2026
10 kHz to 2.4 GHz MultiSource Generator

Up to three fully functional signal generators in one unit offering a unique solution for complex tests on receivers, components and systems

- Two or three high quality RF signal generators in a space efficient format
- Ideal for intermodulation and receiver characterization
- Wide frequency coverage:- 10 kHz to 2.4 GHz
- +24 dBm RF output for effective component testing
- Support for an external signal generator
- Application specific test modes simplify measurement procedures
- User defined tracking between signal sources
- Adjustable carrier phase to allow peaking of three tone intermodulation
- Built-in switched combiner network improves measurement uncertainty

The 2026 is a multiple source generator which offers two RF signal generators in one box with a third source available as an option. Each source is a fully functional RF signal generator with AM, FM, ΦM, 2FSK, 4FSK and pulse modulation capability.

The 2026 is ideal for use in R&D and manufacturing where there is a need for two or three combined sources for conducting tests such as intermodulation and selectivity performance of components and receiver assemblies.

To aid the user to undertake difficult test procedures simply and without ambiguity, the 2026 provides application-specific modes of operation. Application modes include amplifier two and three-tone intermodulation, receiver intermodulation and receiver selectivity. A rotary control and up/down keys allow easy modification of the selected parameters.

Measurement Accuracy

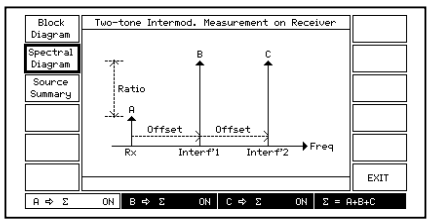
The use of a built in combiner, switches and cables eliminates many of the measurement uncertainties introduced by connecting together separate signal generators. The 2026 thereby guarantees the level of intermodulation products introduced during amplifier or receiver intermodulation testing.

All alignment processes, including the internal frequency standard and the correction factors for the signal source RF paths, are digitally derived so realignment can be undertaken without removal of external covers. Digital adjustment also eliminates the use of mechanical adjusters, minimizing long term drift and vulnerability to mechanical shock.

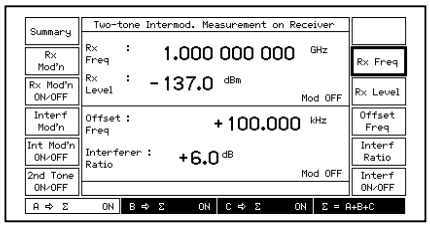
Application Modes

The 2026 has a Set Up Key to enable the applications to be selected. Each Set Up is displayed as a pictorial representation of the internal signal source routing. A spectral diagram is used to show the parameters to be entered in each application in well known engineering terminology.

For example, selecting 'Intermodulation on a Receiver Test' allows the signal sources to be automatically set by entering the receiver input frequency and level, the ratio of the level of the two interferers (relative to the receiver input level) and the offset frequency (channel spacing).



Spectral diagram of two tone intermodulation on a receiver



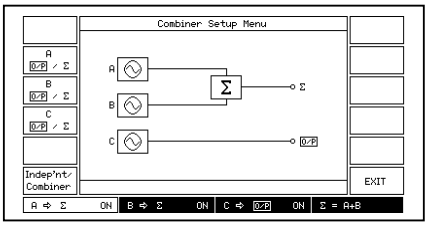
Application mode for intermodulation test on a receiver

Other application modes include 2 and 3 tone intermodulation tests on amplifiers, and receiver selectivity.

Flexible Source Routing

Each of the signal sources can either be routed to a separate output connector or switched to the input of an RF combiner network before being fed to the combiner output connector. The combiner routing is set up quickly and effectively using the Combiner Set Up menu. The flexibility of the signal routing allows the 2026 to accept an external signal generator, such as the 2050 Digital and Vector Generator, to substitute for one of the internal

sources, to enable different forms of carrier signals to be produced.

