**APR405** 

# Minimal Logic DRAM Interface for the DSP56156

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## INTRODUCTION

Many DSP applications require large amounts of memory. Significant reductions in cost can be achieved by using dynamic RAM (DRAM) in place of fast static RAM (SRAM). However, this is always at the expense of memory access speed. This application note presents a minimal glue DRAM interface for the DSP56156 which is designed for maximum performance.

## **Design Overview**

This application note describes the interface of the MCM54400 1Mx4 80ns DRAM to the 40MHz DSP56156.

The design differs from conventional DRAM designs in the fact that no latches are used to hold the row and column addresses during DRAM accesses. Instead, the DSP address and data lines are connected directly to the DRAM, and a single PAL16R6 is used for memory decoding, read, write and refresh control.

Although the design presented is specific to the MCM54400, it is important to note that it can easily be extended to incorporate other DRAM configurations.

### **DRAM Basics**

The MCM54400 DRAM is a 4 Mbit part, organised as 1,048,576 4-bit locations. The ten address pins on the device are time multiplexed between the DRAM row and column addresses, producing a total of twenty address lines.

Many DRAMs support special access modes that enable improved performance in certain situations. An example of this is the 'fast page' mode for successive accesses to cells in the same row. These accesses take less time to complete than using normal random access modes. Despite the performance improvements that such methods offer, this design only implements the 'normal' random read cycle and early write cycle in order to achieve the design goal of a minimal logic DRAM interface.

DRAM cells require to be 'refreshed' periodically in order to maintain the stored information. Bits in the MCM54400 need to be refreshed every 16 milliseconds. Some DRAMs have longer refresh times (128ms is common). All the bits in a row are refreshed simultaneously when the row is addressed. The refresh procedure involves cycling through the 1024 row addresses in sequence within the specified refresh time.

The MCM54400 supports three methods of refresh: /RAS-only refresh; /CAS before /RAS refresh; and hidden refresh. The one that was chosen for this application was /CAS before /RAS refresh, for the reason that it is the simplest to implement. Only the /CAS and /RAS signals need to be periodically generated, as an internal counter on the DRAM stores the address of the next row to be refreshed.

For more detailed information on the MCM54400 the reader should refer to the device Technical Data Sheet (Ref. MCM54400/D).



## **Circuit Design**

A circuit diagram of the DRAM interface is shown in Figure 1. It was designed to operate as an extension to the DSP56156ADM Application Development Module (ADM).

The DSP56156 address and data lines are interfaced directly to the DRAM, as are the read and write lines. The PAL16R6 generates /RAS and /CAS from the appropriate DSP signals.

The DRAM is mapped to the DSP56156 X-memory with address lines A15, A14 and PS/DS being used to define the exact location in the DSP memory space. The PS/DS signal differentiates external program memory from external data memory access, and is used to place the DRAM in X data memory. The address lines A15 and A14 reserve the address range \$8000...\$8BFF for DRAM.

The PAL has a DRAM Refresh (/Ref) input that controls the DRAM refresh function. An external source, in this case the DSP using a general purpose I/O line and timer, enables a DRAM refresh cycle by asserting the /Ref line for a minimum period.

A Reset (/Reset) line has been included in the design to enable the circuit to be initialised to a known state after power up.

A0 **A1** /RAS 12 **A1** 19 CLKO /CAS **A2** 2 13 **A2** 12 /RD PAL16R6-10 A0 /G **A3** 1 14 **A3** /WR 3 A<sub>1</sub> /W A4 8 Reset 16 Α4 GPIO-PC1 **A2** DQ0 **A5** /Ref 6 D<sub>0</sub> 17 5 **A5** GPIO-PC2 **A3** DQ1 **A6** 7 D<sub>1</sub> 18 **A6** A15 6 **DSP56156 A4** DQ2 **A7** 3 **D2** 19 **A7 A14** 7 **A5** DQ3 **A8** D3 20 Δ8 PS/DS **A6** R **A9** 10 **A9 A7 A8 A9** D<sub>0</sub> D1 D<sub>2</sub> **D3** 

Figure 1 Circuit Diagram

## **DRAM Access Timing**

The normal DRAM access is shown in Figure 2. The row and column addresses are latched separately by the /RAS and /CAS signals, and the access is terminated by the deassertion of /RAS and /CAS.

