NetFusion Libero Starter Project Helper

User Guide

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About This Document

This specification introduces the NetFusion baseboard's Libero IDE starter project. Whilst this is provided as a downloadable target to the PCB, using the open-source IP project as a start point will aid and help the user's intended functional product.

Intended Audience

This document is fully intended to be viewed and reference by Nine Ways customers using the technology for larger designs and projects.

1 Introduction

Microsemi is part of Actel Corporation. It designed and manufactured the SmartFusion2 FPGA. Libero is the IDE software for programming and synthesizing IP cores. Along with the bundle of uClinux firmware compilation tools, this is the heart of the NetFusion design process for Users.

1.1 Libero SoC/IDE 11.3

Microsemi's Libero ® IDE software release for designing with Microsemi Rad-Tolerant FPGAs, Antifuse FPGAs and Legacy & Discontinued Flash FPGAs and managing the entire design flow from design entry, synthesis and simulation, through place-and-route, timing and power analysis. PCN 1108: Silicon Family Support in Libero IDE.

Libero IDE Software Features:

- Powerful project and design flow management
- Full suite of integrated design entry tools and methodologies:
  - SmartDesign graphical SoC design creation with automatic abstraction to HDL
  - IP Core Catalog and configuration
  - User-defined block creation flow for design re-use
- Synplify Pro ME synthesis fully optimizes Microsemi FPGA device performance and area utilization
- Synphony Model Compiler ME performs high-level synthesis optimizations within a Simulink® environment

- Modelsim ME VHDL or Verilog behavioral, post-synthesis and post-layout simulation capability
- Physical design implementation, floor planning, physical constraints, and layout
- Timing-driven and power-driven place-and-route
- SmartTime environment for timing constraint management and analysis
- SmartPower provides comprehensive power analysis for actual and "what if" power scenarios
- Interface to FlashPro programmers
- Post-route On Chip Debug Tools and Identify ME debugging software for Microsemi flash designs
- Silicon Explorer II debugging software for Microsemi antifuse designs

1.2 Installation

Libero software is downloadable for free from http://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/designresources/design-software/libero-soc#downloads. Some Libero features are optional during installation.

You can minimize the disk space required by only installing tools you use.

You must have a license to run Libero; the license type that you obtain determines what devices you can use and what IP is included. The following license types exist for Libero:

• Libero Platinum (All devices and RTL IP Bundle)
• Libero Gold (Limited devices and Obfuscated IP Bundle)

View the complete descriptions of the above Libero installations at http://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/design-resources/design-software/libero soc#licensing.

View the IP Bundle contents at http://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/design-resources/ip-cores.

Libero installation is covered in "Installing Libero Software" on page 16.

Note: You must have Admin rights on the installation machine to install Libero SoC.

1.3 Starting a Project and Basic Understanding

Before attempting to modify or implement any project in Libero, it is advised that you download and read the following PDF references:

System on Chip installation:

Libero SoC v11.3 User's Guide

Libero SoC Quick Start Guide for Software v10.0

Integrated Development Environment installation:

Libero IDE and Software Installation and Licensing Guide

Libero IDE License Troubleshooting Guide

(**Note:** *Press CNTL and click to download the links*)

1.3.1 Libero IDE First Launch

Figure 1 - Libero IDE Boot-Up Screen

1.4 NetFusion

When purchasing NetFusion, an important component of the overall product is the Libero starter project that is provided by Nine Ways Research & Development Ltd. This is downloadable from Nine Ways R&D Ltd and when expanded into a target directory on your development PC, provides an immediate project for your needs. Instead of having to start and debug creating an ARM sub-system with all of the supporting IP cores required to have a functioning NetFusion PCB – just use the provided project.

From installation, you can program the IDE project once synthesized into your NetFusion product using the FlashPro4 USB device. This will provide the standard functionality in the Smartfusion2 FPGA fabric on the M2S-SOM-F484 (System-On-Module) to see normalized operation. In the software bundle to this product, the uClinux device drivers will drive and control the hardware on the NetFusion PCB through the IP cores in this project for the FPGA fabric.

Users can contact Nine Ways R&D for special functionality to be developed and deployed, but this serves as an addition to this starter Libero IDE project. Moreover, in conjunction with MorethanIP GmbH, customized and locked down projects can be tailored for customer requests but that also is separate to this project.

1.5 Product Development

At the point where the Libero IDE/SoC has been installed, the NetFusion starter project has been downloaded and exploded into a target directory on your PC, the project has been loaded, synthesized, programmed and shown to be running on the NetFusion PCB product – you are ready to begin your development.

As standard, the main fast Ethernet pathways into the SmartFusion2 FPGA fabric are wired in through the FPGA balls, assigned in the I/O editor, brought down through the Top-Level and then into the SOM level of the design in the project. They then terminate at a dummy IP core for all un-assigned wires – this makes life a lot easier for the developer knowing that all the NetFusion traces coming into the M2S-SOM-F484 are wired into the SOM level of the fabric design. Changes are therefore quick and easy to then re-assign in that lower level sheet to new instantiated IP cores of the user's choice.

The category of wires left terminated and not used are the GMII Ethernet pathways. Users can download and use Vendor specific MAC/SWITCH cores or chose to privately purchase cores from reputable design-houses such as MorethanIP. All other used hardware on the NetFusion PC is wired and connected in the SOM layer to GPIO, SPI, UART, USB, I2C etc as standard in the starter project.

If you decide to write and author your own IP cores in Verilog or VHDL, you can drop and place the code into the **\[Project Dir]\hdl** directory.

Note: *Once you have started to customize and tailor the project to your own needs and functionality, obviously renaming the project is easy – just rename the project directory and inside that directory, just rename the **[.prj]** file. Close and re-open the Libero IDE.*

1.6 Documentation Checklist

Libero SoC User's Guide
Explains how to use the Libero SoC Project Manager, including Designer and SmartDesign.

SmartFusion2 and IGLOO2 SmartTime, I/O Editor and ChipPlanner User's Guide
Provides details about using SmartTime for timing analysis, placing macros, floor planning and viewing chip resources for
SmartFusion2

MultiView Navigator User's Guide (includes documentation for ChipPlanner, PinEditor, I/O Attribute Editor, and NetlistViewer in MVN)
Provides details about placing macros, floor planning, and viewing chip resources; contains information about using NetlistViewer in the MultiView Navigator to view your netlist; describes how to use the PinEditor in MVN; describes how to use the I/O Attribute Editor tool.

Design Constraints User's Guide
Provides a complete reference for creating and modifying timing, physical, and netlist optimization constraints in Libero SoC, including families and file formats supported for each constraint. It also describes how to create and modify I/O constraints with the I/O Attribute Editor, before compiling your design.

SmartPower User's Guide
Describes how to use SmartPower for power analysis.

SmartTime User's Guide
Describes how to use SmartTime for timing analysis and how to set clock constraints.

Tcl Command Reference
Lists all the Tcl commands and parameters for the Microsemi software tools.

Analog System Builder, FlashROM and Flash Memory System Builder User's Guide
Describes how to use the FlashROM generator, the Analog System Builder, and the Flash Memory System Builder.

SmartGen Cores Reference Guide
Provides descriptions of cores that can be generated from the Catalog using the SmartGen Core Builder.

FlashPro User's Guide
Contains information about how to program your devices using the FlashPro software and device programmer. FlashPro is not available on UNIX.

SmartFusion2 and IGLOO2 Macro Library Guide
Provides descriptions of Microsemi library elements for the Microsemi SmartFusion2 and IGLOO2 device families. Symbols, truth tables, and module counts (if appropriate) are included for all macros.

IGLOO, ProASIC3, SmartFusion and Fusion Macro Library Guide
Provides descriptions of Microsemi library elements for Microsemi SmartFusion, Fusion, ProASIC3 and ProASIC3E device families. Symbols, truth tables, and module counts (if appropriate) are included for all macros.

SmartFusion2 and IGLOO2 Block Flow User's Guide
Describes how to create and integrate Blocks in Libero SoC for SmartFusion2 and IGLOO2.

VHDL Vital Simulation Guide
Contains information about using the ModelSim to simulate designs for Microsemi SoC devices.

Verilog Simulation Guide
Contains information about interfacing the FPGA development software with Verilog simulation tools.

ViewDraw User's Guide
Describes how to create designs in ViewDraw using menu commands, toolbar buttons, and by selecting and entering information on dialog boxes. ViewDraw for Microsemi is not available on UNIX.

ModelSim ME Book Case
Contains a User's Manual, Command Reference, and Tutorial. These guides contain details about using ModelSim ME, Libero's integrated simulation tool. Refer to the documentation included with ModelSim ME for more information. ModelSim ME documentation is also available at:

http://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/design-resources/design-software/liberosoc#Documents

Synopsys Synplify Pro ME
Documents include release notes, user's guide, tutorial, reference manual, and license configuration and set-up. Refer to the documentation included with Synopsys Synplify Pro for more information. Synopsys Synplify Pro ME documentation is also available at:

http://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/design-resources/design-software/libero-soc#documents

2 Downloading New IP Core(s) into the Libero IDE Installation

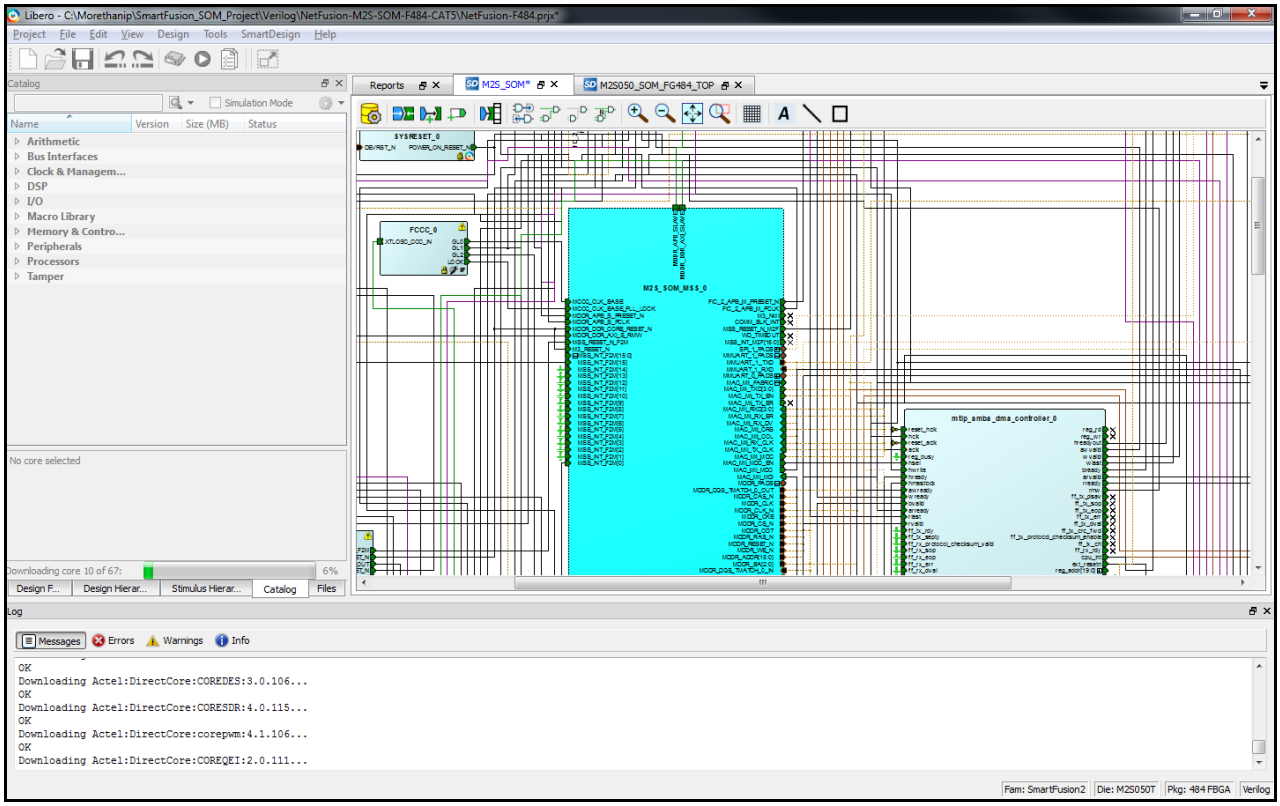


Figure 2 - Libero Updating IP Core in the Vault

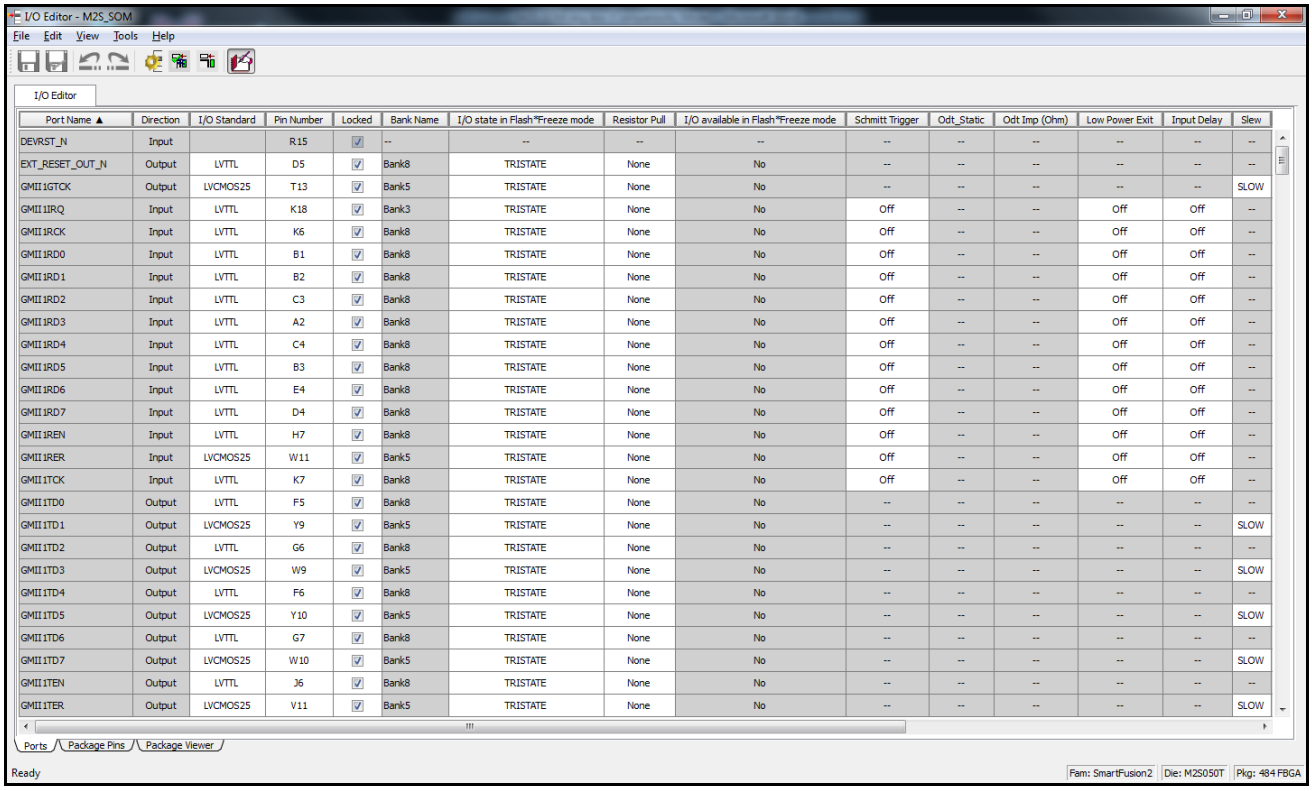
When you first load the NetFusion starter project into the IDE, the most likely occurrence to happen is that the system will warn you to update “New IP Cores”. This is because the design includes cores that you possibly do not have on your vault on your local hard drive.

