Quick Start Guide

RZ/A3M Group

Evaluation Kit for RZ/A3M Microprocessor Group
EK-RZ/A3M v1
Quick Start Guide

Renesas RZ Family
RZ/A Series

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General Precautions in the Handling of Microcontroller Unit and Microprocessor Unit Products

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1. Precaution against Electrostatic Discharge (ESD)

   A strong electrical field, when exposed to a CMOS device, can cause destruction of the gate oxide and ultimately degrade the device operation. Steps must be taken to stop the generation of static electricity as much as possible, and quickly dissipate it when it occurs. Environmental control must be adequate. When it is dry, a humidifier should be used. This is recommended to avoid using insulators that can easily build up static electricity. Semiconductor devices must be stored and transported in an anti-static container, static shielding bag or conductive material. All test and measurement tools including work benches and floors must be grounded. The operator must also be grounded using a wrist strap. Semiconductor devices must not be touched with bare hands. Similar precautions must be taken for printed circuit boards with mounted semiconductor devices.
2. Processing at power-on

   The state of the product is undefined at the time when power is supplied. The states of internal circuits in the LSI are indeterminate and the states of register settings and pins are undefined at the time when power is supplied. In a finished product where the reset signal is applied to the external reset pin, the states of pins are not guaranteed from the time when power is supplied until the reset process is completed. In a similar way, the states of pins in a product that is reset by an on-chip power-on reset function are not guaranteed from the time when power is supplied until the power reaches the level at which resetting is specified.
3. Input of signal during power-off state

   Do not input signals or an I/O pull-up power supply while the device is powered off. The current injection that results from input of such a signal or I/O pull-up power supply may cause malfunction and the abnormal current that passes in the device at this time may cause degradation of internal elements. Follow the guideline for input signal during power-off state as described in your product documentation.
4. Handling of unused pins

   Handle unused pins in accordance with the directions given under handling of unused pins in the manual. The input pins of CMOS products are generally in the high-impedance state. In operation with an unused pin in the open-circuit state, extra electromagnetic noise is induced in the vicinity of the LSI, an associated shoot-through current flows internally, and malfunctions occur due to the false recognition of the pin state as an input signal become possible.
5. Clock signals

   After applying a reset, only release the reset line after the operating clock signal becomes stable. When switching the clock signal during program execution, wait until the target clock signal is stabilized. When the clock signal is generated with an external resonator or from an external oscillator during a reset, ensure that the reset line is only released after full stabilization of the clock signal. Additionally, when switching to a clock signal produced with an external resonator or by an external oscillator while program execution is in progress, wait until the target clock signal is stable.
6. Voltage application waveform at input pin

   Waveform distortion due to input noise or a reflected wave may cause malfunction. If the input of the CMOS device stays in the area between V_{IL} (Max.) and V_{IH} (Min.) due to noise, for example, the device may malfunction. Take care to prevent chattering noise from entering the device when the input level is fixed, and also in the transition period when the input level passes through the area between V_{IL} (Max.) and V_{IH} (Min.).
7. Prohibition of access to reserved addresses

   Access to reserved addresses is prohibited. The reserved addresses are provided for possible future expansion of functions. Do not access these addresses as the correct operation of the LSI is not guaranteed.
8. Differences between products

   Before changing from one product to another, for example to a product with a different part number, confirm that the change will not lead to problems. The characteristics of a microprocessing unit or microcontroller unit products in the same group but having a different part number might differ in terms of internal memory capacity, layout pattern, and other factors, which can affect the ranges of electrical characteristics, such as characteristic values, operating margins, immunity to noise, and amount of radiated noise. When changing to a product with a different part number, implement a system-evaluation test for the given product.

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This Evaluation Kit is only intended for use in a laboratory environment under ambient temperature and humidity conditions. A safe separation distance should be used between this and any sensitive equipment. Its use outside the laboratory, classroom, study area, or similar such area invalidates conformity with the protection requirements of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive and could lead to prosecution.

The product generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and may cause harmful interference to radio communications. There is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment causes harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off or on, you are encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

• Ensure attached cables do not lie across the equipment.

• Reorient the receiving antenna.

• Increase the distance between the equipment and the receiver.

• Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that which the receiver is connected.

• Power down the equipment when not in use.

• Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Note: It is recommended that wherever possible shielded interface cables are used.

The product is potentially susceptible to certain EMC phenomena. To mitigate against them it is recommended that the following measures be undertaken:

• The user is advised that mobile phones should not be used within 10 m of the product when in use.

• The user is advised to take ESD precautions when handling the equipment.

The Evaluation Kit does not represent an ideal reference design for an end product and does not fulfill the regulatory standards for an end product.

Renesas RZ Family

EK-RZ/A3M v1

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1. Introduction

This Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides:

- An overview of the Quick Start example project that the EK-RZ/A3M board comes pre-programmed with.
- Instructions for running the Quick Start example project.
- Instructions for importing, modifying, and building the Quick Start example project using Flexible Software Package (FSP) and e² studio Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

1.1 Assumptions and Advisory Notes

1. **Tool experience**: It is assumed that the user has prior experience working with IDEs such as e² studio and terminal emulation programs such as Tera Term.
2. **Subject knowledge**: It is assumed that the user has basic knowledge about microprocessors, embedded systems, and FSP to modify the example project described in this document.
3. **Default jumper settings**: Prior to running the Quick Start example project or programming the EK-RZ/A3M board, default jumper settings must be used. Refer to the EK-RZ/A3M user's manual for the default jumper configuration.
4. **Screenshots**: The screenshots provided throughout this document are for reference. The actual screen content may differ depending on the version of software and development tools used.

2. Kit Contents

The following components are included in the kit:

1. EK-RZ/A3M v1 board
2. USB-C to USB-C cable
3. USB-C to USB-A cable
4. USB-C to USB-A female host cable
5. MIPI Graphics Expansion Board 2
6. Display mounting hardware (spacers and fixing screws)

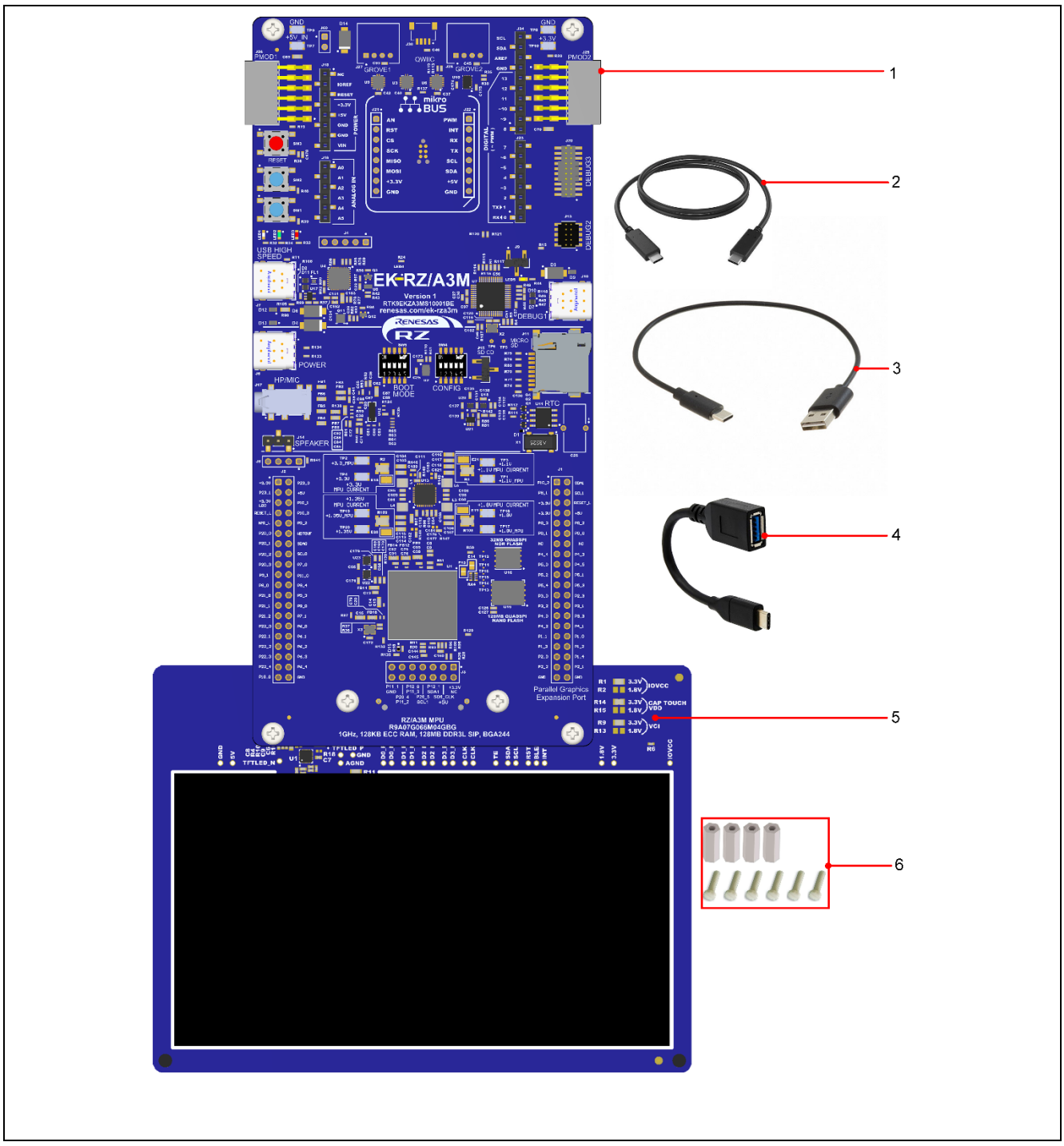

Figure 1. EK-RZ/A3M Kit Contents

3. Kit Assembly

Attach the MIPI Graphics Expansion Board 2 to the EK-RZ/A3M using the screws and spacers provided as shown below:

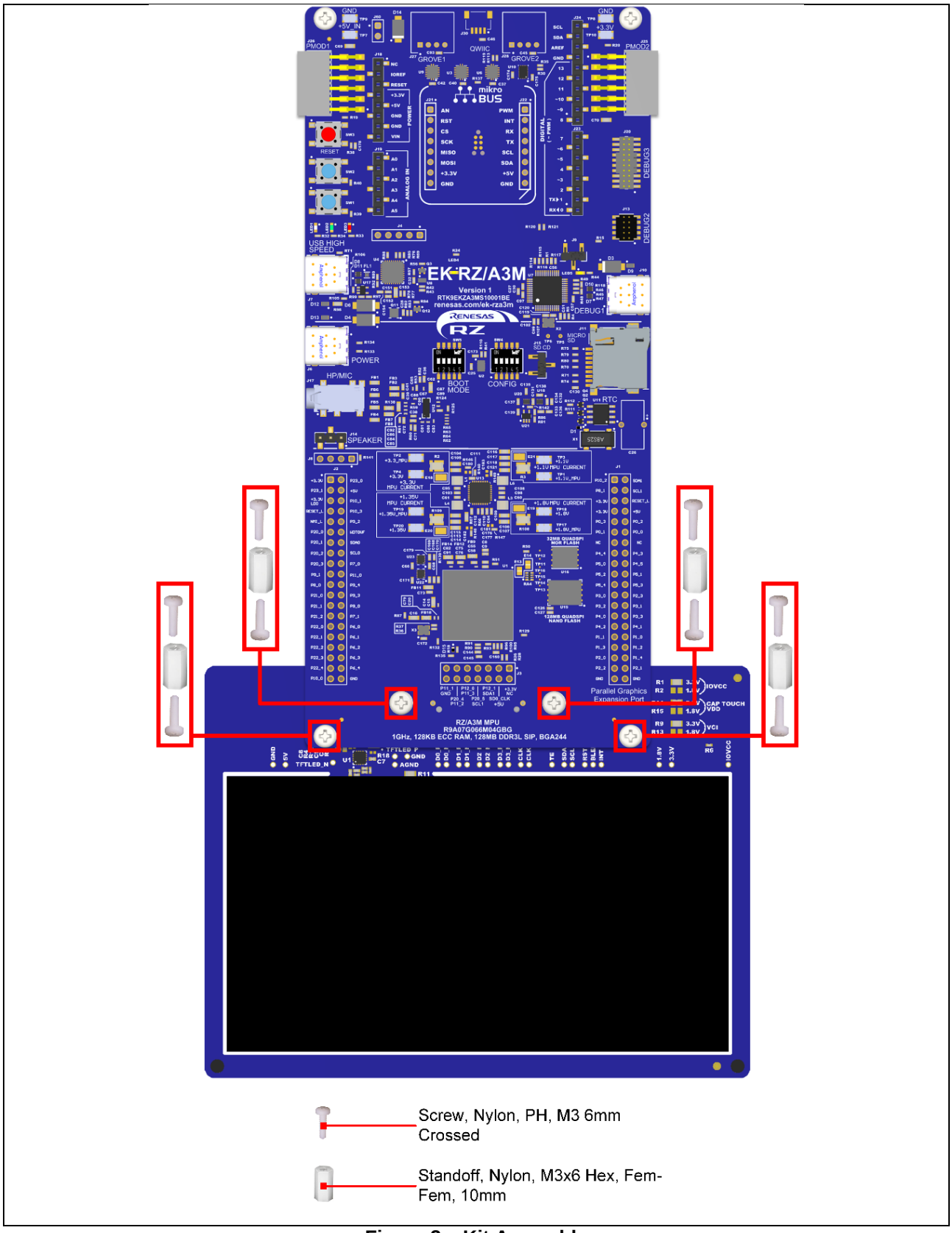

Figure 2. Kit Assembly

4. Overview of the Quick Start Example Project

The Quick Start Example Project (QSEP) allows the user to change the frequency and intensity of the on-board user LED1 (blue) using the user buttons (SW1 and SW2). The supported frequencies are 1 Hz, 5 Hz, and 10 Hz and the supported intensities are 10%, 50%, and 90%.

When the EK-RZ/A3M board running the QSEP is connected to a host PC via USB debug J10, the welcome menu is displayed on a terminal console. The QSEP can also be navigated using the MIPI Graphics Expansion Board 2.

