

# Owl 640 II

Model: OW1.7-VS-CL-640-II



# **USER MANUAL**

OWL 640 II/USER MANUAL/08-20/REV1.1

## CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Scope	4
2. CAMERA CARE	5
2.1 Cleaning the Sensor Window	5
3. SPECIFICATION	6
3.1 Camera Overview	6
3.2 Datasheet	6
4. DESIGN OVERVIEW	7
4.1 Mechanical Model	7
4.2 Physical Interface	8
4.3 Power Consumption	8
4.4 Mounting to a Microscope	8
4.5 Mounting to a Tripod or Optical Table	8
5. SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY	9
5.1 XCAP Compatibility	9
5.2 Micro-Manager Compatibility	9
5.3 LabView Compatibility	9
5.4 Custom Software Interfacing	9
6. CAMERA SETUP AND REQUIRMENTS	10
6.1 Connecting the Camera to the Frame Grabber	10
6.2 Computer/Laptop System Requirements	10
6.3 Frame Grabber Requirements	10
6.4 CameraLink Cables	10
7. XCAP IMAGING SOFTWARE	11
7.1 Downloading XCAP	11
7.2 Opening the Camera Configuration	11
7.3 Acquiring a Live Image Sequence	13
8. CONTROLLING THE CAMERA (XCAP)	14
8.1 Exposure Time	14
8.2 Automatic Light Control Adjustment	16
8.2.1 Automatic Light Control Parameters	16
8.2.2 Automatic Light Control Region of Interest	17
8.2 Gain Mode	
8.3 Trigger Mode and Frame Rate	19
8.4 Non-Uniformity Correction (NUC)	

8.5 Thermoelectric Cooler (TEC)	21
8.6 Miscellaneous Tab	22
8.7 Manufacturers Data	23
9. XCAP CONTROL FEATURES	24
9.1 Recording Images on XCAP	24
9.2 Saving Preset Configuration Settings	24
9.3 Contrast Modification (XCAP Std. Only)	25
10. MICRO-MANAGER	26
10.1 Downloading and Installing Micro-Manager (Windows)	26
10.2 Creating Camera Configuration File	27
10.3 Pre-made Configuration File	31
10.4 Imaging and Controlling the Camera	32

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This document provides detailed instructions for the operation of the Owl 640 II camera. Raptor Photonics Limited reserves the right to change this document at any time without notice and disclaims liability for editorial, pictorial or typographical errors.

#### 1.1 Scope

This manual covers the Owl 640 II digital camera and all applicable components. Details of the camera mechanical interface along with information on how to control the camera are stated. Each camera control is discussed and explained with the use of XCAP Imaging software, which is the core plug and play software package that is offered with Raptor cameras. Important precautions to be taken when using the camera are also stated.

An image of the camera is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Complete Camera Module.

## 2. CAMERA CARE

#### 2.1 Cleaning the Sensor Window

Raptor cameras require no regular maintenance except occasional external cleaning of the sensor window (the glass window between the camera sensor and the microscope or lens). Use optical grade isopropyl to clean this window. A cotton swab can be used, but may leave some fibres on the window, so be careful. To avoid this, you could also use a lens tissue or a cleaning swap such as a texwipe. Forced air can be applied to remove any loose particles. Should any other issues occur please contact your local agent.

**CAUTION** — The camera's sensor and circuits are sensitive to static discharge. Ensure that you are using a static strap or completely grounded at all times to release any static energy before you clean the window.

**CAUTION** — Do not use acetone.

## **3. SPECIFICATION**

#### 3.1 Camera Overview

The Owl 640 II is the next iteration of the highly successful Owl 640. With even smaller mechanics and the implementation of the smaller SDR Camera Link connector, the camera is even more compact and lightweight than before. The Owl 640 II is a rugged, high sensitivity digital VIS-SWIR camera. Using a 640 x 512 InGaAs sensor from SCD, the camera enables high sensitivity imaging from  $0.4\mu m$  to  $1.7\mu m$ .

The Camera Link digital interface provides the most stable platform for data transfer and the camera will work on any Camera Link standard frame grabber.

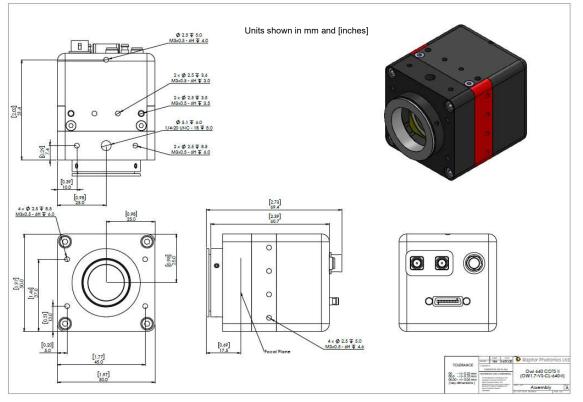
#### 3.2 Datasheet

For the full specification of the Owl 640 II, the datasheet for the camera can be downloaded from the Raptor Photonics website using the link below:

https://www.raptorphotonics.com/products/owl-640-ii/

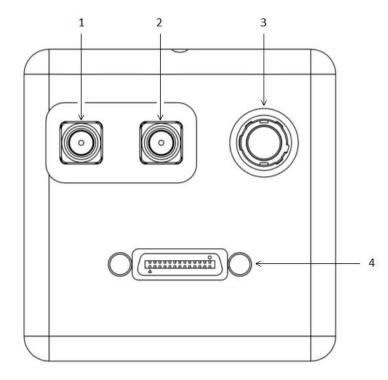
## **4. DESIGN OVERVIEW**

#### 4.1 Mechanical Model



PDF of mechanical model available from our website: https://www.raptorphotonics.com/products/owl-640-ii/

#### 4.2 Physical Interface



- 1. SMA connector: Trigger Out
- 2. SMA connector: Trigger In
- 3. Power
- 4. CameraLink Connector/SDR

#### **4.3 Power Consumption**

Unit input power specification is +12V DC +/- 0.5V with <3W power dissipation when the TEC is disabled. An additional 5W may be required if the full drive to the TEC is required. This will be dependent on environmental conditions and the TEC temperature set point.

