! Bookmark not defined.]
	Only ToT	10 bit	2 number per pixel per event: Position and ToT.

Device description



+5VDC connector

Main power supply (via standard 5.5/2.1mm barrel connector). Connect after plugging USB connector.

USB 3.0 connector

USB type micro B, Standard USB 3.0 Super-Speed.

I/O Digital connector

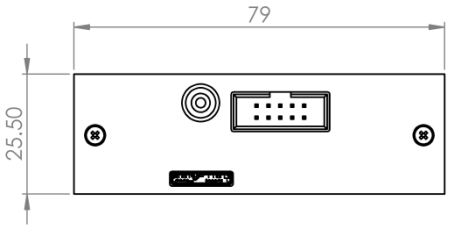
Signals on I/O Digital connector are used for synchronization purposes. For details see Synchronization guide for TPX3. Input pins are **NOT** +5V compatible. Pin 2 (+5V) may be used for power of external circuitry. It is taken directly from +5VDC connector, protected by schottky diode (0.5A max) Pin directions (Input/output) are dependent on polarity of pin 9 (Dir Select).

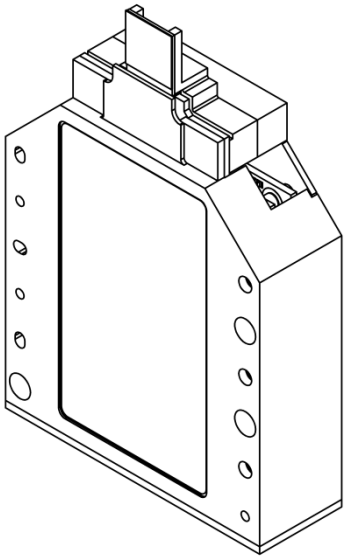
1	GND		2	+5V	
3	CLK p[5]	LVDS (2.5V)	4	CLK n[5]	LVDS (2.5V)
5	E2[5]	CMOS 0-2.5V	6	E1[5]	CMOS 0-2.5V
7	Trigger Out[5]	CMOS 0-2.5V	8	Trigger In[5]	CMOS 0-2.5V
9	Dir select[5]	CMOS 0-2.5V	10	GND[5]	

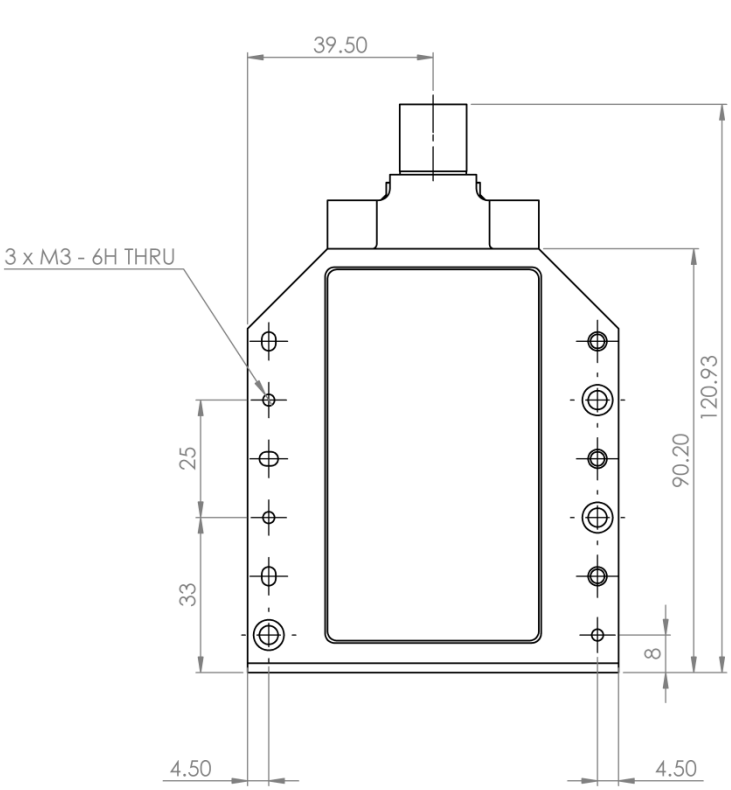
[5] Signals are available in APXT3M-Xxx180119, Unused in version APXMD3-Xxx170704

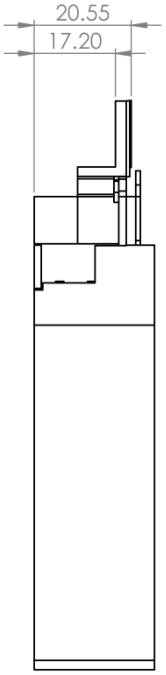
Mechanical dimensions

Without protection cover
Do not operate without protection cover!