4.1 Quick Start Example Project Flow

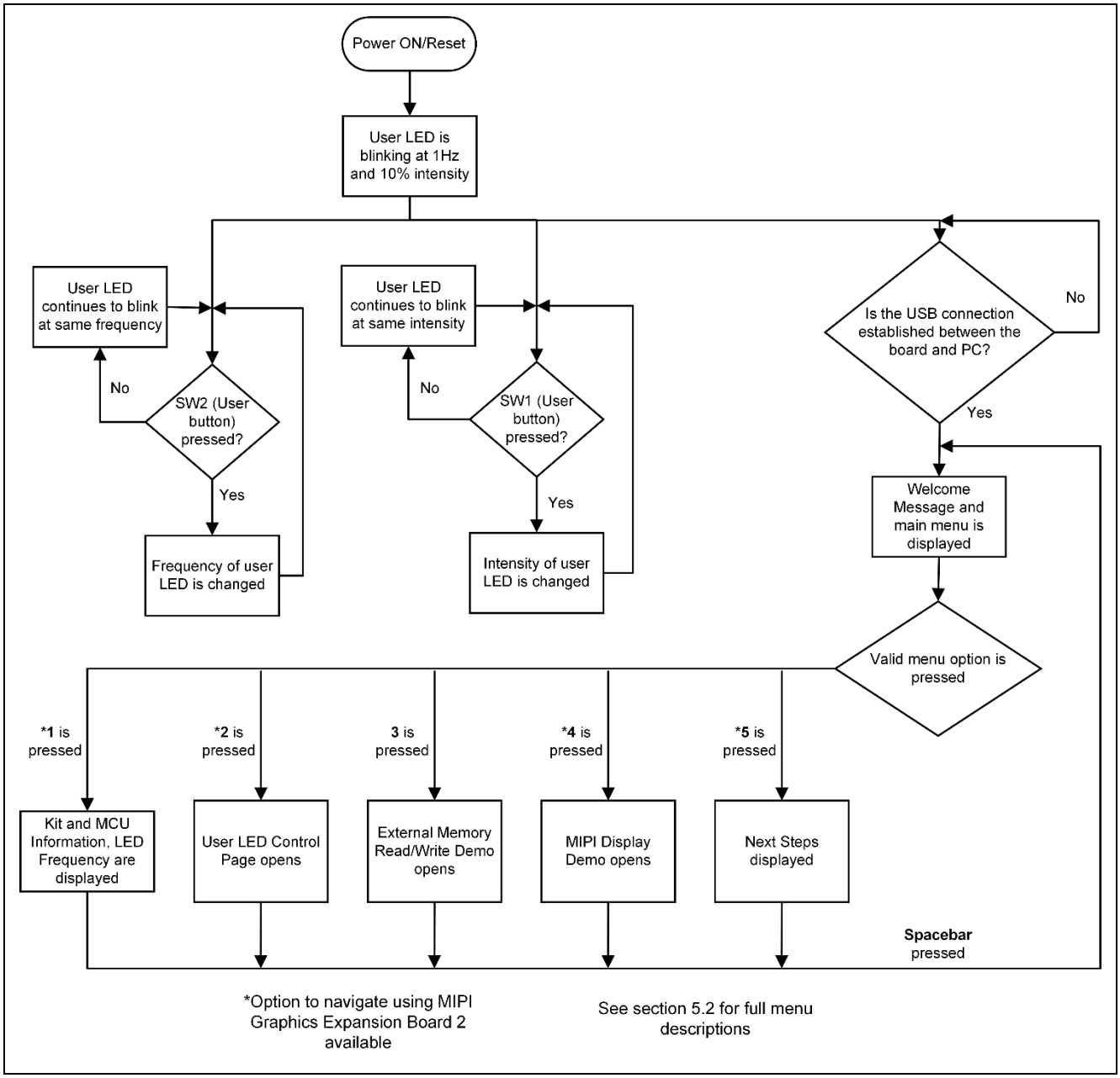

Figure 3. Quick Start Example Project Flow

5. Quick Start Example Project

This section lists the requirements and instructions to power up the EK-RZ/A3M board and run the Quick Start example project.

Hardware Requirements

- EK-RZ/A3M board
- MIPI Graphics Expansion Board 2
- USB-A to USB-C cable
- A PC with at least 1 USB port

Software Requirements

- Windows® 10 operating system
- USB Serial Drivers (included in Windows 10)
- Tera Term (or similar) terminal console application

5.1 Connecting and Powering Up the EK-RZ/A3M Board

1. Connect the MIPI Graphics Expansion Board 2 to J32 on the EK-RZ/A3M
2. Connect the type-C end of the USB-C cable to USB Debug port (J10) of the EK-RZ/A3M board.
3. Connect the other end of this cable to the USB port of the host PC. Power LED (LED4) illuminates, indicating that the EK-RZ/A3M board is powered on.

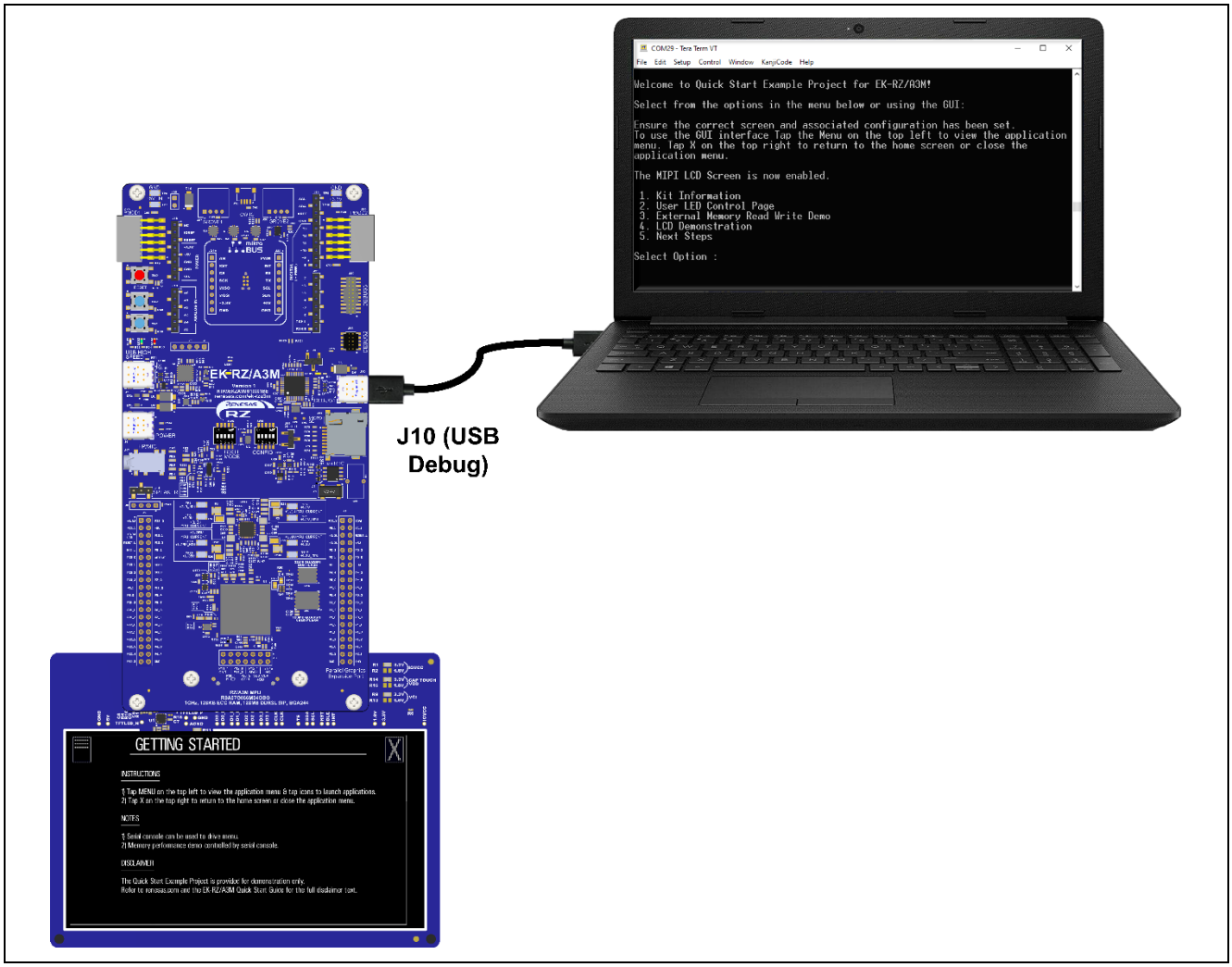

Figure 4. Connecting the EK-RZ/A3M Board to the Host PC via USB Debug

5.2 Running the Quick Start Example Project

To run the Quick Start example project, use the following instructions:

1. On power up or RESET, the three user LEDs will take on the following states:
   — LED1 blue - Blinking at 1 Hz frequency and at 10% intensity
   — LED2 green – Steady, full intensity
   — LED3 red – Off
2. Press the user button (SW1) on the EK-RZ/A3M board to change the intensity of the user LED1 (blue). With every press of the user button (SW1), the intensity will switch from 10% to 50% to 90% and cycle back.
3. Press the user button (SW2) on the EK-RZ/A3M board to change the blinking frequency of the user LED1 (blue). With every press of the first user button (SW2), the frequency will switch from 1 Hz to 5 Hz to 10 Hz and cycle back.
4. Upon connecting the EK-RZ/A3M to power, the following screen will appear on the MIPI display.

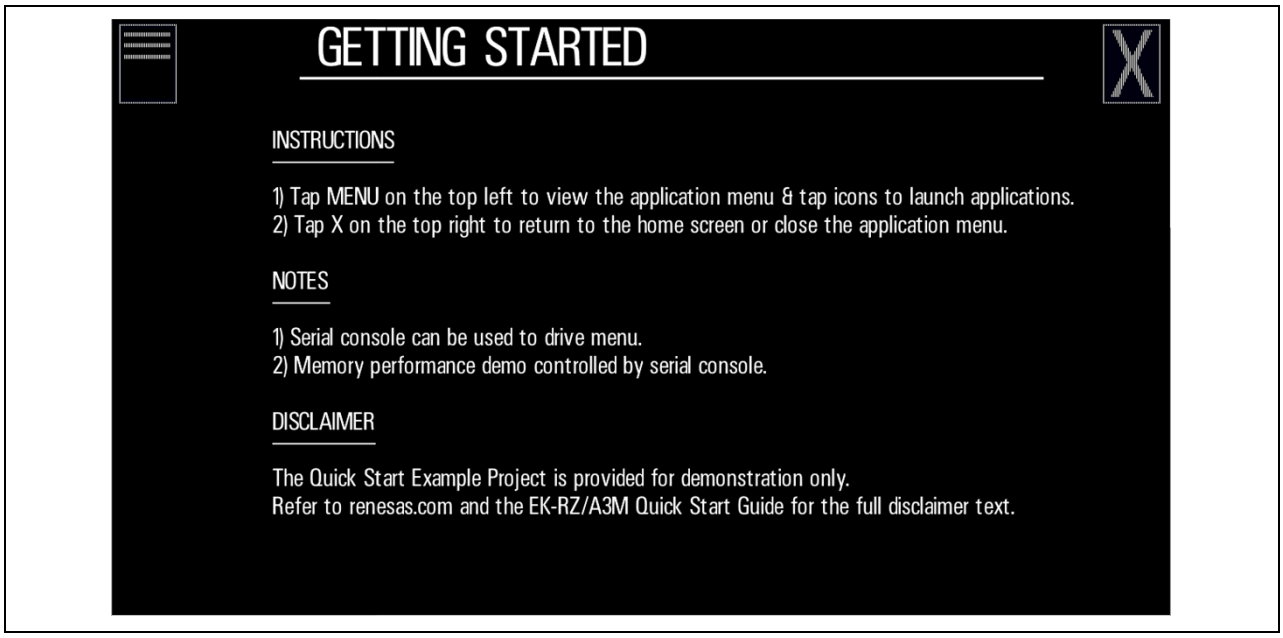

Figure 5. MIPI Display: Getting Started

5. Press the ‘X’ on the top right corner of the MIPI display to return to the home screen.

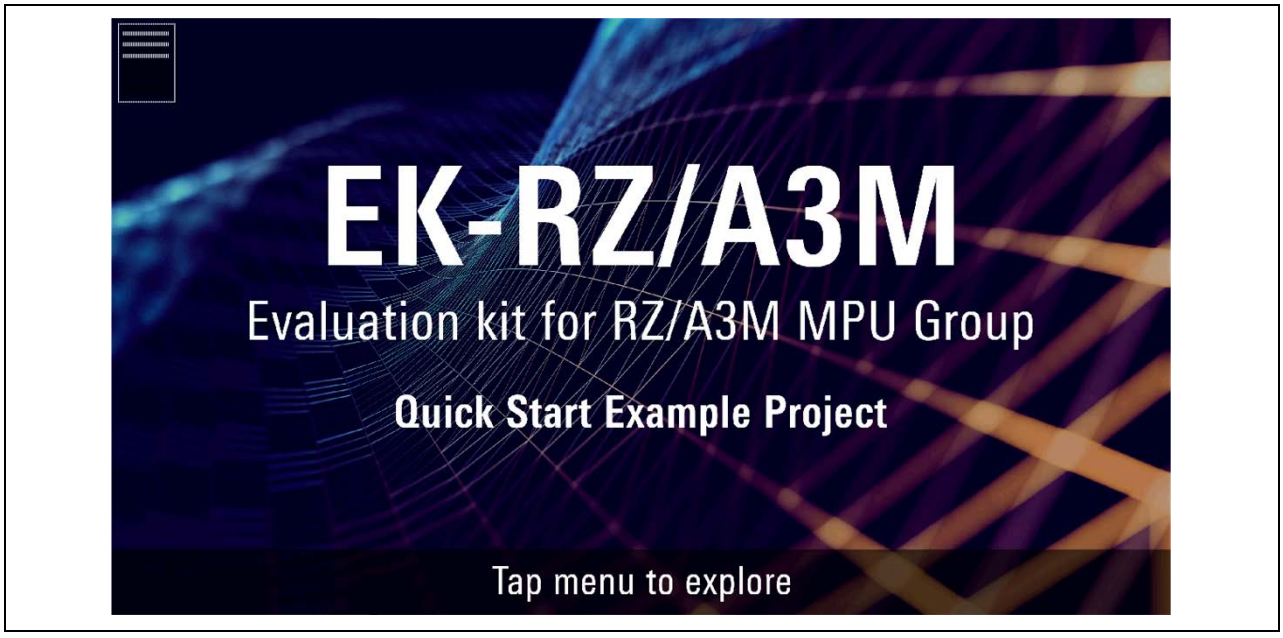

Figure 6. MIPI Display: Home Screen

6. Press the ‘Menu’ icon on the top left corner of the MIPI display to open the QSEP menu.

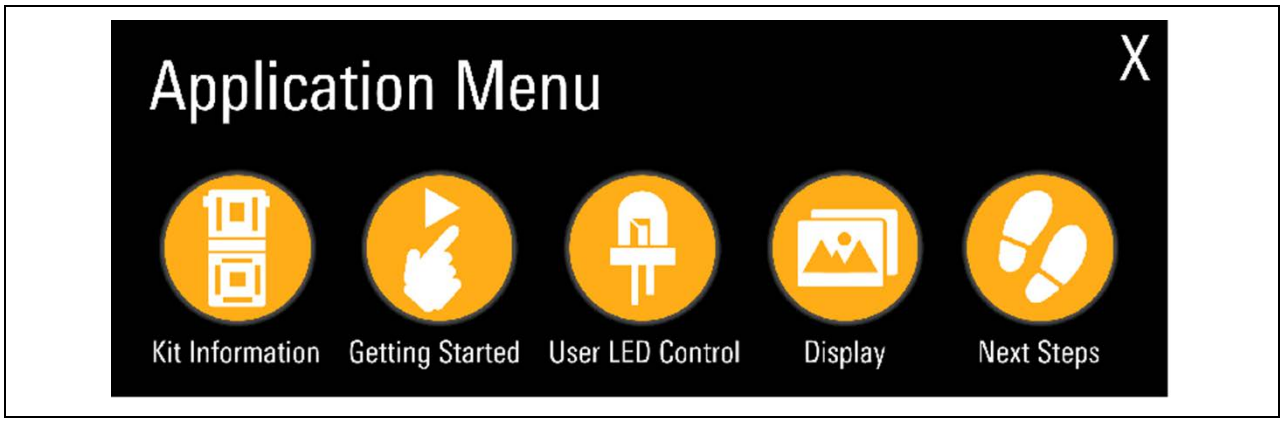

Figure 7. MIPI Display: QSEP menu

7. The MIPI display can be used to navigate the QSEP, however, it is recommended to open a serial console before proceeding to experience the full QSEP.
8. On the host PC, open Windows Device Manager. Expand **Ports (COM & LPT)**, locate **USB Serial Device (COMxx)** and note down the COM port number for reference in the next step.

