

# An Open-Source on-board computer platform for CubeSats

---

Filip Geib  
José Feiteirinha  
December 2020

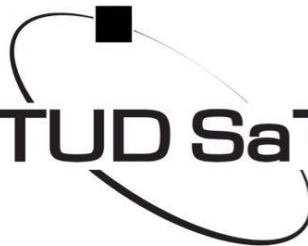
**VISI**  **NSPACE**

# VST104 project - overview and cooperation

- Development of hardware boards dedicated to CubeSat applications in PC104 format
- Aimed to OnBoard Computer (OBC) boards and development & testing auxiliaries
- Platform for MCS testing and future FPGA onboard algorithms development
- Contribution to the LibreCube initiative and support the local university club - TUDSaT

**VISION**  
SPACE

**LIBRE**  **CUBE**

  
**TUD SaT**

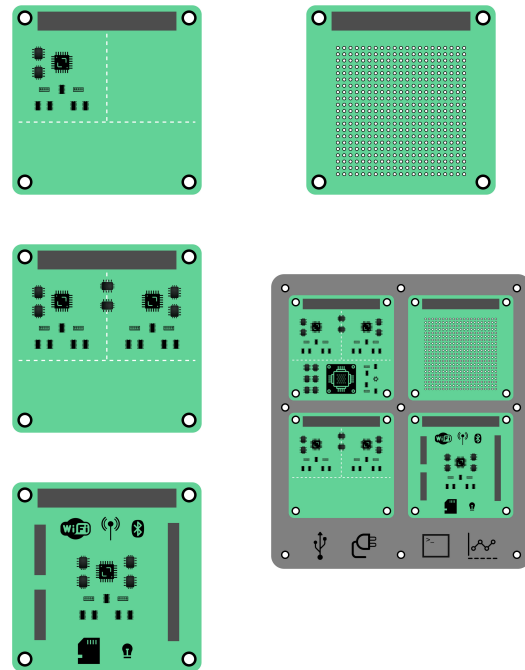
# VST104 boards family - summary and overview

## *Towards the main goal*

- **board\_zero** - universal development board
- **board\_sierra** - single MCU OBC board
- **board\_delta** - double redundant OBC board

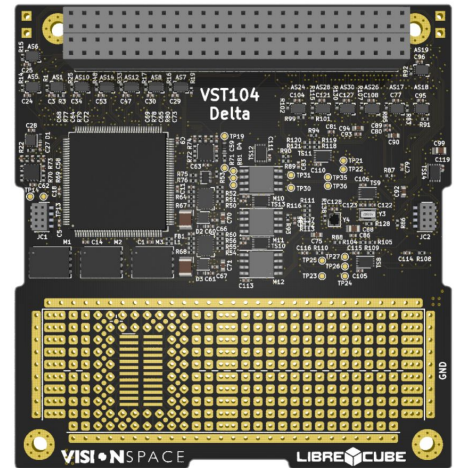
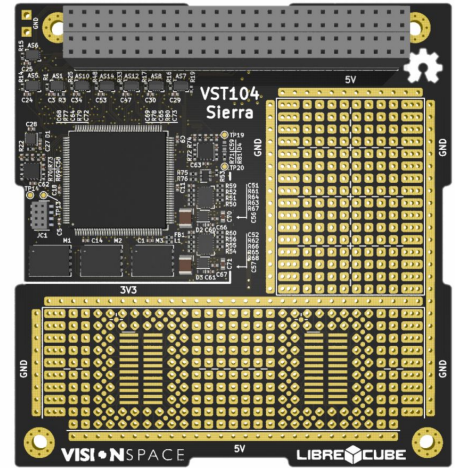
## *Project auxiliary boards*

- **element\_foxtrot** - flatsat adapter for above boards
- **board\_whiskey** - WiFi radio subsystem equivalent



# OBC boards specifications

- All used components are suitable for space:
  - Mechanical failure qualifications AEC-Q100 or AEC-Q200
  - Military rated operational temperatures (-40°C to +125°C)
- No radiation hardened components, but:
  - Double redundant OBC - switch off & isolate
  - Triple redundancy external memory - per OBC
- Compact design with maximal payload sector