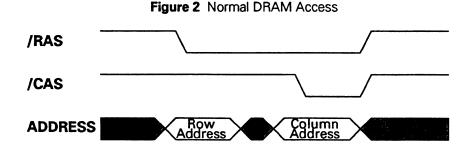


Figure 3 DRAM Read Cycle

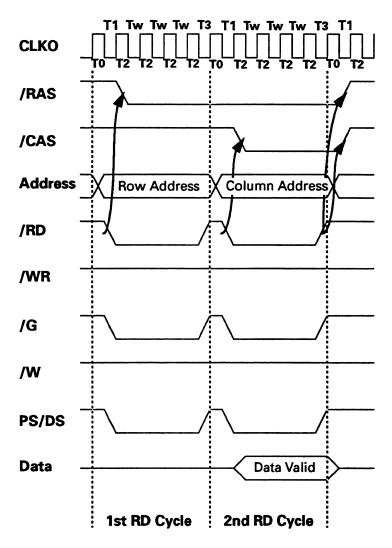


Figure 4 DRAM Write Cycle

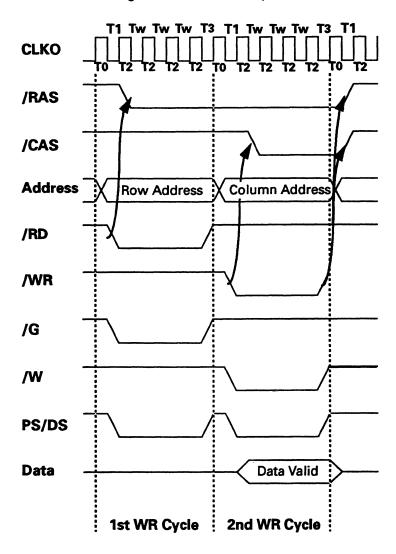
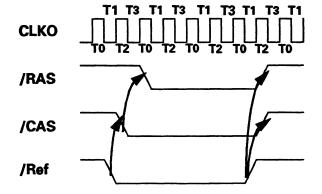


Figure 5 CAS Before RAS Refresh Cycle



Figures 3 and 4 show the DRAM read and write timing diagrams. A single DRAM read or write cycle is performed using two DSP external accesses. On the first DSP cycle the row address is output, on the second the column address is output and the data is read or written.

The DSP initiates each DRAM read or write cycle by performing a dummy read cycle. The row address is output, address lines A15 and A14 are decoded by the PAL and /RAS is asserted appropriately. The second DSP cycle determines whether the access is a read or a write cycle. The column address is output, the / RD and /WR signals are decoded by the PAL and the /CAS signal is asserted. The data is read or written during this cycle, and the transfer is terminated with the deassertion of /RAS and /CAS.

The DRAM /CAS before /RAS refresh cycle is shown in Figure 5. The refresh cycle is controlled by the /Ref input to the PAL. The /RAS and /CAS waveforms are generated from the negative and positive edges of the /Ref signal. There is a constraint on the minimum width of the /Ref pulse, which must be at least 134ns. This design uses the DSP56156 timer to generate a periodic refresh pulse every 15.5us with an assertion width of 150ns. It is important that the refresh signal does not occur during a DRAM access cycle, as in this case the refresh will be ignored. Before any read or write to DRAM the DSP examines the Timer Count Register (X:\$FFEC) to determine if a refresh will occur during the DRAM access, and if necessary delays the access until after the refresh cycle has been completed.

## **PAL Design**

This section deals with the design of the PAL. It describes in detail how the PAL equations are derived from the timing diagrams.

The PAL used in this design is the PAL16R6 which has 6 registered and 2 combinatorial outputs. Each registered output has a D-Type flip-flop at the output stage which is clocked by an external clock signal. The DSP56156 CLKO output signal is the DSP master clock signal, and is used to clock the PAL.