   Note: USB Serial Device drivers are required to communicate between the EK-RZ/A3M board and the terminal application on the host PC. When the board is connected to the PC for the first time, J-Link drivers are installed. If asked to restart the computer, please do so.

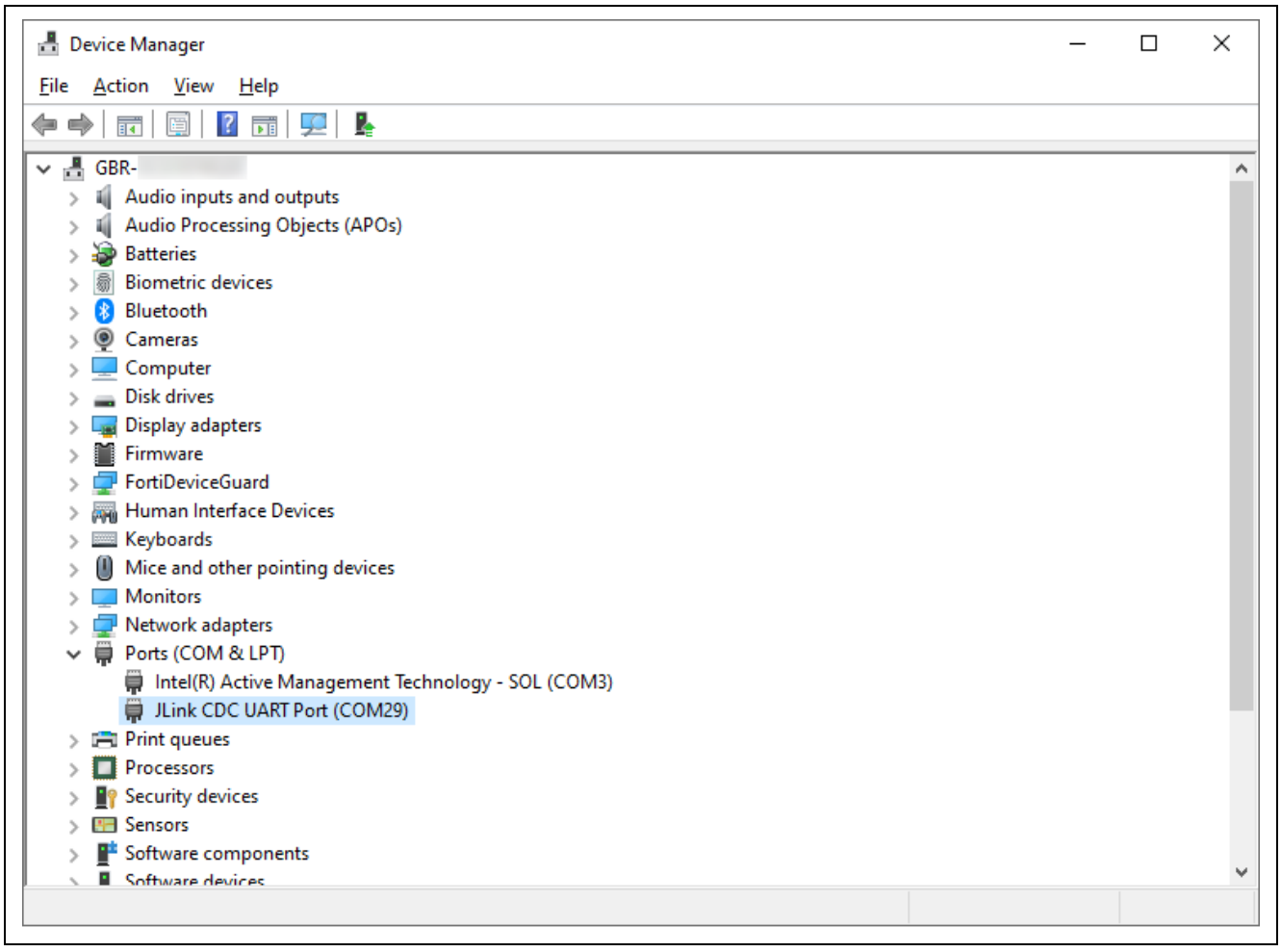

Figure 8. USB Serial Device in Windows Device Manager

9. Open Tera Term, select **Serial** and **COMxx: USB Serial Device (COMxx)** and click **OK**.

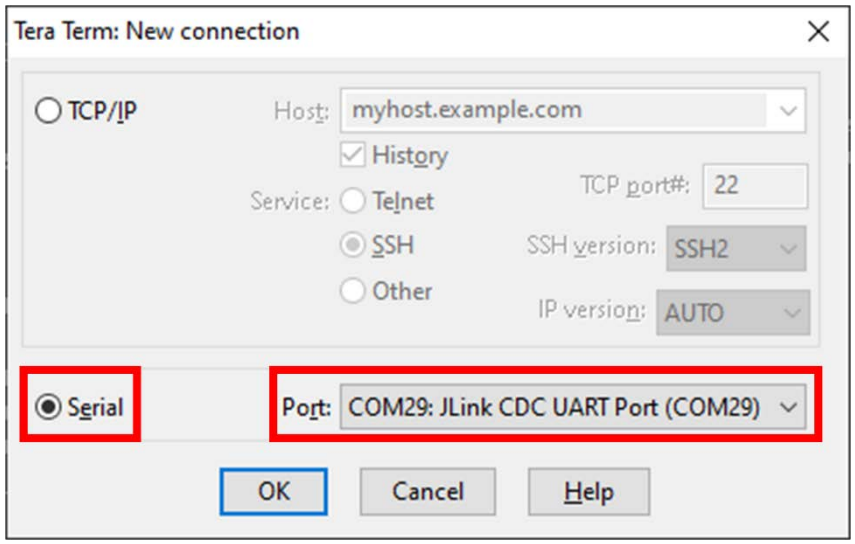

Figure 9. Selecting the Serial Port on Tera Term

10. Using the **Setup** menu pull-down, select **Serial Port** and ensure that the speed is set to **115200**, as shown below.

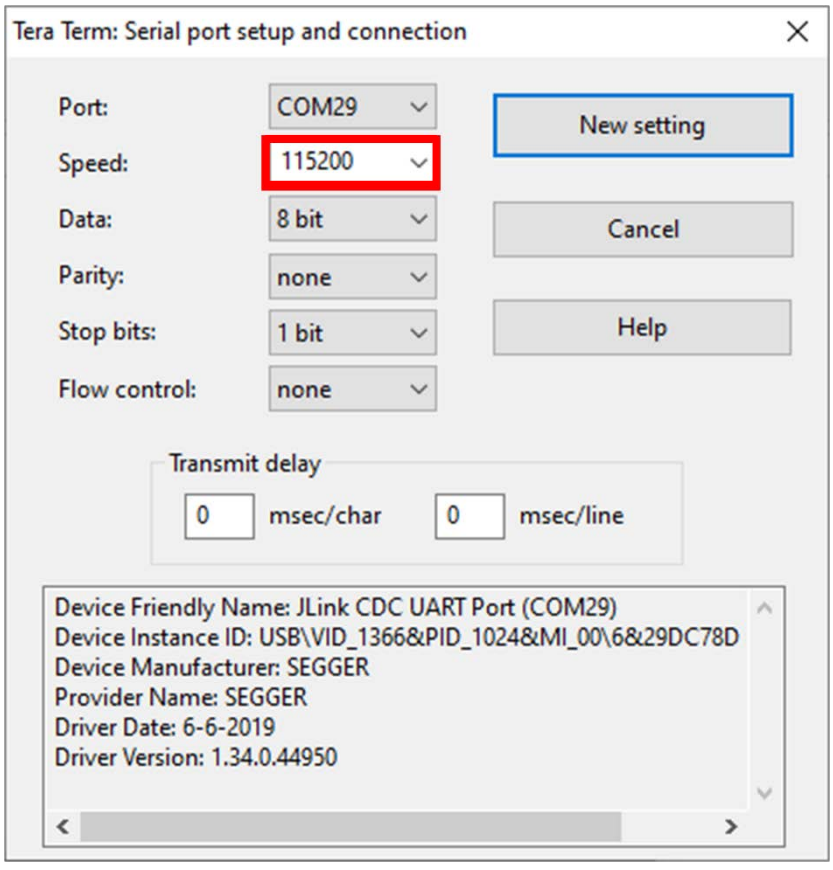

Figure 10. Select 115200 on the Speed Pulldown

11. Complete the connection. The ‘welcome and main menu’ screen will be displayed. If no text appears, press the RESET button on the EK-RZ/A3M.

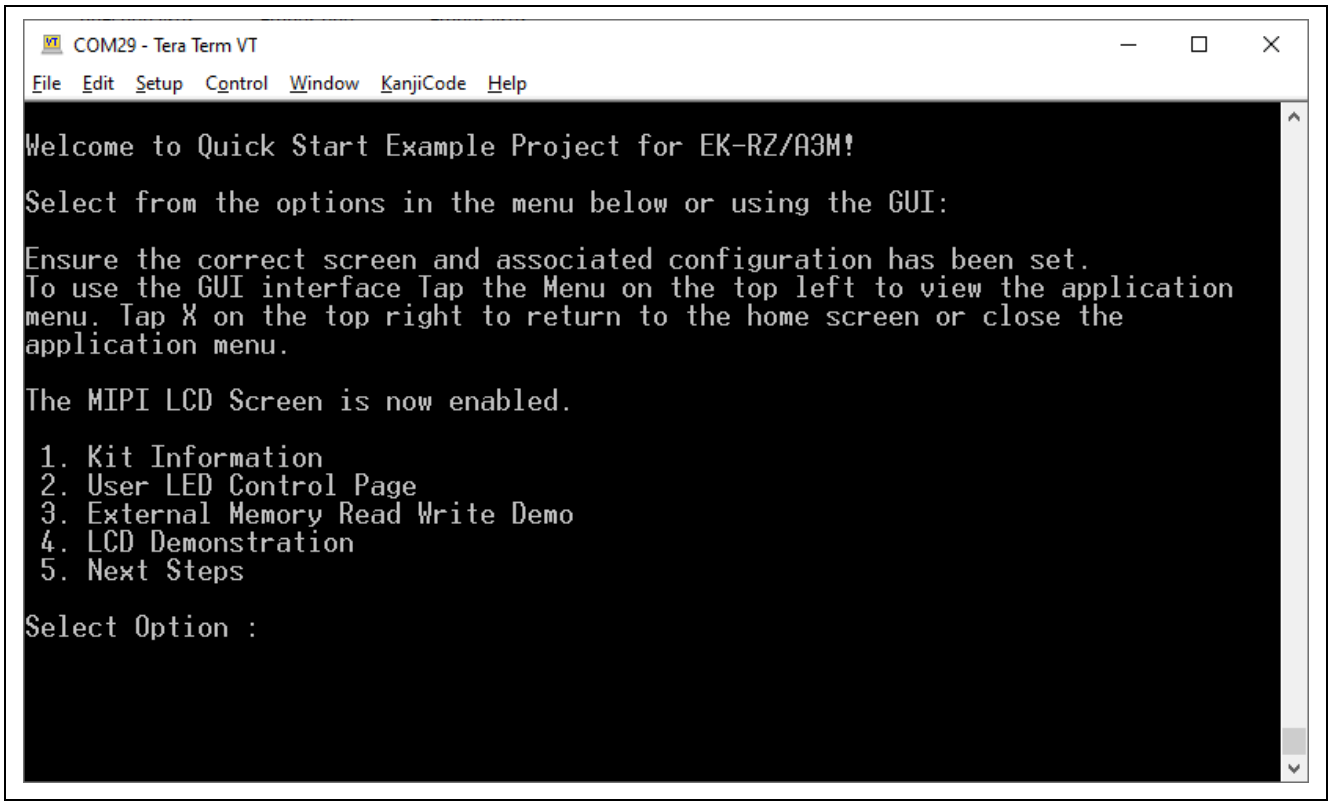

Figure 11. Serial Console: Welcome and Main Menu

12. Press **1** on the serial console or navigate using the MIPI display menu to open the **Kit Information Page** which displays the kit name, ordering part number, RZ device part number, and the user LED’s current blinking frequency and intensity.