# OBC boards peripherals

- Main peripherals with robust options:
  - 2x CAN bus
  - 2x I2C
  - 4x UART
  - 2x SPI
- 22 general purpose USER pins
- System check and maintenance signals:
  - WatchDogs
  - KillSwitches
  - CPU mode
  - Synchronisation
  - Fault collector

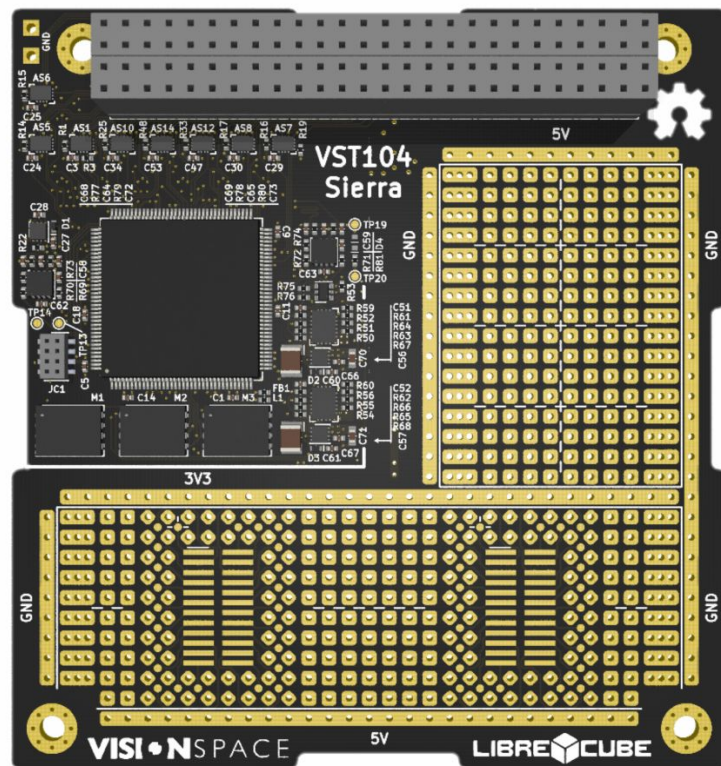


Header H1			
	1	2	
	3	4	
USER_1_1	5	6	USER_1_2
SPI_1_CS2	7	8	USER_1_4
SPI_1_CS1	9	10	SPI_1_MOSI
SPI_1_CLK	11	12	SPI_1_MISO
UART_1_TX	13	14	UART_1_CTS
UART_1_RX	15	16	UART_1_RST
UART_RCS_1_TX	17	18	UART_RCS_1_CTS
UART_RCS_1_RX	19	20	UART_RCS_1_RST
I2C_1_SCL	21	22	I2C_1_SDA
CAN_1_H	23	24	CAN_1_L
GLO_SYNC	25	26	GLO_FAULT
CPU_WD_1	27	28	CPU_WD_2
-	29	30	CPU_MODE
SUP_3V3_REF	31	32	SUP_5V_REF
GND	33	34	GND
GLO_KS_1	35	36	GLO_KS_2
-	37	38	-
USER_3_1	39	40	USER_3_2
USER_3_3	41	42	USER_3_4
USER_5_1	43	44	USER_5_2
USER_5_3	45	46	USER_5_4
	47	48	
	49	50	
	51	52	

Header H2			
	1	2	
	3	4	
USER_2_1	5	6	USER_2_2
SPI_2_CS2	7	8	USER_2_4
SPI_2_CS1	9	10	SPI_2_MOSI
SPI_2_CLK	11	12	SPI_2_MISO
UART_2_TX	13	14	UART_2_CTS
UART_2_RX	15	16	UART_2_RST
UART_RCS_2_TX	17	18	UART_RCS_2_CTS
UART_RCS_2_RX	19	20	UART_RCS_2_RST
I2C_2_SCL	21	22	I2C_2_SDA
CAN_2_H	23	24	CAN_2_L
SUP_5V	25	26	SUP_5V
SUP_3V3	27	28	SUP_3V3
GND	29	30	GND
AGND	31	32	GND
-	33	34	-
-	35	36	-
-	37	38	-
USER_4_1	39	40	USER_4_2
USER_4_3	41	42	USER_4_4
USER_6_1	43	44	USER_6_2
-	45	46	-
USER_6_3	47	48	USER_6_4
	49	50	
	51	52	