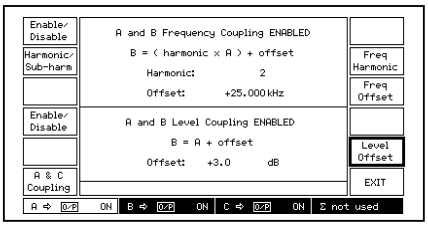


Setting up the source and combiner routing

Automatic Source Coupling

As an alternative to the application modes, the 2026 MultiSource Generator allows the frequency and level of the internal RF sources to be coupled together with a user defined offset. The source frequencies can have an offset with an additional harmonic (or sub-harmonic) relationship to simplify the testing of harmonic converters and divider systems.

The coupling factors are entered by an easily understood format using a dedicated coupling menu.



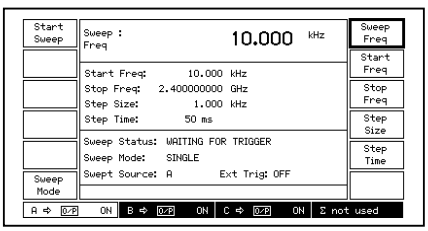
Setting up coupling

The ability to set sources to track each other greatly simplifies the testing of mixers, multipliers and dividers by reducing the number of active controls required.

Sweep

The 2026 allows one of the RF sources to be frequency swept with user defined start, stop, and step values to reduce the amount of operator time or GPIB overhead. By enabling the coupling facility, sweeping one source will simultaneously sweep the other internal RF sources to allow automated swept measurements on frequency conversion devices to be made.

The sweep can be performed with modulation enabled for swept measurements of receiver immunity characteristics.



2026 sweep menu

HIGH RF OUTPUT

The high RF level of the individual outputs is ideal for testing components and ensures that the 2026 can generate high RF levels at the combiner output while maintaining low levels of intermodulation.

Comprehensive Modulation

Each signal source is capable of being independently modulated from its own fully programmable modulation source to ensure maximum flexibility. The internal modulation sources are each capable of generating sine, triangle or square wave signals.

Amplitude, frequency and phase modulated carriers can be generated from the internal modulation sources or from the independent external inputs. The frequency modulation system provides excellent performance in the DC coupled mode with very low carrier frequency error and stability ensuring that the generator can accurately test receivers sensitive to small frequency errors.

Pulse Modulation

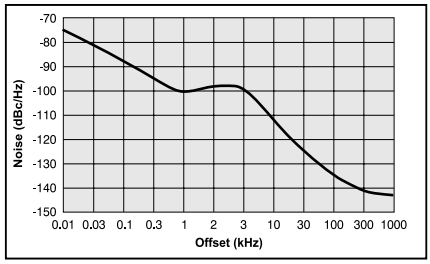
Each source is capable of being independently pulse modulated to allow the simulation of TDD or TDMA RF signal bursts with pulse on/off ratios of better than 40 dB and a rise time of less than 10 µs.

FSK

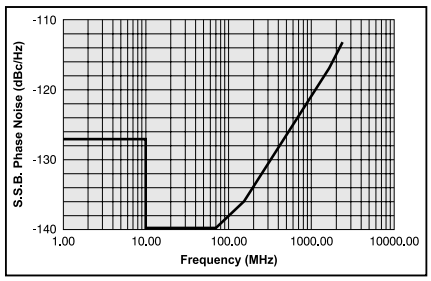
In addition to the analog FM facilities, the 2026 MultiSource Generator supports 2 and 4-level FSK signals from external logic inputs. The FM deviation generated is set by keyboard entry of the required deviation. The facility is ideal for testing paging receivers and RF modems.

HIGH SPECTRAL PURITY

Measurement of receiver selectivity and ultimate signal-to-noise ratio requires good spectral purity. The 2026 has a low residual FM of typically 3 Hz and typical sideband noise of -121 dBc/Hz at 20 kHz offset from 1 GHz, to allow demanding measurements to be made.



Typical SSB Phase Noise at 1 GHz



Typical Phase Noise at 20 kHz offset

Programming

A GPIB interface is fitted so that all standard signal generator functions are controllable over the bus. The protocol and syntax of GPIB commands has been designed in accordance with IEEE 488.2 standard to facilitate the generation of ATE programs.