A detailed timing analysis of the DRAM interface, in terms of maximum and minimum assertion and deassertion times, and appropriate set up and hold times for each signal, identifies the time critical parts of the interface. These are:

The minimum assertion times of /CAS and /RAS.

The valid data set up and hold times with respect to /CAS.

The minimum deassertion time of /RAS between successive DRAM accesses.

These determine the minimum number of wait states which are needed by the DSP.

Once the signal timings and relationships of the interface are determined, the next stage in the design is to work out how to derive the PAL signals /RAS and /CAS with respect to the DSP56156 master clock (CLKO), taking into account the PAL logic propagation delays.

#### **State Machine**

The state machine design approach is used to define the PAL. The arrows in the DRAM Read and Write Cycle timing diagrams show the signal transitions which define each part of the /RAS and /CAS waveforms.

Figure 6 shows the State Diagram of the system. This section describes each state in detail.

#### **IDLE**

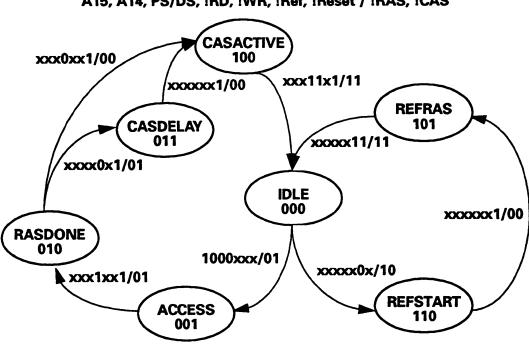
The IDLE state is the rest state of the system, i.e. when the DRAM is not being accessed or refreshed. When the circuit is reset it enters the IDLE state.

IDLE also defines the termination of a DRAM access cycle.

/RAS - Deasserted, High

/CAS - Deasserted, High

Figure 6 PAL State Diagram



A15, A14, PS/DS, !RD, !WR, !Ref, !Reset / !RAS, !CAS

## **ACCESS**

A DRAM read or write cycle is initiated by the DSP performing a dummy read cycle to an address within the DRAM address space. The lower 10 bits of the address (A9..A0) contain the DRAM row address of the cell to be accessed and A14, A15, PS/DS and /RD are decoded by the PAL to define a valid DRAM access.

IF A15&!A14&!PS/DS&!RD THEN DRAM Access Cycle

/RAS - Asserted, Low

/CAS - Deasserted, High

## **RASDONE**

This state defines the end of the first half of the DRAM access cycle. It is entered when the /RD signal is deasserted, indicating the end of the initial dummy read cycle.

/RAS - Asserted, Low

/CAS - Deasserted, High

The state machine will remain in this state until the DSP initiates another read or write cycle.

#### **CASDELAY**

This state is entered if the DRAM access is a write cycle. The DRAM write cycle requires the assertion of /CAS to be delayed to fit into the DSP data valid window. The CASDELAY state delays the assertion of / CAS by one clock cycle.

/RAS - Asserted, Low

/CAS - Deasserted, High

#### CASACTIVE

This state defines when /CAS is asserted. The state is entered either on

- the assertion of /RD during a DRAM read cycle, or
- after exiting the CASDELAY state.

/RAS - Asserted, Low

/CAS - Asserted, Low

The DRAM read or write cycle is terminated when /RD and /WR are deasserted, and the system then returns to the IDLE state.

## REFSTART

This state defines the start of the DRAM refresh cycle. The condition for entering this state is the assertion of /Ref.

/RAS - Deasserted, High

/CAS - Asserted, Low

## **REFRAS**

This state is entered immediately from REFSTART and there are no conditions. The state defines the assertion of /RAS.

/RAS - Asserted, Low

/CAS - Asserted, Low

The refresh cycle is terminated by the deassertion of /Ref, and the system returns to the IDLE state.

## **PAL Equations**

The PAL source file is shown in Figure 7.

One interesting problem encountered during the design relates to the state outputs Q0, Q1, and Q2. The PAL16R6 allows 8 product terms for each registered output, and 7 for each combinatorial output. When an initial set of PAL equations was compiled, the number of product terms generated for the state outputs exceeded the allowed maximum. This basically meant the equations could not be realised on the PAL. However, changing the state outputs from positive logic to negative logic reduced the number of product terms to less than 8, thus allowing the design to fit into a single PAL.

