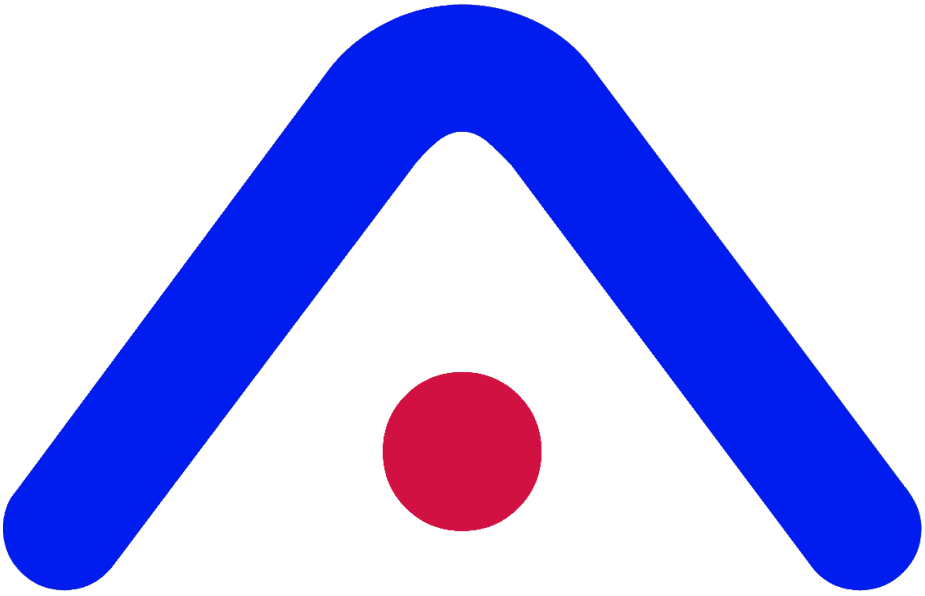

PIXIE BOARD
BREADBOARD I/O USER MANUAL

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Acknowledgements:

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This contact information is subject to change, for the latest details go to www.aelmicro.com

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1. Contents

2. Introduction

2.1 Caution

This board is designed using modern CMOS devices, observe standard anti-static procedures when handling this board otherwise permanent damage may result.

You have been warned !

2.2 Forward note

Thank you for choosing one of the **PI** e**X**pansion **I**ndustrial **E**lectronic boards, **"PIXIE"**.

The range of **PIXIE** boards has been developed to allow you to expand the hardware functionality of your Raspberry Pi, by adding one or more **PIXIE** boards gives you a wider range of interface solutions. The **PIXIE** range of boards has been developed to allow for the Raspberry Pi to be used in harsher industrial and real-world environments.

The key objective of a PIXIE board is:

- Provide an expansion board to allow the use of a Raspberry Pi in industrial environments.
- Allow for more than one expansion board to be stacked onto an existing Raspberry Pi unlike a HAT.
- 16 boards can be stacked and given a unique logical address using the board selector switches.
- Provides a low-cost industrial control solution.
- Standard board profile which is the same as the Raspberry Pi.
- Optional enclosure to allow mounting direct to industrial DIN rail.
- Fully software configurable, i.e. no links to set.
- Can use either SPI devices 0 or 1.
- Supported is provided for National Instruments LabVIEW.
- Comes with fully supported **PIXIE** software API and libraries, for 'C', 'C++' and Python

The **PIXIE** boards have not only been developed for use solely with the Raspberry Pi but can easily be interfaced to other microcontrollers and CPU modules allowing your project to be based on alternative platforms and operating systems.

All **PIXIE** boards use a standard size board and are connected to the Raspberry Pi board using the 40-way IDC connector.

Multiple **PIXIE** boards can be stacked on to the Raspberry Pi and once assembled can be configured using the **PIXIE** board configuration and update utility eliminating the need to dismantle the board stack to change the settings.