Low Cost of Ownership

An electronic trip protects the individual source outputs against the accidental application of reverse power.

Careful attention to the thermal design and the use of well-proven signal generator modules gives high reliability and calibration validity.

The use of flash memory and software download via the RS-232 interface means the 2026 can be upgraded with its covers fitted.

OPTIONS

Third Source

The 2026 as standard is supplied with two RF sources. A version with 3 sources is available as an option to support applications such as intermodulation tests on a receiver.

Rear Panel Connections

The RF connectors for all sources, their associated modulation and pulse inputs and the combiner output connector can be mounted on the rear panel for ease of use within an ATE environment, as a factory option.

OCXO

For applications requiring improved frequency stability and close-in phase noise, the standard TCXO can be replaced by a high performance OCXO.

Specification

General Description

The 2026 MultiSource Generator is a synthesized signal generator offering up to three independent RF sources with separate outputs or one or more of the signals routed via a combiner. Each signal source covers the frequency range 10 kHz to 2.4 GHz.
An external signal generator can be fed into the standard 2-source 2026.
Each signal source can be controlled independently in frequency and level and each has its own amplitude, frequency, phase and pulse modulation capability. All parameters can be entered from the front panel keyboard and a rotary control can be used to adjust most settings.
The following signal generator specifications apply to all the sources fitted and are applicable to units containing version 10.0 or higher, software.

Carrier Frequency

Range
10 kHz to 2.4 GHz with a resolution of 1 Hz

Accuracy
As frequency standard

RF Output

Range
Individual outputs
-137 dBm to +24 dBm(1)
Combiner outputs (2)
-137 dBm to +4 dBm(3) (settable to +10 dBm)
Maximum output is reduced by 5 dB when pulse modulation is selected and/or by up to 6 dB when AM is selected dependent upon AM depth.

Resolution
0.1 dB

RF Level Units
Units may be set to µV, mV, EMF or PD; dB relative to 1 µV, 1 mV, EMF or PD; or dBm. Conversion between dB and linear units may be achieved by pressing the appropriate units key (dB or V, mV, µV). The output level can be normalized for 75 Ω operation with an optional external impedance converter (applies to all outputs simultaneously).

Accuracy
Up to 1.2 GHz (over temp range 17 to 27°C)

RF level	***-127 dBm to +6 dBm***	***+6 dBm to +24 dBm[4]***
Individual outputs	±0.8 dB	±1.0 dB
RF level	***>-127 dBm[5] to +4 dBm***	
Combiner output	±1.0 dB	

Accuracy
Up to 2.4 GHz (over temp range 17 to 27°C)

RF level	***-127 dBm to +6 dBm***	***+6 dBm to +20 dBm***
Individual outputs	±1.6 dB	±2.0 dB
RF level	***>-127 dBm to 0 dBm***	
Combiner output	±2.0 dB	
Temp stability dB/°C	***<1.2 GHz*** < ±0.02	***>1.2 GHz*** < ±0.04

RF level tracking (over temp range +17 to +27°C)
Relative level accuracy between any two or more combined signals (of equal amplitude), is typically: [6]

RF level	***1 MHz to 1.2 GHz***	***1.2 GHz to 2.4 GHz***
-18 dBm to +4 dBm	±0.3 dB	±0.6 dB
<-18 dBm	±0.6 dB	±1.2 dB

Attenuator hold
Inhibits operation of the step attenuator from the level at which the key is enabled. Useable for a level reduction of at least 10 dB. Typical accuracy ±3 dB.

VSWR
Individual outputs
For output levels less than -5 dBm, output VSWR is less than 1.5:1 for carrier frequencies up to 1.2 GHz and less than 1.7:1 for carrier frequencies up to 2.4 GHz.
Combined output
Output VSWR is less than 1.22:1 for carrier frequencies between 1 MHz to 1.2 GHz and less than 1.32:1 for carrier frequencies up to 2.4 GHz.

