I. INTRODUCTION

RF/microwave power is one of the most fundamental quantities, along with impedance, attenuation, and noise, in electromagnetic measurement [1]. For RF/microwave power measurement, most National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) rely on a calorimetric measurement scheme due to the difficulties of separately defining the current and voltage of the RF/microwave [2]. The RF power is traceable from a primary standard, which is a microcalorimeter. To link the power traceability to the industry, NMIs usually provide calibration service with a direct comparison power calibration system and microcalorimeter-evaluated transfer standards [3]. Currently, for fifth generation (5G) mobile communication and automobile industries extend their frequency usage to the millimeter wave.

The Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS) has accordingly developed V- and W-band waveguide microcalorimeters to support the growing demands on the millimeter-wave power standards that cover from 50 GHz to 110 GHz [4].

A stable high-power signal source is indispensable for the development of a V-band waveguide primary standard and direct comparison power calibration system. However, limited numbers of commercial signal sources, called frequency multipliers, are available on the market [5, 6]. Furthermore, they often require additional power amplifiers to reach suitable power levels, which degrades their stability and spectral purity. To address this issue, we developed an in-house V-band waveguide signal source (KRISS-V) to ensure a stable high-power signal source module for a primary RF power standard and calibration system developed by the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science is here presented. The output power of KRISS-V is several times higher than that of commercial amplifier/multiplier chains and is highly stable (the standard deviations of output power are less than 0.01% in the worst case). The spectral purity of KRISS-V is high enough to consider it a single-tone signal generator. We also added programmable attenuation capability to KRISS-V for remote power control. Moreover, the in-house source module is cost-effective and adaptable to various measurement schemes. The structure of the model as well as detailed component information are introduced so that it can be reproduced.

Key Words: Frequency Multiplier, Harmonics, Millimeter-Wave, Signal Source, V-Band.

Abstract

KRISS-V, a V-band millimeter-wave source module for a primary RF power standard and calibration system developed by the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science is here presented. The output power of KRISS-V is several times higher than that of commercial amplifier/multiplier chains and is highly stable (the standard deviations of output power are less than 0.01% in the worst case). The spectral purity of KRISS-V is high enough to consider it a single-tone signal generator. We also added programmable attenuation capability to KRISS-V for remote power control. Moreover, the in-house source module is cost-effective and adaptable to various measurement schemes. The structure of the model as well as detailed component information are introduced so that it can be reproduced.

Manuscript received October 17, 2016; Revised October 17, 2016; Accepted October 17, 2016. (ID No. 20161017-037J)

1Center for Electromagnetic Wave, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science, Daejeon, Korea.
2Science of Measurement, University of Science and Technology, Daejeon, Korea.
3Electromagnetic Compatibility Research Group, Puslit Sistem Mutu dan Teknologi Pengujian LIPI, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia.
4Department of Electro-Optic Metrology, Pusat Penelitian Metrologi LIPI, Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia.
5Corresponding Author: Jae-Yong Kwon (e-mail: jykwon@kriss.re.kr)

This is an Open-Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ⓒ Copyright The Korean Institute of Electromagnetic Engineering and Science. All Rights Reserved.
source for the millimeter-wave power standard system [7].

II. HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION

In general, commercial millimeter-wave source modules consist of an amplifier/multiplier chain (AMC) module, isolators, a control/interface board, and an optional attenuator. Fig. 1 shows a block diagram and the details of an AMC. Millimeter-wave signals are generated by the multiplication of driven RF input at a low frequency that is generally less than 18 GHz. The AMCs multiply the driven frequency 4 to 18 times to reach the band of interest. For example, the multiplication factor of an OML S15MS series WR15 Frequency Extension Module is 4, and that of a Rohde & Schwarz SMZ75 is 6.

Fig. 2 illustrates the structure and block diagram of the KRISS in-house V-band waveguide source module. The module consists of a frequency doubler, QuinStar QPM-63052V; a V-band full waveguide band amplifier, QuinStar QPI-V01616; an isolator, Millitech FBI-15-ASEB0; a motorized attenuator (MA), Millitech MWA-15; and a V-band full waveguide band filter, MRI LPFV-1. The housing and heat sink/fan module were custom designed.

III. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

A Keysight E8257D PSG was connected as a driving RF input to the V-band source module, and the basic performance was evaluated in the laboratory at 23.0°C ± 0.5°C and 45% ± 5% relative humidity.

1. Stability

The internal automatic leveling control of the PSG was activated, and the signal output was monitored with a thermistor power meter at 50 GHz, 65 GHz, and 75 GHz. The standard deviations of output power were less than 0.01% at the worst case. Fig. 3 shows the output power of KRISS-V for 100 minutes after a 20-minute settling time.