Click “YES” to proceed and let the download process complete. **Note:** *this may take several minutes and you MUST have a network connection and gateway to the internet.*

3 NetFusion Libero I/O Assignments

The NetFusion Libero starter project is delivered already with the I/O balls of the FPGA assigned ready for the user. These all correspond with the pin-out tracking assignments on the NetFusion PCB product. This means that you will not have to consider any of these assignments unless you are planning any major changes to the inherent default design.

This is very unlikely as you would need then to request changes to the PCB design. However, this section highlights the assignments in case you also want to make minor changes to the direction of the port, default output values and/or change internal SmartFusion2 FPGA pull-up values.



Port Name ▲	Direction	I/O Standard	Pin Number	Locked	Bank Name	I/O state in Flash*Freeze mode	Resistor Pull	I/O available in Flash*Freeze mode	Schmitt Trigger	Odt_Static	Odt Imp (Ohm)	Low Power Exit	Input Delay	Slew
DEVRST_N	Input		R15	☑	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
EXT_RESET_OUT_N	Output	LVTTL	D5	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1GTCK	Output	LVCMOS25	T13	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW
GMII1IRQ	Input	LVTTL	K18	☑	Bank3	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RCK	Input	LVTTL	K6	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD0	Input	LVTTL	B1	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD1	Input	LVTTL	B2	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD2	Input	LVTTL	C3	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD3	Input	LVTTL	A2	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD4	Input	LVTTL	C4	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD5	Input	LVTTL	B3	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD6	Input	LVTTL	E4	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RD7	Input	LVTTL	D4	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1REN	Input	LVTTL	H7	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1RER	Input	LVCMOS25	W11	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1TCK	Input	LVTTL	K7	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	Off	--	--	Off	Off	--
GMII1TD0	Output	LVTTL	F5	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1TD1	Output	LVCMOS25	Y9	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW
GMII1TD2	Output	LVTTL	G6	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1TD3	Output	LVCMOS25	W9	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW
GMII1TD4	Output	LVTTL	F6	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1TD5	Output	LVCMOS25	Y10	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW
GMII1TD6	Output	LVTTL	G7	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1TD7	Output	LVCMOS25	W10	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW
GMII1TEN	Output	LVTTL	J6	☑	Bank8	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	--
GMII1TER	Output	LVCMOS25	V11	☑	Bank5	TRISTATE	None	No	--	--	--	--	--	SLOW

Figure 3 - Example of Top List I/O Ball Assignments

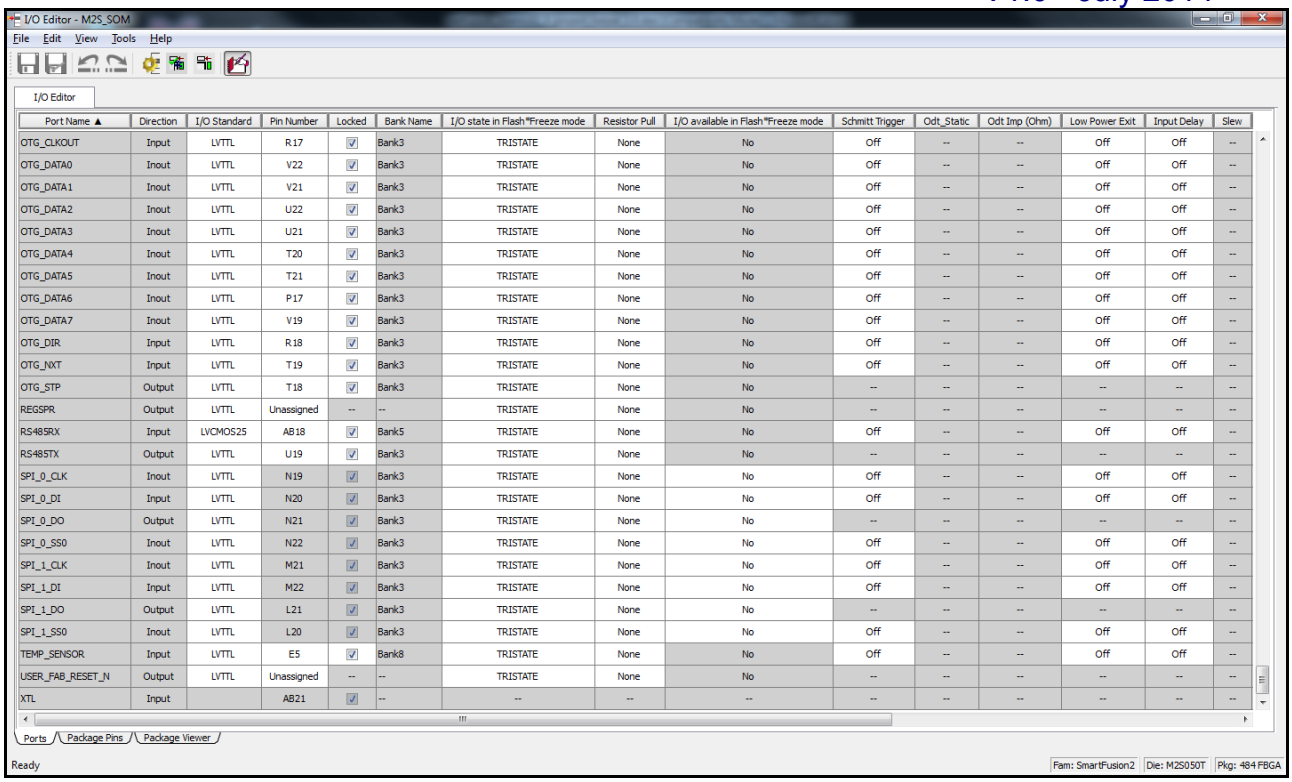


Figure 4 - Example of Bottom List I/O Ball Assignments

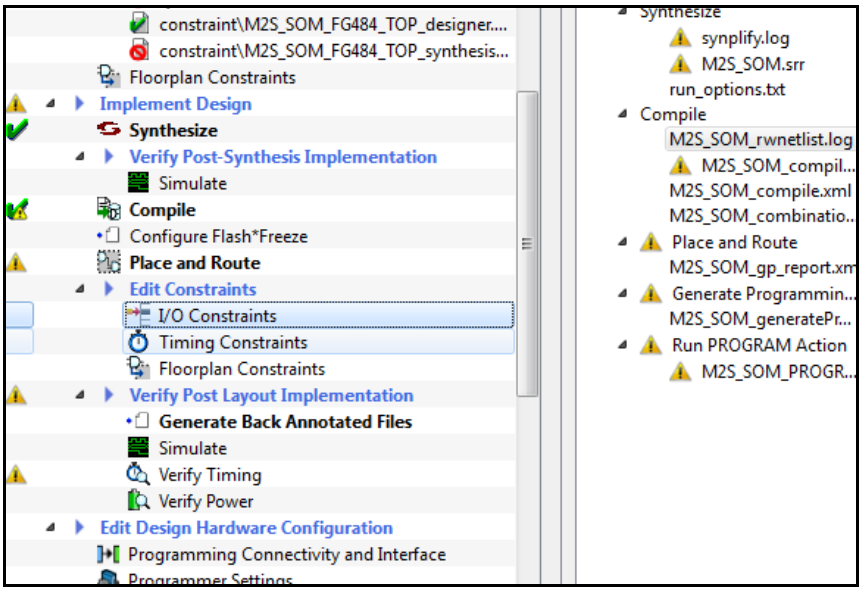


Figure 5 - Selecting the I/O Constraints

4 NetFusion Libero IDE/SoC Top-Level

Within the NetFusion starter Libero project, the M2S_SOM Top-Level sheet illustrates the lower modules to the design just before the I/O ports go out to the real-world PCB. The ports labeled in this sheet correspond to the I/O assignments (*shown in the previous section*). This sheet is effectively the linkage from the inner SOM design (*see next section*) up to the I/O balls of the SmartFusion2 FPGA.

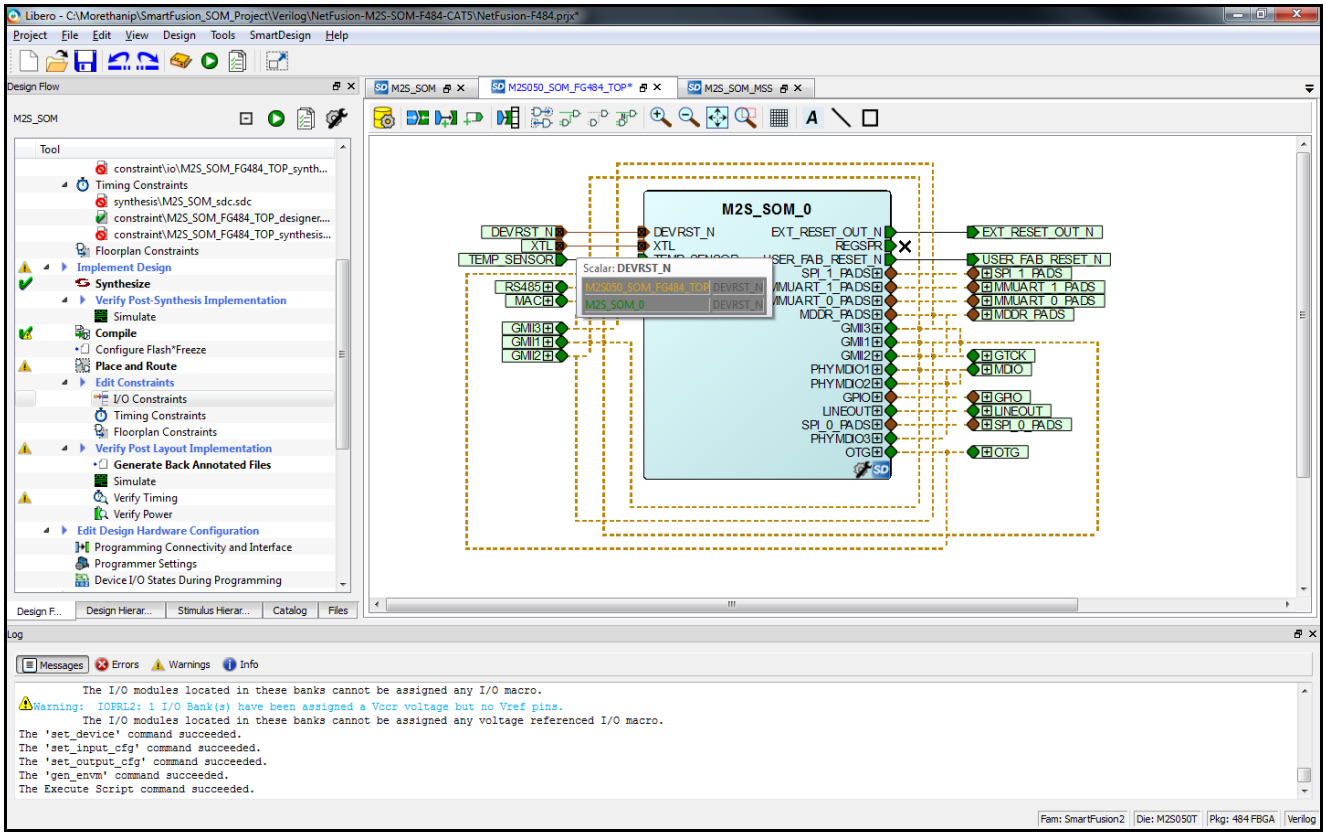


Figure 6 - NetFusion Top-Level Sheet

When lower level SOM sheets are built and prepared, they propagate information up automatically to this higher sheet. New ports suddenly appear and you must then compile this sheet before the main synthesis.

Note: *you can instantiate normal IP cores into this top sheet if you wish and it makes sense according to your design requirements. This is just the starter project so everything by default is kept in the lower SOM module. But this can change rapidly as your customization starts to take effect.*

5 NetFusion Libero IDE/SoC SOM Level

The inner SOM sheet of the NetFusion starter Libero project contains all of the default designs and linkage. The below overview screenshot shows a rats-nest but the following sub-sections illustrates the different parts in more detail. **Note:** *Incidentally, the highlighted module in the darker blue (below) is the MSS ARM cortex processor.*

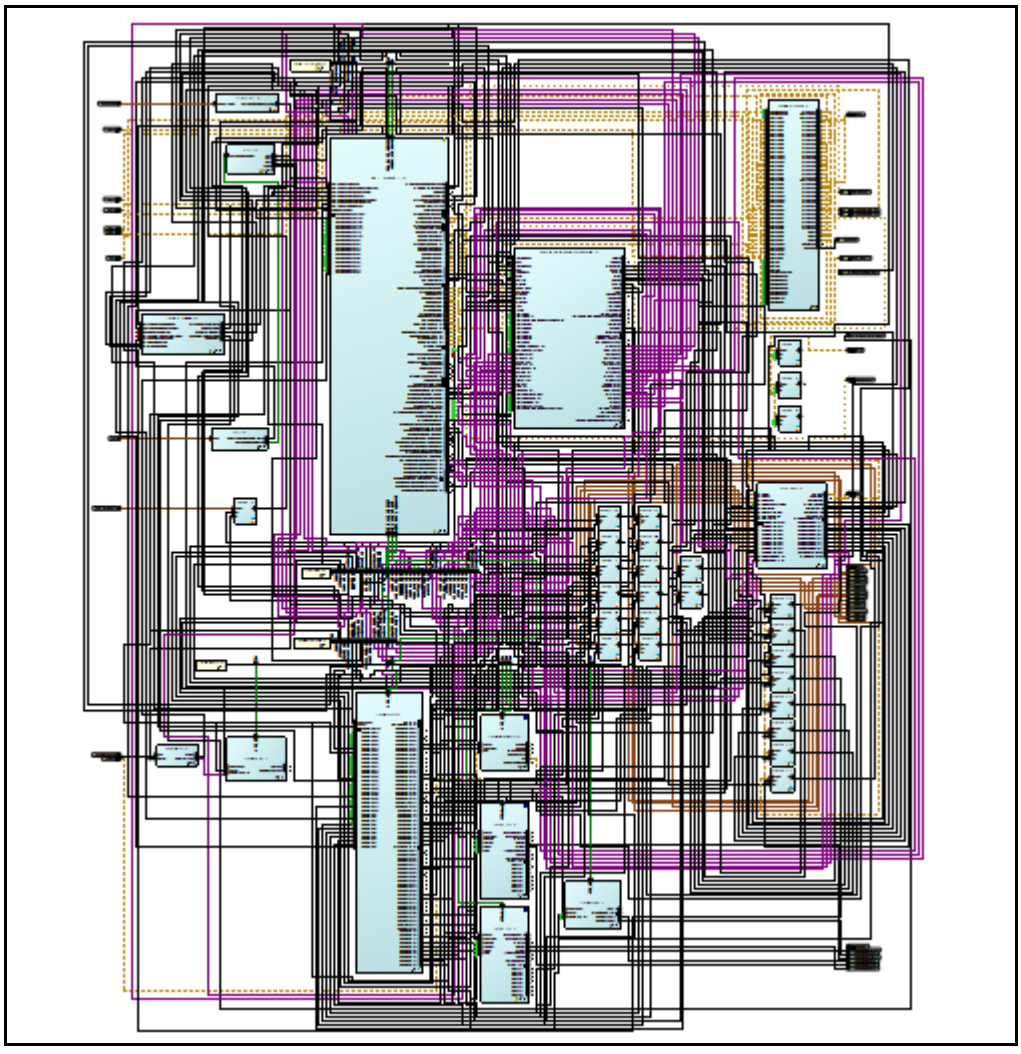


Figure 7 - Screenshot of Lower-Level SOM sheet

5.1 Emcraft Systems

The (*above*) figure overview encapsulates the whole of the NetFusion SOM sheet. However, it was built on the basic project supplied currently by Emcraft. They designed and developed the M2S-SOM-F484 that is housed on the NetFusion baseboard PCB.

