

# LMS-Q680i

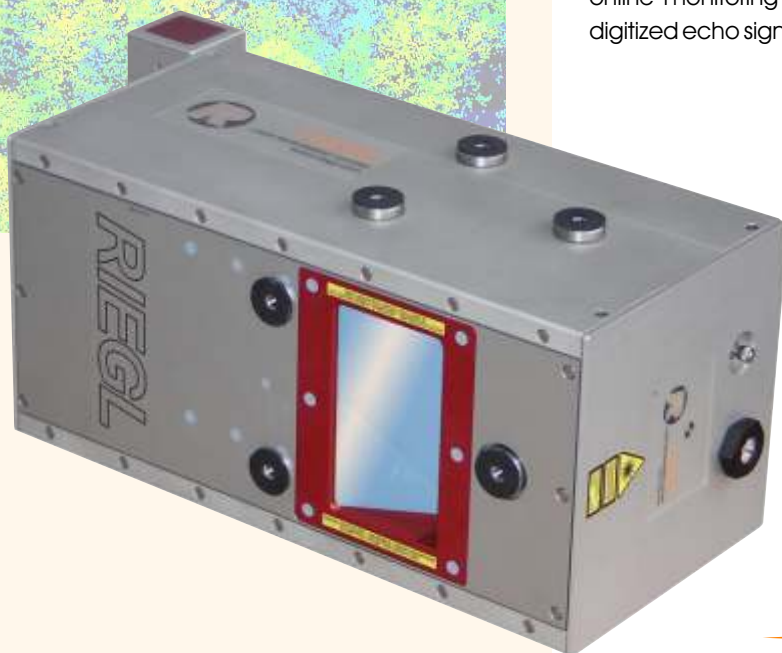
The new **RIEGL® LMS-Q680i** long-range airborne laser scanner makes use of a powerful laser source, multiple-time-around (MTA) processing, and digital full waveform analysis. This combination allows the operation at varying flight altitudes and is therefore ideally suited for aerial survey of complex terrain.

The **RIEGL LMS-Q680i** gives access to detailed target parameters by digitizing the echo signal online during data acquisition, and subsequent off-line waveform analysis. This method is especially valuable when dealing with difficult tasks, such as canopy height investigation or target classification. Multiple-time-around processing allows the utilization of target echo signals which have been detected out of the unambiguity range between two successive laser pulses.

The operational parameters of the **RIEGL LMS-Q680i** can be configured to cover a wide field of applications. Comprehensive interface features support smooth integration of the instrument into a complete airborne scanning system.

The instrument makes use of the time-of-flight distance measurement principle of infrared nanosecond pulses. Fast opto-mechanical beam scanning provides absolutely linear, unidirectional and parallel scan lines. The instrument is extremely rugged, therefore ideally suited for the installation on aircraft. Also, it is compact and lightweight enough to be installed in small twin- or single-engine planes, helicopters or UAVs. The instrument needs only one power supply and GPS timing signals to provide online monitoring data while logging the precisely time-stamped and digitized echo signal data to the rugged **RIEGL** Data Recorder.

- full waveform analysis for unlimited number of target echoes
- multiple-time-around processing
- high laser pulse repetition rate up to 400 kHz
- up to 266 000 measurements/sec on the ground
- high ranging accuracy up to 20 mm
- high scan speed up to 200 lines/sec
- wide scan field of view up to 60°
- parallel scan lines
- interface for smooth integration of GPS



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**Target Classification**  
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LASER MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