Figure 7 PAL Source File

```
DRAMPAL;
Name
Partno
           none;
Revision
           1.0;
Date
           17/6/92;
Designer
           P. Robertson;
           Motorola;
Company
Location
           DSP Applications;
Assembly
           None;
Device
           p16r6;
This is the source file for the DRAM Decode PAL */
/* Allowable Target Device Types : PAL16R6 or equivalent */
/** Inputs **/
           = Clock;
Pin 1
Pin 2
           = !RD;
Pin 3
           = !WR;
Pin 4
           = !Reset;
Pin 5
           = !Ref;
                                 /* DRAM Refresh Line */
Pin 6
           = A15;
Pin 7
           = A14;
           = PSDS;
Pin 8
/** Outputs **/
Pin 19
           = !RAS;
Pin 12
           = !CAS;
Pin 17
           = !Q2;
Pin 16
           = !Q1;
Pin 15
           = !Q0;
/** Declarations and Intermediate Variable Definitions **/
FIELD
           State=[Q2..Q0];
SDEFINE
           IDLE
                          'b'000
$DEFINE
           ACCESS
                          'b'001
$DEFINE
           RASDONE
                          'b'010
                         'b'011
           CASDELAY
SDEFINE
SDEFINE
           CASACTIVE
                         'b'100
$DEFINE
          REFSTART
                         'b'101
$DEFINE
           REFRAS
                          'b'110
$DEFINE
           UNUSE1
                          'b'111
           = A15&!A14&!PSDS&RD;
/** Logic Equations **/
SEQUENCE
                           State{
           IDLE
IF Ref NEXT REFSTART;
IF dram NEXT ACCESS;
DEFAULT NEXT IDLE;
PRESENT ACCESS
OUT RAS:
IF ! RD NEXT RASDONE;
IF Reset NEXT IDLE;
```

```
DEFAULT NEXT ACCESS;
PRESENT RASDONE
OUT RAS;
IF RD NEXT CASACTIVE:
IF WR NEXT CASDELAY;
IF Reset NEXT IDLE;
DEFAULT NEXT RASDONE:
PRESENT CASDELAY
OUT RAS:
IF Reset NEXT IDLE:
NEXT CASACTIVE;
PRESENT CASACTIVE
OUT RAS OUT CAS;
IF !RD&!WR NEXT IDLE;
IF Reset NEXT IDLE;
DEFAULT NEXT CASACTIVE;
PRESENT REFSTART
OUT CAS:
IF Reset NEXT IDLE;
NEXT REFRAS;
PRESENT REFRAS
OUT RAS OUT CAS;
IF !Ref NEXT IDLE;
IF Reset NEXT IDLE;
DEFAULT NEXT REFRAS:
PRESENT UNUSE1
NEXT IDLE;
}
```

### **Hardware Considerations**

The power surge generated when the DRAM turns on during an access can cause problems, such as glitches on the control lines. Therefore, it is important to provide good power and ground connections to the DRAM. These should be decoupled using a suitable by-pass capacitor placed as close to the DRAM as possible. A 0.1uF tantalum should be sufficient.

### **Performance Evaluation**

The minimum number of wait states required for a DRAM access cycle is 3. This is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The number of wait states was calculated assuming an 80ns DRAM and a DSP core frequency of 40MHz.

The interface supports a maximum data transfer rate of 1.18Mbytes/s.

This data rate can be achieved if the accesses are made to a single row or column. In this case the end of row and column checks can be omitted.

The bandwidth of the DRAM interface could be further increased by modifying the design to support the Fast Page Mode.

## **Further Design Ideas**

In a typical end application the DRAM refresh control would not be done by the DSP. Instead a host MCU or timer circuit would be used to generate !Ref. This would allow the DSP to be placed in a low power STOP mode when not being used. Taking the refresh control off the DSP creates the problem of having a refresh cycle occurring during a DRAM access, or vice-versa. This is avoided in the current design by looking at the Timer Counter Register before performing a DRAM access, and delaying the access if a refresh cycle is about to occur. A possible solution when an external device is responsible for the DRAM refresh would be to get the controlling device to generate two signals, !Ref and 'Refresh Imminent'. The 'Refresh Imminent' signal would be an input to the DSP and would indicate when a refresh was taking place or about to take place, allowing the DSP to appropriately delay a DRAM access during a refresh cycle.