Various IP cores were added to accommodate the need to support and facilitate the vast multitude of NetFusion's PCB hardware available to the ARM MSS sub-system in the SmartFusion2 FPGA on the Emcraft M2S-SOM-F484 housed on NetFusion as one product. As the MSS can only drive and support some of the pins on the SOM unit, there was a requirement therefore, to add more IP cores in the fabric to interface through the I/O assignments to the PCB hardware not connected directly to the MSS.

These additional cores and the default statutory parts of the SOM design in the Fabric are described in the sub-sections (*below).*

5.2 AMBA DMA Controller

The [*mtip_amba_dma_controller_0*] core is instantiated to provide 3rd party MAC and SWITCH IP cores (that the user may instantiate themselves) with FIFO interface. The DMA core will act as a DMA Master in the fabric on behalf of a connected FIFO MAC.

Refer to AMBA DMA Controller documentation. For the Technical PDFs, refer to Nine Ways support.

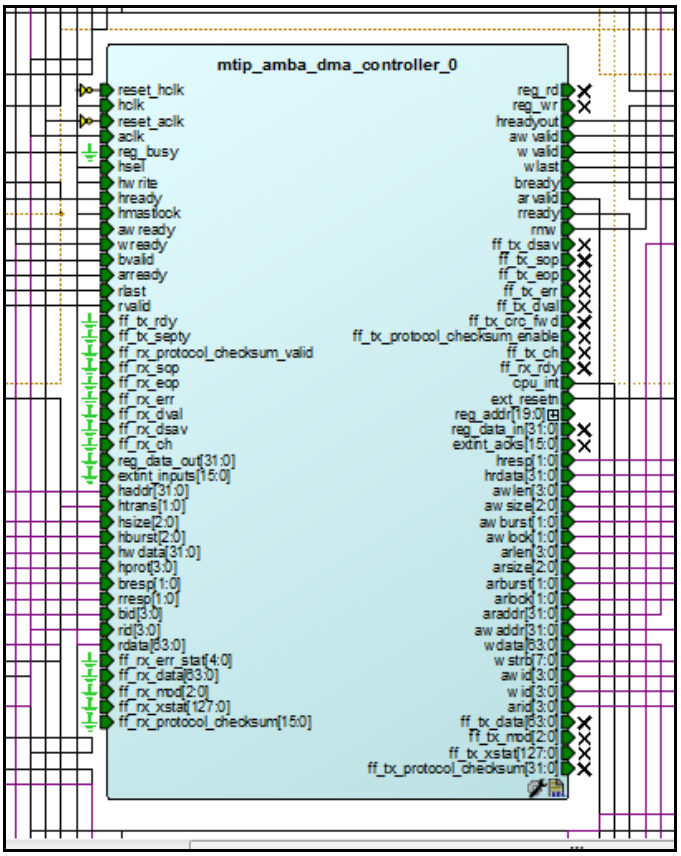


Figure 8 - AMBA DMA Controller

5.3 ULPI/UTMI OTG USB

On the SmartFusion2 F484 package that is used with Emcraft's M2S-SOM-F484 System-On-Module, the ULPI MSS interface is not supported. However, the UTMI OTG USB signals are supported. As the track routing and the IC USB device on the NetFusion PCB support ULPI, an IP core in the fabric is require to convert between the two different USB On-The-Go protocols and signals. This has been instantiated as [*ulpi_port_0*].

This OTG core was used from OpenCores at http://www.opencores.com and resides in the NetFusion starter project's ***hdl/*** sub-directory.

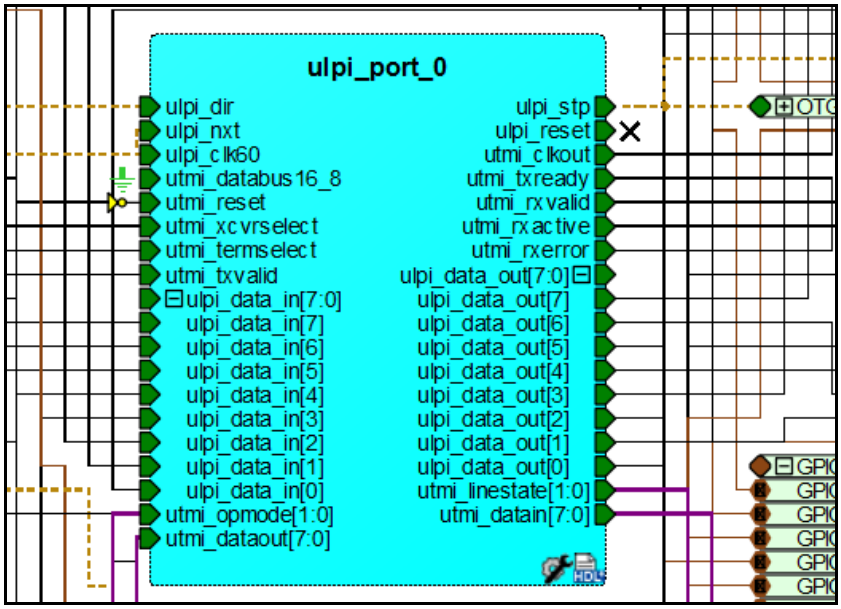


Figure 9 - ULPI/UTMI USB Converter IP Core

5.4 CoreSF2Reset

This core is used to co-ordinate the reset across all of the FPGA in strict timed sequence. It is important for the peripheral logic to be released after the MSS ARM processor and then the fabric logic following the MSS. This is a standard Libero ACTEL core from the vault.

The **EXT_RESET_OUT** signal is routed out of the FPGA device to the NetFusion PCB. The input to this core is **the POWER_ON_RESET_N**. This core was instantiated as [*CoreSF2Reset_0*].

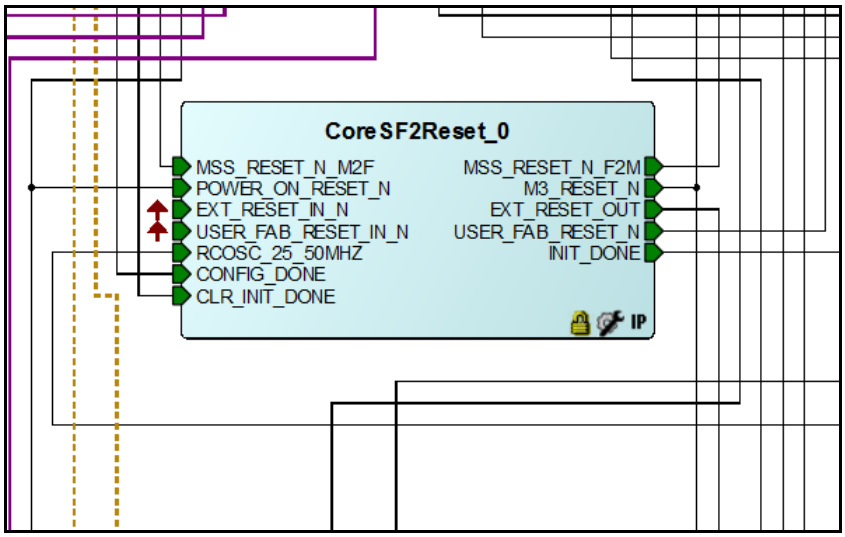


Figure 10 - SmartFusion2 Reset Controller IP Core

5.5 FCCC

The entire FPGA sub-system comprising of the MSS ARM processor and the main fabric run on clocks all generated from this core. It is the main coordination of the clock lines that are distributed. The input is 12MHz from an off-chip crystal/IC. The CCC PLL divides down the 12MHz source by 12 to 1MHz. Then this is multiplied up by differing amounts for **GL0**, **GL1** and **GL2**. You can add more clock PLL lines as you wish when you are modifying the design.

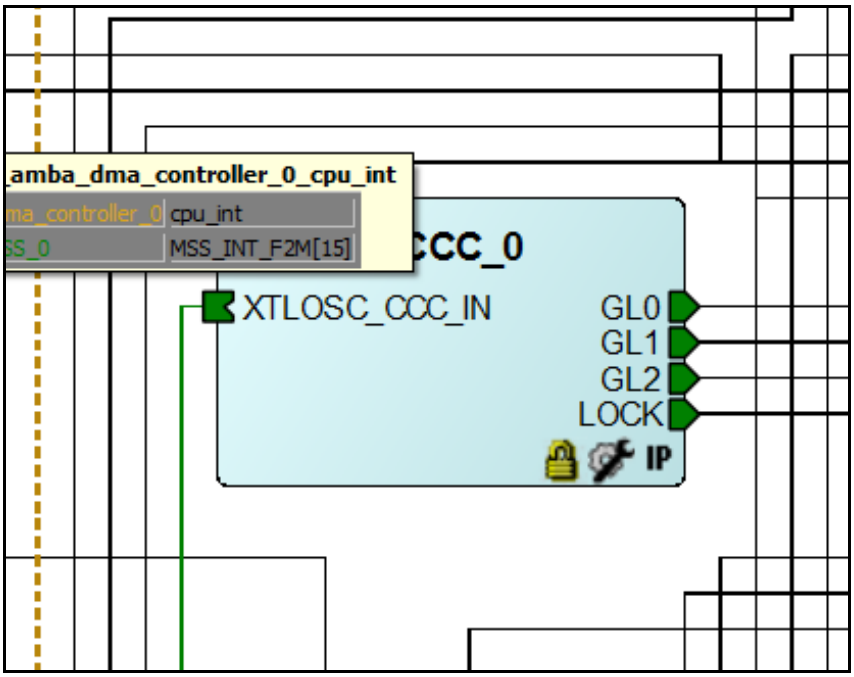


Figure 11 - Clock PLL Macro Core

The core as been instantiated as [*CCC_0*]. There is also a **LOCK** output signal that is used by the MSS to determine when the PLL has settled and locked onto the desired output frequencies. All clock outputs are digital square waves.

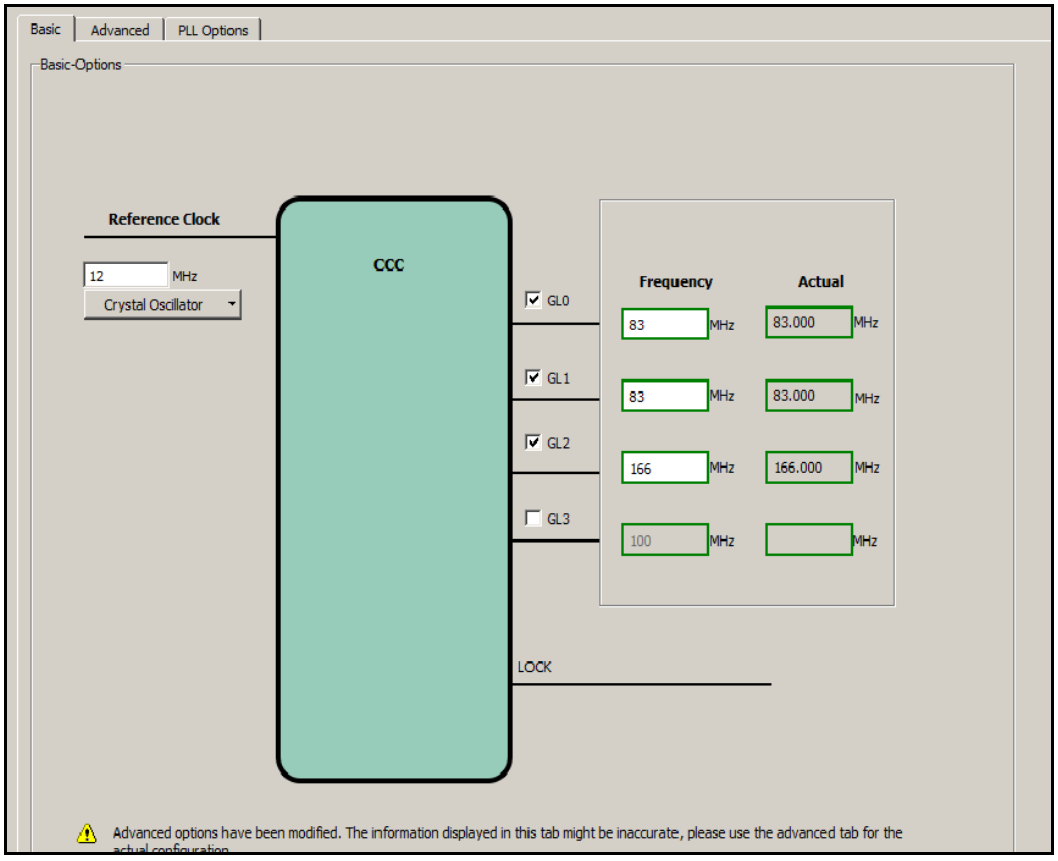


Figure 12 - PLL Clock Macro Settings

Output signals **GL0** and **GL1** are distributed to the memory bus and the DMA Controller. **GL2** is the main base clock frequency for the 166MHz ARM processor which that divides down internally.

5.6 Counter / GPIO

NetFusion PCB has an on-board temperature sensor. The output of which is a square wave signal who's frequency is equivalent to degrees Kelvin (down to absolute zero). This signal is routed into the SmartFusion2 FPGA fabric and clocks the 16-bit counter [*counter16_0*]. The counter's 16-bit output value is wired into GPIO input [*coreGPIO_1*] which is memory addressable from the ARM uClinux applications. This serves as a simple 32-bit memory location to read and makes the software algorithm for determining the temperature incredibly simple.

Note: *the memory interface from the ARM MSS is an APB interface.*

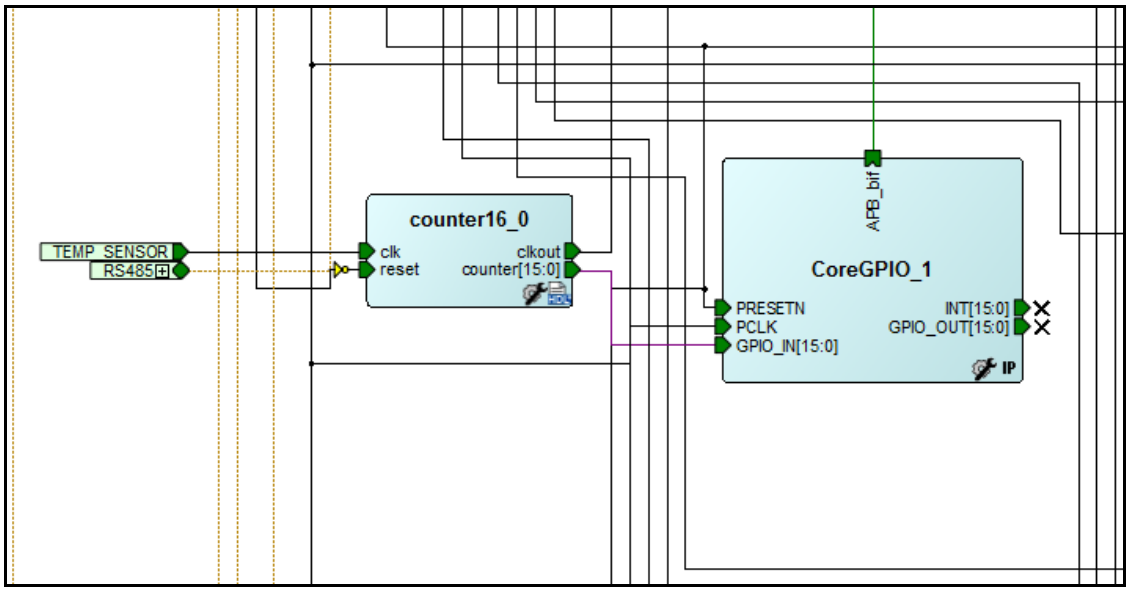


Figure 13 - Temperature Sensor Logic

5.7 CoreGPIO

The vast majority of the hardware on the NetFusion PCB is connected through this core. The obvious exceptions are the Ethernet pathways, RS485 UART and the SPI audio input/output. However, all of the I2C, Relays, I/O expanders, Real-Time clock IC, voltage monitor, expansion I/O and all other slow speed communications are handled through this [*coreGPIO_0*] instantiated block.