## Echo Signal of the *RIEGL* LMS-Q680i

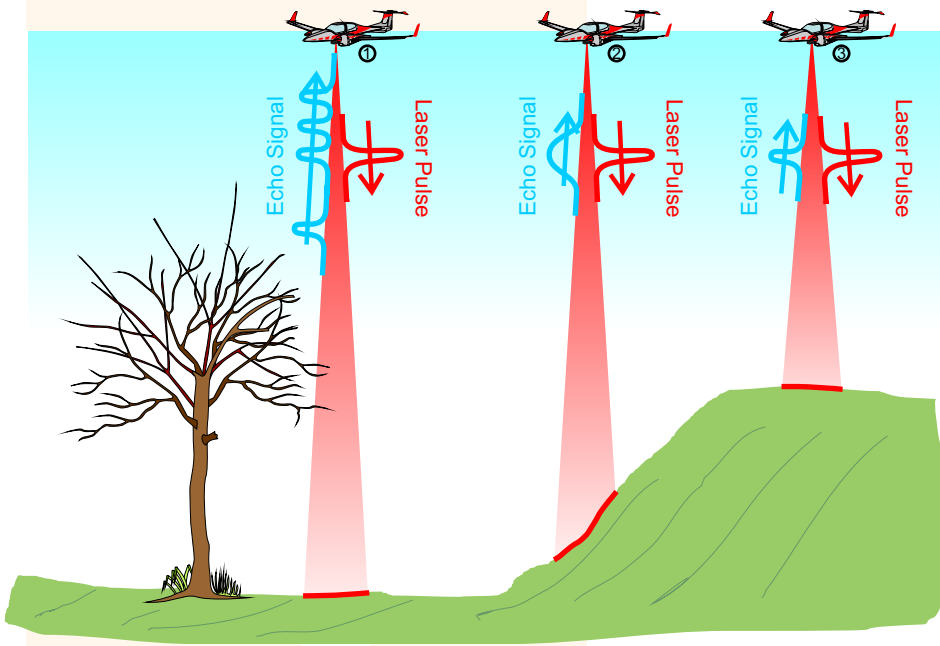


Fig. 1 Echo signals resulting from different types of targets

In situation 1, the laser pulse hits the canopy first and causes three distinct echo pulses. A fraction of the laser pulse also hits the ground giving rise to another echo pulse. In situation 2, the laser beam is reflected from a flat surface at a small angle of incidence yielding an extended echo pulse width. In situation 3, the pulse is simply reflected by a flat surface at perpendicular incidence resulting in one single echo pulse with a shape identical to the transmitted laser pulse.

The digitization feature of the *RIEGL* LMS-Q680i enables the user to extract most comprehensive information from the echo signals. Figure 1 illustrates a measurement situation where 3 laser measurements are taken on different types of targets. The red pulses symbolize the laser signals travelling towards the target with the speed of light. When the signal interacts with the diffusely reflecting target surface, a fraction of the transmitted signal is reflected towards the laser instrument, indicated by the blue signals.

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## Echo Digitization of the *RIEGL* LMS-Q680i