The set point for the TEC cooling is +15 °C. The TEC power is automatically adjusted to try and achieve the set point temperature, with a limit of approx. 5W drive. For low ambient temperatures or with additional heat sinking, less than 5W may be applied to the TEC to achieve the set point. In an ambient of 25°C with adequate heat sinking, less than 1W is typically required to maintain the +15°C set point.

On power up, the peak power due to inrush current will be less than 10 Watts.

#### 4.4 Mounting to a Microscope

The camera has a standard C-mount that should easily screw onto any microscope port.

#### 4.5 Mounting to a Tripod or Optical Table

The camera has a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-20 BSW (Whitworth) threaded hole to mount to a tripod or an optical table.

## 5. SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY

This section outlines the options relating to software that are available for the Owl 640 II.

#### 5.1 XCAP Compatibility

Raptor works closely with EPIX who integrate all Raptor camera models into their XCAP Imaging Software package. XCAP is the core plug and play software package that is offered with the Owl 640 II.

#### 5.2 Micro-Manager Compatibility

The Owl 640 II can be controlled and imaged using the free open source software package, Micro-Manager. Using the camera with this software package is discussed in section 10.

#### 5.3 LabView Compatibility

Raptor can supply a LabView .icd file which can be used to control the camera on National Instruments imaging tools such as NI MAX. The file may also be useful if attempting to create a custom LabView VI.

#### 5.4 Custom Software Interfacing

Raptor works closely with EPIX Inc, who integrates all Raptor cameras into their software package, XCAP. The EPIX frame grabbers are the models that we offer with our cameras. We offer their Software Development Kit (SDK) for interfacing with custom software (XCLIB). If using a frame grabber from a different company, then you will have to obtain their SDK. Raptor can provide an ICD which includes a list of all serial commands to control the camera. This would be required along with the SDK from the frame grabber device to integrate the camera.

## 6. CAMERA SETUP AND REQUIRMENTS

This section will give instruction on connecting the frame grabber to the camera, as well as outlining important frame grabber and PC requirements.

#### 6.1 Connecting the Camera to the Frame Grabber

The camera has the shrunk SDR port on the interface. The main frame grabber that Raptor offer with this camera has the normal MDR port (EPIX EB1). Therefore, one MDR – SDR Camera Link cable is required to connect the camera to this frame grabber.

If demoing the camera with the Mini PC system that Raptor provides, you should connect to the left port of the frame grabber in the Mini PC. This should be stated on the Mini PC.

#### 6.2 Computer/Laptop System Requirements

The basic system requirement is that the PCIe bus of the system must provide sufficient bandwidth to handle video rate transfers. The amount of bandwidth required depends on the camera in-hand. The Owl 640 II uses a Base Camera Link interface which can be handled with a x1 PCIe bus and PIXCI EB1 from EPIX, providing roughly 200MB/sec maximum bandwidth. Contact EPIX Inc. for further information regarding minimum computer/laptop specification requirements to run the XCAP Imaging Software.

#### 6.3 Frame Grabber Requirements

If using a computer, it is a minimum requirement to use an PIXCI EB1 frame grabber. If using a frame grabber from another company, the specification requirements of this frame grabber must meet those supplied by the PIXCI EB1 model.

If using a laptop, EPIX offers base Camera Link frame grabbers for a laptop system, such as the ECB1/ECB1-34.

#### 6.4 CameraLink Cables

If using a CameraLink cable not supplied direct from Raptor, for CE compliance we recommend using a screened CameraLink cable with ferrite (100 ohms at 100MHz) fitted as close to the camera as possible.

## 7. XCAP IMAGING SOFTWARE

This section will discuss downloading and acquiring an image using XCAP.

#### 7.1 Downloading XCAP

The latest version of XCAP can be downloaded from the link below: <a href="http://www.epixinc.com/support/files.php">http://www.epixinc.com/support/files.php</a>

Please select the appropriate version of XCAP for your computer. Ensure that you download from the section labelled "*Pre-release version with support for the latest cameras and latest PIXCI® imaging boards*". Open the downloaded file when complete and follow the onscreen instructions in the installation wizard. If a pop-up message appears asking whether to install the PIXCI driver, ensure that you click yes.

#### 7.2 Opening the Camera Configuration

After opening XCAP, select *"PIXCI Open/Close"* from the *"PIXCI"* tab from the top menu bar in the main window. A PIXCI Open/Close pop-up box will open as shown in Figure 2.

PIXCI® Open/Clos	se 🛛 🕅
Options	
Multiple Devices	Advanced
Camera & Format	Driver Assistant

Figure 2: PIXCI Open/Close.

Click on *"Camera & Format"* that is highlighted in Figure 2 and a *"PIXCI Open Camera & Format"* box will appear, as shown in Figure 3.

Model		
Frame Grabb	per Model	
PIXCI E8		
PIXCI® I	F8	
	election is preset, as pre-programmed	
into the PD	KCI® E8. You may choose an alternate	
0.000		
	a or choose 'Ceneric Camera Link'	
camera	a, or choose 'Generic Camera Link'.	
Frame Grabl	ber Preset Camera & Format	
	ber Preset Camera & Format	
Frame Grabl Generic Ca	ber Preset Camera & Format	
Frame Grabl Generic Ca Configure Sc	ber Preset Camera & Format mera Link	•
Frame Grabl Generic Ca Configure Sc	ber Preset Camera & Format mera Link oftware for Camera & Format	rch
Frame Grabl Generic Ca Configure So	ber Preset Camera & Format mera Link oftware for Camera & Format conics Owl 640 II	rch
Frame Grabl Generic Ca Configure Sc	ber Preset Camera & Format mera Link oftware for Camera & Format tonics Owl 640 II Sea	re

Figure 3: PIXCI Open Camera & Format.