## **Software**

The program listings for the individual modules of the DRAM interface are shown in Figures 8 - 12.

#### **DRAM** Initialisation

Figure 8 shows the equates, reserved memory locations and initialisation code for the DRAM interface.

Figure 8 DRAM Initialisation

;*****			
; Equates			
;******			
ipr	equ	\$FFDF	;Interrupt Priority Register
pcc	equ	\$FFC1	;Port C Control Register
peddr	equ	\$FFC3	;Port C Data Direction Register
pcd	equ	\$FFE3	;Port C Data Register
tpr	equ	\$FFEF	;Timer Pre-load Register
tcpr	equ	\$FFEE	;Timer Compare Register
tetr	equ	\$FFED	;Timer Count Register
ter	equ	\$FFEC	;Timer Control Register
ber	equ	\$FFDE	;Bus Control Register
row_strt	equ	\$8000	;DRAM Row start address
col_strt	eđn	\$8000	;DRAM Column start address
row_fin	edin	\$8400	;DRAM Row finish address
col_fin	equ	\$8400	;DRAM Column finish address
ctr_cmp	eđu	40	;Counter Compare Value - For Refresh
mask	edn	\$000F	;Mask for 4-bit data
;**********			
; Reserved X-Memory			
;***********			
	org	x:\$0	
WI_IOW	ds	1	;Current DRAM Write Row Address
wr_col	ds	1	;Current DRAM Write Column Address
rd_row	ds	1	;Current DRAM Read Row Address
rd_col	ds	1	;Current DRAM Read Column Address
data	ds	1	;DRAM Data

```
,**********
; Interrupt Vectors
                      p:$0
             org
                      start
                                        ;Reset Vector
             jmp
             org
                      p:$20
                                        ;Timer Overflow
                                        ;Jump to DRAM Refresh Routine
                      refsh
             jsr
,*********
; Main Program
, * * * * * * * * * * * * *
             org p:$40
start
                                        ;PC1 is DRAM Reset line - !Reset
             ; Initialise Port C
                                         ;PC2 is DRAM Refresh line - !Ref
             move
                      #>0.r0
                      r0,x:pcc
                                         ;make Port C GPIO
             move
                      #>$F,r0
             move
             move
                      r0,x:pcddr
                                         ;Make PC0,1,2,3 outputs
                      r0,x:pcd
                                        ;Initialise outputs high
             move
             ;Reset DRAM circuit to initialise to IDLE state
             bfclr
                      #>$2,x:pcd
                                        ;Assert !Reset
             nop
             nop
             nop
                                        ;Deassert !Reset
             bfset
                      #>$2,x:pcd
             ;Initialise DRAM - On power up an initial pause of 100us is
             ;required followed by a minimum of 8 active cycles of /RAS.
             ;It is assumed that the time for the DSP to exit Reset and bootload
             ;program is sufficient to meet the pause of 100us. 8 refresh cycles
             ;are performed to meet the 2nd requirement.
             ; Note: This requirement is documented in the DRAM Data Sheet.
             dо
                      #8,end_init
             bfclr
                      #>$4,x:pcd
                                        ;Assert !Ref
             nop
                                         ; Needs to be asserted for a 133ns min.
             bfset
                      #>$4,x:pcd
                                         :Deassert !Ref
             nop
end_init
             nop
             ;Initialise Data Values
             move
                      #$407F,y1
                                         ;Insert 3 wait states
                      y1,x:bcr
             move
             ;Initialise Timer - On chip timer is used for DRAM refresh
             move
                      #$0200,a
                                        ;Initialise Timer Control Register
             move
                      a.x:tcr
                      #311,a
                                        ;Initialise Timer Preload Register
             move
             move
                      a,x:tpr
                                        ; 311, 15.5us @ 40MHz
             move
                      #$C000,a
                                         ;Enable Timer Interrupts
             move
                      a.x:ipr
                      #$8000,x:tcr
                                         ;TE=1, Enable Timer
             bfset
             movec
                       #0,sr
                                         ;Unmask Interrupt
```

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#### **DRAM Read**

The listing for the DRAM read cycle is shown in Figure 9.