It is visible to the ARM MSS processor via an APB interface memory bus. Lines can be configured as inputs or outputs and are all individually controlled and observed by the uClinux UIO device driver C code.

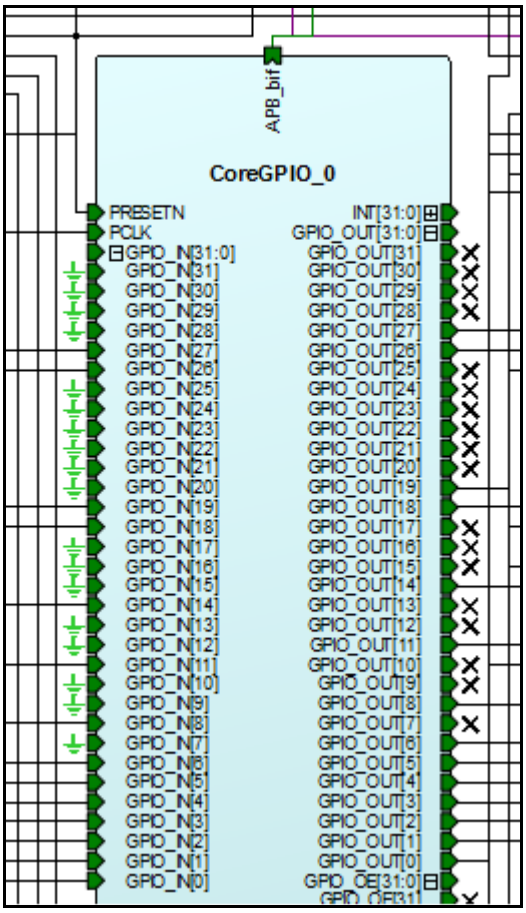


Figure 14 - Main PCB GPIO Interface with the ARM Processor

5.8 CoreUARTapb

As there is no way in the SmartFusion2 ARM MSS block for standard UART connections *(/dev/ttyS0* and */dev/ttyS1* already used) the RS484 PCB hardware has to be controlled and handled from a fabric UART core. This was instantiated as [*CoreUARTabp_0*] and has an APB connection to the MSS block.

The uClinux device driver for this hardware access the core as a block of memory and the FIFO RX and TX data is stored in the fabric core. The RX ad TX signals to the NetFusion PCB hardware are TTL levels and then get converted to RS485 voltage signals in the electronics.

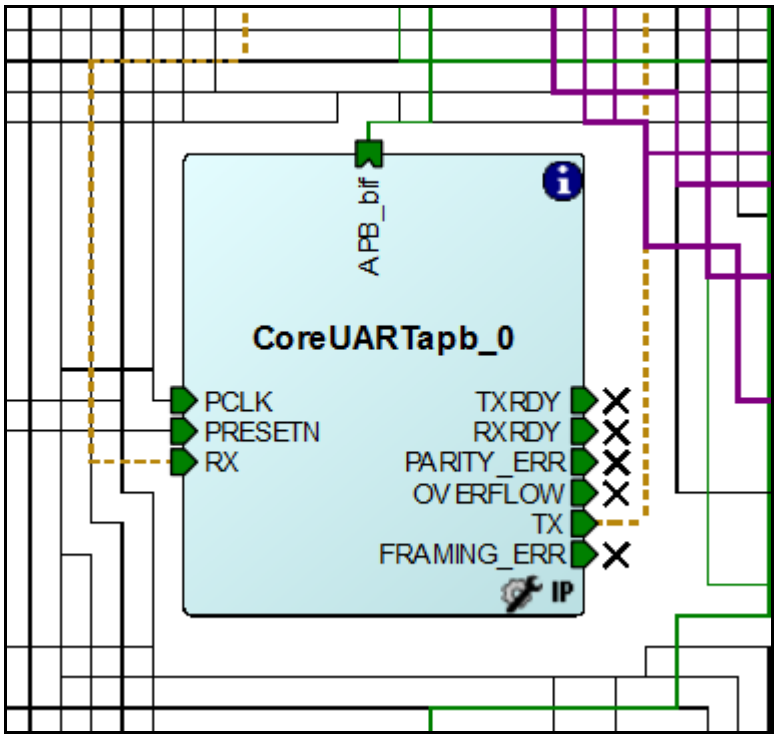


Figure 15 - RS485 UART

5.9 CoreSPI0, 1

Running as separated IP cores instantiated in the fabric to achieve higher speed sampling by SPI software are SPI blocks. These are [*CORESPI_0* and *CORESPI_1*] and use an APB interface to the ARM MSS sub-system. Each core has a 4-wire SPI bus routed out of the FPGA to the wider NetFusion PCB hardware.

These SPI interfaces connect to DAC and ADC stereo IC devices. This allows for audio to be sent and received from the PCB and the digital samples can be processed by the ARM processor from network traffic if necessary. SPI is used as it is full duplex and runs at over 1MHz during operation. However, bottlenecks in the processor application code and also human audible hearing limitations keep realistic sampling operations around < 10KHz.

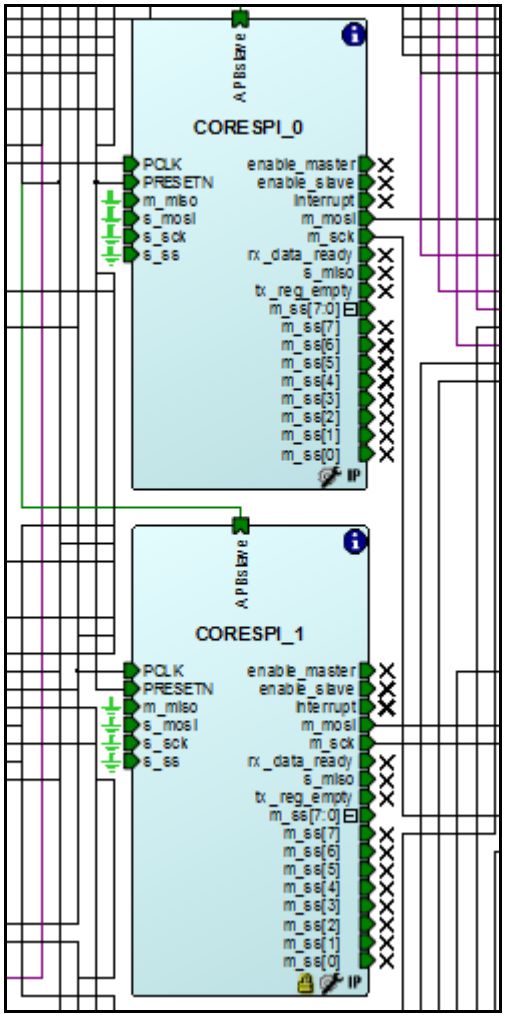


Figure 16- Stereo Audio Line IN & Line OUT

5.10 BIBUF

Throughout the NetFusion starter project's fabric logic design is scattered around Bi-Directional macros. These convert conveniently any IN/OUT data flow when the RX and TX are kept separate in the IP cores. The output side always routes up out of the SmartFusion2 FPGA to the NetFusion PCB hardware where the signals are capable of input/output operation using pull-up resistors combining tri-state operation.

The instantiated BIBUFs are illustrated in the Figure (*below).*

They are controlled by an output enable signal that drives the state of the output pin. An example of the need for bi-directional signal operation is MDIO for the Marvell PHY and the SDA data line for ALL I2C buses on the NetFusion PCB.

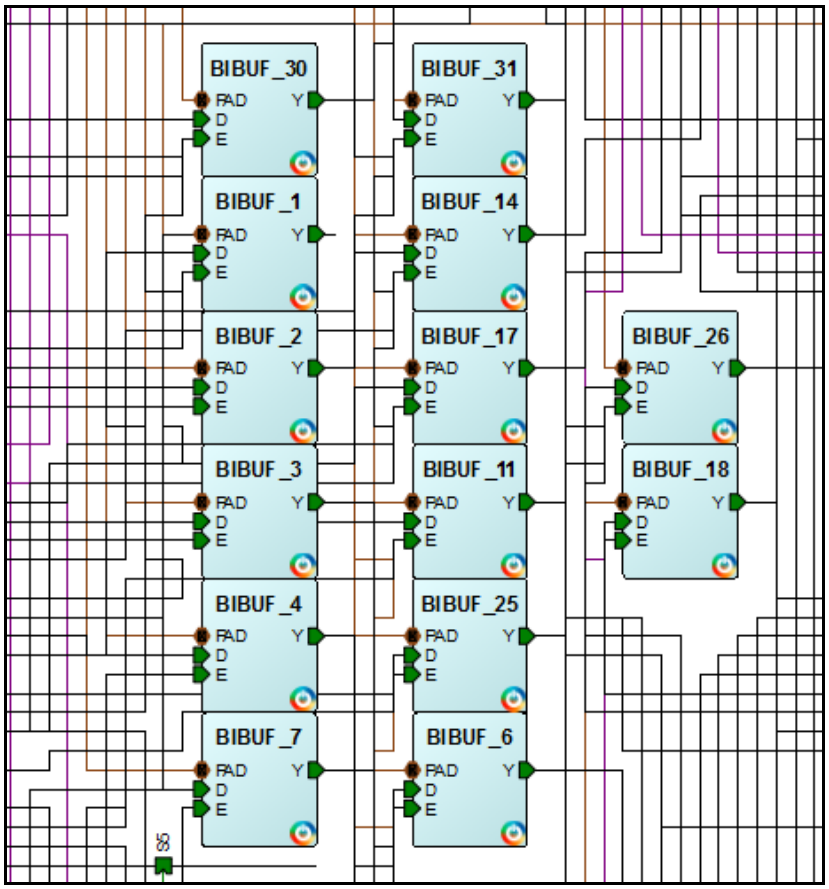


Figure 17 - Bi-Directional Fabric Macros

5.11 CoreSF2Config

The SmartFusion2 MSS processor sub-system always as standard has a default CoreSF2Config block that loops back an APB bus out and then back into the MSS block. This seems at first strange and can be very confusing. However, it is the inherent architecture of the FPGA ASIC area that most of the peripheral devices inside the MSS ARM processor core are not actually controlled by the selections made in the Libero IDE. It is the software in U-boot during boot-up that configures. If say for instance, an AHB-Lite interface is selected in Libero, then this does not configure the SmartFusion2 FPGA itself. It saves a configuration file that can be included by software in either bare-metal programming or the u-boot from Emcraft uClinux environment.

Only when the boot-up code access the APB feedback bus via [*CoreSF2Config_0*] and manipulates hardware peripheral memory address does the peripherals in the MSS get the correct mode of operation intended for them.

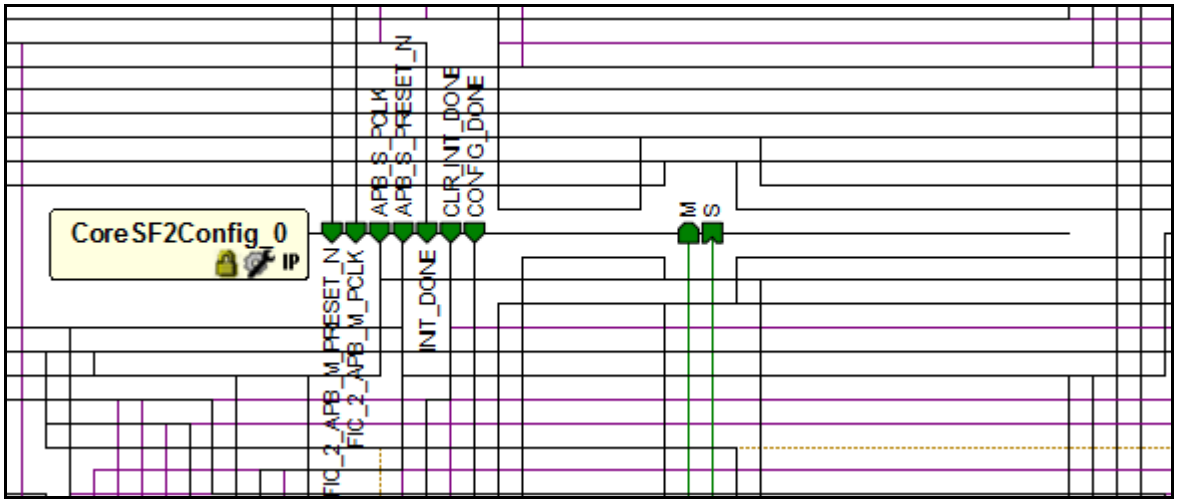


Figure 18 - APB feedback Bus for Peripheral Configuration by Software

5.12 Core AXI/AHBLite

The DMA Controller for the ability to connect to a MAC/SWITCH uses AXI and AHB-Lite for communication with the MSS sub-system and the LPDDR memory. Also, an APB master core allows for all of the *(above*) APB cores to connect to the MSS. This is all handled by the [*COREAXI_0, CoreAHBLite_0* and *CoreAPB_0*] that are instantiated in the SmartFusion2 fabric for the NetFusion starter project.