3. Common concept

3.1 Control overview

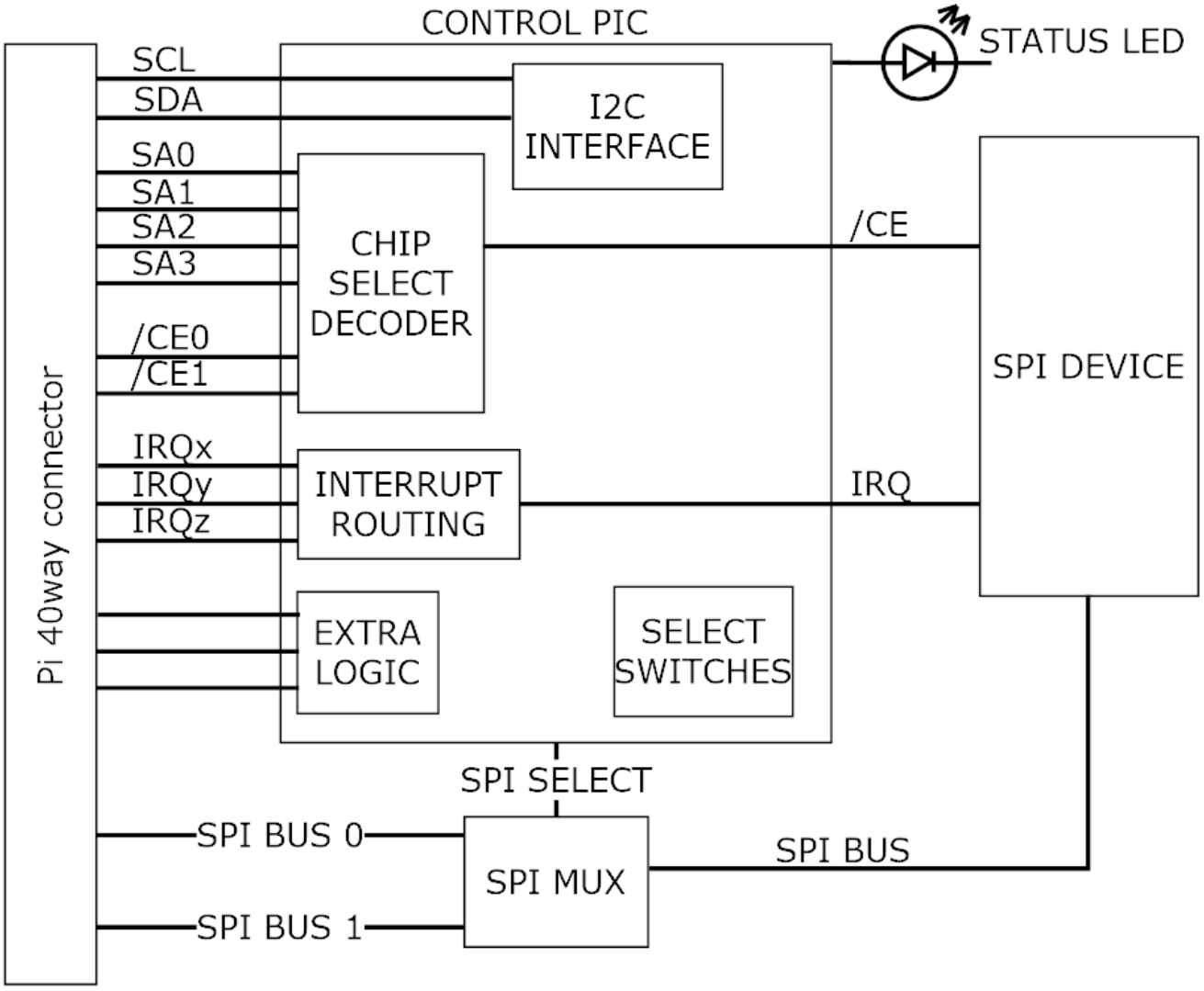
This shows the control overview of the **PIXIE** board.

The select switches give each **PIXIE** board a unique identity.

The Raspberry Pi communicates using the I2C bus to configure the **PIXIE** board.

The sub address (SAx) signals, interrupt signals (IRQx) and extra logic signals are connected to the GPIO pins of the Raspberry Pi.

Either SPI0 or SPI1 bus is routed to the board devices



The design goal of the **PIXIE** board range is to provide the user with a board that has a common footprint, uses no configuration links, and once assembled into a stack with the Raspberry Pi, can be configured and used without the need to make any further physical changes except for wiring in the connectors. All boards use 3.5mm two-part pluggable terminal blocks which in the event of a board change or other upgrade, can be simply unplugged without the need for a screwdriver.

IT IS NOT A HAT
The boards are not HAT's, their biggest difference is that you can stack up to 16 onto the Raspberry Pi and they all use the SPI busses for maximum software access, nor do they use the HAT configuration memory.