# board\_sierra - single MCU OBC board

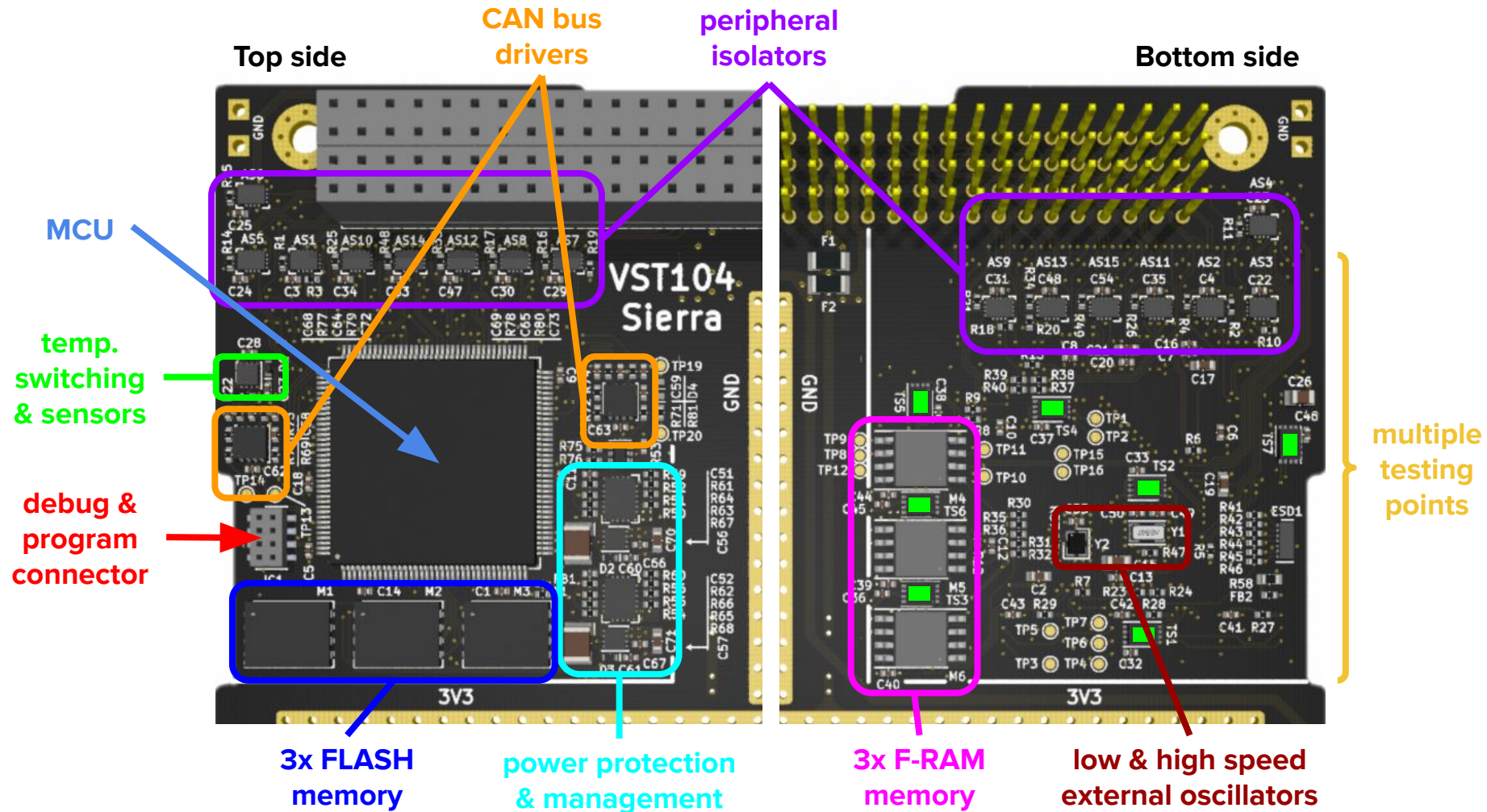
- *MCU*: STM32L496 - up to 78 [MHz]
- *Clock*: 32.768 [kHz] LSE & 26 [MHz] HSE
- *External memory* (triple redundant - SEE): 256 [Mbit] Flash & 2 [Mbit] F-RAM
- *Peripherals* (redundant): CAN bus, I2C, USART, SPI, multiple A/D I/O applications
- *Debugging and program*: SWI & UART
- *Multiple interesting features*