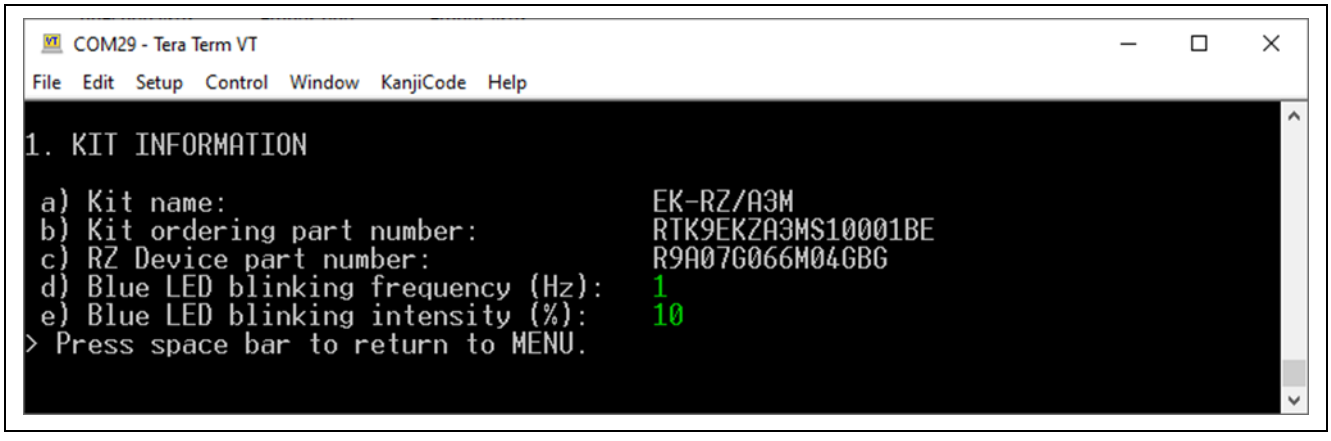

Figure 12. Serial Console: Kit Information

13. The following screen appears on the MIPI display

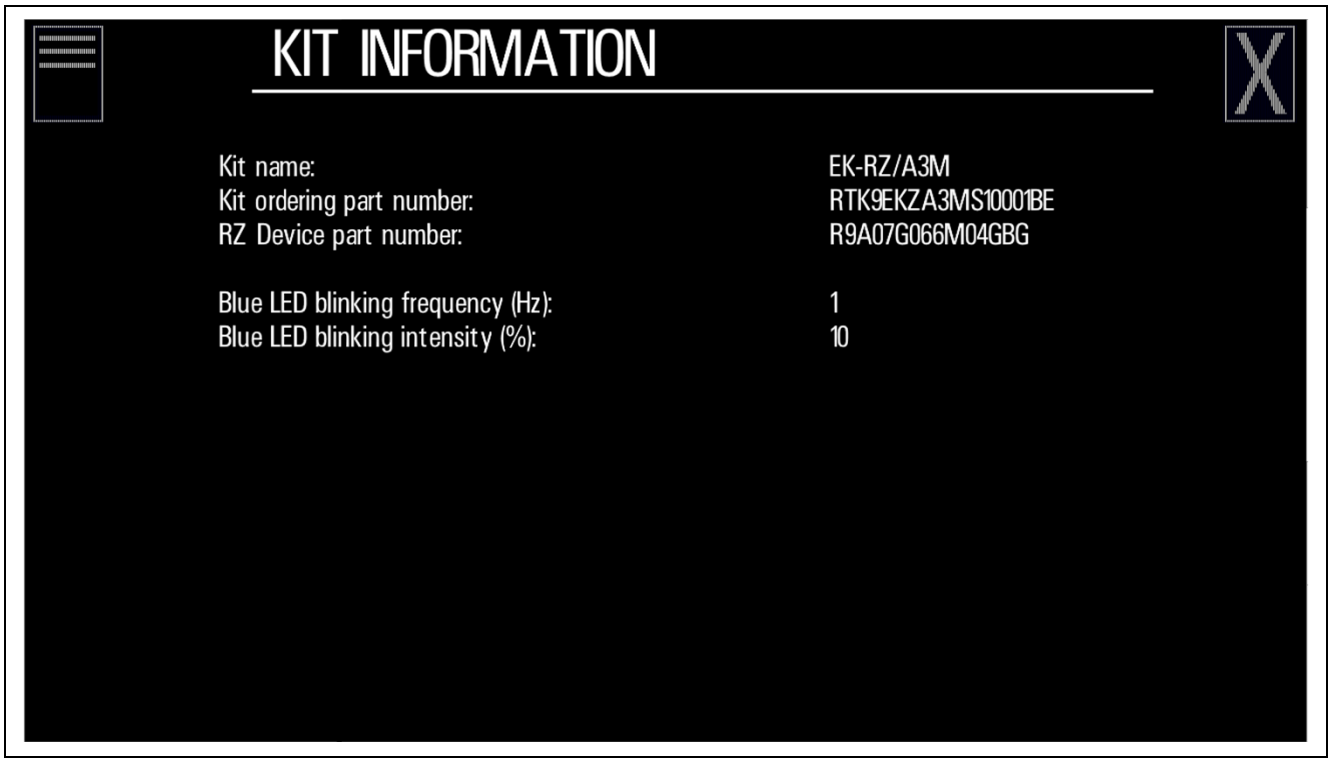

Figure 13. MIPI Display: Kit Information

14. Press **space** or press '**X**' on the MIPI display to return to the 'welcome and main menu' screen.
15. Press **2** or navigate using the MIPI display menu to open the **User LED Control Page.** This application allows the user to control the blinking frequency and intensity of each user LED using the MIPI display.

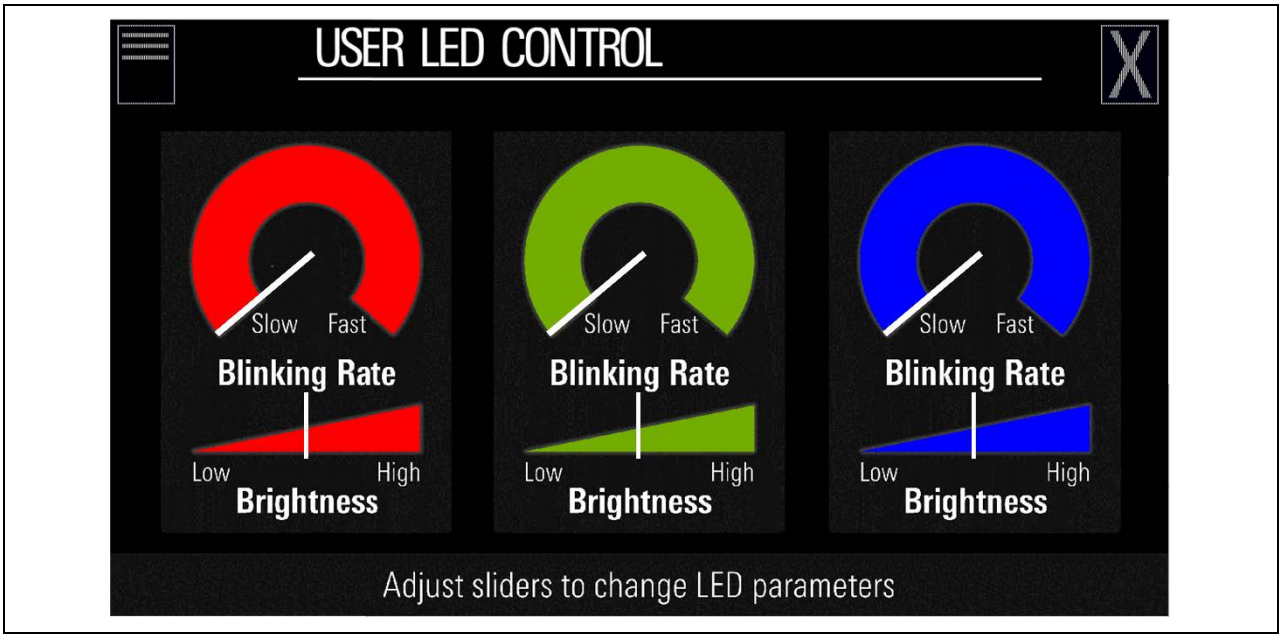

Figure 14. MIPI Display: User LED Control

16. Use the sliders on the MIPI display to change the blinking frequency and intensity of each user LED. The values of the blinking frequency and intensity for each user LED are displayed on the serial console.

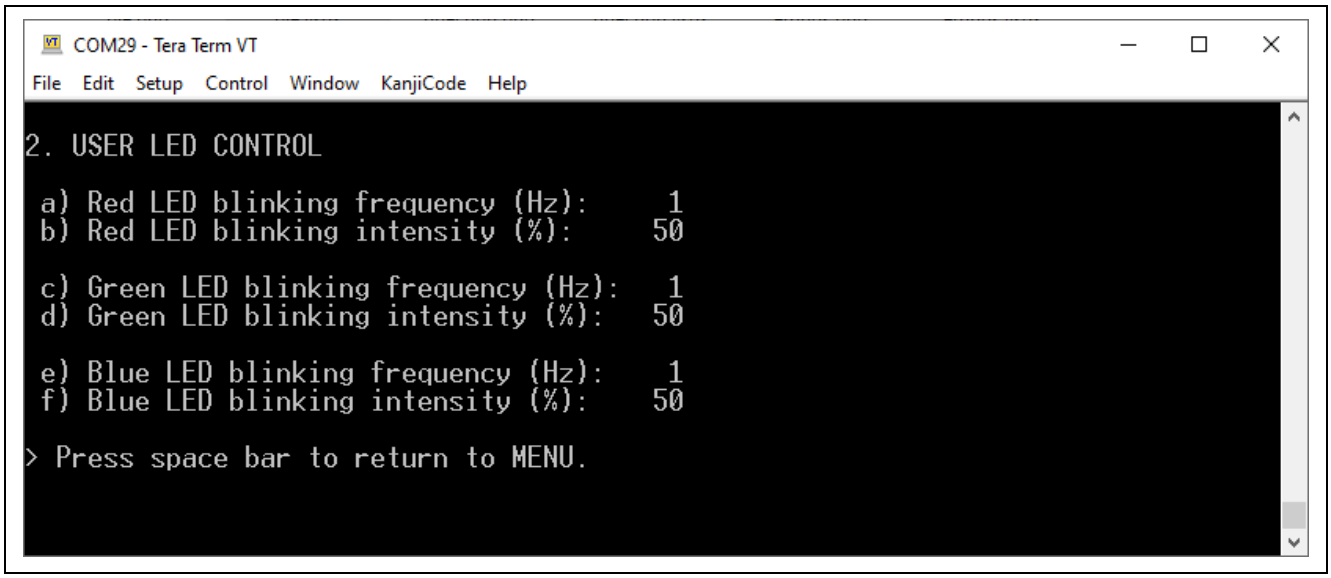

Figure 15. Serial Console: User LED Control

17. Press **space** or press '**X**' on the MIPI display to return to the 'welcome and main menu' screen.
18. Press **3** on the serial console to open the **Quad-SPI Speed Test.** This application demonstrates the read and write performance to and from the Quad-SPI flash memory.

Note: There is no option to navigate to the Quad-SPI Speed Test using the MIPI display

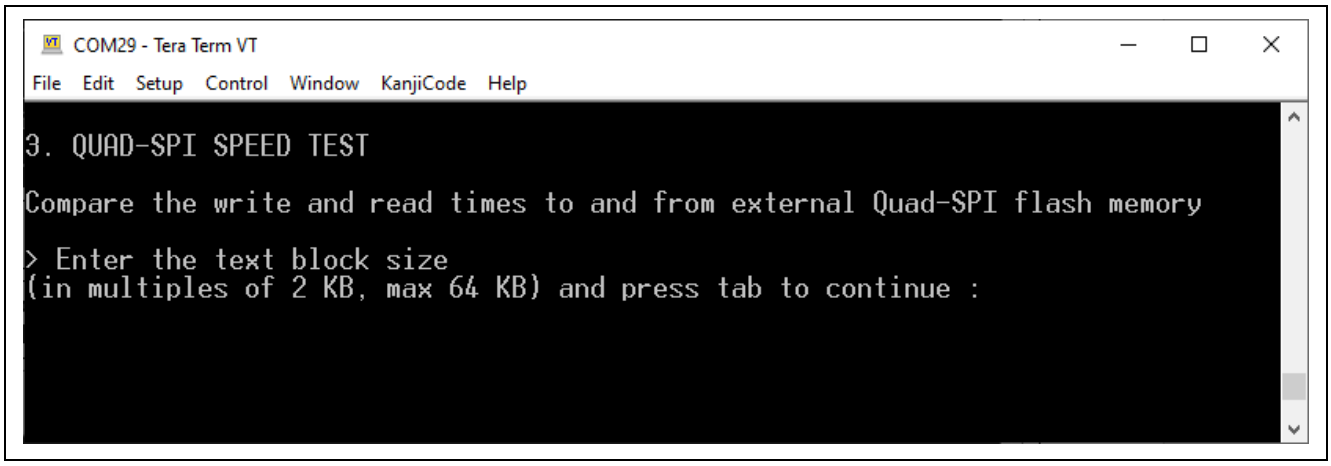

Figure 16. Serial Console: Quad-SPI Speed Test

19. Enter the block size in the range of 2 KB to 64 KB and press **tab.**

Note: If invalid input characters (keys other than 0 to 9 and **tab**) or out of range values are entered, error messages will appear. Re-enter valid inputs and press **tab**. Pressing **space** will display the 'welcome and main menu' screen.