Using the dropdown menu highlighted, search for "Owl 640 II". You will see the configuration for "Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II". Selecting "Open w. Default Video Setup" will open the control panel with all control parameters set to the default states. "Open w. Last used Video Setup" will open the control panel with all parameters set at the last known state. Once this option between the two has been selected, click "Ok". To open the camera control panel and imaging window, click "Open" in the "PIXCI Open/Close" window (Figure 2).

Two windows will now open in XCAP, an imaging window and control panel, as shown in Figure 4.

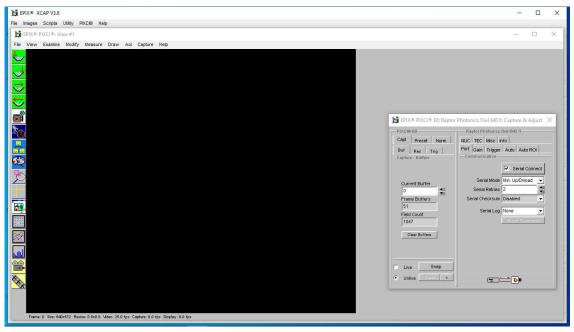


Figure 4: Imaging Window and Control Panel.

#### 7.3 Acquiring a Live Image Sequence

There are two things to observe in the control panel that inform you that the camera is connected and ready to image.

The serial connect checkbox must be ticked in the control panel. This informs you that you have established a serial connection with the camera and can control the camera.

Secondly, the symbol near the bottom right of the control panel will have three moving dots. This indicates that you are obtaining video data from the camera. The imaging statistics displayed directly underneath the imaging window will also inform you if you are receiving a video feed from the camera.

Once you have established a serial connection with the camera and are receiving video data, you can now grab a live image feed. Clicking the *"Live"* button will grab a live image sequence which you will now see in the imaging window.

The symbols in the control app discussed above are displayed in Figure 5.

PIXCI® E8 Capt Preset Norm	Raptor Photonics Gwl 640 II NUC TEC Misc Info
Buf Res Trig	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI
Current Buffer 0 Frame Buffers 51 Field Count 2982	Serial Mode Min. Up/Dnload  Serial Retries 2 Serial Checksum Disabled  Serial Log None  Expensionments
Clear Buffers	
Unlive Recel *	<b>()</b>

🋅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II: Capture & Adjust 🛛 🗙

*Figure 5: Checking Camera Connection and Acquiring a Live Image.* 

## 8. CONTROLLING THE CAMERA (XCAP)

The sections below will give information on using each control of the Owl 640 II, giving a description on how to use each control parameter and their effect on the camera's performance. The software used to illustrate the camera controls is XCAP.

#### 8.1 Exposure Time

The exposure time can be controlled under any camera control tab in the XCAP GUI and remains constant on the GUI.

**Exposure Time:** By default, the auto exposure control (ALC) will be enabled, meaning that the exposure time and digital gain cannot be manually selected. The ALC will automatically adjust these parameters based on the signal strength. The ALC can be fine-tuned in multiple ways. These controls are discussed in section 8.2.

If the ALC is disabled, the user will be able to set a fixed exposure time and digital gain, using either the manual input box or the slider bar. The maximum exposure time that the camera can perform in theory is ~26.8s. However in practice, with the sensor only stabilised at +15°C, the image would display a lot of dark noise with large exposure times. This camera is not designed for large exposure times and is made for applications using video frame rates e.g. 25Hz. The maximum exposure time possible is discussed further in this section. An exposure time can be set either using the user input box or the slider.

The minimum and maximum exposure times that the camera can set are shown in the table below in Figure 6.

	High Gain	Low Gain
Min. Exposure Time	100µs	1µs
Max. Exposure Time	Frame Period – Readout Time	Frame Period – Readout Time

Figure 6: Minimum and Maximum Exposure Times.

**Frame Rate and Maximum Exposure Time Relationship:** The maximum exposure time is a function of the frame period (1/frame rate) and the readout time. The relationship between these three parameters is shown below:

*Maximum Exposure Time = Frame Period – Readout Time* 

The readout time for the Owl 640 II is dependent on whether the camera is in low (LG) or high (HG) gain. The readout times for each gain mode are as follows:

Readout Time (LG) = ~6ms Readout Time (HG) = ~10ms

When using an example of a frame rate of 25fps in low gain, the maximum exposure time possible at this frame rate would be:

Maximum Exposure Time = 
$$\left(\frac{1}{25}\right) - (6 \times 10^{-3})$$

= 34ms

The exposure time controls on XCAP are shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7: ALC and Manual Exposure Time Controls.

#### 8.2 Automatic Light Control Adjustment

The ALC can be fine-tuned by adjusting a few different parameters. A Region of Interest (ROI) of pixels can also be defined in which to drive the ALC. These controls are discussed below.

#### 8.2.1 Automatic Light Control Parameters

Peak and average video levels are derived and monitored for the active ROI and are used to drive the ALC. The active video level used to compare to the set point can be adjusted from full average to full peak or a percentage of both. The percentage used of the average and peak video levels can be adjusted from the "Auto" tab in the XCAP GUI. An explanation of the average and peak video levels is stated below.

**Average Video Level:** An average video level is calculated for the active ROI. This value will be calculated in real time, i.e. as pixel data in the ROI is captured from the sensor, it is fed directly to an accumulator. At the end of the frame, the accumulator is divided to give a true average.