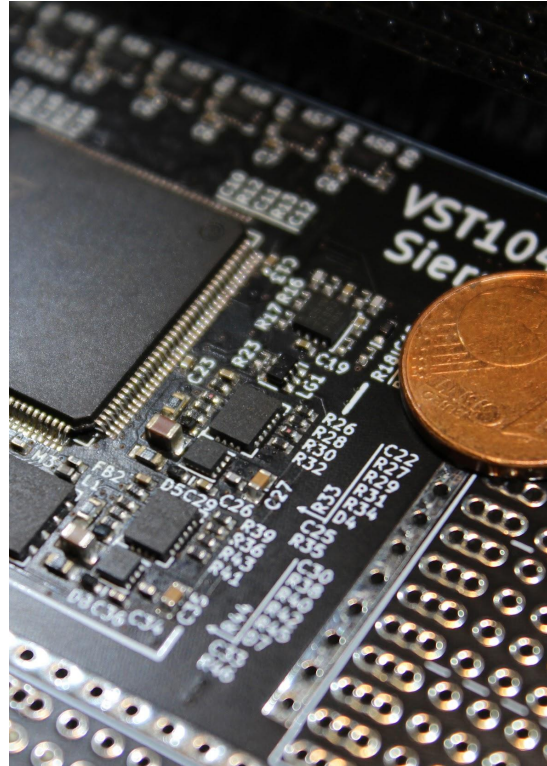
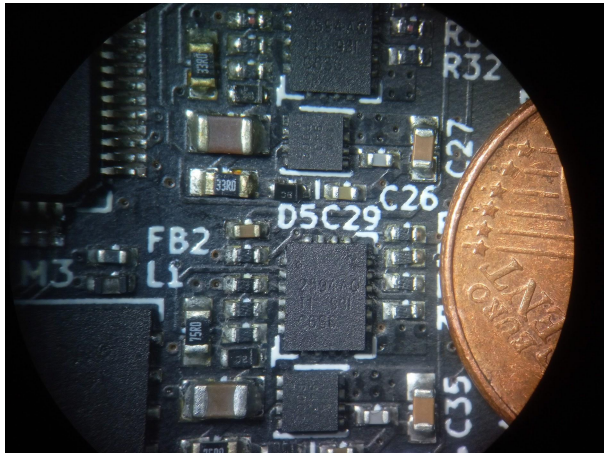