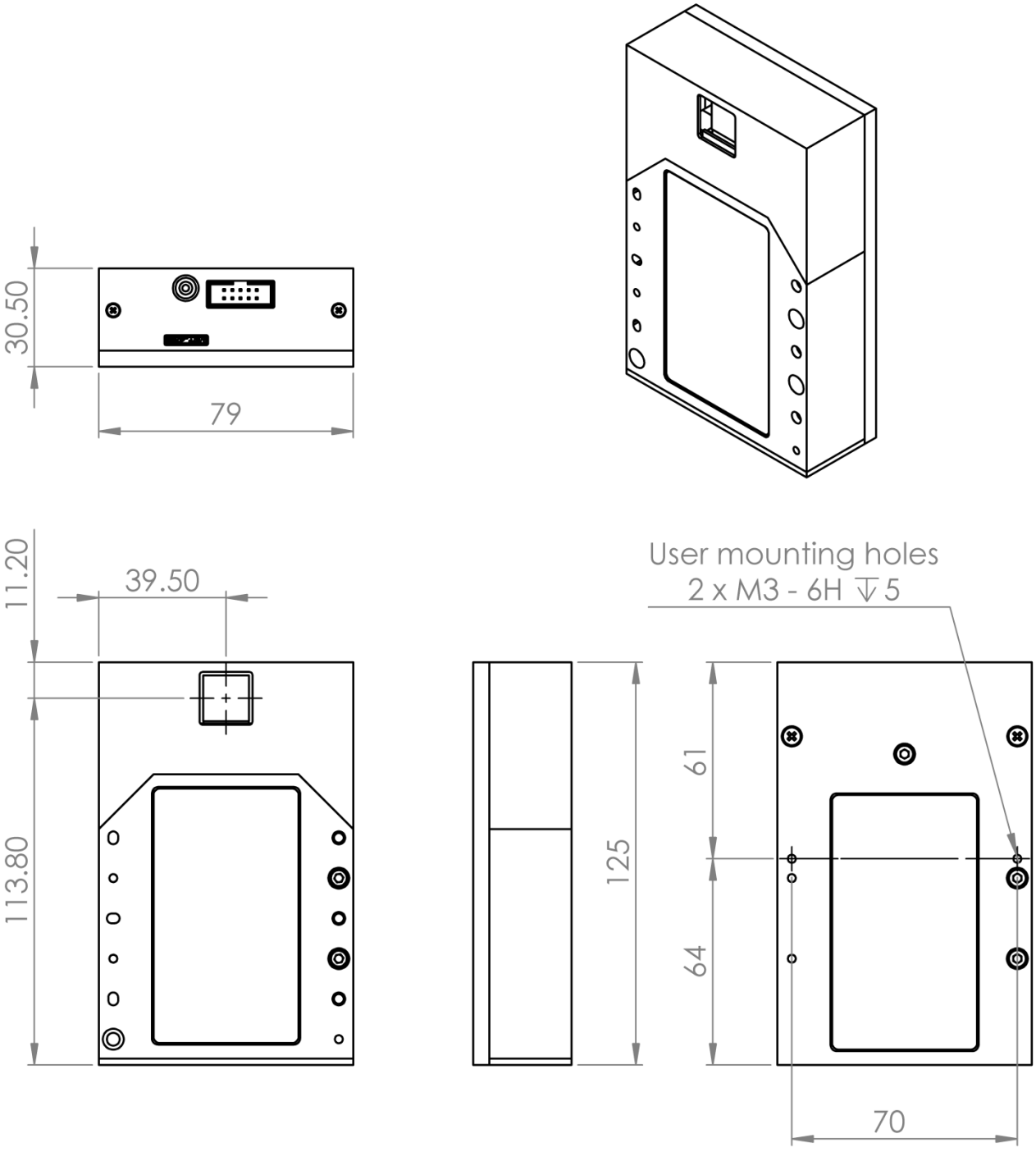




All dimensions are in mm.

Extreme care must be taken when removing protecting cover and handling the **ADVAPIX TPX3** without the protecting cover. Warranty does not apply to mechanical damage of the sensor and wirebonds.

With protection cover



All dimensions are in mm.

Model Number Codes

Example: APX T3M - X P 3 180119

Device name:

APX – AdvaPIX

Device modification:

T3M (MD3) – Timepix3 Module

Sensor type:

P – Planar silicon
E – Edgless silicon
C – CdTe
Z – CdZnTe

Sensor thickness:

1 – 100 µm
3 – 300 µm
5 – 500 µm
A – 1000 µm
B – 2000 µm

Device version date:

YY MM DD

Release history

Date	Changes
17/11/02	Model number codes added, datasheet version
18/02/08	Synchronization of (180119 version)
19/04/16	Synchronization voltages corrected
19/07/22	Major revision: Added intended applications, description of modes and types, hit rate measurement.

Warning

Do not touch sensor surface!

Instructions for safe use

To avoid malfunction or damage to your ADVAPIX TPX3 please observe the following:

- Do not expose to water or moisture.
- Do not disassemble. Wire-bonding connection may be irreversibly damaged.
- Do not insert any object into the sensor window.
- Extreme care must be taken when removing the protecting cover or handling the ADVAPIX TPX3 without the protecting cover. Warranty does not apply to mechanical damage of the sensor and wirebonds
- The protection provided by this product may be impaired if it is used in a manner not described in this document

Copyright

ADVACAM s.r.o.
U Pergamenky 1145/12
170 00 Praha
Czech Republic

Tel: +420 603 444 112
Email:
info@advacam.com
www.advacam.com