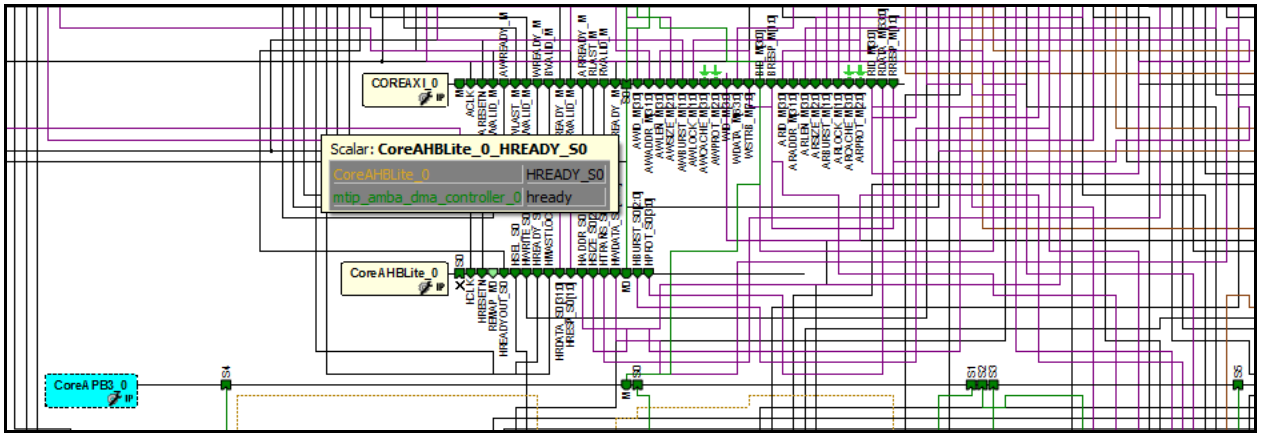


Figure 19 - AMBA Memory Interfaces from ARM

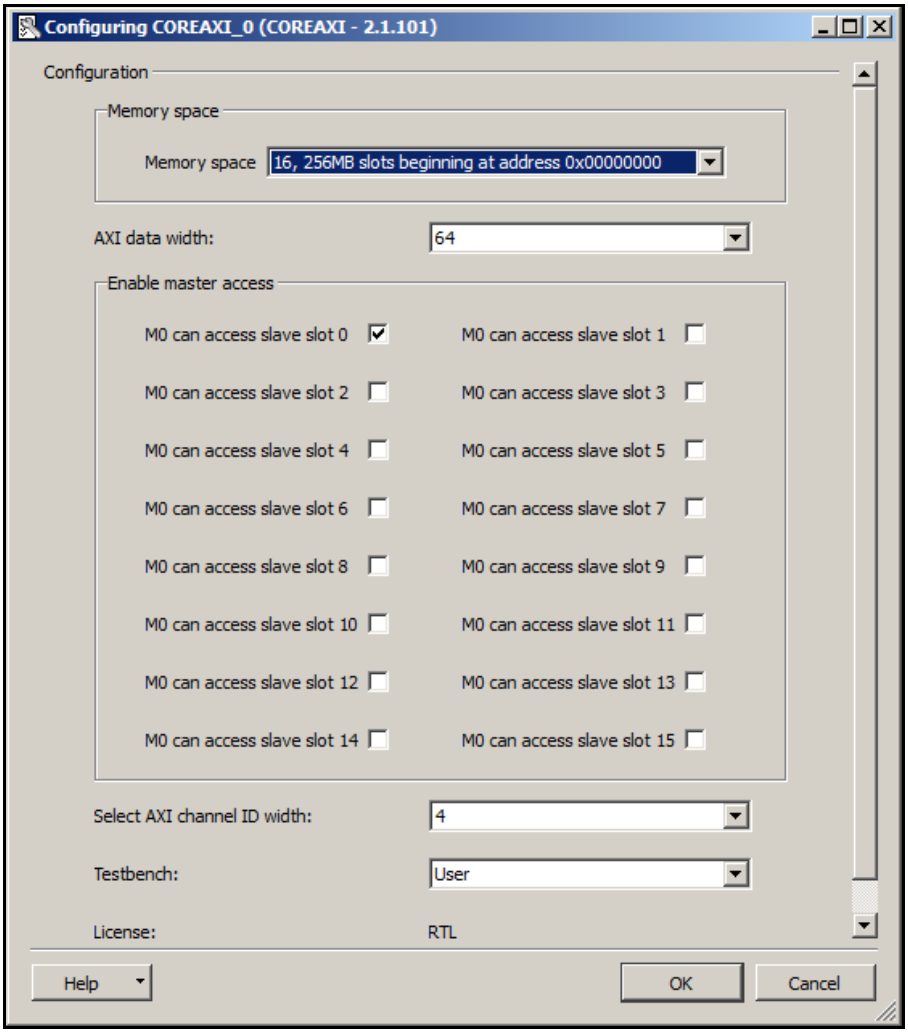


Figure 20 - Default AXI Configuration

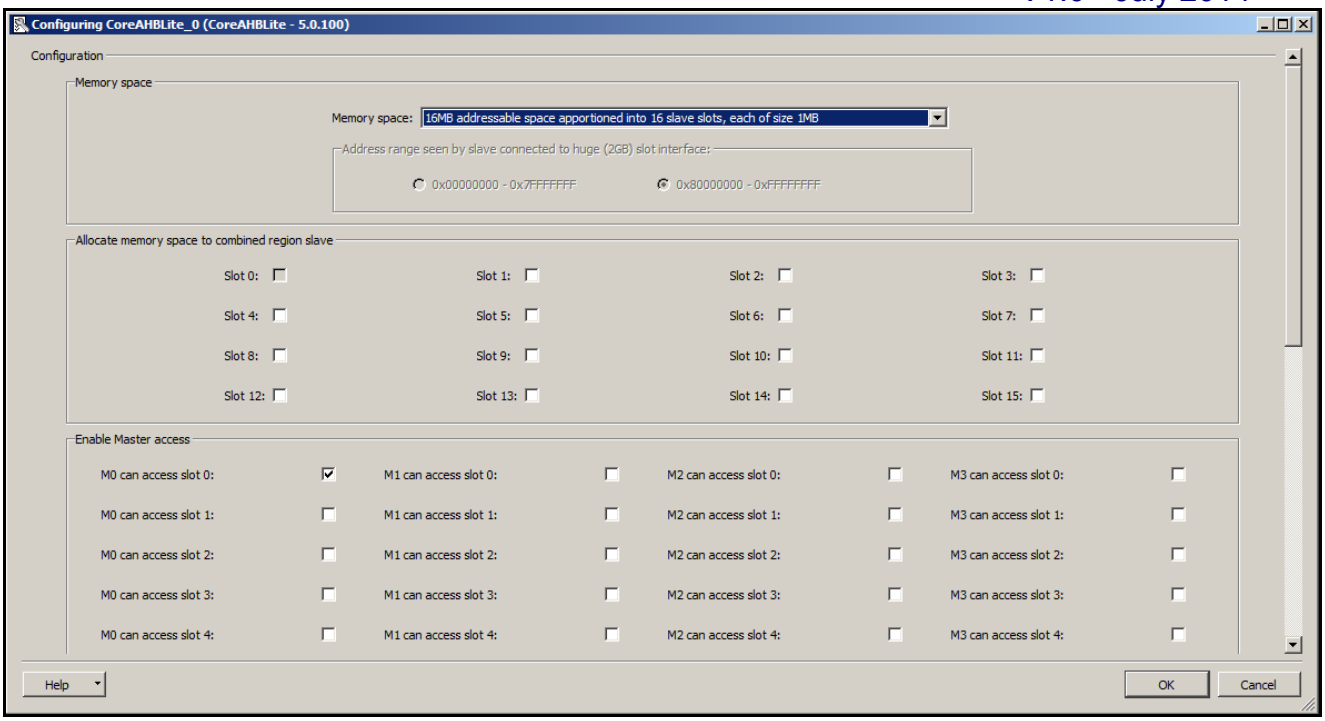


Figure 21 - Default AHB-Lite Configuration

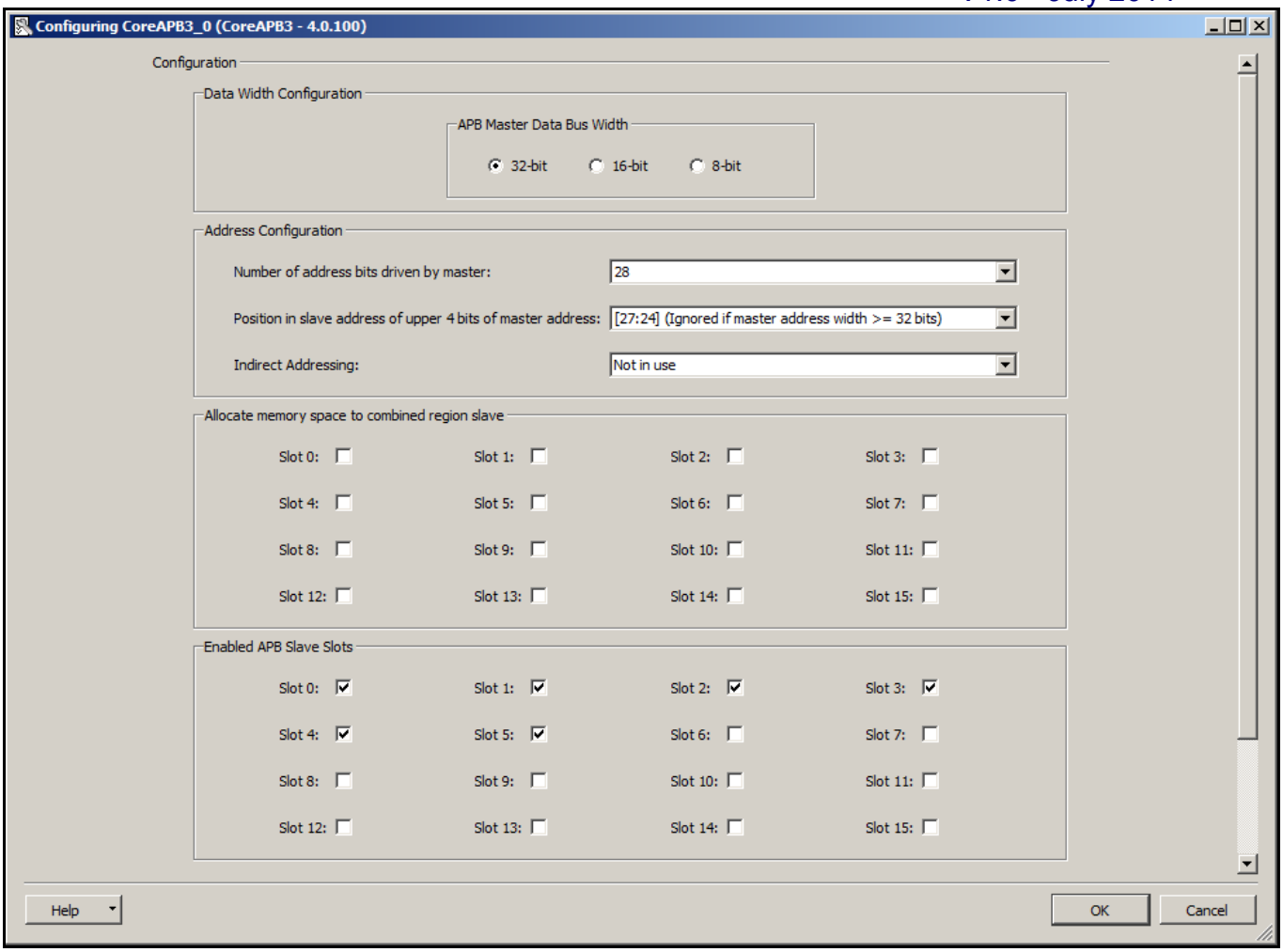


Figure 22 - Default APB Configuration

As a Libero designer and developer, the user may change these defaults and added or remove memory accessible IP cores to/from the fabric.

5.13 Unused Logic Block

Specifically to the NetFusion starter project, is the instantiated dummy block that allows all of the wires and signals coming into the SmartFusion2 FPGA fabric from the outside PCB that are not connected to IP cores to terminate here. Most of these are the Ethernet signals and pathways of the GMII.

In order to make it easier for a user to instantiate their own IP cores and then connect the unused signals, this starter project has had to include the unused signals at the I/O level of the FPGA, bring them down through the Top-Level then into the SOM sheet. They then terminate at the [*unsused_block_0*].

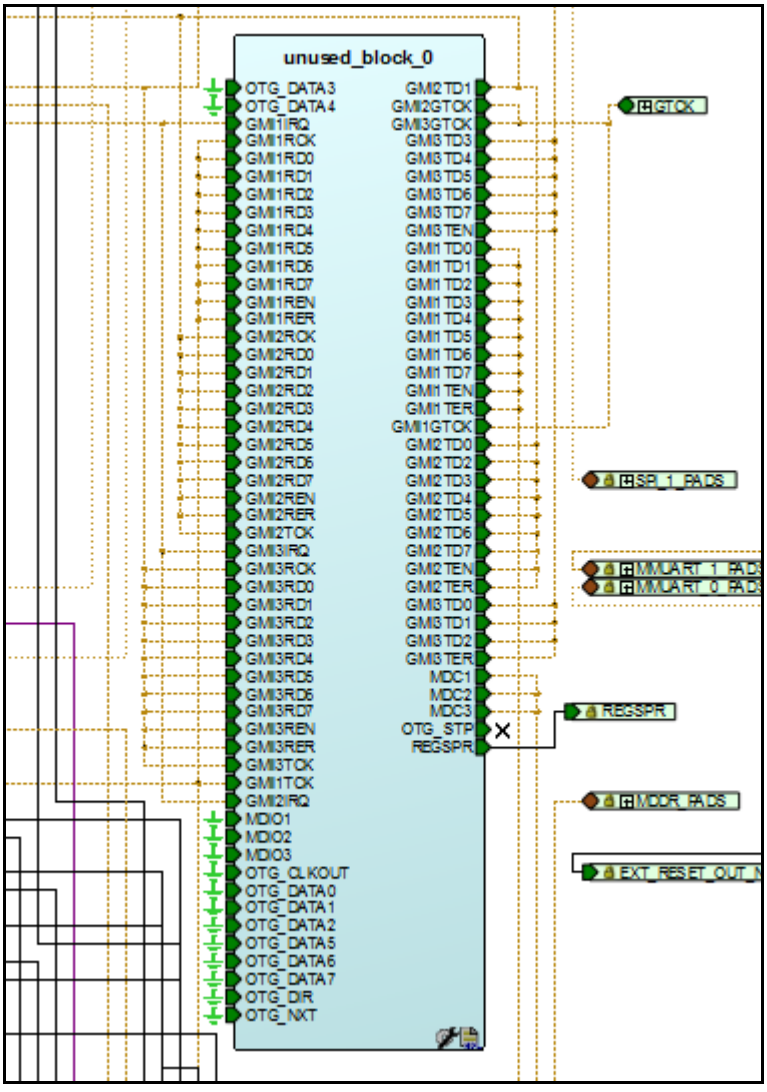


Figure 23 - Unused Block in NetFusion SOM

Libero and SynplifyPro do not like un-terminated signals and it will remove them from the I/O assignments if they were not routed by default to this block.

As you require a signal terminated at this block, simply un-route it from the unused block and then re-assign to your new IP core using the "**quick connect**" option. However, make sure that if it was an output of the unused block, to assign the pin left vacant as "*unused*", or if an input then set the attribute to "*tie LOW*".

The output signal "REGSPR" is just a necessary signal that is not assigned any I/O ball of the FPGA and is used internally with-in the core to stop Libero optimization occurring and removing the inputs of this block from the I/O assignments. ***Do not remove this output.***

5.14 SmartFusion2 MSS

In the SOM layer sheet of the NetFusion starter project, the MSS ARM processor main core is situated in the middle and is shown (*below*). If you double-click on the MSS block it will expanded and create another window in Libero on screen.