The subroutine reads a 16-bit word from DRAM and stores it at location X:DATA in DSP memory. The code has been written to enable a block transfer of data from DRAM to be easily implemented.

The pointer registers R1 and R2 hold the row and column address of the DRAM cell to be accessed. The address of the first nibble of the 16-bit data word to be read is loaded into R1 and R2 at the start of the subroutine. A Do Loop is used to read the 4 separate nibbles which are packed to form the 16-bit data word. Before the actual DRAM read cycle is performed interrupts are disabled (except the Timer interrupt) and the Refresh Counter is checked, (see Section 10.4). The reason for disabling interrupts is to ensure that the instructions that perform the DRAM access occur consecutively without interruption.

The Read Cycle is performed after returning from the Check Refresh Counter subroutine. The row address is output followed by the column address. The data is read into B1 during the output of the column address. An important point to highlight is the NOP instruction inserted between the output of the row address and column address. It has been commented with the statement 'If not using CLKO insert NOP - asynchronous clocks'. If the PAL is being clocked using the CLKO signal from the DSP then this NOP instruction is not needed. However, if the clock is taken direct from the crystal, for example, then a NOP needs to be inserted. The reason is that the DSP internal clock and the PAL clock are asynchronous.

After completion of the Read Cycle the interrupts are enabled and the register holding the received data word (B accumulator) is shifted right 4 bits. Once all 4 nibbles have been received the 16-bit data word is stored in DSP memory.

The last part of the routine supports block reads from DRAM. The value of the row address pointer R1 is saved, this holds the row address of the start of the next 16-bit word in DRAM. Before the address is saved it is checked to see if the last row location has been reached. If it has, the column address is incremented and the row address is reset to the start of the next row.

### Figure 9 DRAM Read.

```
,********
; DRAM Read
; Registers corrupted - R1, R2, N2, M1, M2, X1, Y1, A, B
; This routine reads 16-bit words from DRAM. The data is read
;4-bits at a time and packed to form a 16-bit word.
dram_rd
                     x:rd_row,r1
                                      ;Pointer for Last Row Address
            move
            move
                     x:rd_col,r2
                                      ;Pointer for Read Column address
            move
                     #1.n2
                     #mask,y1
                                      ;Get 4-bit mask - this masks out bits
            move
                     #$ffff,m1
                                      ;4..15
            move
                     m1,m2
                     #$02,mr
             ori
                                      ;Disable interrupts e.g Level 1
             jsr
                     ref_chk
                                       ;Check Refresh Counter
             clr
                                       ;Clear received word register
                                       ;Loop to receive 4-bits at a time
                     #4,end_wrd
             đо
read
             move
                     x:(r1)+,x1
                                       ;Output Row Address
                                       ;** If Not Using CLKO insert NOP
             ;nop
                                       ;- asynchronous clocks! **
             move
                     x:(r2),b1
                                       ;Output Column Address and Read
                                       :Data
                                       ;Shift right 1 nibble (4-bits)
             asr4
end_wrd
                     b0,x:data
                                      ;Store received word
             move
             andi
                      #$fc,mr
                                      ;Enable interrupts
             ;***** Check if end of Row reached - If reading a block of data ******
                                       ;Get Row address counter
             move
             move
                      #row_fin,x1
                                       ;Compare value to test if the end
                                       of a Row has been reached
             CMD
                     x1.a
                     new_coll
             jea
             move
                     r1,x:rd_row
                                       ;Save Row Address
                      rd_end
             jmp
new_coll
                      #row_strt,a
             move
                      a,x:rd_row
                                      ;Set Row Address to start of Row
             rnd a
                      (r2)+n2
                                       ;Increment Column Counter
             ;**** Check if end of Column reached - If reading a block of data *****
                                      ;Get Column Address counter
             move
                      #col_fin-1,x1
                                      ;Compare if last column
                     x1,a
                                      ;has been reached
             cmp
             jne
                     stor
                                      ;If it hasn't store next column address
             move
                     x:rec_col_strt,a ; else reset column address
stor
             move
                      a,x:rd_col
                                      ;Store Column Address
rd_end
             rts
```

#### **DRAM Write**

The listing for the DRAM write cycle is shown in Figure 10.