**Peak Video Level:** The peak video is determined from a rolling average of 4 pixels. Current pixel + 3 previous pixels are used to derive a peak value. This peak value is monitored for the ROI and latched at the end of frame.

Selecting a greater percentage from the average will drive the ALC to use greater exposure and digital gain values. Selecting a greater percentage from the peak will have the opposite effect.

**ALC Level:** The ALC level can also be adjusted to fine tune the ALC. Increasing the level will cause greater exposure and digital gain values to be set by the ALC. Decreasing the level will have the opposite effect.

Both controls can be adjusted to optimise the ALC for the current imaging scene conditions.

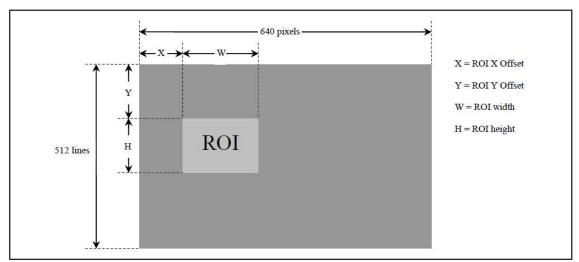
PIXCI® ES	Raptor Photonics	Owl 640 II	
Capt Preset Norm	NUC TEC Misc	Info	
Buf Res Trig Capture - Buffers	Port Gain Trigger	Auto ROI	
	ALC from Peak	50 (%)	
Current Buffer	ALC from Mean	50 (%)	
0	ALC Level	1	
Frame Buffers	ALC Speed	1	
Field Count 9390	AGC Speed	1024	
Clear Buffers	Exposure	ure 26.609 (msec.)	
	0 10 msec.		33
C Live Snop	Auto Level Control	Dnioad Se	tting
O Unlive Reset *		<b>D</b>	

🋅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II: Capture & Adjust 🛛 🗙

Figure 8: ALC Parameters.

#### 8.2.2 Automatic Light Control Region of Interest

A Region of Interest (ROI) within the main active region of 640 x 512 may be defined. This region is used to calculate peak and average video levels to drive the Automatic Light Control (ALC) function of the camera (discussed in section 8.3.1).



The ROI offset and sizes are outlined in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Region of Interest Size and Offset.

The active ROI for the ALC can be adjusted from the *"Auto ROI"* tab in the XCAP GUI, shown in Figure 10.

The ROI can be moved to within a resolution of 4 pixels in the X and Y, and the ROI size will have a resolution of 4 pixels.

An optional ROI outline feature can be enabled that highlights a 1 pixel wide box around the active ROI set. This can be enabled by selecting *"ROI Box"* from the *"ROI Highlight"* dropdown box. If the ROI highlight box is enabled or disabled, all pixels will have a gain of 1x.

If "ROI Contrast" is enabled, all pixels outside of the ROI selected will have a gain of 0.75x.

#### 8.2 Gain Mode

The camera has two modes of operation, high gain mode and low gain mode (default). The gain mode of the camera can be toggled from the "Gain" tab on the GUI. If the ALC is enabled, the gain mode will be controlled automatically depending on the imaging scene illumination.

High gain mode provides the best noise performance and can provide better images for low scene illumination e.g. night imaging.

Low gain mode provides the best dynamic range and can provide better images for high scene illumination e.g. daytime imaging or using large exposure times.

The gain mode control is shown in Figure 10.

PIXCI® E8	Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II
Capt Preset Norm	NUC TEC Misc Info
Buf Res Trig Capture - Buffers	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI
	Analog Gain Low
Current Buffer	Auto Analog Gain Control 🗐 🔟 🕬 Setting
0 🖌	Digital Gain 0.000 (dB)
51 Field Count	0 20 d9 48
5293	1
Clear Buffers	Exposure
	Exposure 25.313 (msec.)
	0 10 msec. 20 33
Live Snap	Auto Level Control 🔽 Dnload Setting
Unlive Reset >	

Figure 10: Gain Mode Control.

#### 8.3 Trigger Mode and Frame Rate

**Trigger Mode:** The trigger mode of the camera and additional trigger controls can be controlled from the *"Trigger"* tab in the GUI, shown in Figure 11.

The trigger mode of the camera can be toggled from the *"Readout Mode"* dropdown box. By default, the camera will be set to internal trigger, integrate then read (ITR). This mode is indicated by the *"Live"* option in the dropdown box.

The camera can be switched to external trigger mode by selecting the *"Ext. Triggered"* option. When this mode is enabled, the *"Trigger Polarity"* (rising or falling edge) dropdown input box will become available. By default, the camera will run with a rising edge trigger polarity. A trigger delay can also be set when external trigger mode is enabled.

**Frame Rate:** The XCAP GUI gives the user multiple discrete frame rate options to select from, ranging from 25Hz to 120Hz. The frame rate can be selected from the *"Frame Rate"* dropdown box on XCAP. Note that due to the higher readout time in high gain, the maximum frame rate is smaller in high gain at 90Hz.

-PIXCI6	≥ E8	Ra	ptor Pl	hotonics	: Owl 640 I	1	
Capt	Preset Norm	NUC	TEC	Misc	Info		
Buf —Captur	Res Trig	and the second second	and standard states	<u>Trigge</u> Trigger	L. Auto /	Auto RO	
Curr	ent Buffer	f	Readou	.t Mode	Live		•
0		T	rigger	Polarity	Rising Ed	ge	Ψ.
Fran	ne Buffers		Trigge	r Delay	0.000 (µs	iec.)	4
51			Fran	ne Rate	25.00 Hz	ă.	-
Field 863	l Count 36						
C	Clear Buffers	—E×;	osure	Expos	ure 26.60	)9 (mser	2.) <u>4</u>
~		0 1	, 10 , 1	mseo.	20 1 1	<u>· · ·</u> 0'	33
<ul> <li>Liv</li> </ul>	е Спер	Auto	Level	Control	~	Dnload	Setting
O Un	live Reset »				D	D	

🛅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II: Capture & Adjust 🛛 🗙

Figure 11: Trigger Mode and Frame Rate.