3.2 More SPI devices

This concept is achieved by the use of some of the GPIO signals to provide additional address signals used for decoding the SPI chip selects found on the 40-way connector. You can have up to 4 additional SPI address signals per SPI bus, these are qualified by the onboard hardware decoding to give you up to 16 possible decode addresses for each SPI bus chip select. So, for SPI0 it has 2 chip selects, that is 32 possible devices, for SPI1 it has 3 chip selects, that is 48 possible devices, 80 in total which is more than most needs.
Each board can be configured to use as many of the address signals as it requires as well as which chip select the board will use.
To facilitate this sub address system requires changes to the SPI device driver and rebuild the kernel or use the precompiled SPI device driver and install it on the Raspberry Pi to replace the current one.

3.3 Configurable

Each board is software configurable from the Raspberry Pi using a simple command line application called "**PixieBoard**". Each board is given a unique identity which is set by the small piano key switch allowing each board to be numbered 0 to 15. The board is configured over the I2C bus using a base address of 0x10 plus the value of the piano switch giving a range of unique I2C addresses from 0x10 to 0x1F. Each board can then be accessed individually and configured as required.
All the configuration values for each board are stored in EEPROM memory on the board so once it has been configured it does not have to be reloaded whenever the board is power cycled.

The key configurable items of each board are:

- Which SPI to use, SPI0 or SPI1
- Which chip SPI selects to use, CE0, CE1 or CE2
- Which SPI sub address signals to use and the sub address value to decode.
- Which GPIO will receive an interrupt if required from the board.
- Additional board specific settings.

3.4 Stackable

Each board can be stacked on top of each other and the Raspberry Pi using 17mm spacers or enclosed in one of the plastic housings which allows for the use in a more robust environment as well as mounting to a standard industrial DIN rail.
As previously mentioned up to 16 boards can be stacked together.

3.5 Updatable

All boards make use of a small microcontroller to interface to the Raspberry Pi over the I2C bus, and provide the real time hardware decoding logic and other board support functionality. If at any point new firmware is made available, the "**PixieBoard**" application can be used to update the boards firmware without the need to dismantle the board from the stack or use any external programme