RF Output connector
50 Ω type N connector to MIL 390123D.

Output protection
Individual outputs
Protected from a source of reverse power up to 50 W from 50 Ω or 25 W from a source VSWR of 5:1. Protection circuit can be reset from the front panel or via the GPIB or RS-232 interface.
Combined output
No reverse power protection. Maximum total safe power 0.5 W.

Spectral Purity

Harmonics
Individual outputs:
Typically better than -30 dBc for RF level up to +6 dBm, typically better than -25 dBc for RF levels up to +18 dBm (+14 dBm above 1.2 GHz).
Combined output:
Typically better than -30 dBc for RF level up to -14 dBm, typically better than -25 dBc for RF levels up to +4 dBm. (0 dBm above 1.2 GHz).
Harmonics unspecified below 1 MHz.

Non-Harmonics (for offsets >3 kHz)
Better than -70 dBc to 1 GHz, better than -64 dBc above 1 GHz, better than -60 dBc above 2 GHz.

Isolation
Better than 80 dB between individual outputs in use
Better than 60 dB from a used individual output and the combiner output
Better than 40 dB between the combiner output and an unused individual output

Intermodulation
At an RF output level of 0 dBm on the combiner into a load VSWR of 2.1 or better.

Frequency Range	***Two Tone Intermodulation****
10 MHz to 2.4 GHz	<-80 dBc
5 MHz to 10 MHz	<-75 dBc
Useable but unspecified down to 1 MHz	

*Third order intermodulation products. Intermodulation levels reduce with reducing RF Level.

Residual FM (FM off)
Less than 4.5 Hz RMS deviation in a 300 Hz to 3.4 kHz unweighted bandwidth at 1 GHz.
Typically <1 Hz at 249 MHz, <2 Hz at 501 MHz <3 Hz at 1001 MHz <6 Hz at 2001 MHz.

SSB phase noise
Better than -124 dBc/Hz at 20 kHz offset from a carrier frequency of 470 MHz, typically -121 dBc/Hz at 20 kHz offset from a carrier frequency of 1 GHz.

Carrier Leakage
Less than 0.5 µV PD at the carrier frequency in a two turn 25 mm diameter loop, 25 mm from the surface of the signal generator.

External RF input
The following applies when an external input is connected at the rear panel and the combiner set up for 'independent' external RF input.

Insertion loss	14.75 dB ±1 dB
Frequency range	10 kHz to 4 GHz[7]
Return loss	>20 dB to 2.4 GHz
Max input power	0.5 W

Modulation Capability

FM, AM or phase modulation can be applied to the carriers generated by each signal source from independent internal or external modulation sources. The internal modulation sources are capable of generating two simultaneous signals into any one of the modulation channels. Each internal and external modulation source can be simultaneously enabled to produce combined amplitude and frequency (or phase) modulation.
Pulse modulation can be applied to each of the carriers from external pulse sources. The pulse modulation can be used in combination with the other forms of modulation.
2 level or 4 level FSK modulation can be applied to each carrier using data from an external source.

Frequency Modulation

Deviation
0 to 100 kHz

Resolution
3 digits or 1 Hz

Accuracy at 1 kHz
±5%

Bandwidth (1 dB)
DC to 100 kHz (DC coupled)
10 Hz to 100 kHz (AC coupled)
20 Hz to 100 kHz (AC coupled with ALC)

Group delay
Less then 5 µs to 100 kHz

Carrier frequency offset (DC coupled)
Less than 1% of the set frequency deviation

Distortion
Less than 1% at 1 kHz rate for deviations up to 100 kHz
Typically ≤0.3% at 1 kHz rate for deviations up to 10 kHz
Less than 3% at 1 kHz rate and deviations upto 100 kHz for carrier frequencies below 50 MHz

Modulation source
Internal modulation oscillator or external via front panel BNC

FSK

Modes
2 level or 4 level FSK

Data source
External data input via a 25 way rear panel D Type connector

Frequency shift
Variable up to ±100 kHz

Accuracy
As FM deviation accuracy

Timing jitter
±3.2 µs

Filter
8th order Bessel, -3 dB at 20 kHz

Phase Modulation

Deviation
0 to 10 radians

Resolution
3 digits or 0.01 radians

Accuracy at 1 kHz
±5% of indicated deviation excluding residual phase modulation

3 dB Bandwidth
100 Hz to 10 kHz

Distortion
Less than 3% at 10 radians at 1 kHz modulation rate. Typically <0.5% for deviations up to 1 radian at 1 kHz

Modulation source
Internal LF generator or external via front panel BNC.