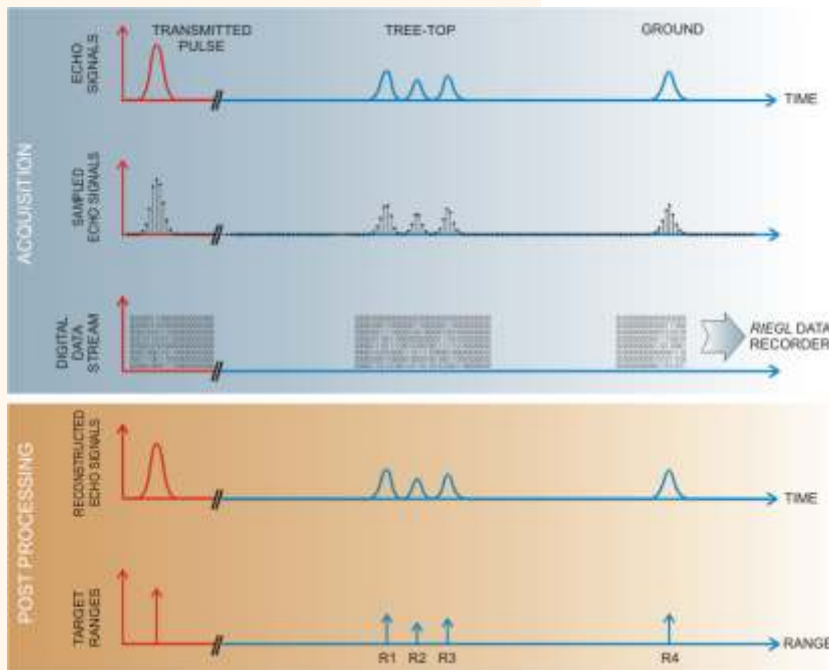


Fig. 2 Data acquisition and post processing

The upper line of the acquisition diagram shows the analog signals: the first (red) pulse relates to a fraction of the laser transmitter pulse, and the next 3 (blue) pulses correspond to the reflections by the branches of the tree; the last pulse corresponds to the ground reflection.

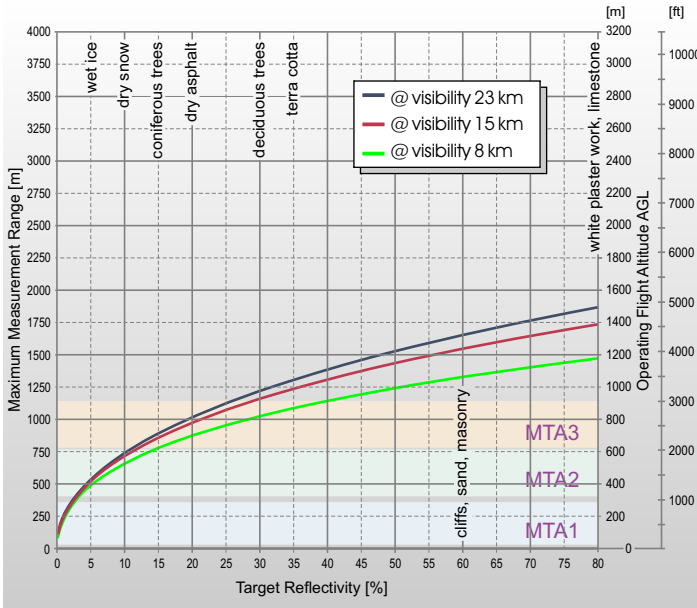
This analog echo signal is sampled at constant time intervals (middle line) and is, in the following, analog-to-digital converted, resulting in a digital data stream (bottom line of the acquisition section). This data stream is stored in the *RIEGL* Data Recorder for subsequent off-line post processing, as indicated in the post-processing section of the diagram.

Based upon *RIEGL*'s long-standing expertise and experience in designing, manufacturing and marketing digitizing laser rangefinders for challenging industrial and surveying

applications, and due to the careful design of the analog and digital front-end electronics, the LMS-Q680i records the complete information of the echo signal over a wide dynamic range. Thus, in post-processing the signal can be perfectly reconstructed and analyzed in detail to precisely derive target distance, target type, and other parameters.

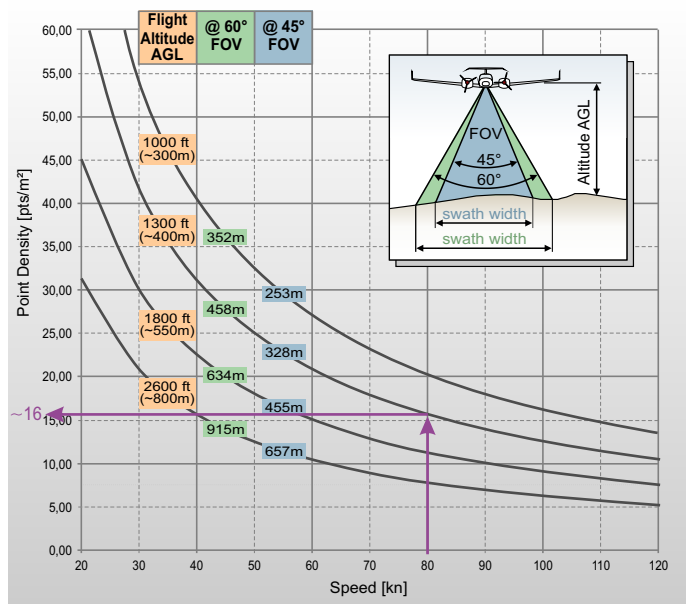
# Maximum Measurement Range & Point Density for RIEGL LMS-Q680i