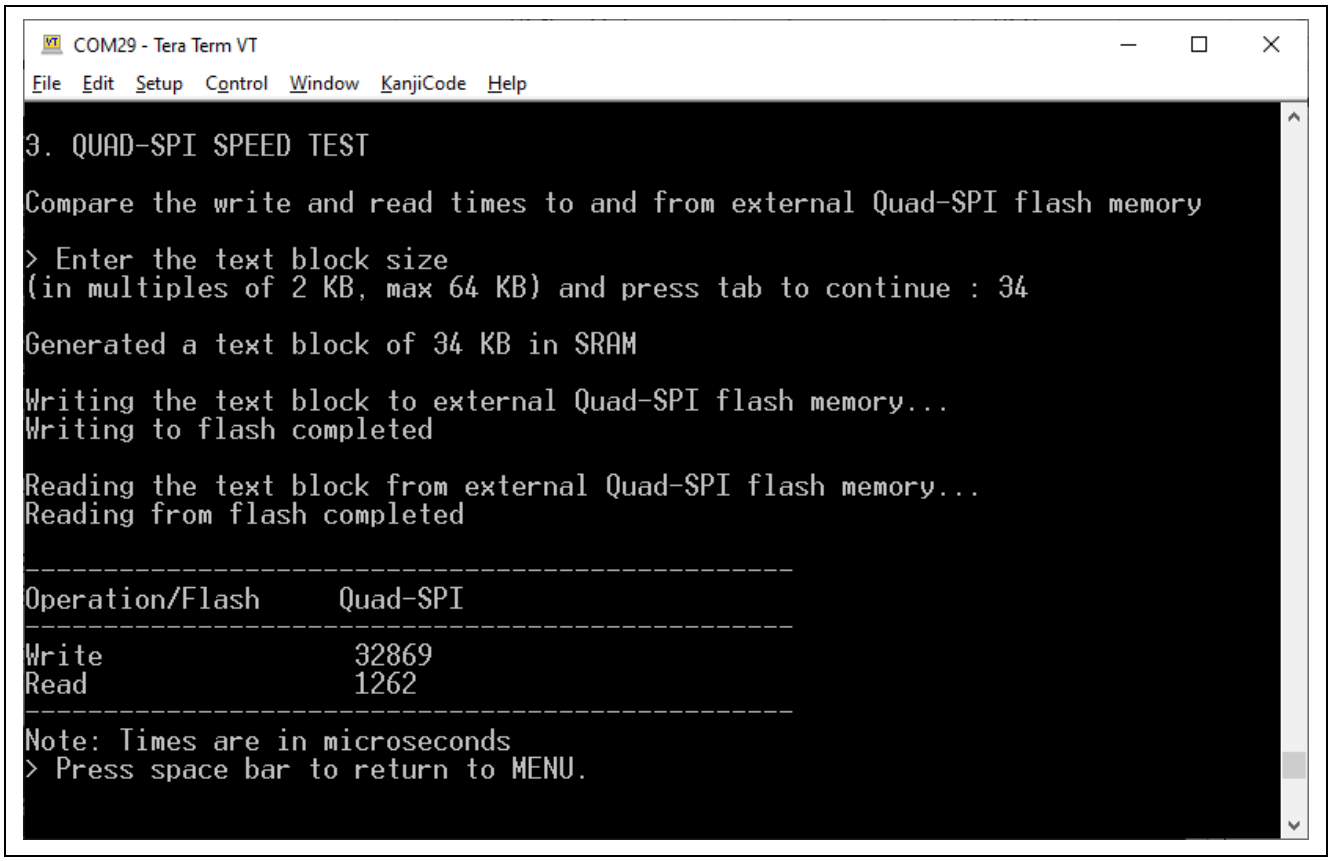

Figure 17. Serial Console: Quad-SPI Speed Test Results

20. The following screen will appear on the MIPI display.

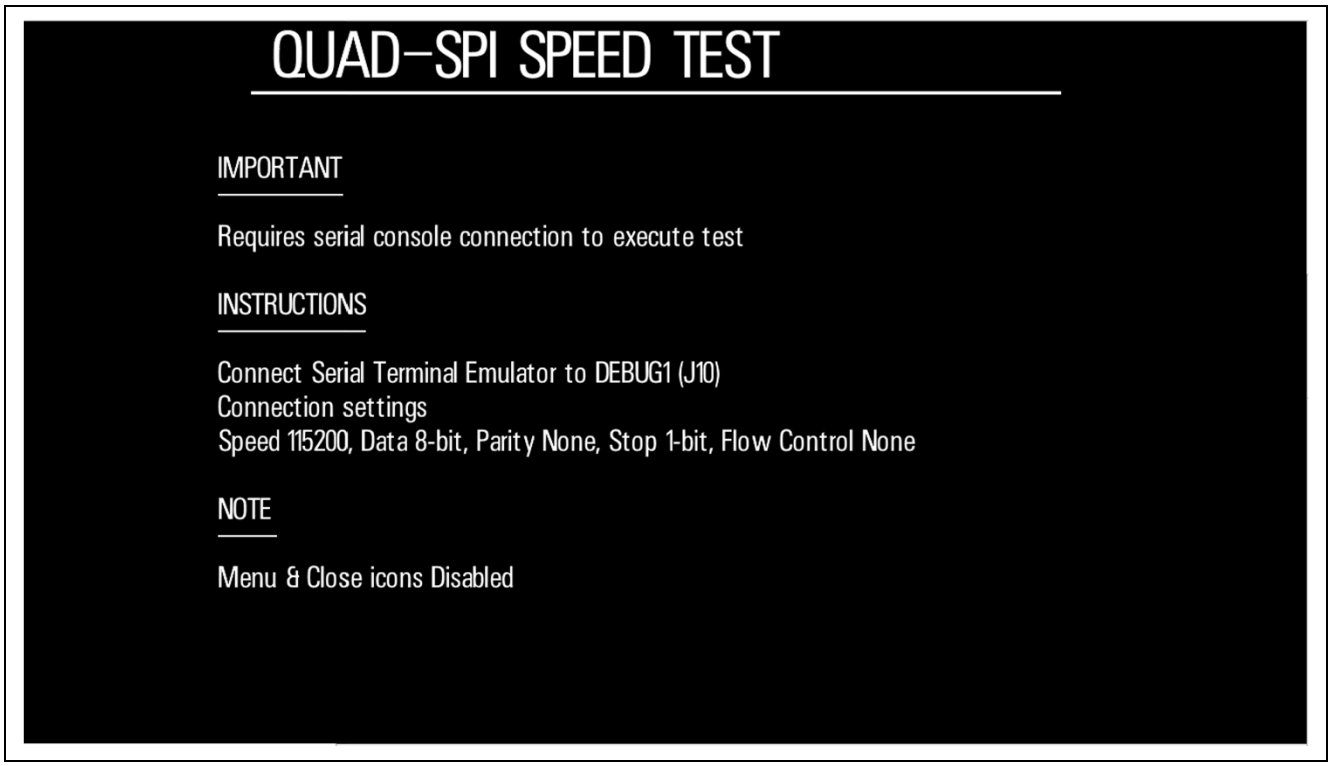

Figure 18. MIPI Display: Quad-SPI Speed Test

21. Press **space** or press '**X**' on the MIPI display to return to the 'welcome and main menu' screen.
22. Press **4** or navigate using the MIPI display menu to open the LCD demonstration. The Renesas RZ logo will appear on the MIPI display. Press anywhere on the screen to make a colored square appear at the touch point.

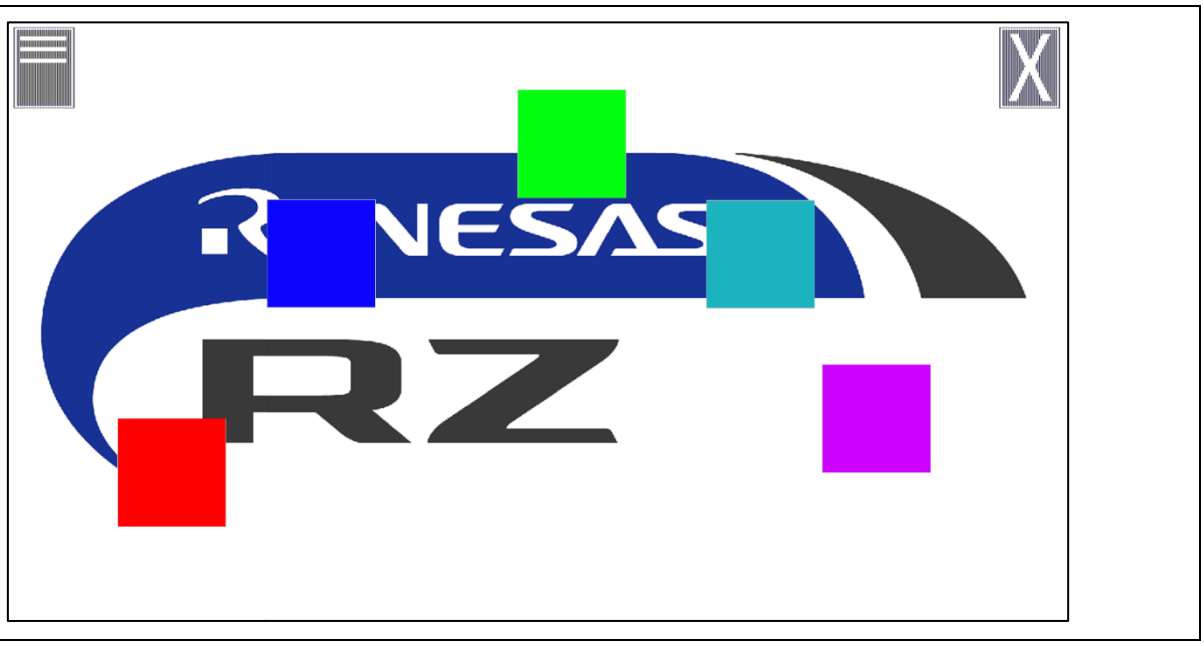

Figure 19. MIPI Display: LCD Demonstration

23. Up to five touch points can be displayed at a time with their coordinates output on the serial console.

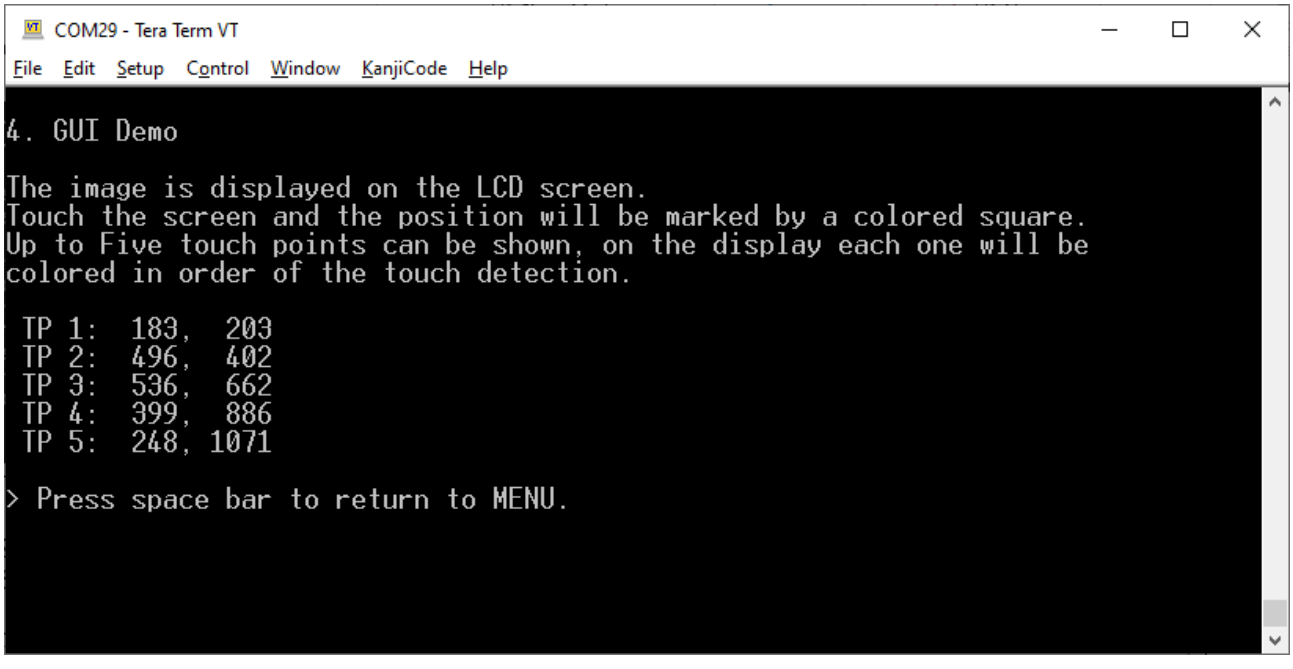

Figure 20. Serial Console: LCD Demonstration

24. Press **space** or press '**X**' on the MIPI display to return to the 'welcome and main menu' screen.
25. Press **5** or navigate using the MIPI display menu to open the **Next Steps** page.

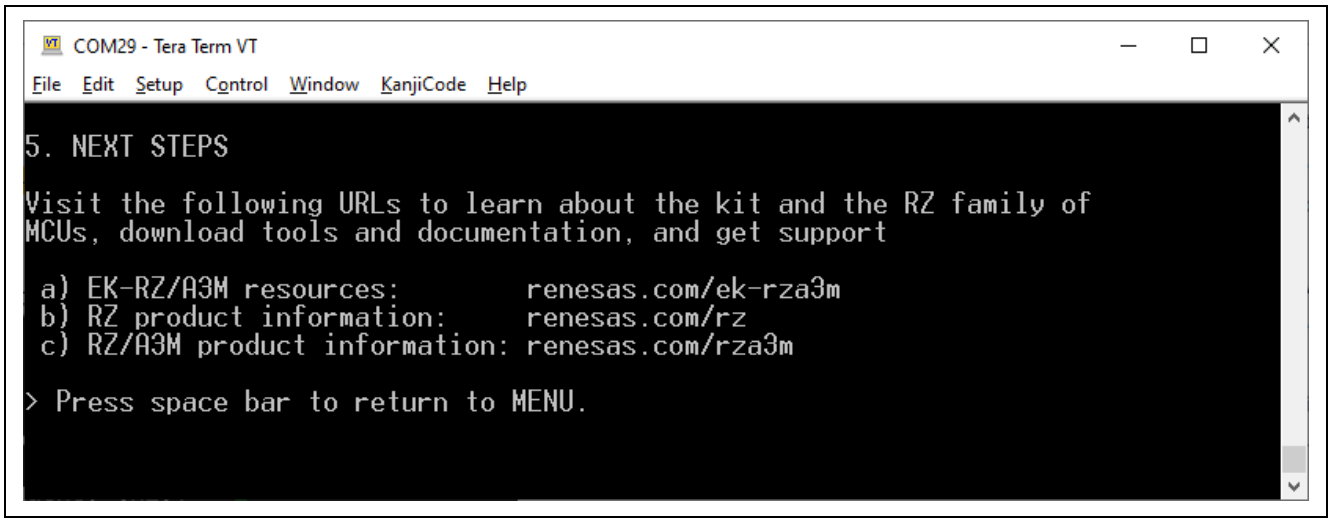

Figure 21. Serial Console: Next Steps

26. The following screen will appear on the MIPI display.

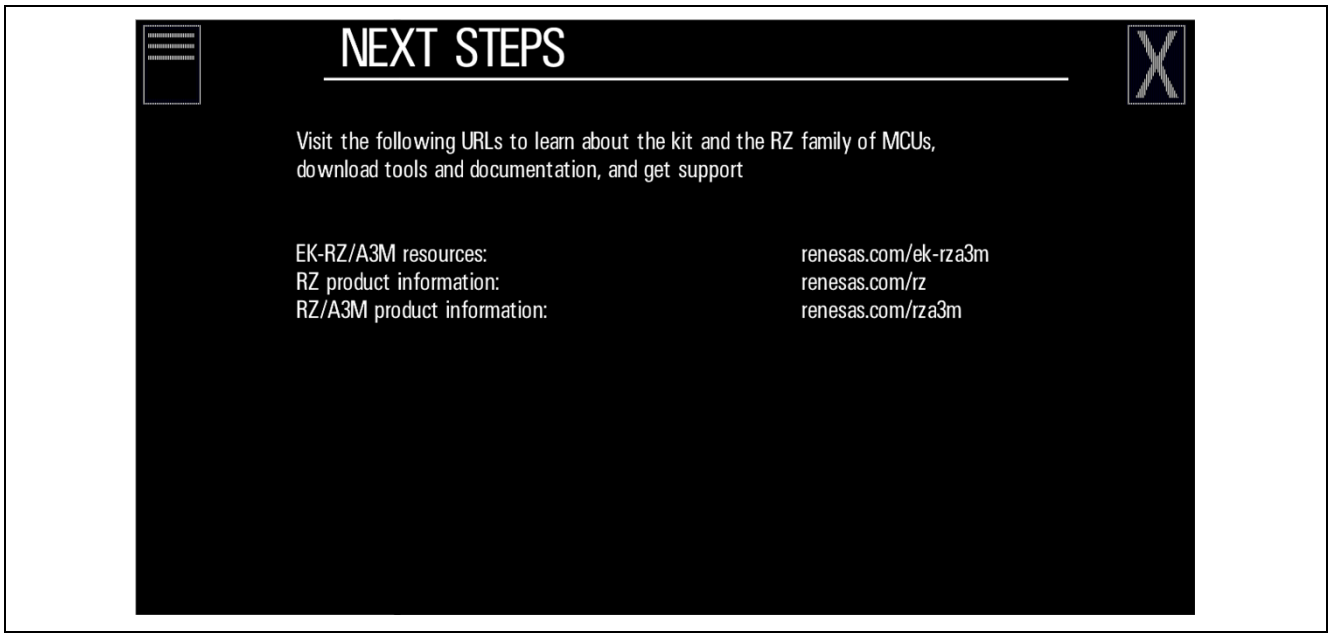

Figure 22. MIPI Display: Next Steps

6. Customizing the Quick Start Example Project

This section lists the requirements and instructions for customizing the Quick Start example project.

Hardware Requirements

- EK-RZ/A3M board
- USB-A to USB-C cable
- A PC with at least 1 USB port

Software Requirements

- Windows® 10 operating system
- e² studio IDE 2025-01 (or later)
- RZ/A FSP v3.4.0 (or later)
- SEGGER J-Link® USB drivers
- Quick Start example project

6.1 Downloading and Installing Software and Development Tools

Before the Quick Start example project can be modified, it is necessary to download and install software and development tools on the host PC.