Amplitude Modulation

Individual Outputs
For carrier frequencies <500 MHz useable to 1.5 GHz

Combined Output
Unspecified below 5 MHz useable to 1 MHz, otherwise as individual outputs.

Range
0 to 99.9%

Resolution
0.1%

Accuracy[8]
±5% of set depth at 1 kHz, over temperature range 17°C to 27 °C
Temperature coefficient < 0.02%/°C

1 dB Bandwidth
DC to 30 kHz (DC coupled)
10 Hz to 30 kHz (AC coupled)
20 Hz to 30 kHz (AC coupled with ALC)

Distortion[8]
<1.5% at 1 kHz rate for modulation depths up to 30%
<2.5% at 1 kHz rate for modulation depths up to 80%

Modulation source
Internal LF generator or external, via front panel BNC

PM on AM
Typically 0.1 radians at 30% depth at 470 MHz

Pulse Modulation

Frequency range
32 MHz to 2.4 GHz, useable to 10 MHz

RF level range
Maximum guaranteed output is reduced by 5 dB when pulse modulation is selected

RF level accuracy
When pulse modulation is enabled, adds ±0.5 dB to the RF level accuracy specification

Control
Pulse input is on a front panel BNC with 10 KΩ nominal input impedance
A logic 0 (0 V to 1 V) turns the carrier off, a logic 1 (3.5 V to 5 V) turns the carrier on
Maximum input is ±15 V

On/off ratio
Better than 45 dB below 1.2 GHz, better than 40 dB above 1.2 GHz

Rise and fall times
Less than 10 µs

Overshoot
<1 dB

Modulation Oscillator

The internal modulation oscillator for each signal source is capable of generating one or two modulation tones simultaneously in one modulation channel.

Frequency range
0.01 Hz to 20 kHz with a resolution of 0.01 Hz

Frequency accuracy
As frequency standard

Distortion
Less than 0.1% THD at 1 kHz

Waveforms
Sine wave to 20 kHz and a triangular or square wave to 3 kHz

Square wave jitter
< 6.4 µs on any edge

Audio Output
The modulation oscillator signal from each source is available on the front panel Modulation Input/Output BNC connector at a nominal level of 2 V RMS EMF from a 600 Ω source impedance.

External Modulation

Input on the front panel Modulation Input/Output connector. The modulation is calibrated with 1.414 V peak (1V RMS sine wave) applied. Input impedance is 100 kΩ nominal. Maximum safe input ±15 V.

MODULATION ALC
The external modulation input can be levelled by a peak levelling ALC system over the input voltage range of 0.75 V to 1.25 V RMS sine wave. High and low indicators in the display indicate when the input is outside levelling range.

SWEEP MODE
The carrier frequency of one source can be swept. To enable more than one source to be swept the coupling facility must be invoked.

Control parameters
Start/stop values of carrier frequency, frequency step size and time per step.

Step time
50 ms to 10 s per step

Trigger
A trigger input is available on a rear panel BNC connector and can be used in single, continuous, start/stop or single step mode.

Frequency Standard

FREQUENCY STANDARD

TCXO
10 MHz

Temperature Stability
Better than ±5 in 10^7 over the operating range of 0 to 55°C

Ageing rate
Less than ±1 in 10^6 per year

External input/output
Rear panel BNC connector accepts an external input of 1 MHz or 10 MHz at a level of 220 mV RMS to 1.8 V RMS into 1 kΩ. Rear panel BNC connector provides an output of 10 MHz at a nominal level of 2 V pk-pk into 50 Ω.