PRR = 400 kHz



MTA1: no ambiguity / 1 pulse „in the air“  
 MTA2: 2 pulses „in the air“  
 MTA3: 3 pulses „in the air“

PRR = 400 kHz

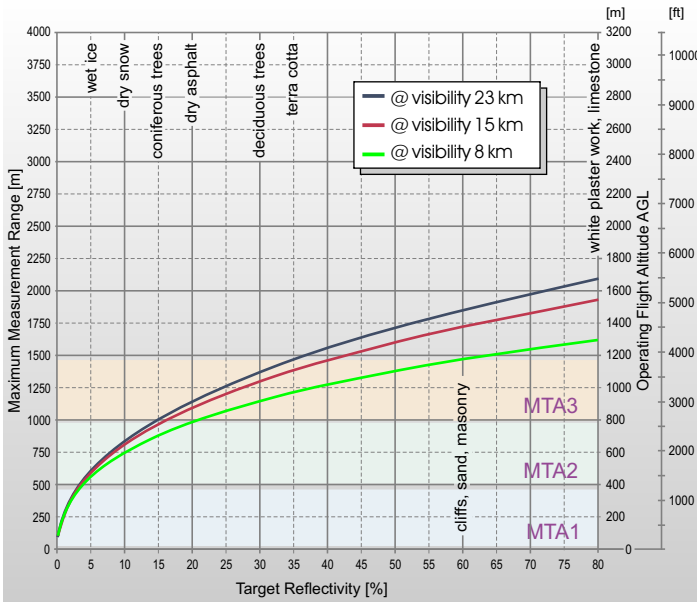


Example: Q680i at 400,000 pulses/second  
 Altitude = 1300ft AGL, Speed = 80 kn  
 Resulting Point Density ~ 16 pts/m<sup>2</sup>

**For the Operating Flight Altitude AGL, the following conditions are assumed**

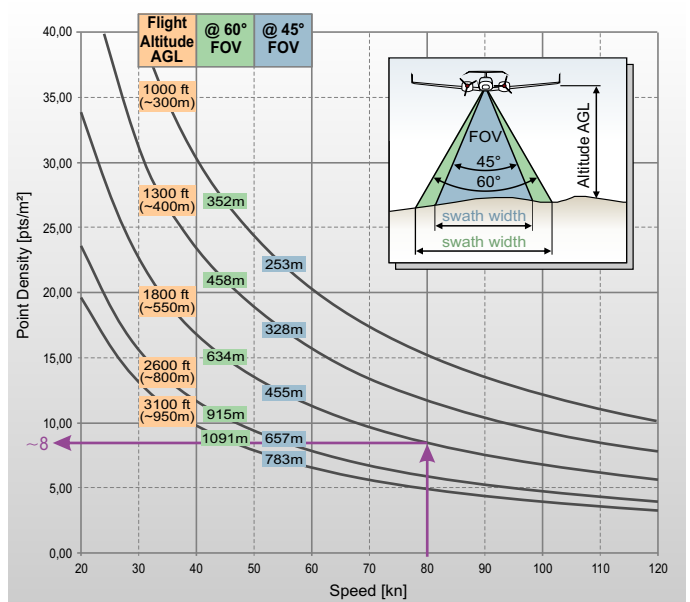
- ambiguity resolved by multiple-time-around (MTA) processing & flight planning
- target size laser footprint
- average ambient brightness
- scan angle 60°
- roll angle +/- 6°