The FSP, J-Link USB drivers, and e² studio are bundled in a downloadable platform installer available on the FSP webpage at renesas.com/rz/fsp. New users are recommended to use the **Quick Install** option provided in the installation wizard, to minimize the amount of manual configuration needed.

There is no need to download and install software, development tools, and drivers separately.

6.2 Downloading and Importing the Quick Start Example Project

1. Download and extract the Quick Start example project to a local directory on the host PC.
   - The Quick Start example project (source code and project files) is available in the EK-RZ/A3M Example Projects Bundle that is available in the **Downloads** tab of EK-RZ/A3M webpage at renesas.com/ek-rza3m
   - Download and extract the example projects bundle (`xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-ek-rza3m-exampleprojects.zip`) to a local directory on the host PC.
   - Browse to the Quick Start example project at `xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-ek-rza3m-exampleprojects\ek_rza3m\_quickstart\quickstart_ek_rza3m_ep`
2. Launch e² studio.
3. Browse to the Workspace where the project file is to be imported. Enter the name in the Workspace dialog box to create a new workspace.

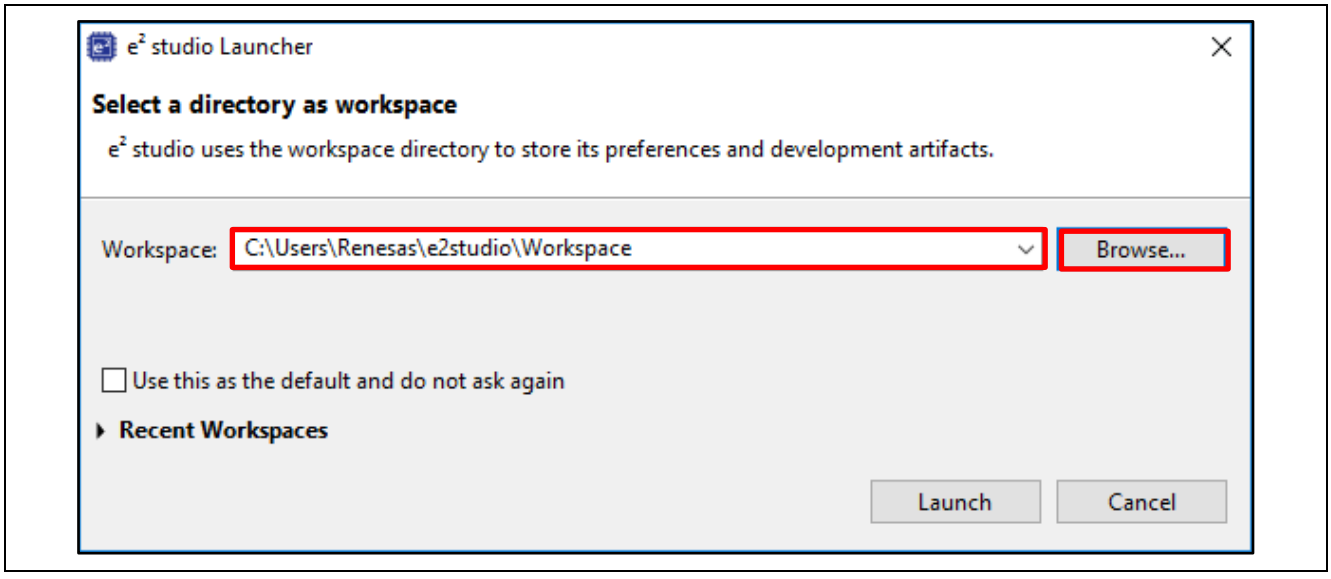

Figure 23. Creating a New Workspace

4. Click **Launch.**

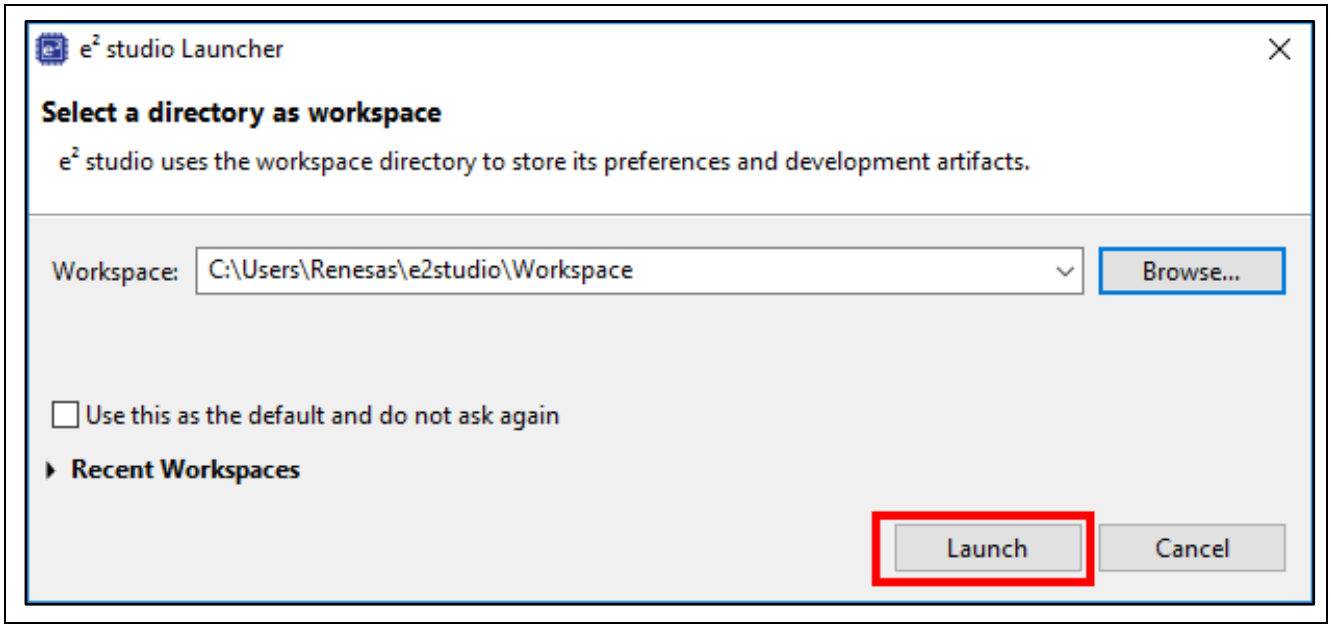

Figure 24. Launching the Workspace

5. Click **Import** from the **File** drop-down menu.

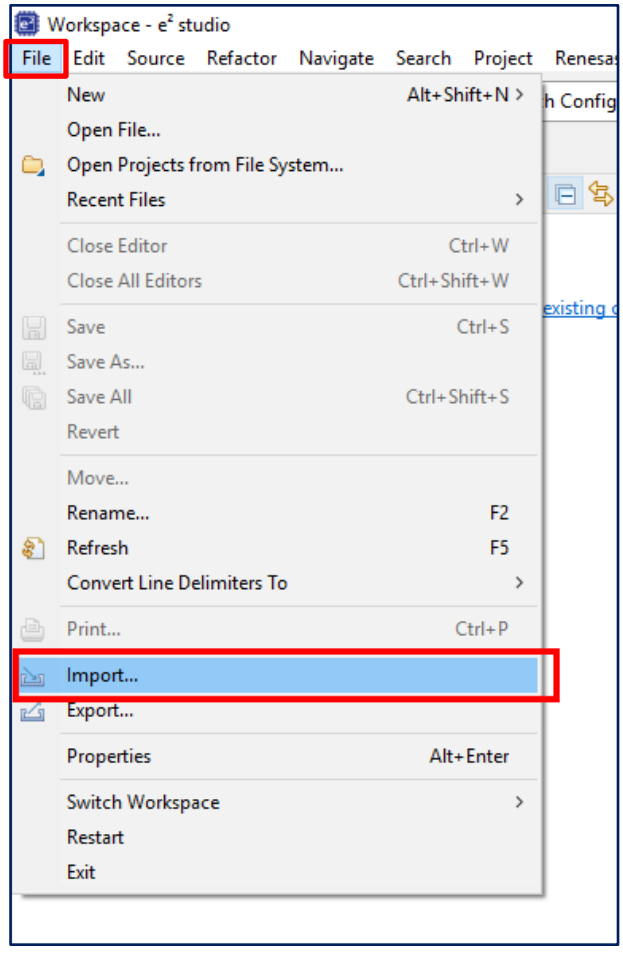

Figure 25. Importing the Project

6. In the **Import** dialog box, select **General**, and then select **Existing Projects into Workspace**.

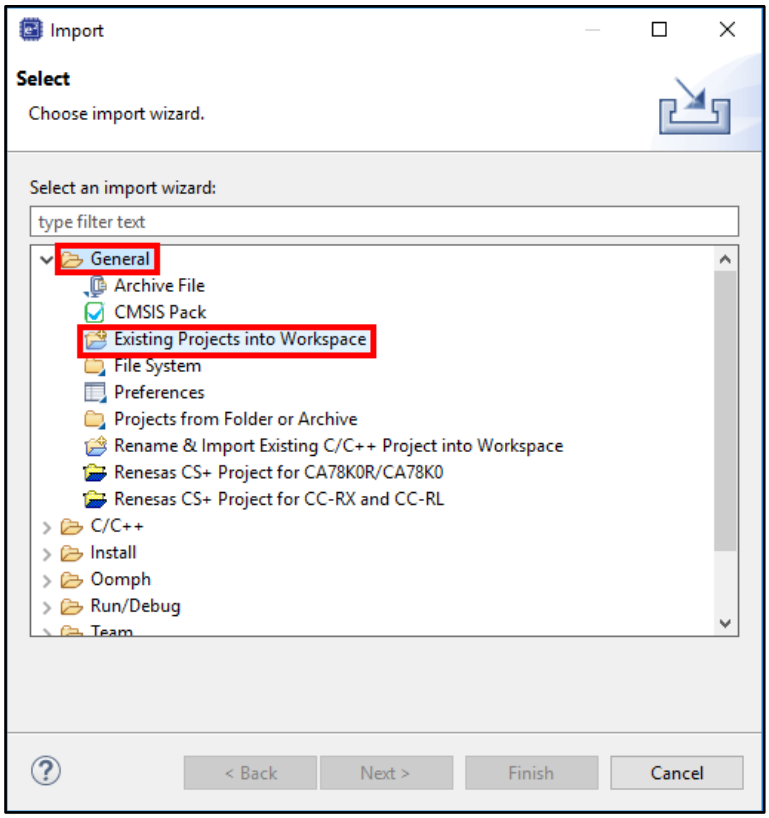

Figure 26. Importing Existing Projects into the Workspace

7. Click **Next**.

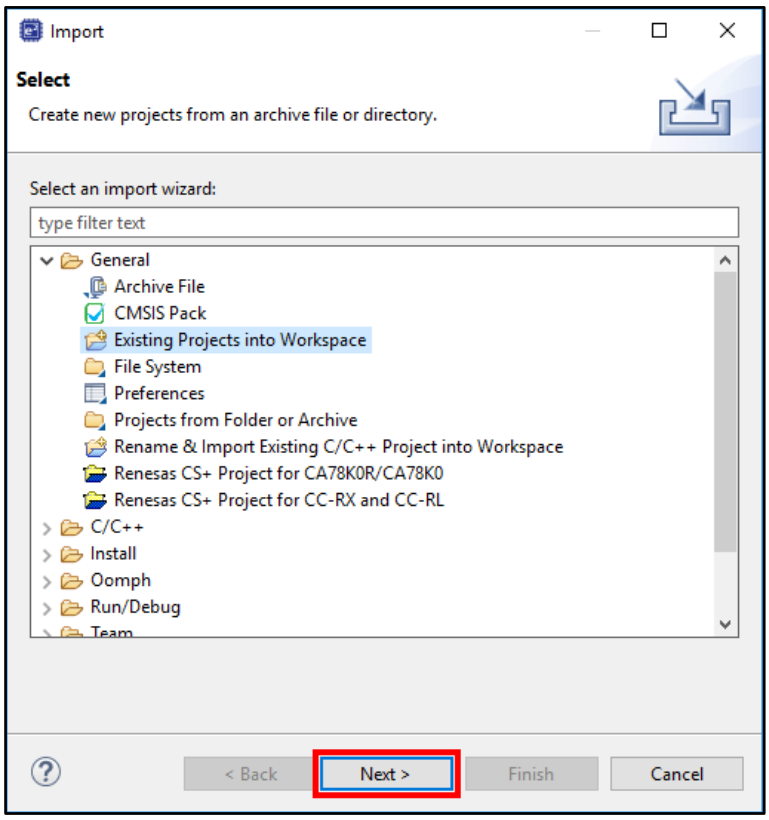

Figure 27. Clicking Next to Import Existing Projects into the Workspace

8. Click **Select root directory** and click **Browse** to go to the location of the Quick Start example project folder.

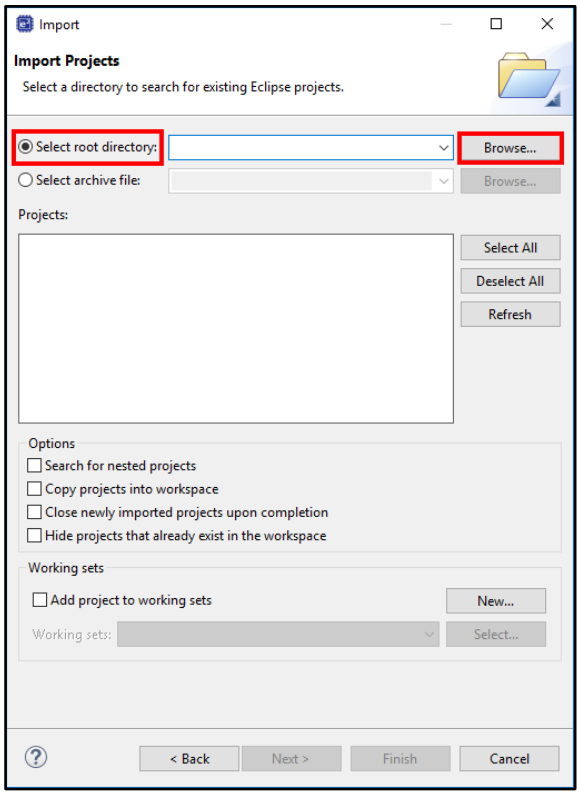

Figure 28. Selecting the Root Directory

9. Select the Quick Start example project and click **Finish.**

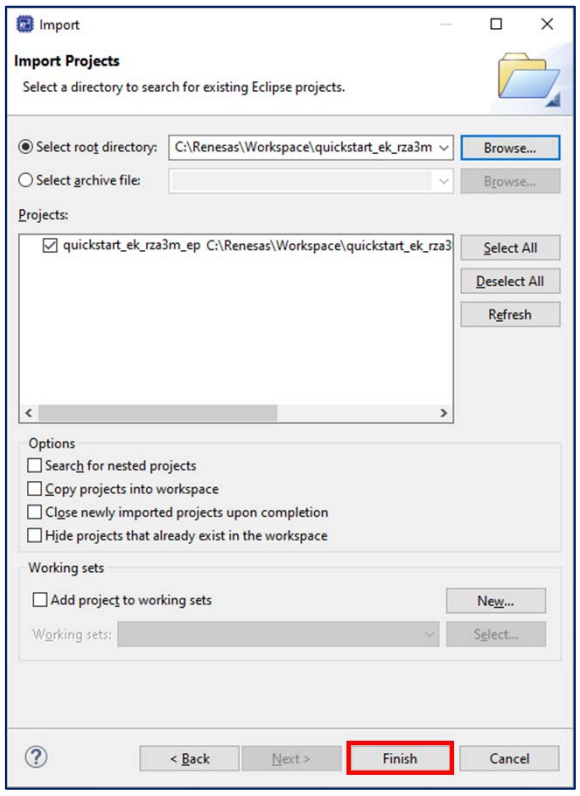

Figure 29. Finish Importing the Quick Start Example Project

6.3 Modifying, Generating, and Building the Quick Start Example Project

This section provides instructions to modify the Quick Start example project. The Quick Start example project can be modified by editing the source code and reconfiguring the properties of the MCU peripherals, pins, clocks, interrupts, and so forth.