#### 8.4 Non-Uniformity Correction (NUC)

The NUC state of the camera can be controlled from the *"NUC"* tab of the GUI. The camera has a 3 point (offset, gain, dark) NUC performed live on board the FPGA of the camera, correcting for fixed pattern noise. There is also a bad pixel correction when the 3 point NUC is active.

By default, the 3 point NUC and bad pixel correction will be enabled (3 Point NUC On – Offset+Gain+Dark). If wanting to output the raw data from the camera, the 3 point NUC can be disabled (3 Point NUC Off – Raw Data).

The NUC controls are shown in Figure 12.

**Bad Pixels:** Regarding bad pixels, our Short Wavelength Infra-Red (SWIR) cameras use an InGaAs Focal-Plane Array (FPA) sensor which consists of an InGaAs layer bonded to a CMOS read out integrated circuit (ROIC) by indium dots. This architecture makes it extremely difficult to manufacture a sensor where all the pixels are fully functional. Issues between the InGaAs layer, indium dots and CMOS ROIC are inevitable. Therefore, all Raptor SWIR cameras have a pixel operability specification, describing how many pixels are operating within normal parameters. Raptor uses the best quality sensors available on the market achieving up to 99.5% pixel operability at delivery. The remaining 0.5% pixels can be dead, hot or simply vary too much from the average. These must be compensated for to achieve the best image quality. These bad pixels are corrected for in our NUC.

Bad pixels appearing over time is normal and unfortunately an inevitable aging process. To correct for new bad pixels that have appeared over time, the bad pixel correction map on the camera FPGA would need updated. This means that the camera would have to be returned to Raptor to re-NUC the camera to update the bad pixel correction map. This is something that would not be possible to do if wanting to send the camera back for every new bad pixel. Raptor use the highest quality InGaAs sensors available on the market, however.

PIXCI® E8	Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II
Capt Preset Norm	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI
Buf Res Trig Capture - Buffers	NUC TEC Misc Info Non-Uniformity Correction
Current Buffer 0 Frame Buffers 51 Field Count	3 Point NUC Off C - Raw Data 3 Point NUC On C - Offset+Gain+Dark Ramp Test Pattern C
Clear Buffers	Exposure 26.609 (msec.) (************************************
Live Snap	Auto Level Control 🔽 Dnload Setting
O Unlive Reset *	

🋅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II: Capture & Adjust 🛛 🗙

Figure 12: 3 Point NUC Control.

#### 8.5 Thermoelectric Cooler (TEC)

The Owl 640 II uses a TEC to stabilise the sensor temperature at 15°C. The TEC status is shown in the "TEC" tab of the XCAP GUI, shown in Figure 13.

The TEC control can be enabled/disabled from this tab. By default, the TEC will be enabled and set to a 15°C set point. Raptor recommends keeping the set point at this temperature, as the camera is tested at this temperature under QC, and this is the specification TEC set point of the camera. The NUC is also performed at this temperature also so will not be optimal at other sensor temperatures.

There is roughly a 35-40 °C delta between the PCB and sensor temperature so the set point can possibly be set slightly lower than 15 °C if imaging in very low ambient temperatures with adequate heat sinking of the camera. As previously mentioned however, the NUC is not optimised at sensor temperatures outside of 15 °C and the camera is not tested at sensor temperatures under 15 °C. This is outside the specification of the camera.

The sensor temperature can also be read back from this tab. Clicking *"Update Temp."* will read the current sensor temperature.

PIXCIO ES	Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II
Capt Preset Norm	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI
Buf Res Trig Capture - Buffers	NUC TEC Misc Info
	TE Cooler Enabled
	TEC Set Point 15.0 (°C)
Current Buffer 0	CCD Temperature 15.0 (°C)
51	Note: TEC setpoints below the 15°C
Field Count	default may require a supplemental
12081	heatsink or external cooling!
Clear Buffers	Exposure 26.609 (msec.)
	0 10 msed. 20 33 1 r r 1 r r 1 r 1 r 1
• Live	Auto Level Control 🔽 Dnload Setting
C Unlive Reset »	

🋅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II: Capture & Adjust 🛛 🗙

Figure 13: Thermoelectric Cooler (TEC) Control.

#### 8.6 Miscellaneous Tab

The miscellaneous tab displays some minor controls for the camera, explained below:

Video Invert: Inverts the video pixel values

Active Image Enhancement: Sharpens Image

**Bad Pixel:** Selecting *"Highlight"* will show the bad pixel map on the image that the NUC is correcting for. Selecting the default *"Replace"* will hide the bap pixel map.

Mirror: Selecting "Horizontal" will flip the image horizontally in the y-axis.

By default, all of these controls will be disabled, except for the horizontal flip. This is shown in Figure 14.

XCI® E8	Raptor Photonics Owl 640 II
apt Preset Norm	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI
uf Res Trig	NUC TEC Misc Info
apture - Buffers	Miscellaneous Video Invert
Current Buffer	Active Image Enhancement
	Bad Pixel Replace 💌
Frame Buffers	Mirror Horizontal 👻
Field Count 13215	Micro Reset
Clear Buffers	Exposure Exposure 18.396 (msec.)
Live Shap	Auto Level Control 🔽 Dnioad Se

Figure 14: Miscellaneous Tab.