PRR = 300 kHz



MTA1: no ambiguity / 1 pulse „in the air“  
 MTA2: 2 pulses „in the air“  
 MTA3: 3 pulses „in the air“

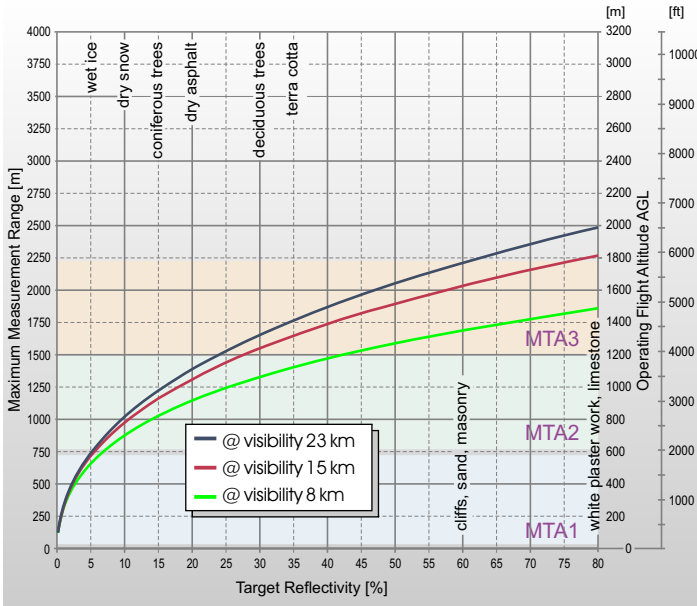
PRR = 300 kHz



Example: Q680i at 300,000 pulses/second  
 Altitude = 1800ft AGL, Speed = 80 kn  
 Resulting Point Density ~ 8 pts/m<sup>2</sup>

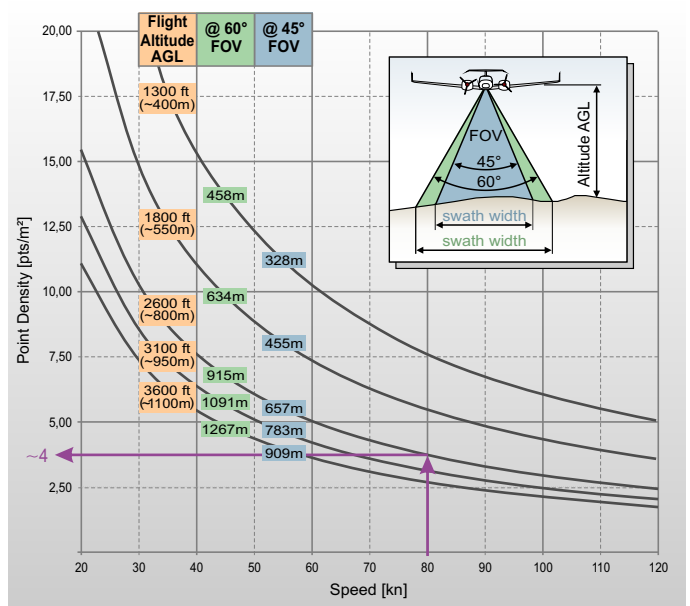
# Maximum Measurement Range & Point Density for RIEGL LMS-Q680i

PRR = 200 kHz



MTA1: no ambiguity / 1 pulse „in the air“  
 MTA2: 2 pulses „in the air“  
 MTA3: 3 pulses „in the air“