Note: The specific modifications that can be performed to the Quick Start example project are not prescribed in this QSG. User discretion is advised while modifying the Quick Start example project.

1. Once the Quick Start example project is imported, click the **configuration.xml** file to open the FSP configuration window. The FSP configuration window provides an easy-to-use interface to configure the properties of the MCU peripherals.

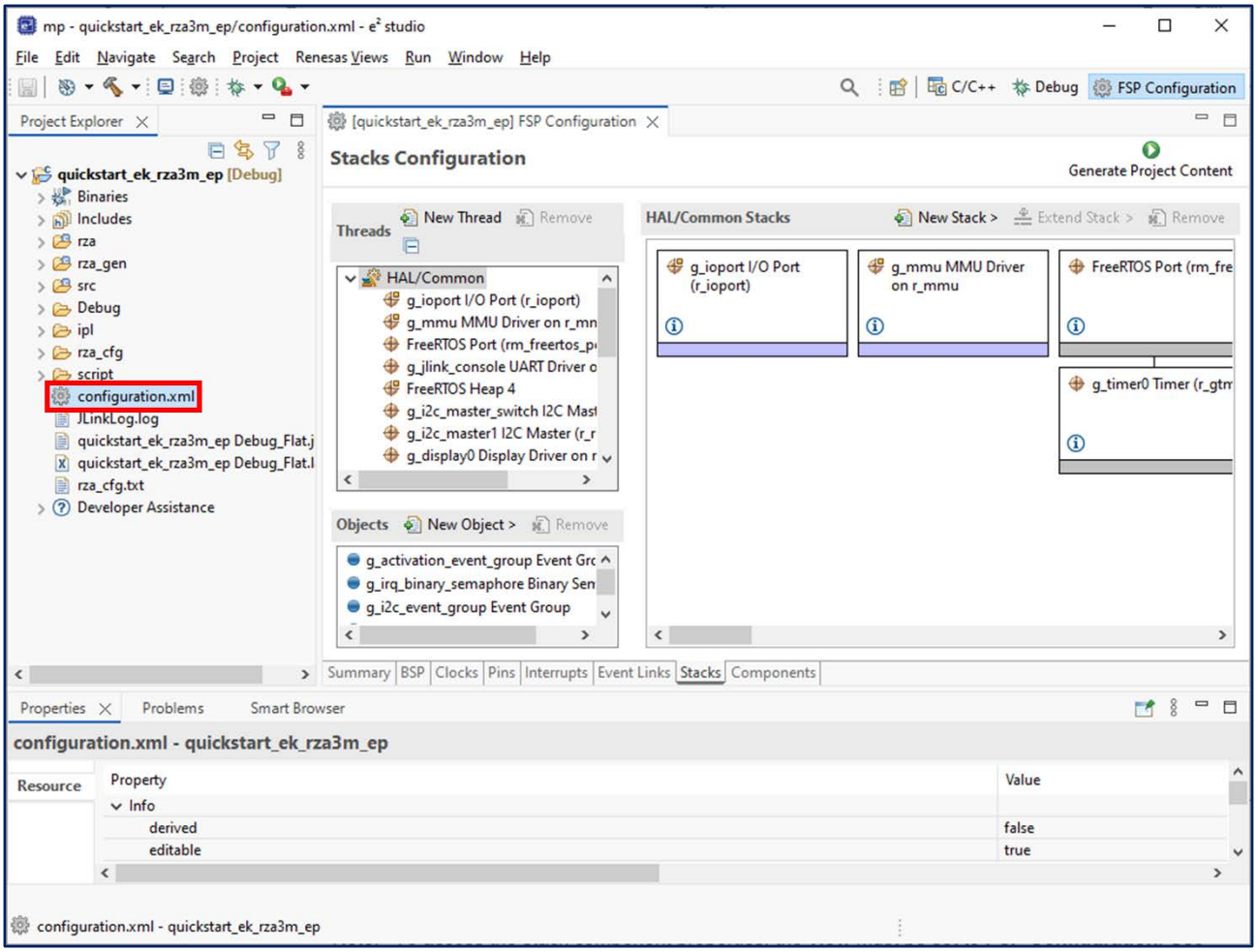

Figure 30. Opening the FSP configuration

2. For example, in the **Stacks** tab of the FSP configuration, the user can click to select modules to modify the configuration settings, as required, in the **Properties** tab. Figure 32 illustrates modifying the **Display Driver** configuration.

   Note: To access the stack component properties, the **view** must be set to **FSP Configuration**. Use the **Open Perspective** button, if necessary.

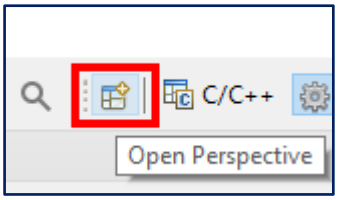

Figure 31. Open Perspective

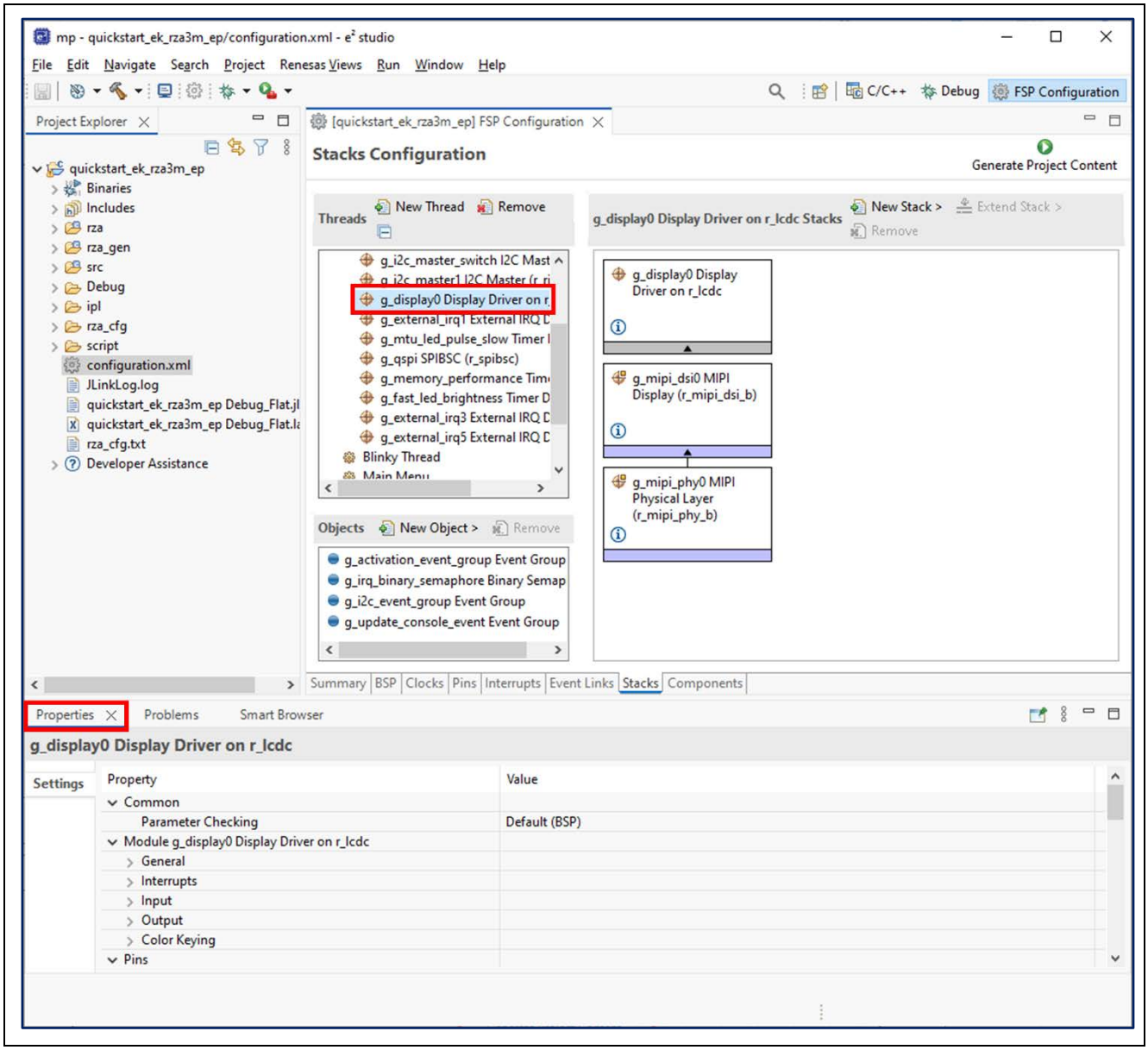

Figure 32. Modifying the Configuration Settings

3. After the desired modifications are made, click **Generate Project Content**. A dialog box may appear with an option of saving the configuration changes. Click **Proceed**.

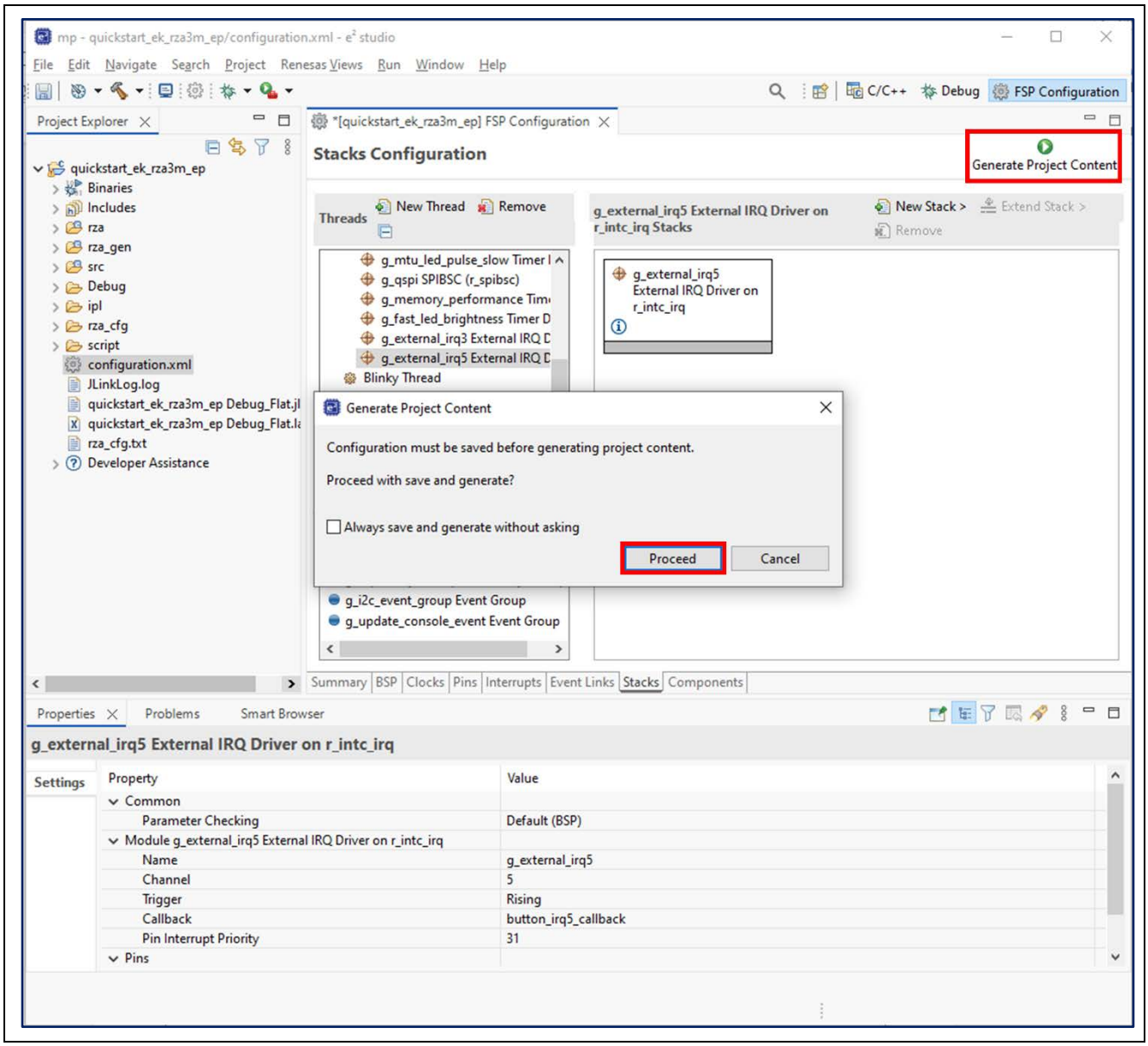

Figure 33. Saving the Configuration Changes

4. Modify the source files in the ***/src*** folder as needed and save the changes.
5. Build the project by clicking the build icon.

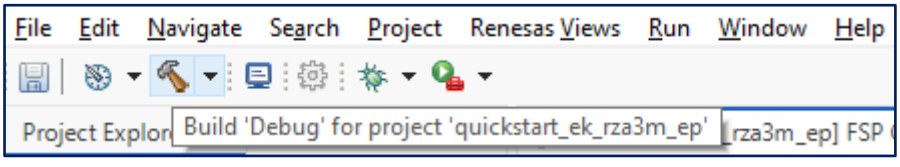

Figure 34. Building the Project

6. A successful build produces an output as follows.
   Note: Warnings are acceptable for a successful build whereas errors are not.

