The TCI Model 727 is a high-performance, compact member of TCI’s 700 series of field-proven Spectrum Monitoring Systems (SMS), and addresses the frequency ranges of 20 to 3,000 MHz or 20 to 8,000 MHz with optional extensions for monitoring purposes down to 9 kHz and up to 50 GHz. The 727 consists of a TCI spectrum processor, TCI’s Scorpio client-server software and your choice of monitoring and direction finding (DF) antennas.

The 727’s exclusive, multi-channel, wideband architecture provides fast and accurate signal measurements in crowded and complex signal environments. The 727’s high-accuracy metrics and DF performance are achieved by the spectrum processor through simultaneous DSP analysis of wideband receivers connected to an external multi-element DF antenna array.

Each channel is composed of a fully synthesized, high-dynamic-range receiver, high-speed digitizer, and custom digital signal processor. The digital processing provides an extensive selection of measurement bandwidths from 500 Hz to 4 MHz. A wide selection of processor measurement bandwidths yields exceptional performance and the ability to measure and analyze a variety of traditional and modern signals in a wide range of signal environments.
Make fast and accurate signal measurements with a conveniently compact solution.

**Key Features**

- Field-proven spectrum monitoring and geolocation solutions used by over 50 regulatory authorities worldwide.
- Fully integrated, ITU-compliant spectrum monitoring and direction finding (DF) system.
- 20 to 3,000 MHz monitoring and DF, with optional extended frequency range down to 9 kHz and up to 50 GHz.
- Choice of multiple wide-aperture direction finding and monitoring antennas.
- Multi-channel receiver and processor are fully integrated to provide exceptional direction finding speed and measurement accuracy.
- Measurement bandwidth of 4 MHz.
- Built-in self-test and self-calibration.
- Highly integrated antenna and spectrum processor units.
- Easy operation via client-server architecture with built-in networking capability.
- From stand-alone to nationwide deployment in fixed, mobile and transportable configurations.
- Interoperable with all TCI 700 series spectrum monitoring systems.
- Client software automatically configures itself to each connected server.
- TDOA (Time Difference of Arrival) measurements.
- Capable of hybrid geolocation that combines Angle of Arrival (AOA) and TDOA measurements.
- Capable of signal capture in I & Q format with signal analysis.
- High scan speed mode for transient signal capture.
System Details

All spectrum-processor functions are controlled by a dual-core CPU and are contained within a single, compact VME-based 4U, 19-inch rack-mount unit. The processor does not require an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), which makes the 727 system ideal for portable, transportable and mobile applications, as well as fixed locations with unreliable power delivery.

Modular Architecture For Maximum Flexibility
System Details

Full Compliance With ITU Recommendations

The 727 system is fully compliant with ITU-R recommendations as outlined in the 2011 International Telecommunications Union Spectrum Monitoring Handbook. The 727 provides comprehensive spectrum monitoring and analysis that meets or exceeds all ITU recommendations for the measurement of frequency, field strength, occupied bandwidth, modulation, direction finding, spectrum occupancy, and automatic violation detection.

Lower Lifecycle Cost

TCI’s more than 40 years of experience in designing, installing, and maintaining spectrum monitoring equipment has made the 700 series systems best-value solutions that offer the highest performance and reliability. Because all 700 series systems are field-repairable and self-calibrating, they do not require field or factory calibration after repair or extended use. And with Built-in Self Test (BIST) capabilities and self-calibrating antenna technology to reduce maintenance costs and achieve the lowest lifecycle ownership cost.

User-Friendly Software

TCI’s Scorpio™ client software controls the 727 system. Scorpio software incorporates a wide variety of powerful graphical displays with easy-to-use features, such as drop-down boxes and automatic default values (where appropriate) to enhance understanding and simplify operations. Scorpio software can be operated interactively, allowing the operator full control of the measurements and displays with instantaneous feedback, or in automatic scheduled mode without operator intervention. In scheduled (calendar) mode for unattended operation, Scorpio automatically initializes and starts operation when power is applied.

Antennas For Every Application

The TCI 727 system is easily configurable to operate a variety of monitor and DF antennas. All antennas include the DF and monitor elements in a single package. Please refer to separate datasheet for complete technical specifications of compatible antennas for fixed, mobile and transportable applications.

TCI 641

TCI 643, Dual Polarization

TCI 645 Compact antenna, directly mountable on vehicle roof rack

TCI 647D Dual Polarization, Vertical SHF DF and monitoring

TCI 641
Automatic Operation

Scorpio software allows automatic measurements of signal parameters in accordance with ITU recommendations. The Scheduled mode’s calendar feature lets Scorpio Clients reserve time slots on a selected Scorpio Server to make requested measurements. A single Scorpio Server measurement station can handle requests from multiple Scorpio Clients, allowing data collection from multiple systems in different locations. These facilities are used to verify compliance with license requirements on a scheduled basis.