PRR = 200 kHz

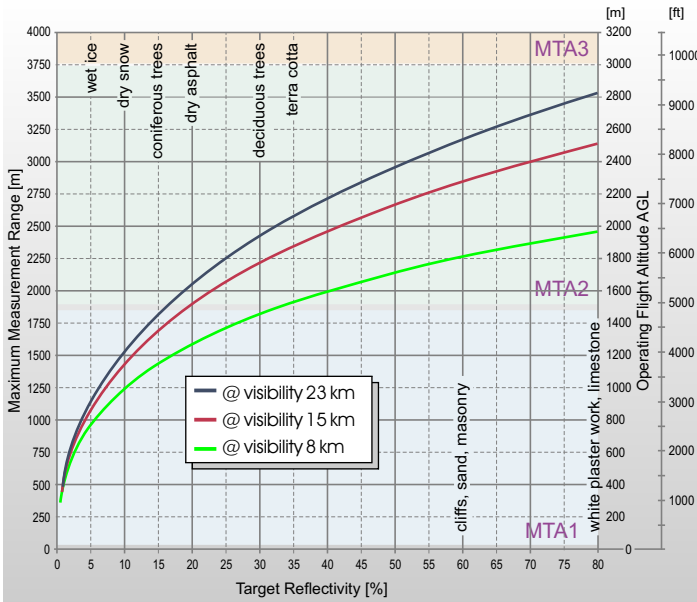


Example: Q680i at 200,000 pulses/second  
 Altitude = 2600ft AGL, Speed = 80 kn  
 Resulting Point Density ~ 4 pts/m²

**For the Operating Flight Altitude AGL, the following conditions are assumed**

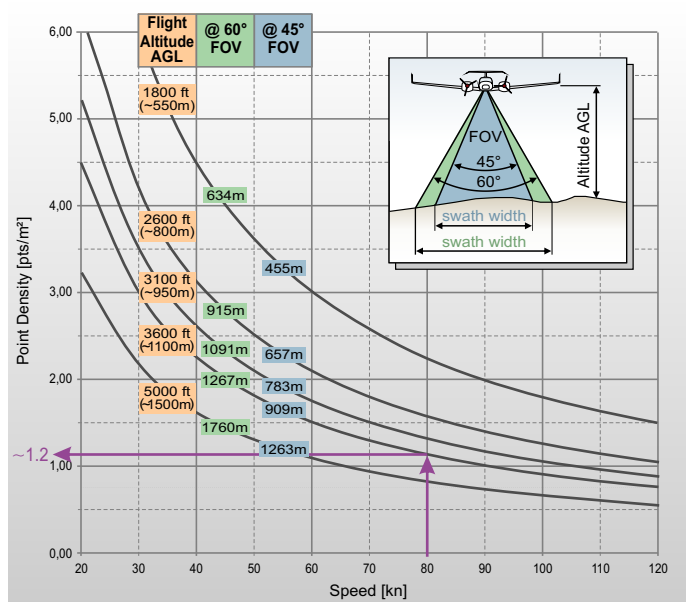
- ambiguity resolved by multiple-time-around (MTA) processing & flight planning
- target size laser footprint
- average ambient brightness
- scan angle 60°
- roll angle +/- 6°