#### 8.7 Manufacturers Data

The "Info" tab displays the manufacturers data of the camera, such as the firmware version and serial number etc. The PCB and sensor temperature can be read back from this tab by clicking "Update Temp." The "Info" tab is shown in Figure 15.

PIXCI® E8	Raptor Photonics Gwl 640 II				
Capt Preset Norm	Port Gain Trigger Auto Auto ROI				
Buf Res Trig Capture - Buffers	NUC TEC Misc Info				
	Serial # 10048				
	Build Date 24/02/14				
Current Buffer	Build Code LARNE ADC Calibration 1291/856				
0					
Frame Buffers	DAC Calibration 1498/2368				
51	CCD Temperature 15.0 (°C)				
Field Count 14975	PCB Temperature 23.3 (°C)				
Clear Buffers	Exposure 18.396 (msec.)				
	0 10 msec. 20 3				
Live Shap	Auto Level Control 🔽 Dnioad Settin				

Figure 15: Manufacturers Data.

## 9. XCAP CONTROL FEATURES

XCAP has many different control functions and analytical tools that can be used when imaging the camera. For the full XCAP user guide, please refer to the link below:

http://epixinc.com/manuals/pixci\_e14el/index.htm

This section will discuss in detail a few features on XCAP that Raptor thinks would be of immediate use when using the camera.

#### 9.1 Recording Images on XCAP

Capturing an image sequence is outlined in the full XCAP user manual (link in section 10). Raptor also has a separate user manual which covers recording images on XCAP. Please contact Raptor to obtain this manual.

#### 9.2 Saving Preset Configuration Settings

Different camera and frame grabber settings can be saved in the *"Preset"* tab under the *"PIXCI \*Frame Grabber Model\*"* section of the GUI, as shown in Figure 16.

Up to three different presets can be saved per settings file. If the camera is set to a desired state outside of the default parameters, clicking *"Save 1"* will save all the current parameter states that have been set. This can be done a further two times. These camera states can be recalled at any time by using the recall buttons. The overall settings file can then be saved and loaded in this tab also. Three preset states are the maximum number that can be saved in a settings file.

PIXCI®	E8		Ra	ptor Pl	hotonics	Ninox 640 II	
Capt	Pres	et <sub>Norm</sub>	NUC	TEC	Misc Ir	nfo	
Settin	gs - Pre	isets	Port	Gain	Trigger	Auto Auto RO	
			Cor	nmuni	cation		
Re	call 1	Save 1			6	Serial Conn	ect
Re	call 2	Save 2		Ser	ial Mode	Min. Up/Dnload	•
Re	sall 2	Save 3		Seria	Retries	2	*
Unlock Presets 🔽 -			Se	rial Ch	iecksum	Disabled	•
				S	erial Log	None	+
						Expan Symmetry	ű.
Settin	gs - File	2					
-	Save S	ettings					
1	Load S	ettings					
							_

🋅 EPIX® PIXCI® E8: Raptor Photonics Ninox 640 II: Capture & A... 🛛 🗙

Figure 16: Preset Configuration Settings.

#### 9.3 Contrast Modification (XCAP Std. Only)

The image contrast can be modified from the *"Contrast Modification"* section under the *"Modify"* tab in the XCAP imaging window. The location of this control feature is shown in Figure 17.

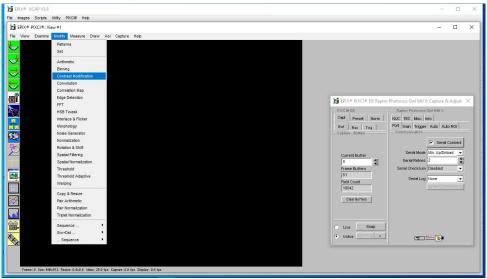


Figure 17: Contrast Modification Location on Toolbar.

In the contrast modification box, that can be seen from Figure 18, select *"Stretch Contrast, Histogram Percentile Endpoints"* and click *"preview"*. The contrast modification will now be applied over the live image feed. The contrast can be adjusted using the low and high end percentile point controls. The default settings are usually adequate for most applications.

Operations	Parameters		
	<ul> <li>Histogram: Linear</li> </ul>		
Histogram Modification	C Histogram Exponential		
	Histogram Exponential Transposed		
	C Histogram Logarithmic		
Stretch Contrast, Pixel Value Endpoints	C Histogram Logarithmic Transposed		
	S Histogram User-Defined		
Stretch Contrast, Histogram Percentile Endpoints	Histogram Shape f(Z) sin(2*pi*z/255.0)		
	Neighborhood Size 3		
	Low Pixel Endpoint 0		
Invert Contrast	High Pixel Endpoint 0		
	Low Percentile Endpoint 5 (%)		
401	High Percentile Endpoint 95 (%)		
-ACI XB PIXCIB Buffer D: ((0,0),(1024,1024)), Grey Level	Report Endpoints L		

Figure 18: Contrast Modification.

## **10. MICRO-MANAGER**

Micro-Manager is a free open source software package that enables you to image and control the Owl 640 II. Primarily, it is a software package designed for microscopy applications, as the software provides control of microscopes as well as the camera. However, Micro-Manager can also be used to simply image the Owl 640 II and control each of its parameters.

Micro-Manager is a complete image acquisition and camera & microscope control package, available for Windows. The software package is also available for Mac. However, using the Falcon III with a Mac would most likely be problematic due to the lack of PCIe slot for the frame grabber. Linux can also be used, but there is no precompiled Micro-Manager version available. Windows is the easiest and most common solution to use. Micro-Manager is easy to install and configure and offers a plug and play solution for using the Falcon III. It's also a software framework for implementing advanced and novel imaging procedures, extending functionality, customization and rapid development of specialized imaging applications.

Micro-Manager has been developed at UCSF since the beginning of the project. Starting on October 1, 2015, Micro-Manager is developed and maintained by Open Imaging, a company founded by the Micro-Manager development team.