Automatic Violation Detection (AVD), another powerful Scorpio tool, verifies compliance of licensed emitters and detects unlicensed operations. AVD operates in conjunction with license data (frequency assignments) downloaded from the Spectrum Management System database. AVD determines whether a particular transmission complies with tolerances of assigned center frequency and bandwidth, as specified for the allocated band and service in the National Frequency Plan table. It also will report frequencies operated without a corresponding license in the Management database and provide an alarm notification. AVD measurements can be performed on a single-frequency or on a range of frequencies specified by the Operator.

Powerful Tools for Detecting and Analyzing Signals

Scorpio software gives the operator a wide variety of capabilities to find, identify, and record specific emitters—often unlicensed pirate stations or sources of interference. These facilities include extensive direction finding tools to locate the target emitter using both fixed and mobile stations.

The operator can use the Spectrum Panoramic (or Pan) display, an X-Y plot of signal amplitude versus frequency, to view and identify signals and signal relationships in the spectrum, and to investigate interference sources. Several views are also assembled in single screens, such as

- Scorpio Field Strength Results
- Spectrum Analyzer with DF Display
- Pushbutton DF Display
- Signal Activity Alarm Display Window
- Pan Display with Waterfall Plot
Pushbutton DF, for comprehensive analysis of signal parameters and their location.

When two or more systems are networked, DF Line of Bearing (LOB) measurements on the signal can be used to triangulate and determine the emitter location. When one system is installed in a vehicle, the Homing DF screen allows quick and effective location of emitters while moving. The software processes the LOB data obtained from DF measurements at different vehicle positions and calculates the position or “FIX” on the transmitted signal. Global Positioning System (GPS) data records the mobile station location and a digital electronic compass reports the vehicle heading. This provides a basic tool to locate emitters and investigate sources of interference around the affected stations.

Comprehensive Reporting Capabilities

The 727 system’s comprehensive text and graphical capabilities allow automatic report generation, or access to the data to create reports using MS Office™ (included with the system). Reports are based on measurements, as well as different data records available in the system databases, such as raw trace information, carrier analysis by date or band, channel-occupancy and availability statistics, message-length statistics, and channel-power statistics.

Model 727

Technical Overview

Single Integrated Monitor/DF Antenna

By combining wide-aperture multi-element DF and monitoring antennas, TCI provides unparalleled performance in an integrated package. This design is optimized for high sensitivity over its full frequency range.

Built-In-Self-Test (BIST)

Comprehensive BIST and self-calibration have been fully integrated into TCI 700 series equipment from the beginning. When BIST is requested, testing starts with the CPU and DSP, and progresses through all system components to the antenna elements. If a component fails BIST, the BIST function continues testing to obtain a complete picture from multiple failures, if they occur. The BIST results can be reviewed either at a high level suitable for Operators, or in a detailed view suitable for Maintenance Technicians. A full BIST report in simple text form can be sent to TCI for expert review, if desired. Self-calibration eliminates the need for additional test and calibration equipment and greatly simplifies system maintenance.

Multi-Channel DF Processing

Using patented automatic receiver matching, the TCI 727 system provides superior performance when compared to single channel systems that utilize the same antenna configuration. TCI’s multi-channel approach is signal modulation independent and offers much faster DF speed than typical single channel systems that must perform four times more switching operations.
Expandability

The Scorpio system’s modularity and powerful core capability make it easily adaptable to future needs. Future expansion possibilities include:

- Addition of future mobile units and fixed stations by adding them to the flexible network architecture.
- Upgrading hardware and software to extend the frequency range.
- Additional operator workstations.
- Analysis and demodulation of future communication formats through upgrade of analysis algorithms in the TCI Spectrum Processor.

Model 727 Specifications Overview

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Toyota Land Cruiser with 641 antenna
Specialized Expertise in a Global Family

TCI International, Inc., a leading supplier of end-to-end, ITU-compliant RF spectrum monitoring and management products, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SPX Corporation. Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, SPX Corporation (NYSE: SPXC) is a global, multi-industry manufacturing leader. SPX team members collaborate across business segments and borders to deliver greater efficiencies and better ideas for helping customers succeed.

At TCI, this commitment to innovation supports an array of customers whose missions depend on having a clear picture of their electromagnetic environment. For over 45 years, TCI’s technical developments and advanced production capabilities have earned it a reputation for excellence in high-performance communications, spectrum monitoring and signals intelligence systems.

TCI’s diverse hardware and software engineering capabilities provide proven solutions for regulatory compliance, monitoring and security, and communications intelligence applications. With advanced spectrum mapping and analytics, data recording and precision geolocation technology, TCI systems provide vital data for government and military agencies in over 100 countries worldwide.