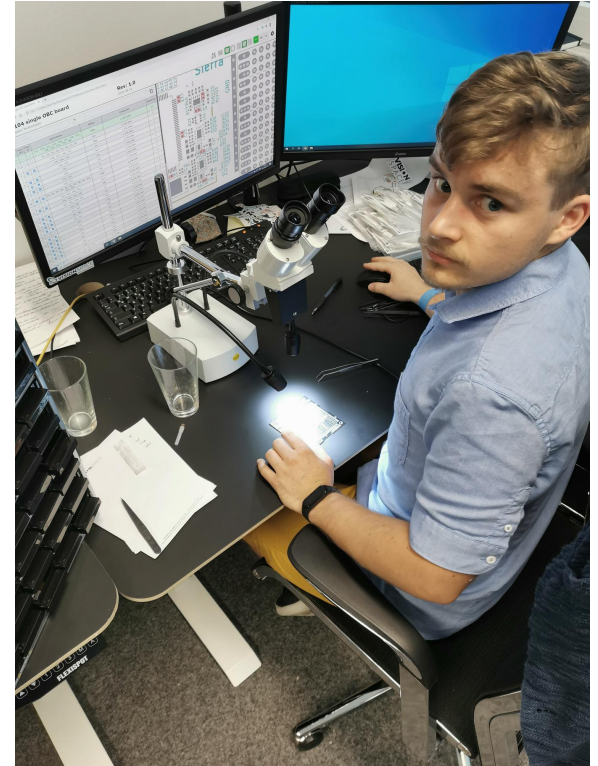


# Soldering

1. Isopropyl & Stencil
2. Soldering paste
3. Tweezers & Microscope
4. Hot-air rework station
5. Flip sides and repeat
6. Clean, check & cry