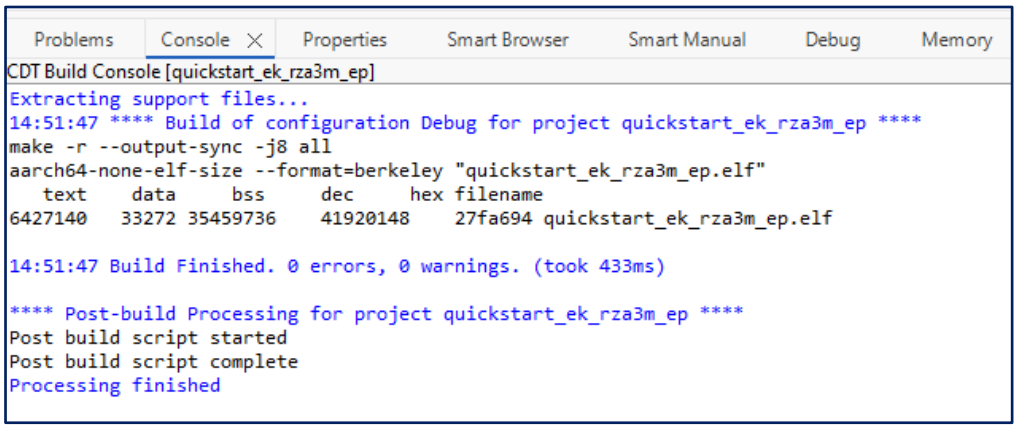

Figure 35. Successful Build Output

6.4 Setting Up Debug Connection between the EK-RZ/A3M board and Host PC

To program the modified Quick Start example project on to the EK-RZ/A3M board, a debug connection is necessary between the EK-RZ/A3M board and host PC.

1. Connect the type-C end of the USB-C cable to USB Debug port (J10) of the EK-RZ/A3M board. Connect the other end of this cable to the USB port of the host PC.

Note: The EK-RZ/A3M board supports 3 debugging modes. In this section and the following sections, default debugging mode, Debug On-Board, is used. More information on debugging modes is available in EK-RZ/A3M user's manual.

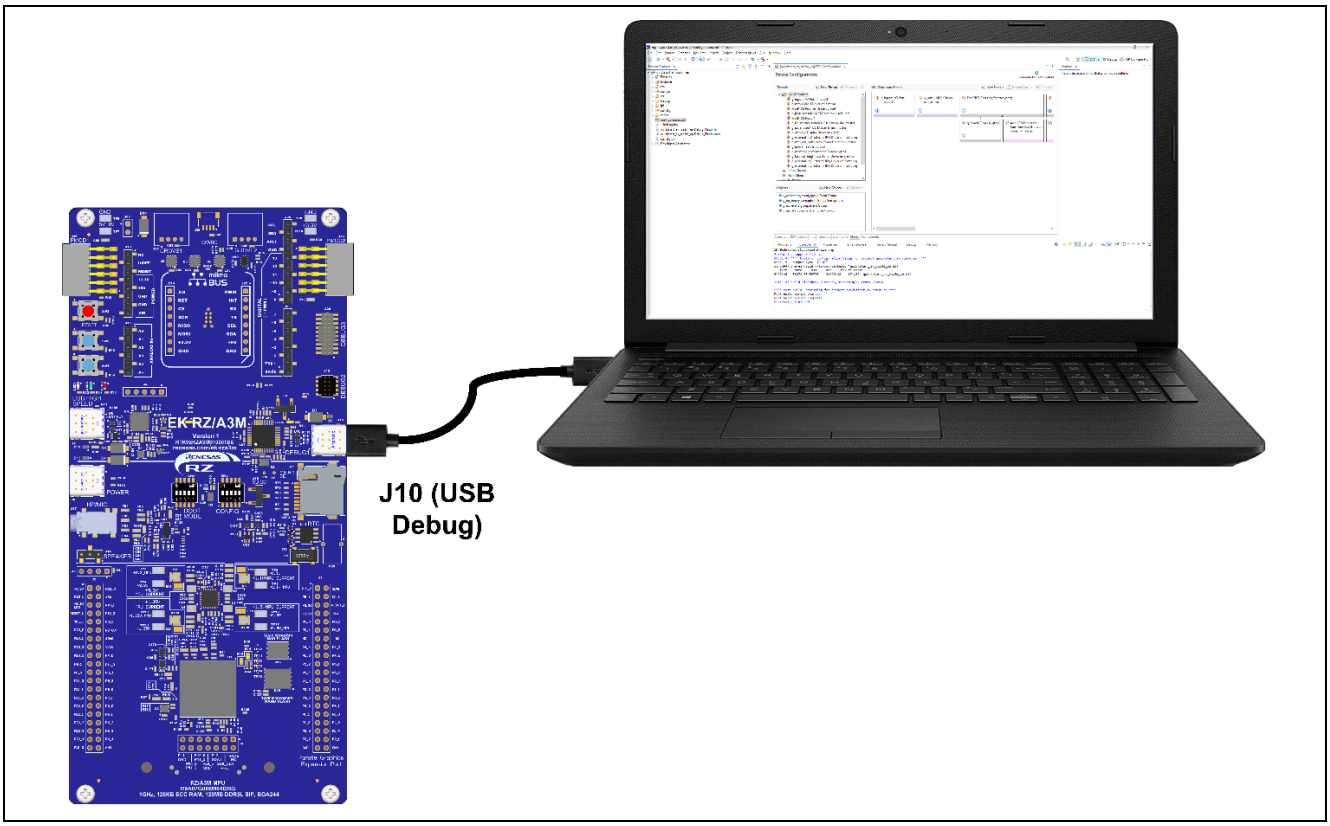

Figure 36. Connecting the EK-RZ/A3M Board to the Host PC via USB Debug Port

2. Verify that the debug LED (LED5) stops blinking and lights up orange indicating that the J-Link drivers are detected by the EK-RZ/A3M board.

Note: The debug LED (LED5) continues to blink when J-Link drivers are not detected by the EK-RZ/A3M board. In that case, make sure that the EK-RZ/A3M board is connected to the host PC through the type-C USB debug port (J10) and that J-Link drivers are installed on the host PC by checking in the Windows Device Manager (expand **Ports (COM & LPT)**, and locate **JLink CDC UART Port**).

6.5 Downloading and Running the Modified Quick Start Example Project

1. In e^2 studio, click the drop-down menu for the debug icon, select **Debug Configurations** option.

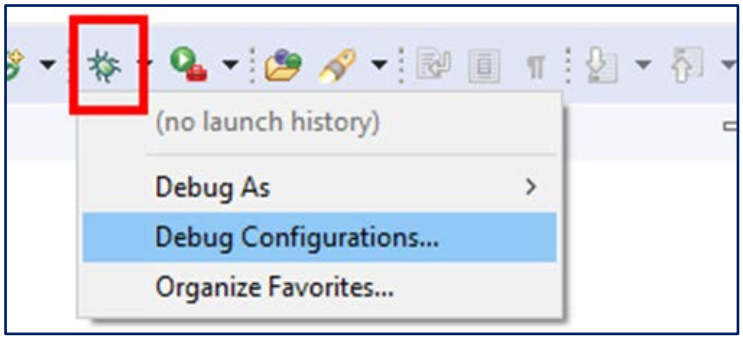

Figure 37. Selecting the Debug Option

2. In the dialog on the left-hand pane, expand the **Renesas GDB Hardware Debugging** and select the built image to debug. In this case, the **quickstart_ek_rza3m_ep Debug_Flat**.

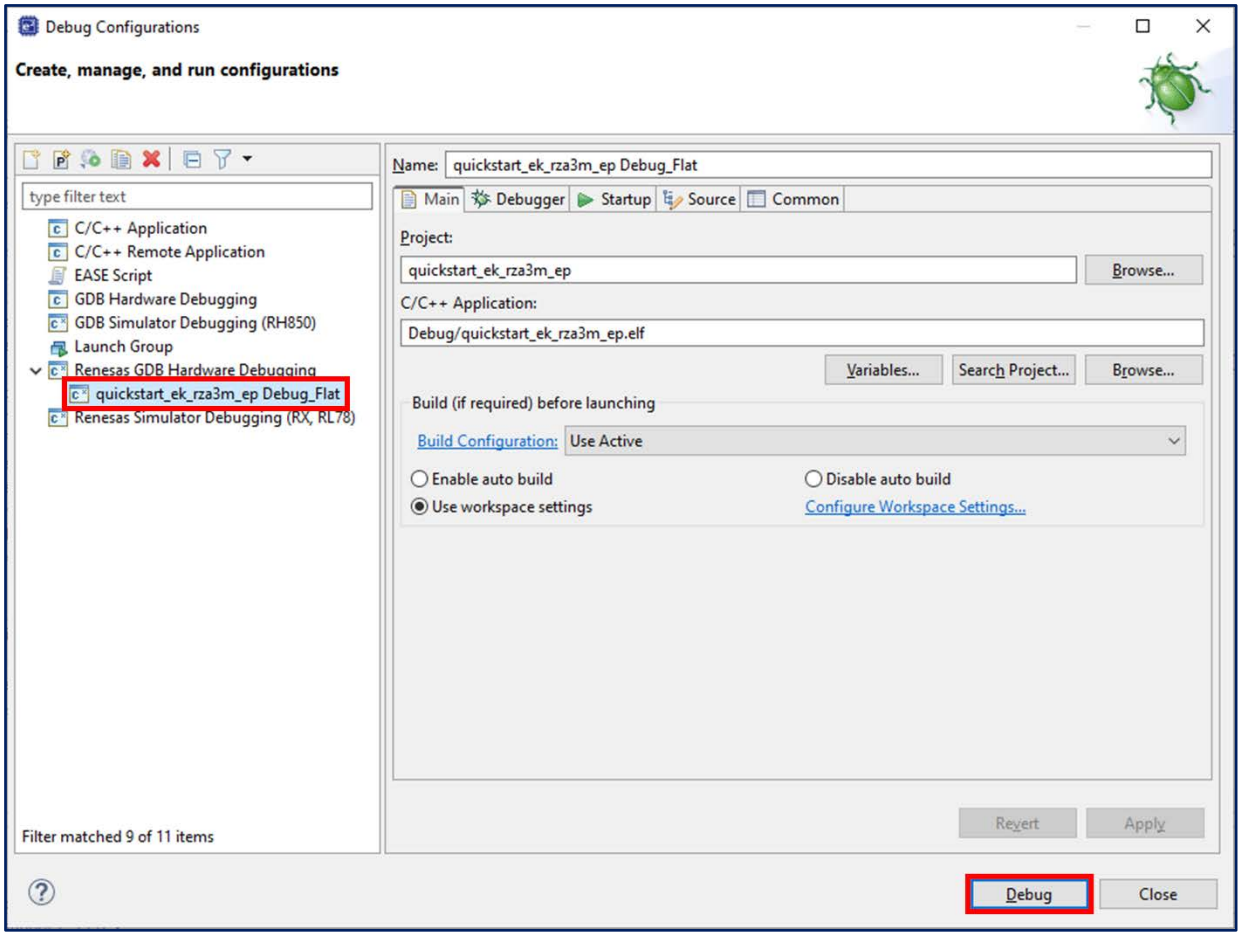

Figure 38. Selecting the Debug Image

3. Click **Debug**

6.6 Firewall Dialog

1. A firewall warning may be displayed for **'e2- server-gdb.exe**'. Check the '**Private networks, such as my home or work network**' box and click '**Allow access**'.
2. A user account control dialog may be displayed. Enter the administrator password and click **Yes**.
3. A dialog box may appear. Click **Switch**.

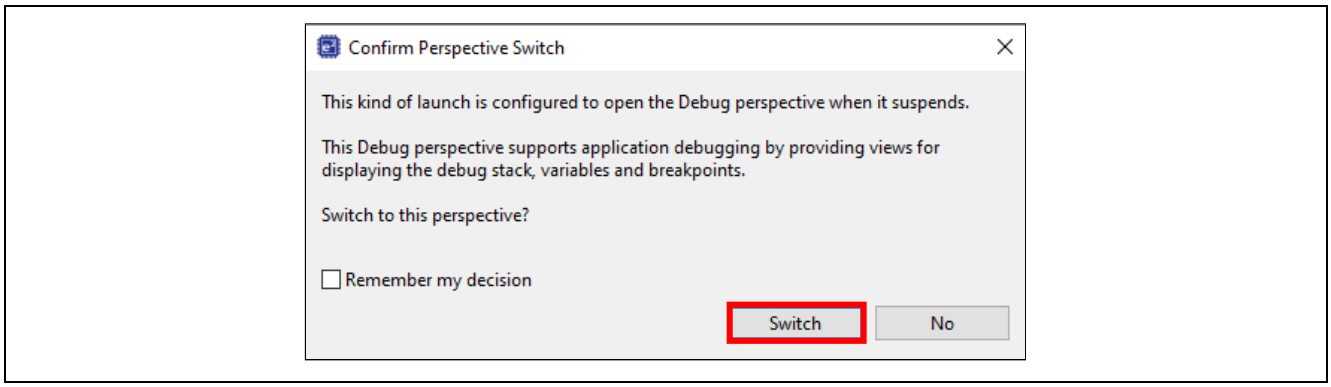

Figure 39. Opening the Debug Perspective

4. Press **F8** or click **Resume** icon to begin executing the project.

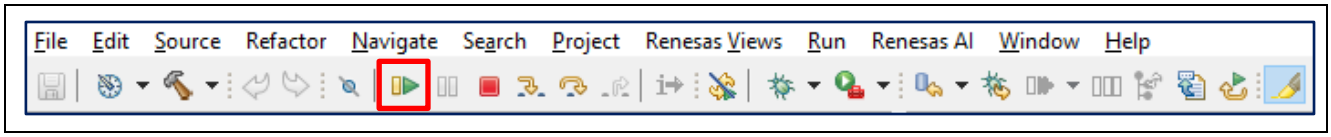

Figure 40. Executing the Project

5. The modified Quick Start example project is programmed into the EK-RZ/A3M board and is running. The project can be paused, stopped, or resumed using the debug controls.

7. Next Steps

1. To learn more about the EK-RZ/A3M kit, refer to the EK-RZ/A3M user's manual and design package available in the Documents and Download tabs respectively of the EK-RZ/A3M webpage at renesas.com/ek-rza3m
2. Renesas provides several example projects that demonstrate different capabilities of the RZ MCUs. These example projects can serve as a good starting point for users to develop custom applications. Example projects (source code and project files) for EK-RZ/A3M kit are available in the EK-RZ/A3M Example Projects Bundle. The example projects bundle is available in the **Documentation** tab of EK-RZ/A3M webpage.
   - Download and extract the example projects bundle (`xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-ek-rza3m-exampleprojects.zip`) to a local directory on the host PC.
   - Refer to the list of all example projects (`xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-ek-rza3m-exampleprojects.pdf`) available inside the example projects bundle.
   - Browse to the desired example project (for example: adc_ek_rza3m_ep) in the example projects bundle (`xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-ek-rza3m-exampleprojects\ek_rza3m\adc\adc_ek_rza3m_ep`)
   - For help on using example projects, refer to `Example Project Usage Guide.pdf` in the RZ/A Example Repository on GitHub at: https://github.com/renesas/rza-fsp-examples
   - The archived versions of the source code of the example projects are available in the example project repository.

8. Website and Support

Visit the following URLs to learn about the kit and the RZ family of microprocessors, download tools and documentation, and get support.

EK-RZ/A3M Resources	renesas.com/ek-rza3m
RZ/A3M Product Information	renesas.com/rza3m
RZ Product Information	renesas.com/rz
Renesas Support	renesas.com/support
RZ/A Flexible Software Package (FSP)	renesas.com/fsp

Revision History

Rev.	Date	Description	
		Page	Summary
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