Note: *Refer to the next section for the MSS documentation.*

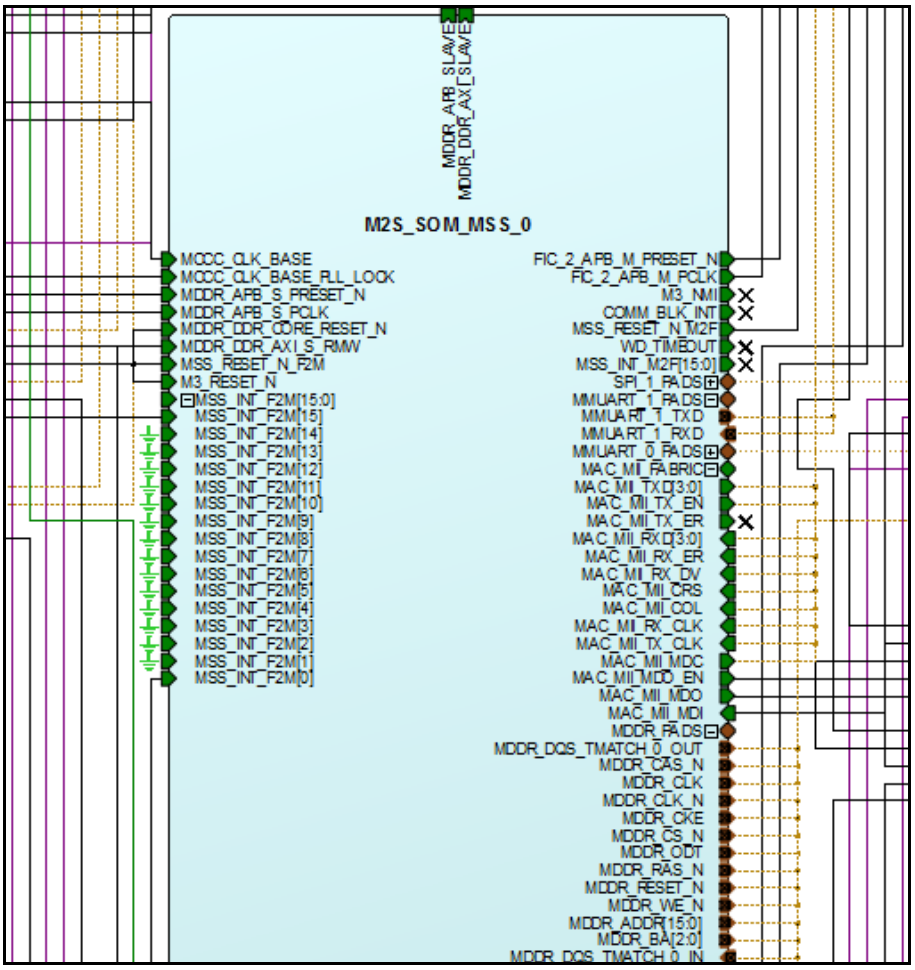


Figure 24 - SOM Module of the ARM MSS

6 NetFusion ARM Cortex MSS Default Configuration

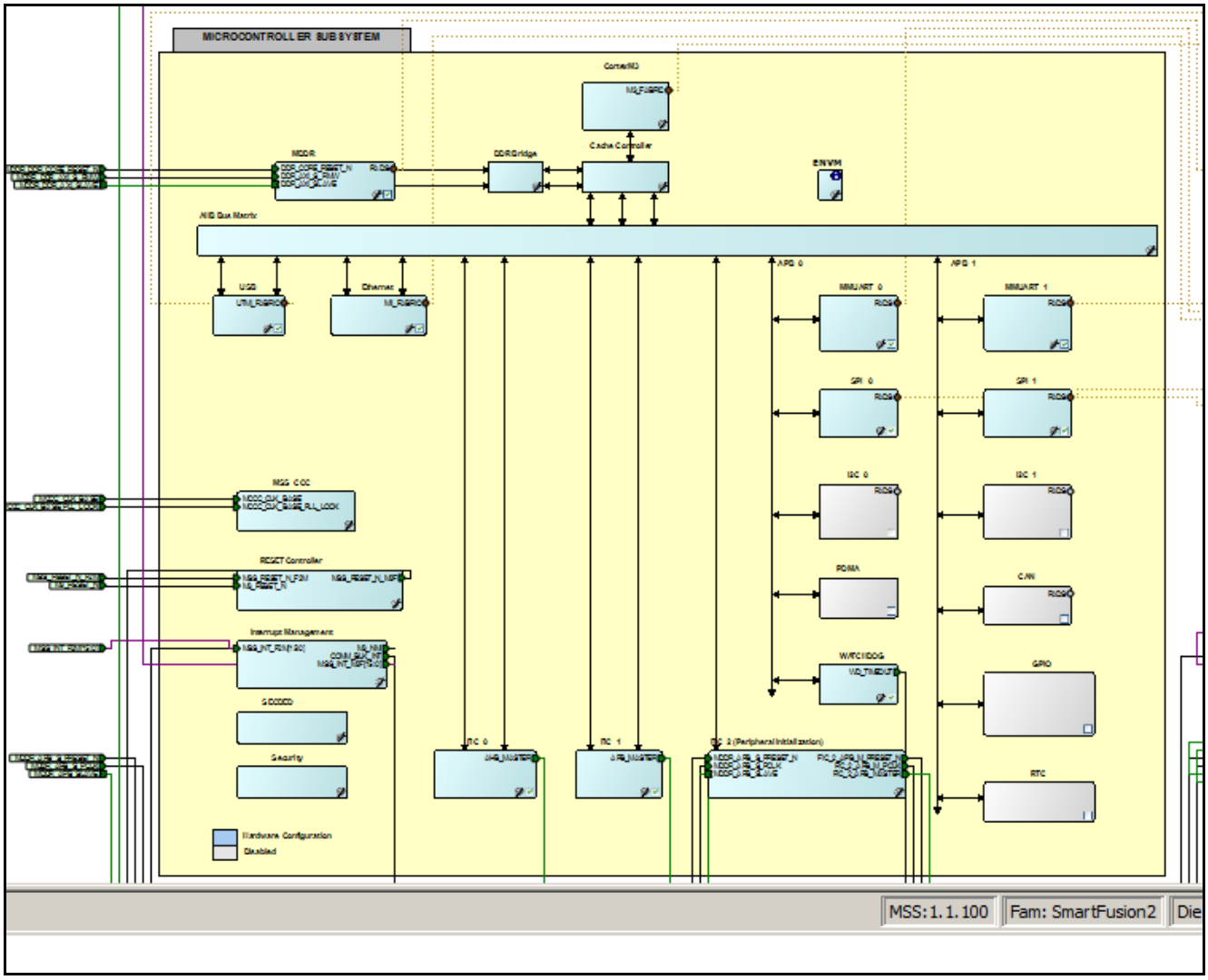


Figure 25 - Exploded View of the Modules in the NetFusion ARM MSS

The MSS in the heart of the SmartFusion2 NetFusion design is defaulted and set to the exact current needs of the PCB product. Modules I2C1, I2C2, CAN, GPIO, RTC and PDMA are disabled currently but there is nothing stopping the user from enabling and wiring out the modules to the SOM sheet.

The blue modules are currently enabled for the NetFusion design as they have functional requirements and the signals are wired out to the SOM sheet then if necessary up to the I/O assignments then out of the FPGA device itself.

6.1 MDDR

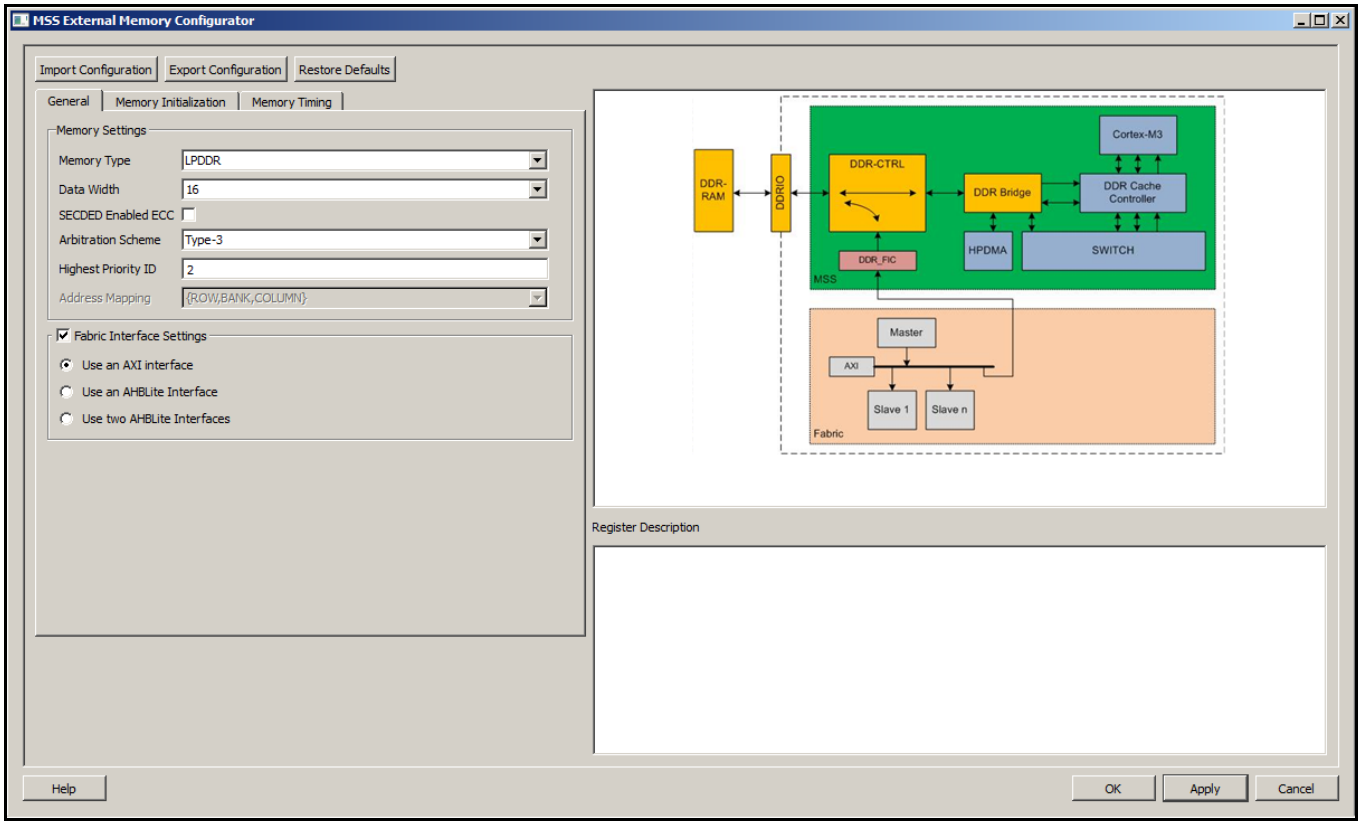


Figure 26 - MDDR MSS Controlling LPDDR Memory with AXI from Fabric

The MDDR has been configured to use a single data rate LPDDR SDRAM device on the M2S-SOM-F484 using 16-bit data width. Priority has been given to the AXI master interface from the fabric where the default connection is to the AMBA DMA Controller for 3rd party MACs and Ethernet SWITCH.

If you do not wish to keep the DMA Controller or any AXI interface for that matter, then you can de-select the Fabric Interface and the SOM sheet will adjust accordingly. *You will have to remove and delete the instantiated DMA Controller however.*

Note: *NetFusion has to follow the architecture of the SOM-F484 so this is primarily based upon the Emcraft starter project for this block.*

6.2 USB

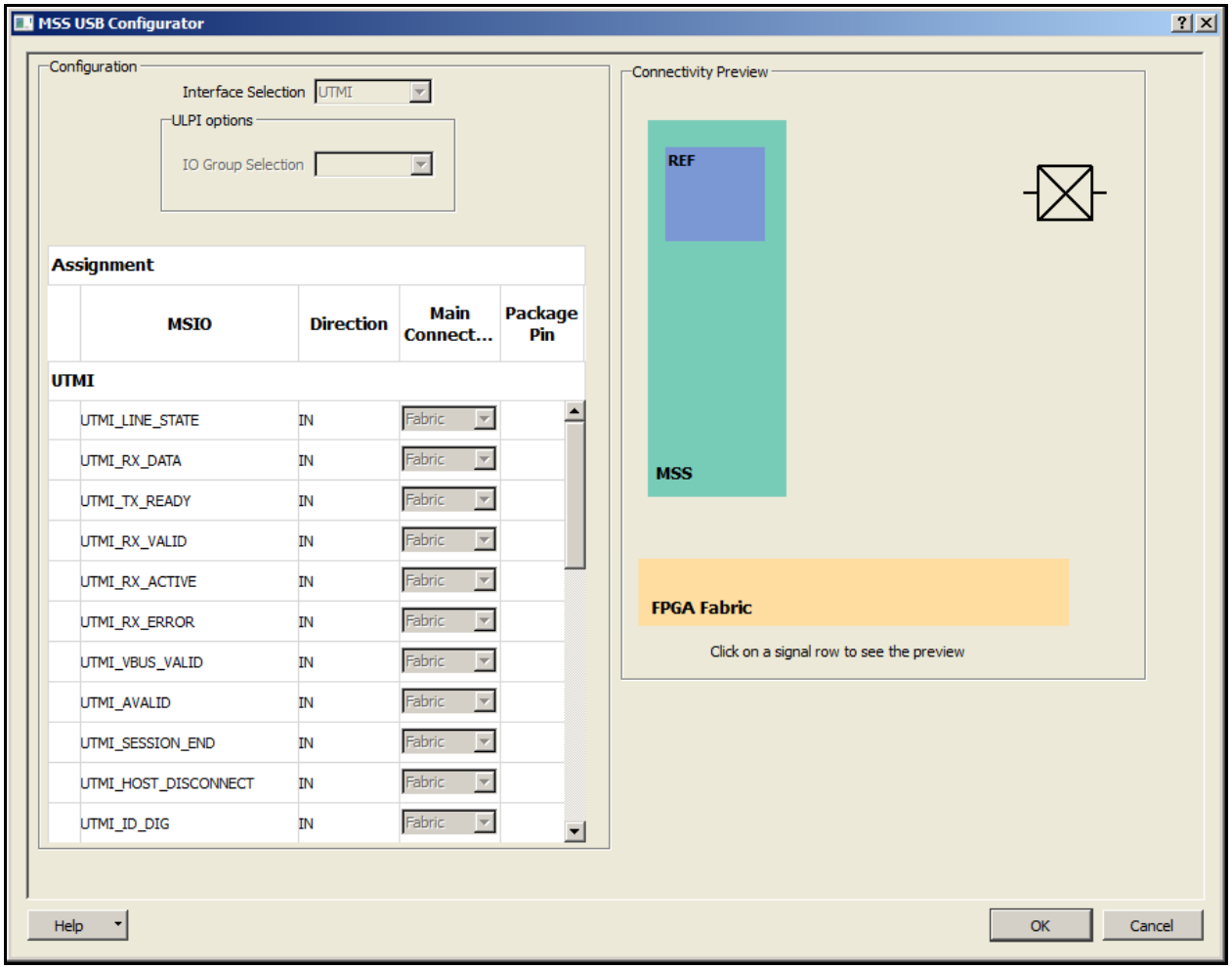


Figure 27 - USB OTG UTMI Host Controller

NetFusion does utilize on the PCB hardware an OTG USB interface. In the fabric, the ULPI is converted to UTMI and then connected to this MSS internal block.

The ARM uClinux application code will be able to access this USB block as a block of memory registers and device drivers will be able to control the USB OTG as a USB stack.

Note: *the UTMI signals do not get routed to the I/O pins directly but the fabric for the use of the ULPI/UTMI converter IP core.*

6.3 Ethernet

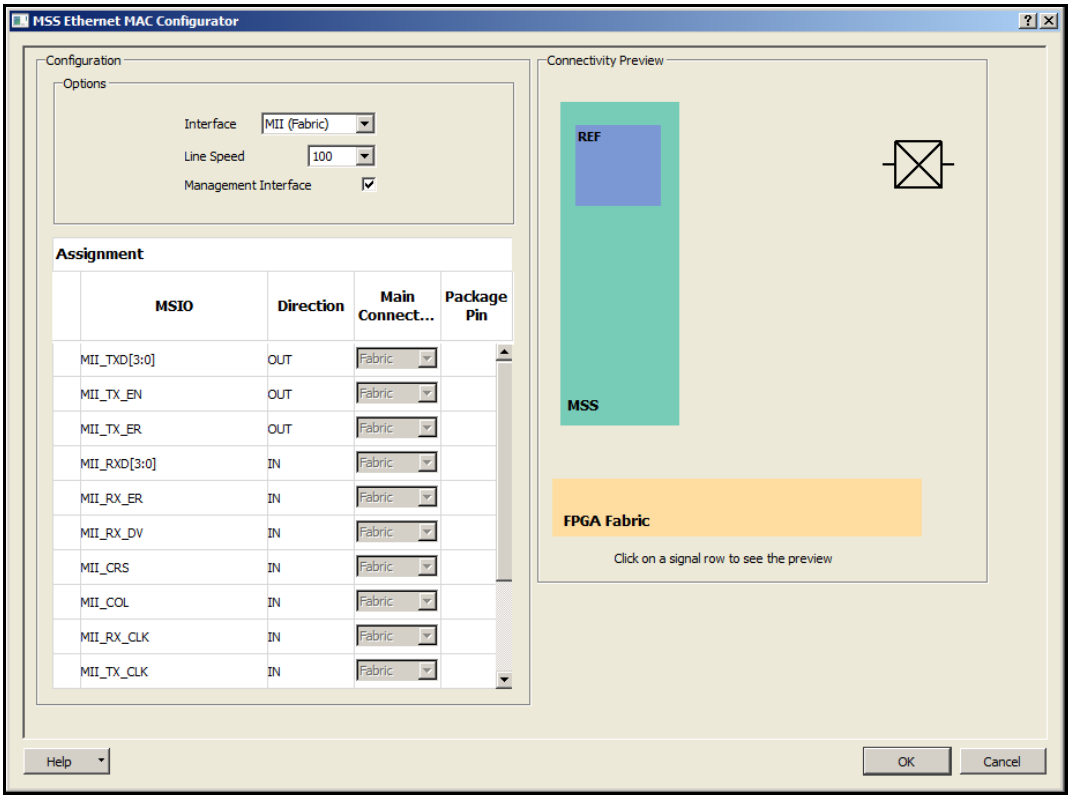


Figure 28 - MSS MAC for 10/100 Ethernet Using SOM PHY

This is a very strategic and important module in the MSS of the SmartFusion2 of NetFusion. The 4th RJ45 Ethernet connector on the NetFusion PCB is routed directly to the PHY on the M2S-SOM-F484 which in turn, connects into the SmartFusion2 FPGA and directly into the ARM MSS.