General

GPIB INTERFACE
All signal source parameters except the supply switch are remotely programmable

Capabilities
Designed in accordance with IEEE 488.2.
The GPIB interface complies with the following subsets as defined in IEEE standard 488.1: SH1, AH1, T6, L4, SR1, RL1, PP0, DC1, DT1, C0, E2.

RS-232
All signal source parameters except the supply switch are remotely programmable.
Connector is 9 way D type, baud rate 300 to 9600 bits per second.
Handshake hardware is DTR, RTS, CTS and DSR and software is XON and XOFF.
Electrical interface is to EIA-232-D.

ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY
Conforms with the protection requirements of Council Directive 89/336/EEC. Complies with the limits specified in the following standards:

EN55011 Class B	CISPR II
EN50082-1	IEC 801-2,3,4
AS/NZS 2064.1/2	AS/NZS 4252.1
EN60555-2	IEC 555-2

SAFETY
Complies with IEC 1010-1, BS EN61010-1 for class 1 portable equipment and is for use in a pollution degree 2 environment. The instrument is designed to operate from an installation category 2 supply.

RATED RANGE OF USE
(Over which full specification is met unless otherwise indicated).

Temperature
0 to 55°C

Humidity
Up to 93% at 40°C

Altitude
Up to 3050 m (10,000 ft)

CONDITIONS OF STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

Temperature
-40 to +71°C

Humidity
Up to 93% at 40°C

Altitude
Up to 4600 m (15000 ft)

POWER REQUIREMENTS

AC Supply
90 to 132 V or 188 to 255 V
47 Hz to 63 Hz
250 VA maximum

CALIBRATION INTERVAL
2 years

DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT
(over projections but excluding front panel handles)

Height	Width	Depth	Weight
177 mm	419 mm	488 mm	16 kg

Options

3 Source Signal Generator
Includes 3 signal sources

HIGH STABILITY FREQUENCY STANDARD
Replaces the internal TCXO with a high stability OCXO. Specification as standard instrument with the following exceptions:

Ageing rate
±2.5 in 10^{-7} per year, < ±5 in 10^{-9} per day after two months continuous use

Stability
Better than ±5 in 10^8 over the temperature range 0 to 50°C

Warm up time
Within 2 in 10^7 of final frequency 10 minutes after switch on at a temperature of 20°C

REAR PANEL INPUTS
RF output, modulation input and LF output connectors are transferred to the rear panel. The signal generator specification is not altered.

Versions and Accessories

When ordering please quote the full ordering number information.

Ordering Numbers	*Versions*
2026	10 kHz to 2.4 GHz MultiSource Generator (2 internal sources)
	Options
Option 1	Add third internal source
Option 3	High stability frequency standard
Option 4	Rear panel outputs
	Supplied with
43129/003	AC power supply lead
46882/294	Operating Manual
	Optional Accessories
54311/208	50/75 Ω adapter
46880/077	Service manual
46884/293	Rack mounting kit, depths from 480 mm to 680 mm
46884/294	Rack mounting kit, depths from 680 mm to 840 mm
46884/931	Rack mounting kit containing front panel brackets only
46662/614	Soft carrying case
43129/189	1.5 m GPIB lead
59999/724	TEM Cell
46884/650	RS-232 Cable 9 way female to a 9 way female 1.5m
46884/649	RS-232 Cable 9 way female to a 25 way female 1.5m
54112/165	Hard carrying case

(1) Level uncalibrated above +20 dBm for frequencies >1.2 GHz.
(2) Output power is uncalibrated for all levels for carrier freqencies below 1 MHz
(3) Level uncalibrated above +4 dBm for frequencies >1.2 GHz.
(4) Level accuracy is unspecified below 100 kHz for levels > +6 dBm.
(5) Accuracy is unspecified below 1 MHz.
(6) Does not apply to external RF input signals to combiner.
(7) Usable to 5 GHz.
(8) For RF levels not exceeding +10 dBm (individual output) or -4 dBm (combined output).

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