The subroutine writes a 16-bit word to DRAM from location X:DATA in DSP memory. The code has been written to enable a block transfer of data to DRAM to be easily implemented.

The structure of the DRAM write cycle is identical to the read cycle.

Figure 10 DRAM Write.

```
;*********
; DRAM Write
·
; Registers corrupted - R1, R2, N2, M1, M2, X1, Y1, A, B
; This routine writes 16-bit data to DRAM. The data words are
;unpacked and written a nibble at a time (4-bits).
dram_wr
            move
                     x:wr_row,r1
                                       ;Get present Write Row Address
            move
                     x:wr_col,r2
                                       ; and Column Address
                     #1,n2
            move
            move
                     #$ffff,m1
                     m1.m2
            move
                     #$02,mr
                                       ;Disable interrupts e.g Level 1
            ori
            jsr
                     ref_chk
                                       ;Check Refresh Counter
                                       ;Get 16-bit data to write to DRAM
            move
                     x:data.b
             do #4, end_word
                                       ;Loop to transmit 4-bits at a time
write
                     b, x1
                                       ;Data to be written
            move
                     x:(r1)+,y1
                                       :Output Row Address
                                       ;** If Not using CLKO insert NOP
                                       ;- asynchronous clocks! **
                     x1,x:(r2)
                                       ;Output Column Address and Write
                                       ; Data
                                       ;Shift to get next nibble
             asr4
                     b
end_word
            andi
                     #Sfc.mr
                                       ;Enable interrupts
             ;***** Check if end of Row reached - If reading a block of data ******
            move
                     r1.a
                                       ;Get Row address counter
            move
                     #row_fin,x1
                                       ;Compare value to test if the end
             amp
                     x1.a
                                       ; of a Row has been reached
            jeq
                     new_col
             move
                     r1,x:wr_row
                                       ;Save Row Address
             ;***** Check if end of Column reached - If reading a block of data ******
```

```
new_col
             move
                      #row strt,a
                      a,x:wr_row
                                         ;Set Row Address to start of Row
             move
             rnd a
                       (r2)+n2
                                         ;Increment Column Counter
                      r2,a
                                         ;Get Column Address counter
             move
                       #col_fin-1,x1
                                         ;Compare if last column
                      x1,a
                                         :has been reached.
             amp
                       store
                                         ;If it hasn't store next column address
              jne
                      #row_fin-1,a
                                         ;Save Last DRAM Write Row and
                      a.x:last row1
                                         : Column Address
             move
                       #col_fin-1,a
             move
             move
                      a,x:last_col1
             move
                      x:rec_col_strt,a ; else reset column address
store
             move
                      a,x:wr_col
                                         ;Store Column Address.
wr_end
             rts
```

## **Refresh Counter Compare**

Before a DRAM access is performed, the Timer Count Register is examined to check if a DRAM refresh cycle is about to occur. If a refresh cycle is imminent, the program flow is kept within the subroutine until the refresh has finished.

Figure 11 Refresh Counter Compare.

```
; Refresh Counter Compare
             ;This routine fetches the Timer Count Register (tctr) and compares
             ;it with a test value. This is to ensure there is enough time to
             ;perform a DRAM Read or Write cycle before the next Refresh.
ref_chk
             move
                     x:tctr,x1
                                       ;Get contents of Timer Count Register
             move
                      #ctr_cmp, a
                                        ;Get compare value
                                       ;and compare with tctr
                     x1.a
             amp
                      ref_chk
                                       ;Keep comparing until refresh o.k
             ige
             rts
```

### **DRAM Refresh**

The DRAM refresh cycle is implemented by asserting the !Ref GPIO pin for a minimum of 133ns.

Figure 12 DRAM Refresh

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