Special Note: *on the SFP SERDES variant of NetFusion PCB, the dedicated SOM RJ45 is the 2nd port on the dual HALO*.

Once in the MSS, the Ethernet MAC receives the connections which then provide a memory interface internally for the ARM uClinux device drivers for the network interfaces.

Note: *The connections route to the fabric before going up through to the I/O assignments.*

It is important to emphasize that with NetFusion, three of the RJ45 10/100/1000 ports use a separate Marvell PHY that routes into the SOM sheet of the starter project and terminates at [*unused_block_0*].

Special Note: *on the SFP SERDES variant, two of the 1Gb/s ports are 1.25Gb/s SERDES.*

However, the dedicated 4th port always allows MSS and ARM gateway access to the network. Benefits of this architecture can provide IP routing functionality for the user. This is due to the link between the MSS MAC and the fabric MACs only being visible to each other in the uClinux IP stack of the kernel.

6.4 MSS_CCC

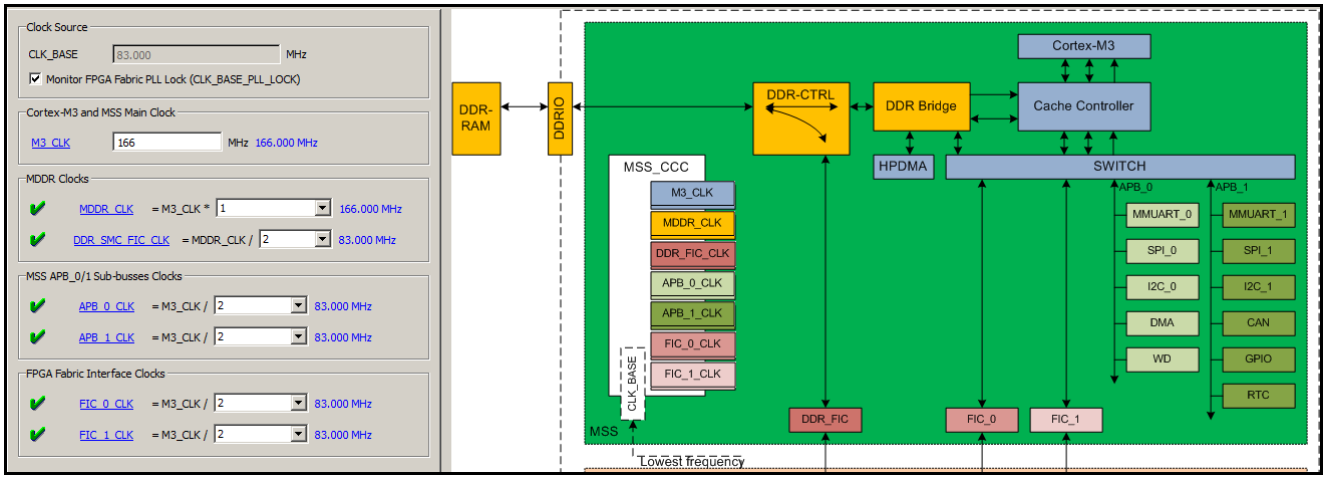


Figure 29 - MSS CCC Divider from the CLK_BASE with-in ARM Sub-System

The main 166MHz clock into the MSS from the fabric is configured to be split up and if necessary divided down to the different areas of the sub-system.

In the case of NetFusion and the starter Libero IDE project , all peripherals, memory controllers and fabric interfaces run at half the base clock frequency at 83MHz.

6.5 RESET Controller

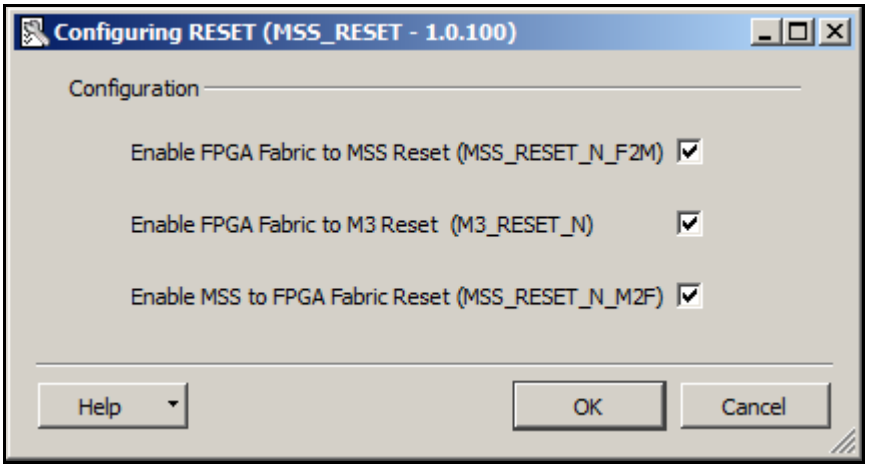


Figure 30 - Reset MSS Module

NetFusion by default enables the **MSS_RESET_N_F2M**, **M3_RESET_N** and the **MSS_RESET_N_M2F** negative reset signals to come in from the SmartFusion2 FPGA fabric.

This gives more functionality to the user. However, if it is not a required functionality when the design is customized, then they can be de-selected.

6.6 FIC_0

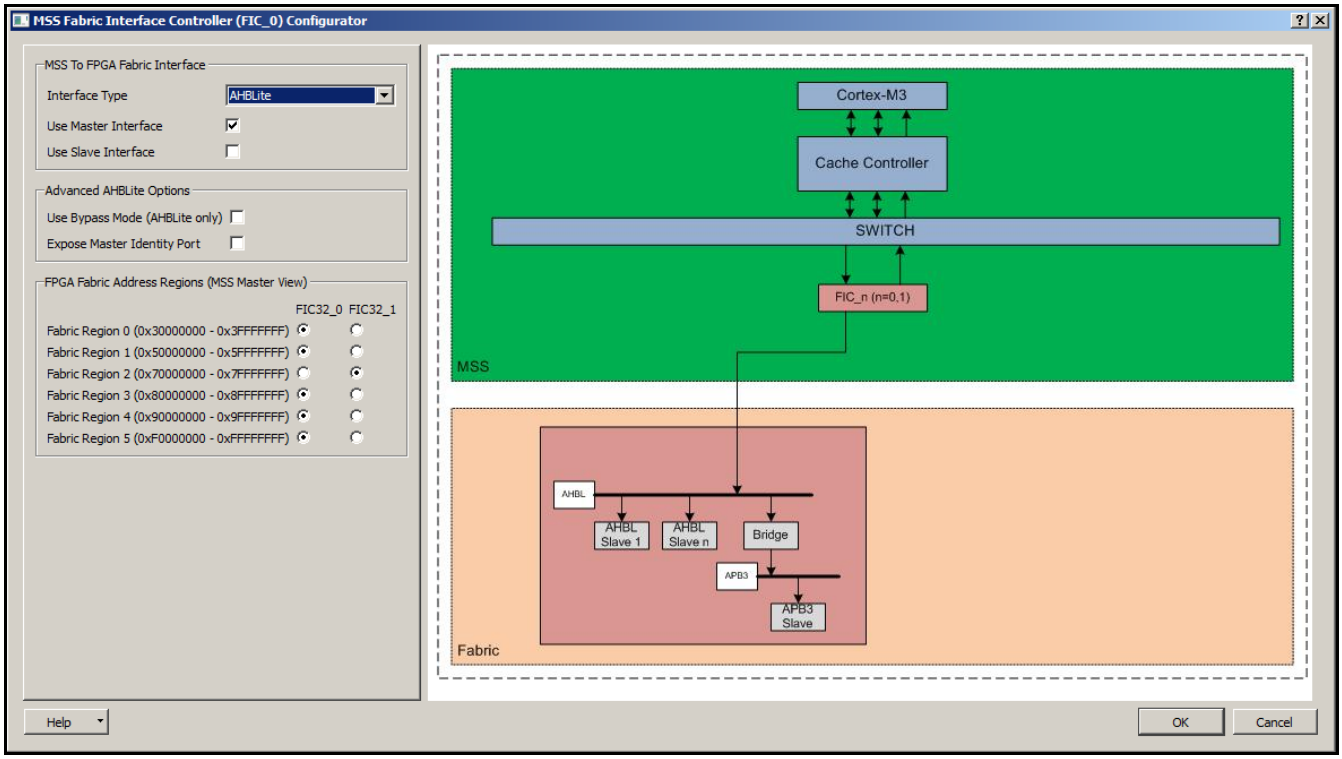


Figure 31 - AHB/APB Fabric Interface [1]

The NetFusion **FIC_0** has been chosen to be assigned for the AHB-Lite fabric interface. It is a MASTER which connects to the SLAVES in the fabric as the ARM processor has complete control.

By default, the AHB-Lite only interfaces to the AMBA DMA Controller used for 3rd party Ethernet IP cores. Although the DMA Controller uses AXI for the main data throughput, the AHB-Lite is used to access the configuration registers.

Note: *you will observe that Fabric Region 2: 0x7000000 - 0x7FFFFFF has been allocated to the next **FIC_1** block (next sub-section). The configuration on the left panel (above) selects mapping for both **FIC_0** and **FIC_1**.*

NetFusion assigns Fabric Region 2 to the APB memory interface so that the UART, SPI and GPIO can be accessed in the fabric otherwise only this AHB-Lite interface would be mapped which would severely limit the NetFusion functionality and capability.

6.7 FIC_1

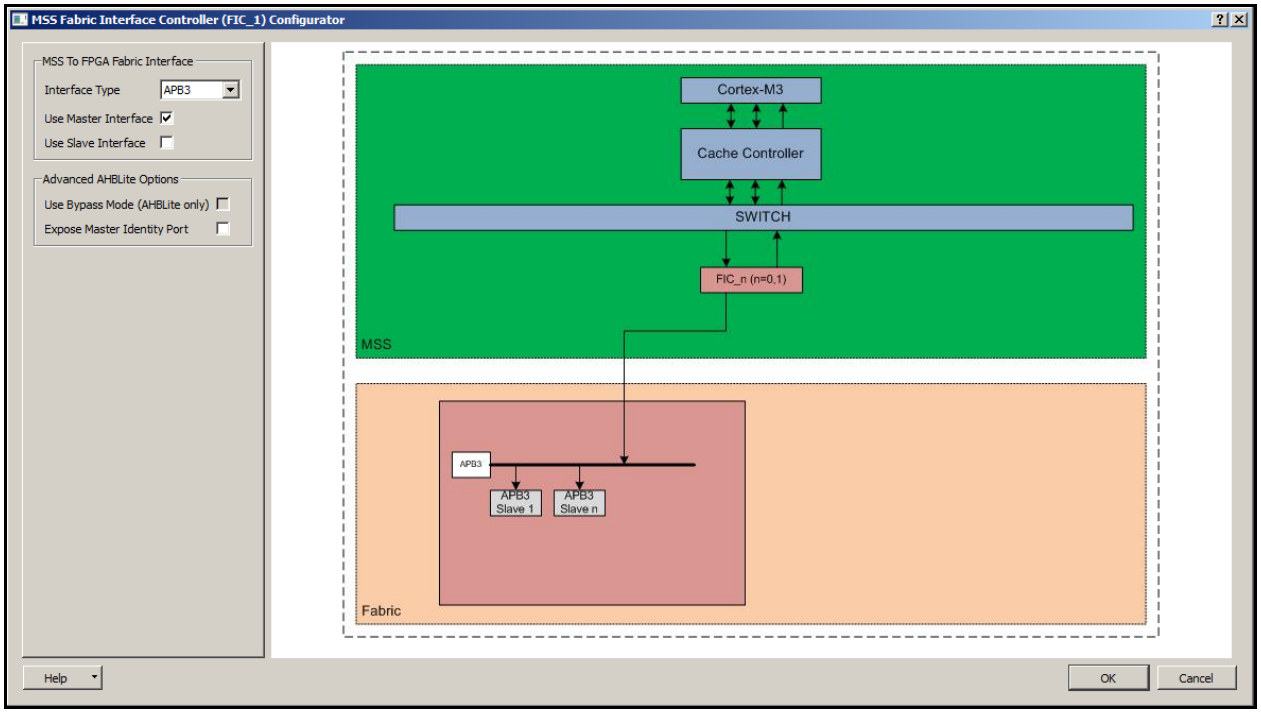


Figure 32 - APB3/AHB-Lite Fabric Interface [2]

Using the configuration from the previous **FIC_0** block *(previous*), this MSS module enables the APB interface to access the GPIO, SPI and UART in the NetFusion SmartFusion2 fabric.

Note: *this is also an APB Master as the ARM processor has complete control.*

6.8 FIC_2 (Peripheral Initialization)

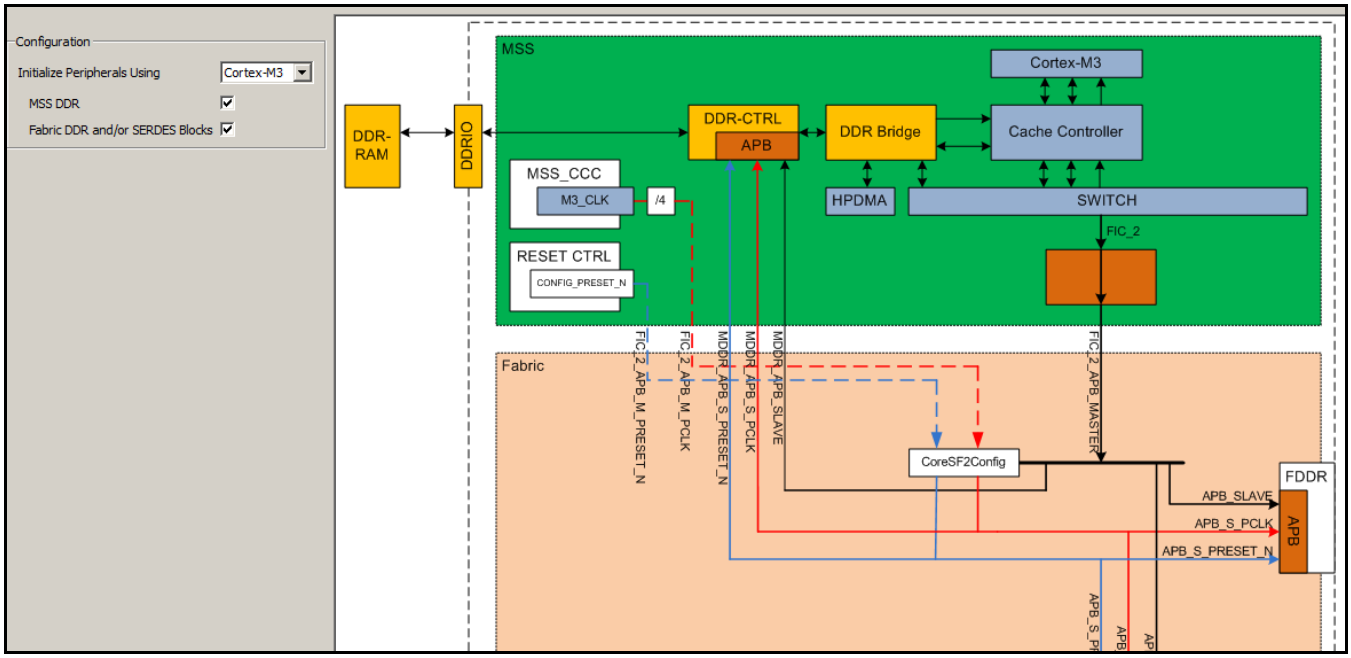


Figure 33 - APB Peripheral Hardware Configuration

As described earlier in this document, the SmartFusion2 FPGA is setup and primarily configured by boot-up software executed by the ARM processor. This can be bare-metal code or early boot code from uClinux called *u-boot*.