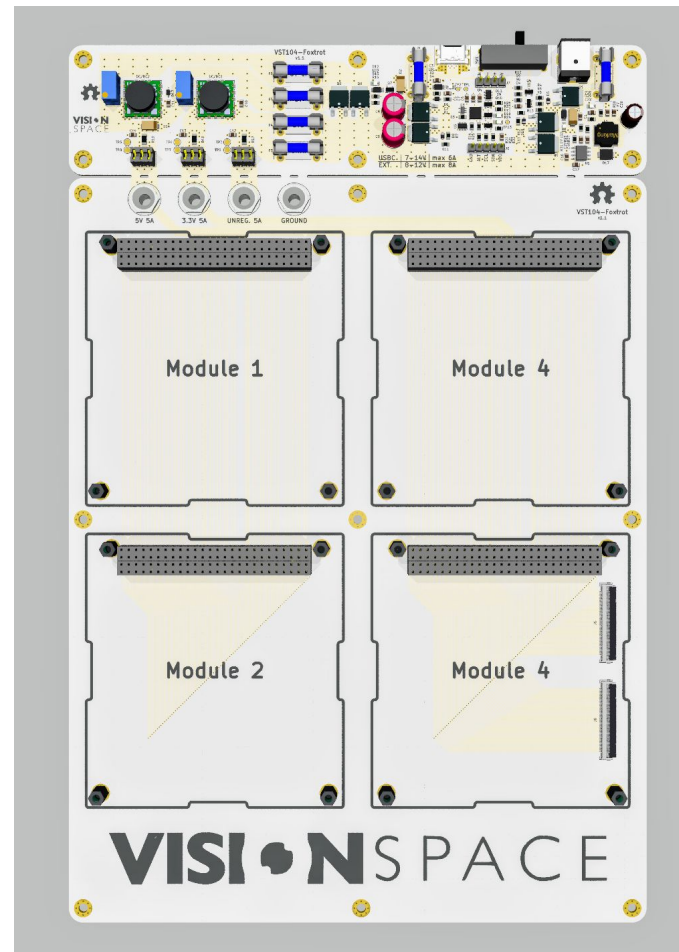
***“No, 0402 is not that small...”***





# element\_foxtrot - flatsat

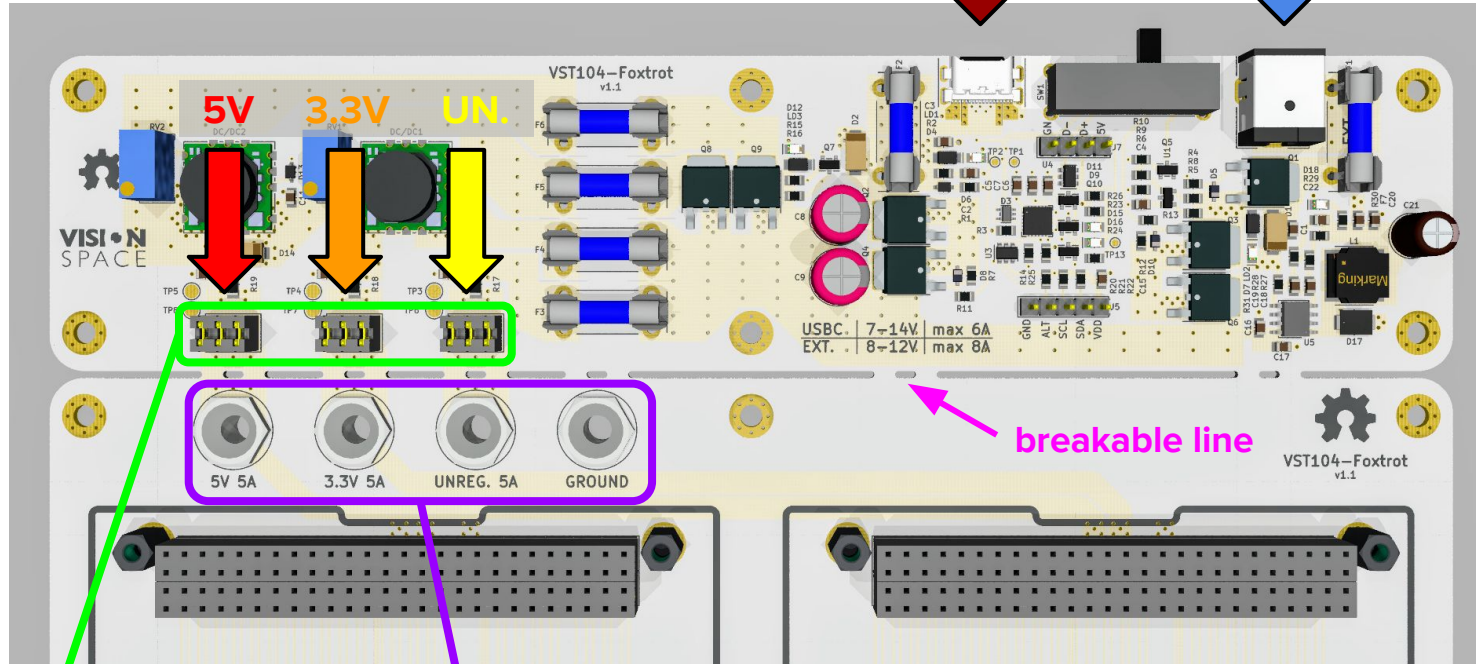
- Spacecraft & subsystems development
- Separate modules testing and debugging
- Future project presentation and show-off
- Replacement of PCDU by power supply with protection & conversion circuitry
- Possibility of extension to another foxtrot