PRR = 80 kHz



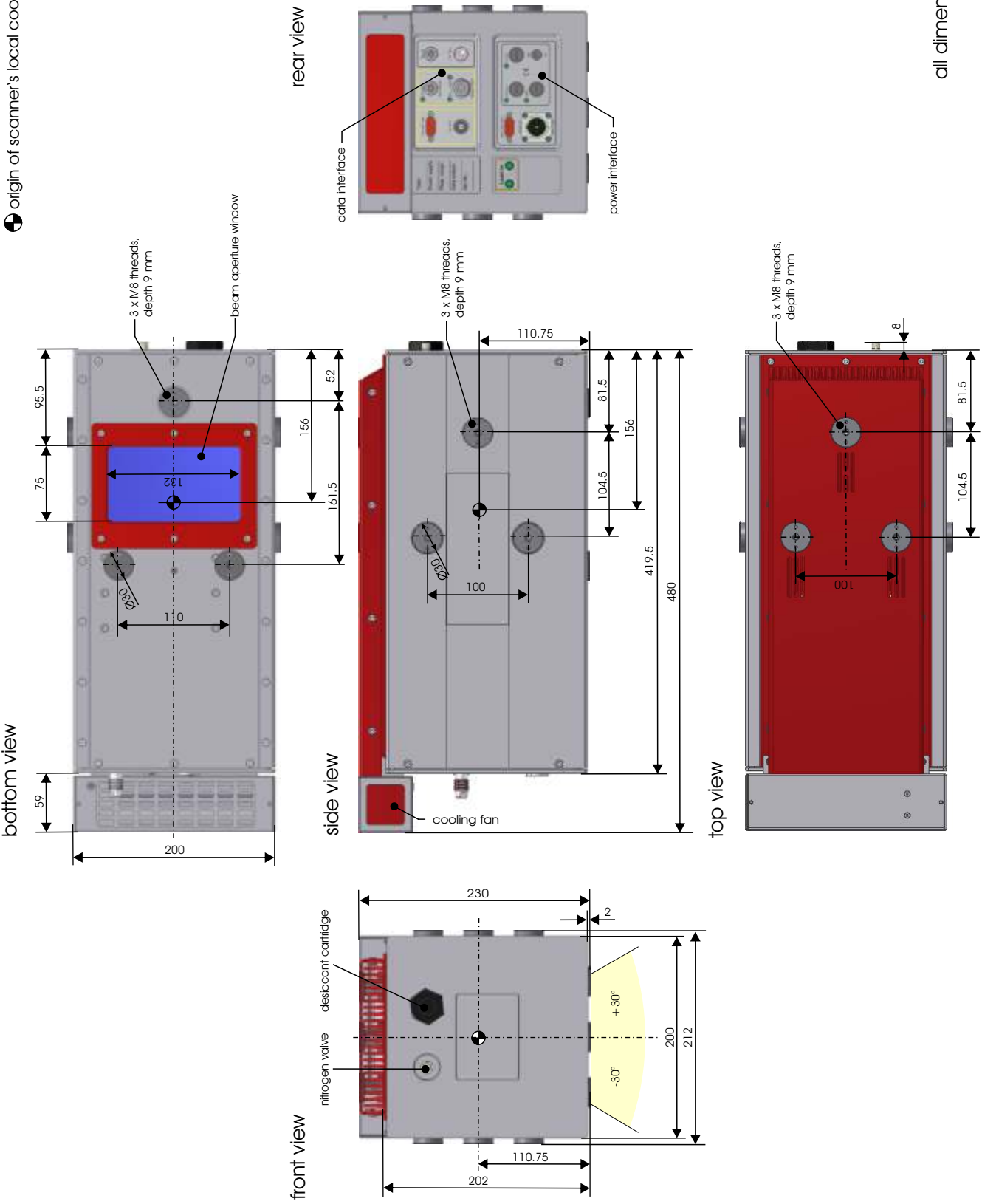
MTA1: no ambiguity / 1 pulse „in the air“  
 MTA2: 2 pulses „in the air“  
 MTA3: 3 pulses „in the air“

PRR = 80 kHz



Example: Q680i at 80,000 pulses/second  
 Altitude = 3600ft AGL, Speed = 80 kn  
 Resulting Point Density ~ 1.2 pts/m²

origin of scanner's local coordinate system



all dimensions in mm

# Technical Data RIEGL LMS-Q680i

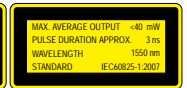
## Laser Product Classification

Safe for the naked eye  
Safe for the aided eye

## Class 3R Laser Product according to IEC60825-1:2007

The following clause applies for instruments delivered into the United States: Complies with 21 CFR 1040.10 and 1040.11 except for deviations pursuant to Laser Notice No. 50, dated June 24, 2007.