#### 10.1 Downloading and Installing Micro-Manager (Windows)

Micro-Manager is updated nightly. Raptor recommends downloading the latest nightly build from the link below:

#### https://micro-manager.org/wiki/Micro-Manager\_Nightly\_Builds

Select *"Version 1.4 Windows"* under *"Nightly Builds"* and download the latest 64 or 32 bit build, depending on the operating system being used.

After downloading and opening the setup application file, an installation wizard will appear. Micro-Manager will automatically be installed in *"C:\Program Files\Micro-Manager-1.4"*. If wanting to store Micro-Manager in another location, you can do this on the second page of the installation wizard. If not, you can simply keep selecting *"Next"* until the *"Install"* option is available on the last page of the installation wizard.

#### **10.2 Creating Camera Configuration File**

After loading up Micro-Manager, the start-up configuration window will pop up as seen from Figure 19. The user should ensure that "(none)" or "MMConfig\_demo.cfg" is selected from the dropdown list and click "Ok".



Figure 19: Start-up Configuration – Demo.

The main Micro-Manager window will now appear. To access the hardware configuration wizard to create the configuration file, go to the tools tab on the toolbar, shown in Figure 20.

File	Tool	Plugins Help			
	3	Refresh GUI	Configuration set	ttings	Save
		Rebuild GUI	Group	Preset	
		Script Panel Shortcuts Device Property Browser			
Plea ROI		Stage Position List			
		Multi-Dimensional Acquisition	Group: +	- Edit Preset +	- Edit
Imag		Mouse Moves Stage (Use Hand Tool)	s, 0nm/pix		
C		Pixel Size Calibration			
		Hardware Configuration Wizard	Moves Stage (Use Hand Tool)         : Calibration         e Configuration Wizard         rdware Configuration         lardware Configuration         ardware Configuration    Sync channels Slow hist tostretch ignore % 2 2 Log	Claur bint	
		Load Hardware Configuration	sync channels	SIOW HISC	
		Reload Hardware Configuration	tostretch ignore	2 🔹 Log hist	
		Switch Hardware Configuration			
		Save Configuration Settings As			
		Options			
			_		

Figure 20: Hardware Configuration Wizard Location.

Figures 21 – 25 outlines the process to create an Owl 640 II (.cfg) file. After selecting the Hardware Configuration Wizard from the main toolbar, the wizard will pop up. Ensure *"Create new configuration"* is enabled and click *"Next"*.

step 1 of 6: Select the configuration file	
Create new configuration     Modify or explore existing configuration     Browse	Welcome to the Micro-Manager Configuration Wizard
	<ul> <li>The Hardware Configuration Wizard with help you setup Micro-Manager software to work with your hardware.</li> <li>In this first step you can choose whether to create a new hardware configuration or modify an existing one.</li> <li>At the end of the wizard sequence or any time you quit the wizard, you will be given a chance to give the configuration file a name.</li> </ul>
igure 21: Hardware Configuration Wizard.	< Back Next >

Under "Available Devices", select "Owl Camera 640" from the "RaptorEPIX" folder.

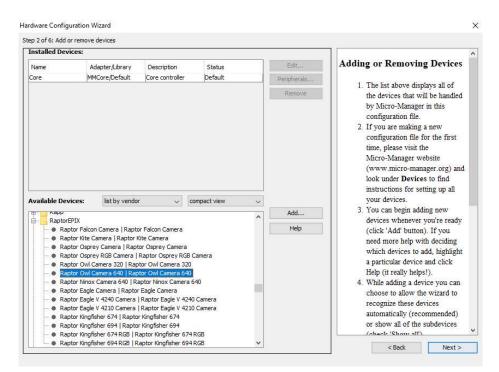


Figure 22: Available Devices.

After selecting the Owl 640 (Owl 640 & Owl 640 II use the same option), a pop up window will appear with the device and property values stated in Figure 23. Click "Ok".

Initialization Properties           Device         Property         Value           Raptor Owl Camera 640         EPIX Units to Open         1           Raptor Owl Camera 640         EPIX_Unit         1	Device Property Value Raptor Owl Camera 640 EPIX Units to Open 1
Raptor Owl Camera 640 EPIX Units to Open 1	Raptor Owl Camera 640 EPIX Units to Open 1
Raptor Owl Camera 640 EPIX_Unit 1	Raptor Owl Camera 640 EPIX_Unit 1

Figure 23: Device and Property Values.

Under *"Installed Devices"*, the Owl 640 II will now be listed (Figure 24). If the software froze on the last stage or an error occurs and the camera is not listed under the installed devices section, then there is an issue with the camera connection, either with the Camera Link or power connection.

	:				and the second s
Name	Adapter/Library	Description	Status	Edit	Adding or Removing Devices
lore	MMCore/Default	Core controller	Default	Peripherals	
aptor Owl Camer	. Raptor Owl Camer	Raptor Owl Camer	ОК	Peripriciais	1. The list above displays all of
	s: list by vendor		pact view V	Remove	the devices that will be handled by Micro-Manager in this configuration file. 2. If you are making a new configuration file for the first time, please visit the Micro-Manager website (www.micro-manager.org) an look under <b>Devices</b> to find instructions for setting up all your devices. 3. You can beein adding new
			^	Aug	devices whenever you're ready
Contraction of the second second	Falcon Camera   Raptor	Falcon Camera		Help	(click 'Add' button). If you
Available Devices:       list by vendor       compact view         Raptor Falcon Camera   Raptor Falcon Camera       Raptor FPIX       e Raptor Kite Camera   Raptor Kite Camera         Raptor Osprey Camera   Raptor Nite Camera       Raptor Osprey Camera   Raptor Osprey Camera       e Raptor Osprey Camera   Raptor Owl Camera 320         Raptor Doyoney Camera   Raptor Owl Camera 320       Raptor Nitox Camera 640       Raptor Kite Camera   Raptor Ninox Camera 640         Raptor Eagle Camera   Raptor Eagle V 4240 Camera       Raptor Eagle V 4240 Camera   Raptor Eagle V 4240 Camera         Raptor Kingfisher 674   Raptor Kingfisher 674       Raptor Kingfisher 674 RBB         Raptor Kingfisher 674 RBB       Raptor Kingfisher 674 RBB         Raptor Kingfisher 674 RBB       Raptor Kingfisher 674 RBB		nera		need more help with deciding which devices to add, highlight	

Figure 24: Installed Devices.