**USB-C**  
**5V 6A**  
**7-14V 6A**

**EXTERNAL**  
**2mm JACK**  
**7-14V 8A**

on/off/on



temporary  
disconnection terminal

laboratory 4mm  
power banana jack

tunable DC/DC  
convertors

separate  
fusing

USB-C  
handshaking

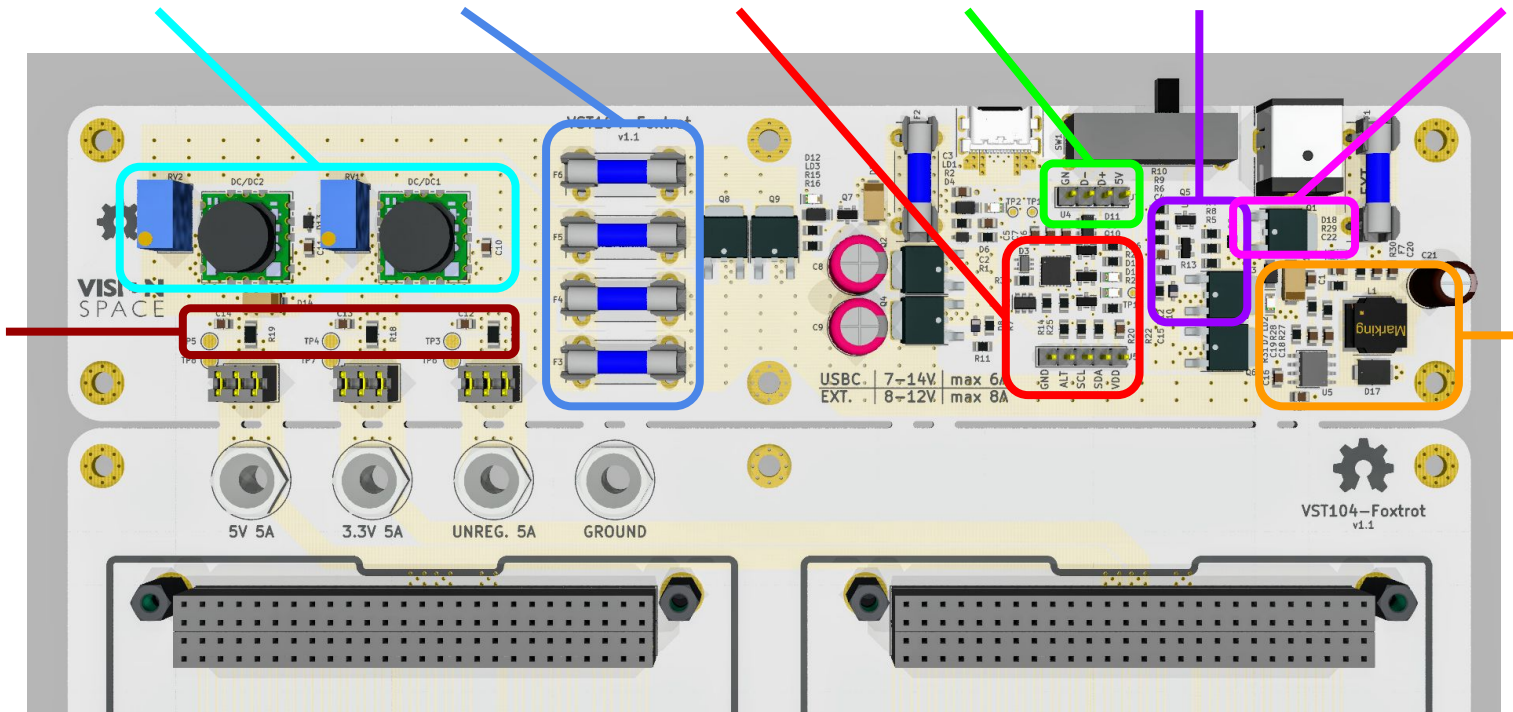
USB  
data bus

overvoltage  
protection

reverse polarity  
protection

current  
sensing  
resistors

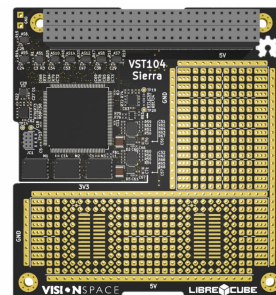
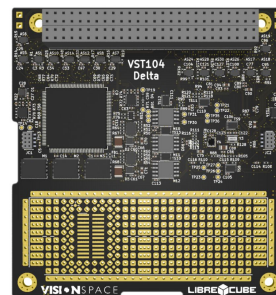
5V for  
USB  
data bus



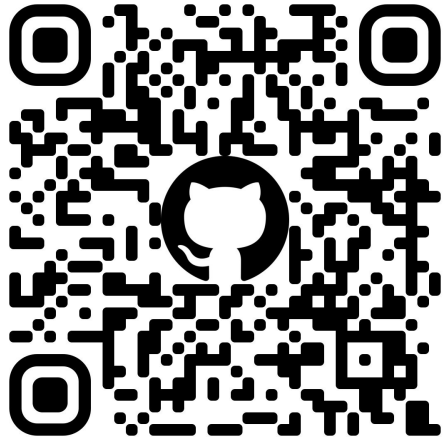
VST104-Foxtrot  
v1.1

# Future work

- Assembly and testing of board\_delta
- Addition of external RTC with independent power source
- Redesign of temperature monitoring circuitry for board\_delta



Check out our GitHub!



[github.com/visionspacetec/VST104](https://github.com/visionspacetec/VST104)

Feel free to contact us :)

José Feiteirinha

[jose.feiteirinha@visionspace.com](mailto:jose.feiteirinha@visionspace.com)