2. Output Power

Fig. 4 shows the maximum output power of the KRISS-V without the MA and a commercially available AMC module. Generally, a smaller AMC multiplication factor guarantees higher output power, and commercially available AMCs are usually tuned to a stable output level rather than the maximum output level. Even while sacrificing some power for stability enhancement, the KRISS-V showed more than 6 times the output power of the commercial AMC. The power tends to deteriorate for higher frequencies in the V-band, and the lowest maximum power was 16 mW at 75 GHz.
3. Spectral Purity

The spectral purity of the signal sources for the RF power primary standard and the calibration system is crucial for power measurements with low uncertainty. This is because power sensors are usually not frequency selective, thus, they accumulate the entire power of the incoming in-band frequency components, including undesired spectra.

In Fig. 5, the spectra of the commercial AMC (OML S15MS) are compared to KRISS-V. To evaluate the spectral purity, we down-converted the 50 GHz signal of a Keysight E8257D PSG through a sub-harmonic mixer ($f_{LO} = 30 \text{ GHz}$), and considered the result (Fig. 5(a)) to be the reference spectrum. The 50 GHz signal of the PSG is a single tone signal but it shows some spurious harmonics resulting from nonlinear frequency mixing. The spectrum of KRISS-V is almost identical to that of the PSG, and the only harmonic component at 5 GHz is 40 dB less than the carrier component at 10 GHz.

4. Power Control

The output power of millimeter-wave AMC modules is generally fixed for use, so it is difficult to obtain finely tuned output power without an extra attenuator. Remote output power control is also a necessary function for realizing measurement automation. KRISS-V adopts a remotely controllable and motorized attenuator to obtain fine tuning and automation functions. Fig. 6 shows the remotely controlled output power of KRISS-V.

IV. CONCLUSION

A V-band millimeter wave source module, KRISS-V, was introduced for the primary RF power standard and calibration system. The controllable output power is superior to that of a commercially available ACM. It also shows excellent stability and spectral purity that are comparable to a single-tone signal generator.

This work was supported through grant 16011004 from the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science under the project “Development of Technologies for Next-Generation Electromagnetic Wave Measurement Standards”.

REFERENCES

[1] A. Fantom, Radio Frequency & Microwave Power Measurement. London: Peter Peregrinus Ltd., 1990.
[2] J. Y. Kwon, T. W. Kang, J. H. Kim, and N. W. Kang, "Development of a type-N coaxial microcalorimeter for RF and microwave power standards at KRISS," IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement, vol. 64, no. 6, pp. 1520–
[3] J. Y. Kwon, T. W. Kang, J. S. Kang, and D. J. Lee, "A W-band millimeter-wave power standard transfer system using the direct comparison method," *Journal of Korean Institute of Electromagnetic Engineering and Science*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 47–54, 2013.

[4] J. Y. Kwon, T. W. Kang, and N. W. Kang, "V-band waveguide microcalorimeter for millimeter-wave power standards," in *Proceedings of Conference on Precision Electromagnetic Measurements (CPEM2016)*, Ottawa, Canada, 2016.

Jae-Yong Kwon was born in Daegu, Korea, in 1972. He received a B.S. in Electronics from Kyungpook National University, Daegu, in 1995, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daejeon, Korea, in 1998 and 2002, respectively. He was a Visiting Scientist with the Department of High-Frequency and Semiconductor System Technologies, Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, in 2001. He was a Senior Research Engineer with the Devices and Materials Laboratory, LG Electronics Institute of Technology, Seoul, Korea, from 2002 to 2005. He has been a Principal Research Scientist with the Division of Physical Metrology, Center for Electromagnetic Wave, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS), Daejeon, since 2005. He has been a Professor of Science of Measurement with the University of Science and Technology, Daejeon, since 2013. His current research interests include RF/millimeter-wave power, impedance, and antenna measurement.

Dong-Joon Lee received dual B.S. degrees in Physics and Electronic Engineering from Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea, in 1995 and 1996. Lee also received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University in Brooklyn, NY, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, in 1999 and 2008, respectively. From 1999 to 2002, Lee was with the Wireless Communication Division, Samsung Electronics at Suwon, Korea, where he served as a Mobile Microwave Design Engineer. In 2009, Lee joined the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS) in Daejeon, Korea. His research interests include the development of a high-speed electro-optic measurement technique for the characterization of microwave and millimeter wave circuits and radiators, time-domain electro-optic metrology, and photonic-assisted microwave impedance measurement.

Aditia Nur Bakti was born in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1985. He received a B.S. in Engineering Physics from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Bandung, in 2008. He is currently a master's student at the University of Science and Technology (UST), Center for Electromagnetic Waves, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS) campus, Daejeon, Korea, where he has been studying since 2015. He has been a researcher with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Tangerang Selatan, Indonesia, since 2008. His current research interest includes EMC/EMI, antenna measurement, and electromagnetic simulation.

Windu Kurnia Perangin Angin was born in Deli Serdang, Indonesia, in 1986. He received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Indonesia. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in the Science of Measurement at the University of Science and Technology, Korea. He has been working as researcher of Electromagnetic Wave Measurement at Puslit Metrologi LIPI Indonesia since 2011.