The user should now click *"Next"* multiple times until reaching the window shown in Figure 25. Once at this stage, the final step is to choose the name of the configuration file and where to store it. The common place is to store in the Micro-Manager-1.4 folder, usually stored in *"C:\Program Files\Micro-Manager"*. After selecting the name and location, click *"Finish"*.

onfiguration file:		Finished!
	Browse	
		You have successfully completed the
		Configuration Wizard and the hardware configuration for your system has been
Send configuration to Micro-manager.org		built.
roviding the configuration data will assist securing further project funding.		

Figure 25: Saving Configuration File.

After finishing the steps outlined above, the user will now be redirected back to the main Micro-Manager window where you can now image and control the camera.

#### **10.3 Pre-made Configuration File**

Raptor can supply a premade configuration file that has already been created, with all important controls extracted from the device property browser (section 10.4) to the main Micro-Manager window. To obtain this, please contact Raptor or your local distributor.

When the Owl 640 II configuration file has been obtained (Owl 640 II.cfg), it will have to be stored in the Micro-Manager folder to access it. If the Micro-Manager download was stored in the default section, the configuration file should be stored in the same location:

#### C:\Program Files\Micro-Manager-1.4\Owl 640 II.cfg

If the software download was stored in a different location during installation, then the configuration file should be stored there.

After performing this process and loading Micro-Manager, the Owl 640 II.cfg file should be listed in the dropdown box of the Start-up Configuration window, as seen from Figure 26. Select this file and click *"Ok"*.



Figure 26: Start-up Configuration – Falcon III.

#### 10.4 Imaging and Controlling the Camera

The full Micro-Manager User Guide can be obtained from the link below:

https://micro-manager.org/wiki/Micro-Manager User%27s Guide

This user guide gives a full breakdown on using all features and analytical tools of Micro-Manager.

To access the controls of the camera, select *"Device Property Browser"* from the *"Tools"* tab on the toolbar of the main Micro-Manager window, shown in Figure 27.

File	Tool	s Plugins Help		
	3	Refresh GUI	Configuration settings	Save
		Rebuild GUI	Group	Preset
		Script Panel		
		Shortcuts		
		Device Property Browser		
Plea ROI		Stage Position List		
		Multi-Dimensional Acquisition	Group: + -	Edit Preset: + - Edit
Ima		Mouse Moves Stage (Use Hand Tool)	ge: 16 bits, 0nm/pix	
C		Pixel Size Calibration		
		Hardware Configuration Wizard	Sync channels Slow hist	
		Load Hardware Configuration	Sync channels Slow hist	
		Reload Hardware Configuration	tostretch ignore %	2 📩 🗌 Log hist
		Switch Hardware Configuration		
		Save Configuration Settings As		
		Options		

Figure 27: Device Property Browser Location.

The device property browser will now open which gives a detailed list of all camera controls available, shown in Figure 28.

Show cameras	😂 Refresh!		
Show shutters			
Show stages	Show read-only prop	rties	
Show discrete changers			
Show other devices			
Property		Value	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Binning		1	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
Raptor Owl Camera 640-BitDept	h	14	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Black O	Iffset	0 <	>
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Build In	fo	LARNE 2/24/2014	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-CCD X I	Pixels	640	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-CCD Y I	Pixels	512	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Camera	aID	10048	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Camera	aName	Owl 640	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Descrip	ition	RaptorEPIX Device Adapter	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Device	Adapter	v1.13.3, 2/9/2017	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-EPIX Dr	river	PIXCI(R) 64 Bit Driver V3.8.01 [20.01.31.130238]	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-EPIX Lit	brary	PIXCI(R) 64 Bit Library 3.08.00 [15.08.31]	1
Raptor Owl Camera 640-EPIX M	odel	PIXCI(R) E8 Imaging Board	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-EPIX Ur	nit	1	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Exposu	re	15.296 <	>
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Exposu	ire Max	1,000	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Exposu	ire: Auto	On	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Ext. Tri	ig. Delay (ms)	0 <	>
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Ext. Tri	igger	Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-FPGA V	ersion	1.29	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Force L	Jpdate	Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Frame	Average	1	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Frame I	Interval (ms)	0	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Frame I		25 Hz	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Frame I	Rate (User)	25	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Gain		1 <	>
Raptor Owl Camera 640-High Ga		Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Horizon		On	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Image		Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Invert	107 T.D.	Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Micro R		Off	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Micro V	ersion	2.5	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-Name		Raptor Owl Camera 320	i i
Raptor Owl Camera 640-PixelTy	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	16 bit	
Raptor Owl Camera 640-ROI (A	GC) X	0 <	>

Figure 28: Device Property Browser.

To understand each control parameter of the Owl 640 II, please refer to section 8 that gives detailed and important information of using each camera control and the effect that it has on the camera performance. Please Note that the controls in Micro-Manager are listed in alphabetical order in the device property browser.



#### CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Raptor Photonics LTD Willowbank Business Park Larne, Co Antrim BT40 2SF Northern Ireland PH: +44 2828 270141

www.raptorphotonics.com