This MSS module block enables the signals to connect a feedback APB interface from the ARM processor to the other peripherals in the MSS itself. It seems an overkill but that is the architecture we are ruled by it seems.

In the case of NetFusion, we configure the **FIC_0** and **FIC_1** fabric interface controllers and also select the AXI Slave interface for the MDDR block.

Important Note: *do not ever remove this feature from the design of NetFusion. The system will not operate if deleted.*

7 Adding IP Cores from Verilog/VHDL

7.1 Importing Source Files

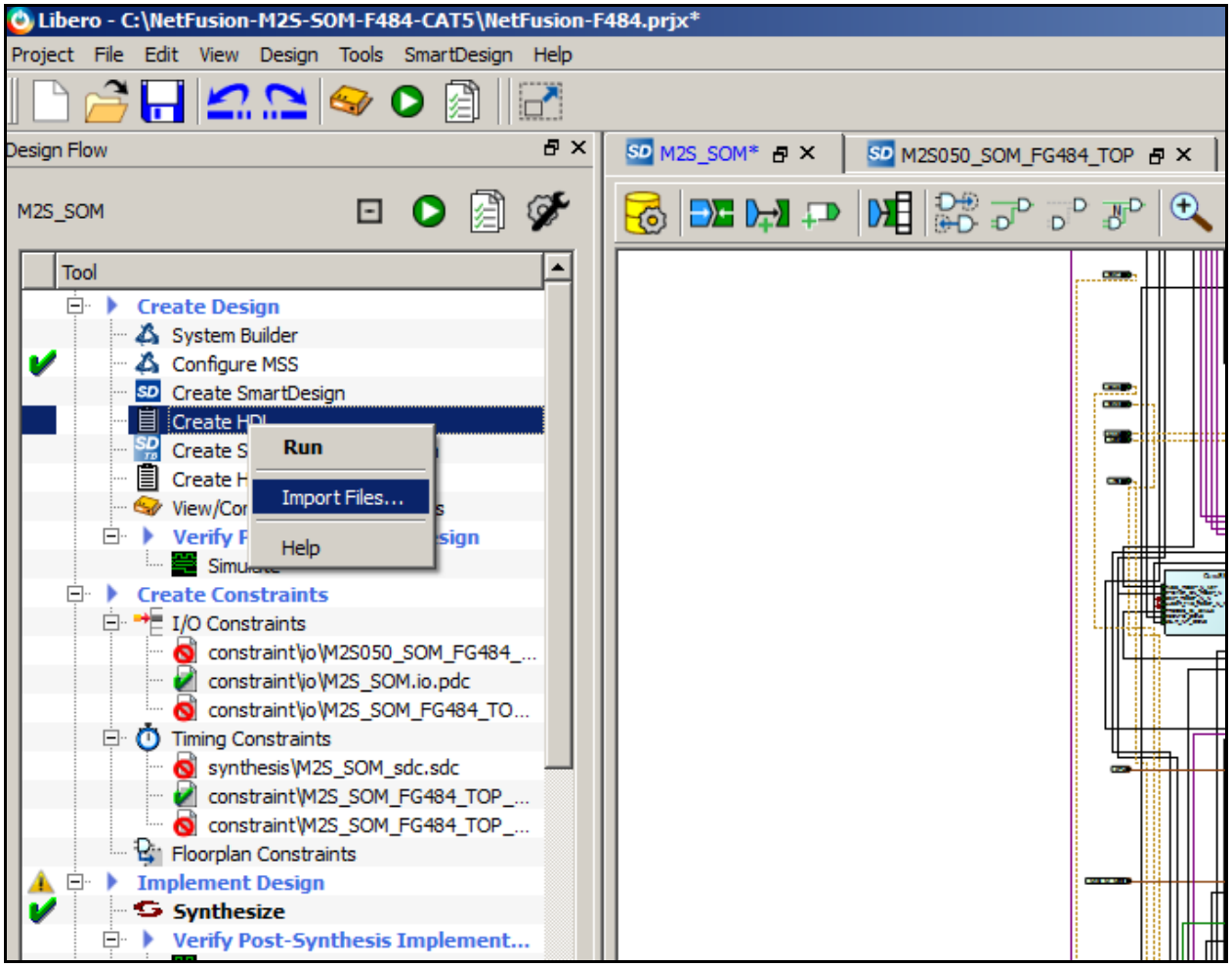


Figure 34 - Importing a single Verilog/VHDL file into the NetFusion Libero Project

From time to time, you may want to deviate from the default NetFusion Libero starter project. If you need to add catalogue cores especially for the fabric macros, then download using the vault.

Also, as illustrated *(above*), you also may wish to import 3rd party source IP cores. To do this, on the panel on the left of the Libero IDE, right click on "*Create HDL*" and then select "*Import Files...".* This will bring the Verilog/VHDL into the main system.

You can check if the source code has syntax errors and is valid for the synthesizer (Libero Synplify Pro) that Libero uses. This mechanism enables the NetFusion project to be customized and built on for a users system requirements.

7.2 Instantiating into the Fabric

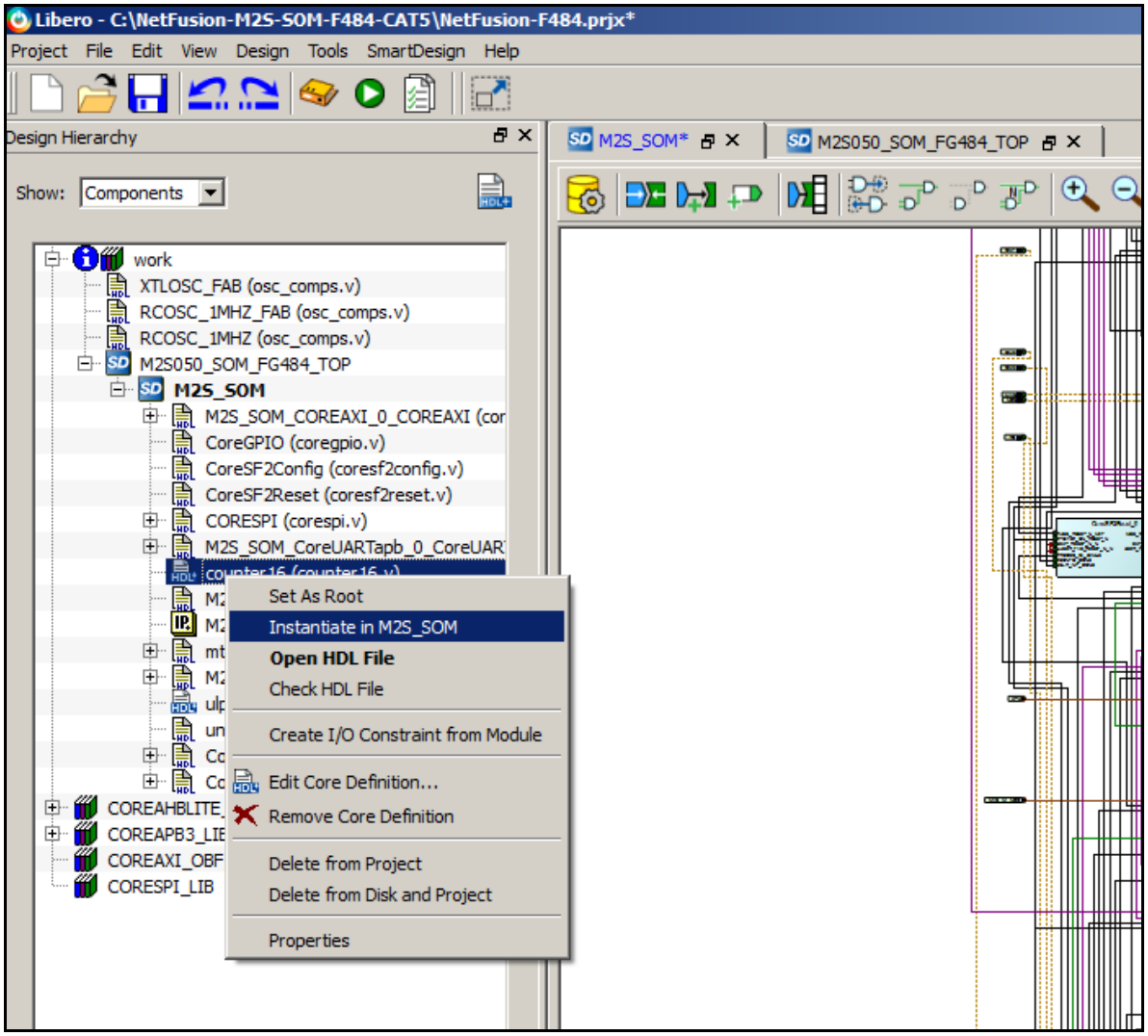


Figure 35 - Instantiating an Imported IP Core in your Fabric Design

Whether you wish to instantiate into the SmartFusion2 fabric an imported 3rd party source code core from VHDL/Verilog or it is from the vault downloaded from ACTEL, the process to get the core into the design sheets is the same and relatively simple. In fact, even if the core is a macro as part of the ASIC area of the FPGA, the process is the same no matter what area of the design it involves. Simply move the left panel to select "*Design Hierarchy*" and then right click on the listed core of your choice. Select *"Instantiate in M2S_SOM"* or whichever sheet is displayed on the right pane of Libero IDE.

The core will appear in the design for you to move and anchor ready for connection routing.

Note: *If the core has errors, the error report page will appear and the instantiation will not occur.*

7.2.1 Building and Synthesizing the NetFusion Design

- *Open the Top-Level, SOM and the MSS sheets*
- *Start with the MSS, and right click "Generate Component"*
- *If errors, eliminate then perform previous instruction over again*
- *Once successful, move to the SOM sheet*
- *Right click "Generate Component"*
- *If errors, eliminate then perform previous instruction over again*
- *Once successful, move to the Top-Level sheet*
- *Right click "Generate Component"*
- *If errors, eliminate then perform previous instruction over again*

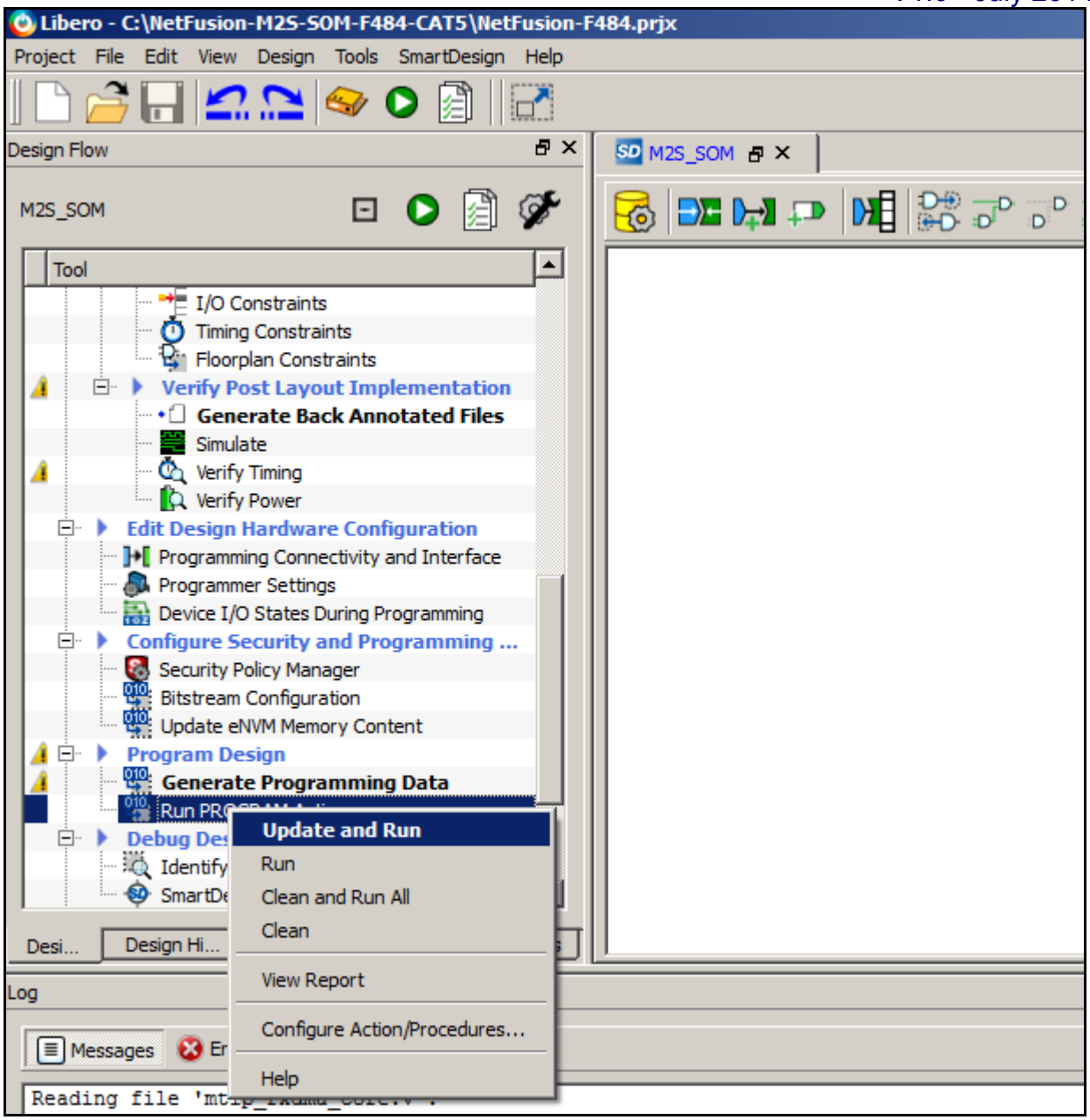


Figure 36 - Selecting Full NetFusion Synthesis and FPGA Programming

Once you are ready to synthesize and program the SmartFusion2 FPGA on the M2S-SOM-F484 housed on NetFusion, select the option *(shown above*).

Note: *This should take around 90 minutes on a standard Windows 7/8 PC.*

8 References

Please refer to online documented support at the Microsemi reference center.

For M2S-SOM-F484 hardware documents please visit the Emcraft hardware for the SOM-F484.

If you need Libero references from Emcraft, this will illustrate the default designs that NetFusion was built from in order to achieve the baseboard functionality.

9 Contact

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10 Document History

Document Change Notices (DCO)

Version	Description	Created/Changed By	Date
Version 1.0	Initial Release according to Version 1.0	Paul Bates: Nine Ways	**17th July 2014**

Table 1: Document History Entry Log