> 1.5 m (NOHD)  
> 10 m (ENOHD)



## Range Measurement Performance

as a function of PRR and target reflectivity

Laser Pulse Repetition Rate	80 kHz	200 kHz	300 kHz	400 kHz
Max. Measurement Range <sup>1)</sup>				
natural target 20 %	2000 m	1350 m	1150 m	1000 m
natural target 60 %	3000 m	2200 m	1850 m	1650 m
Max. Operating Flight Altitude AGL <sup>2)</sup>	1600 m 5000 ft	1100 m 3600 ft	950 m 3100 ft	800 m 2600 ft

1) The following conditions are assumed:  
• target is larger than the footprint of the laser beam • average ambient brightness • visibility 23 km  
• perpendicular angle of incidence • ambiguity to be resolved by proper flight planning and multiple-time-around processing

2) Reflectivity 20 %, max. scan angle 60°, additional roll angle +/- 5°

## Minimum Range

Accuracy<sup>3)4)</sup>

Precision<sup>3)5)</sup>

Laser Pulse Repetition Rate<sup>6)</sup>

Effective Measurement Rate

Laser Wavelength

Laser Beam Divergence<sup>7)</sup>

Number of Targets per Pulse

30 m

20 mm

20 mm

up to 400 000 Hz

up to 266 kHz @ 60° scan angle

near infrared

0.5 mrad

digitized waveform processing: unlimited<sup>8)</sup>

online monitoring data output: first pulse or last pulse

## Scanner Performance

Scanning Mechanism

Scan Pattern

Scan Angle Range

Scan Speed

Angular Step Width<sup>9)</sup>

between consecutive laser shots

Angle Measurement Resolution

Scan Sync

rotating polygon mirror

parallel scan lines

± 30° = 60° total

10 - 200 lines/sec

0.002° ( for PRR 400 000 Hz<sup>9)</sup> )

0.001°

Option for synchronizing scan lines to external timing signal

3) Standard deviation one sigma @ 250 m range under RIEGL test conditions.

4) Accuracy is the degree of conformity of a measured quantity to its actual (true) value.

5) Precision, also called reproducibility or repeatability, is

the degree to which further measurements show the same result.

6) User selectable

7) 0.5 mrad correspond to 50 cm increase of beam width per 1000 m distance

8) Practically limited only by the maximum data rate allowed for the RIEGL Data Recorder

9) Minimum angle step width increasing linearly to 0.01° @ 80000 Hz laser pulse repetition rate

## Intensity Measurement

For each echo signal, high-resolution 16-bit intensity information is provided which can be used for target discrimination and/or identification/classification.

## Data Interfaces

Configuration

Monitoring Data Output

Digitized Data Output

GPS-System

TCP/IP Ethernet (10/100 MBit), RS232 (19.2 kBd)

TCP/IP Ethernet (10/100 MBit)

High speed serial data link to RIEGL Data Recorder

Serial RS232 interface, TTL input for 1pps synchronization pulse, accepts different data formats for GPS-time information

## General Technical Data

Power Supply

Current Consumption

Main Dimensions (L x W x H)

Weight

Protection Class

Max. Flight Altitude (operating)

Max. Flight Altitude (not operating)

Temperature Range

Mounting of IMU-Sensor

18 - 32 VDC

approx. 7 A @ 24 VDC

480 x 212 x 230 mm

17.5 kg

IP54

16 500 ft (5 000 m) above MSL

18 000 ft (5 500 m) above MSL

0°C up to +40°C (operation) / -10°C up to +50°C (storage)

Steel thread inserts on the top and on the sides of the laser scanner, rigidly connected to the inner structure of the scanning mechanism



**RIEGL**<sup>®</sup>  
LASER MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

RIEGL Laser Measurement Systems GmbH, 3580 Horn, Austria

Tel.: +43-2982-4211, Fax: +43-2982-4210, E-mail: office@riegl.co.at

RIEGL USA Inc., Orlando, Florida 32819, USA

Tel.: +1-407-248-9927, Fax: +1-407-248-2636, E-mail: info@rieglusa.com

RIEGL Japan Ltd., Tokyo 1640013, Japan

Tel.: +81-3-3382-7340, Fax: +81-3-3382-5843, E-mail: info@riegl-japan.co.jp

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