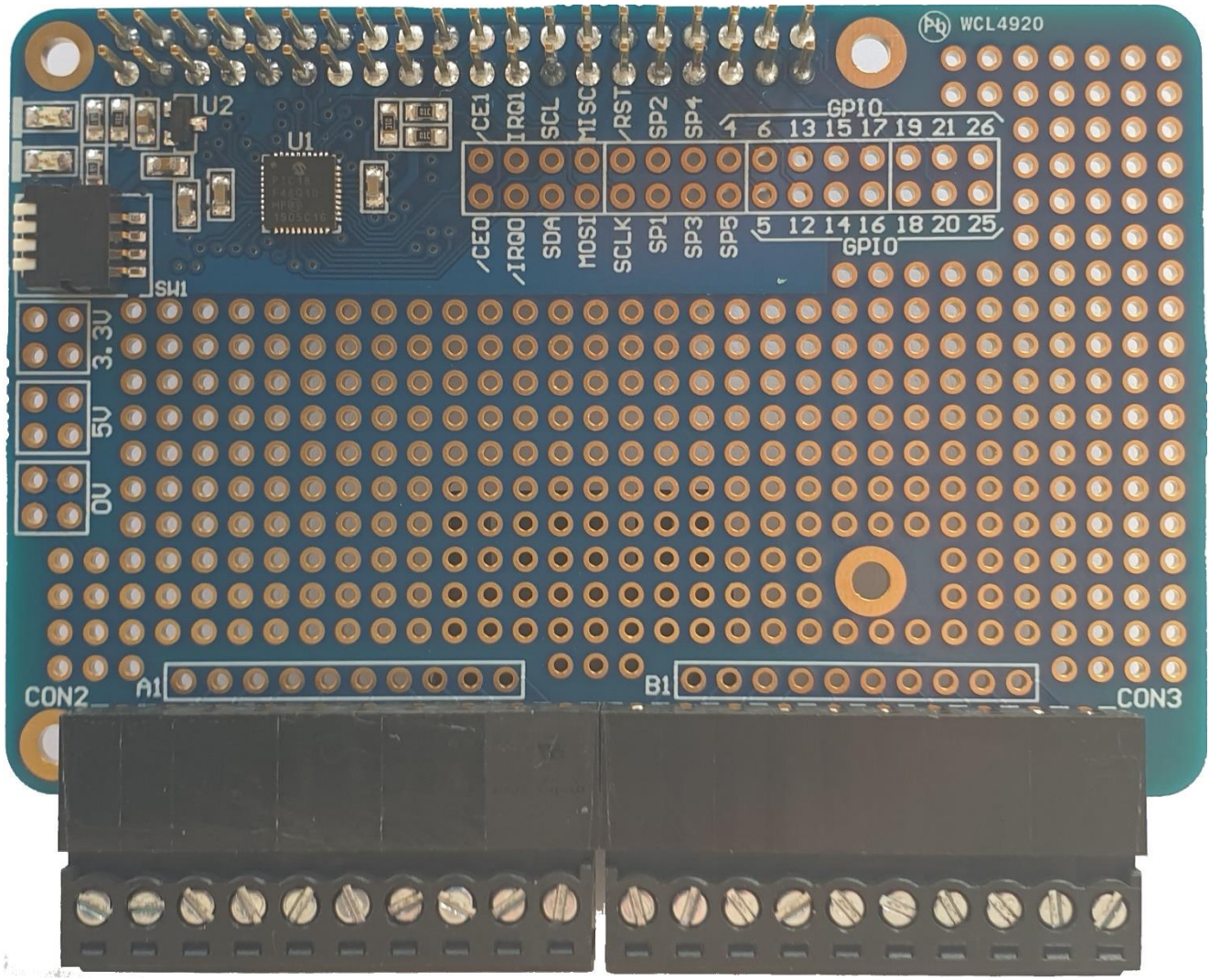
4. Hardware details

The **Breadboard** is a **PIXIE** board that can be used for prototyping circuits or creating small quantity custom boards. The board contains the PIXIE board decode logic, 40 pin header, board select ID switch, a +3.3V regulator and two 10 way 2 part terminal connectors.

4.1 Specification.

Supply voltage	+5V
Power consumption	50mA
I2C speed	<=100kHz
SPI speed	<=10MHz
Temperature	0-70C

4.2 I/O connections.



Above shows the board, signal, and connector positions.

CON2 is a 10-way connector for general use.
CON3 is a 10-way connector for general use.

Signals:
Control signal and local power connections are provided as shown by the signal labelling.

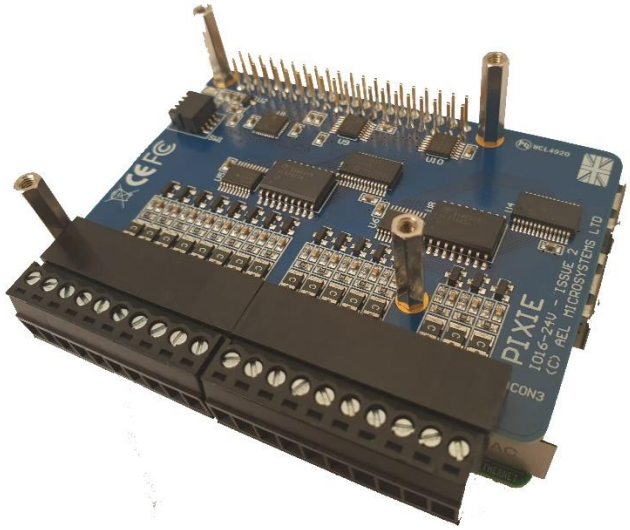
5.1 Insulate USB connector housing on Raspberry Pi 4

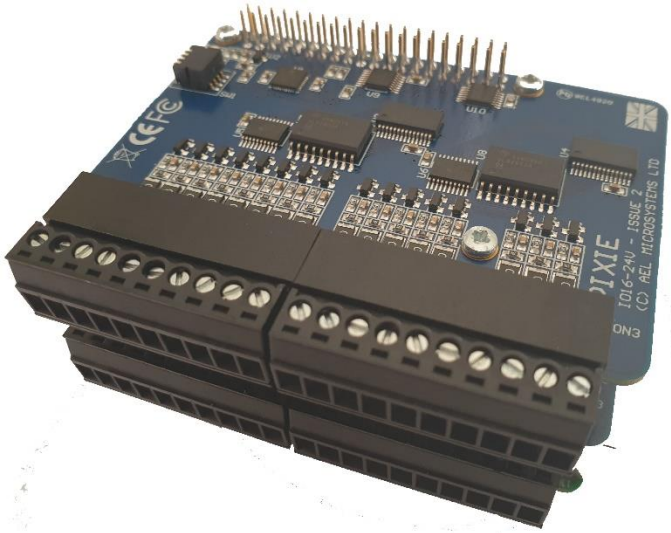
WARNING

The Ethernet and USB connectors were swapped on the Raspberry Pi 4 which means the clearance between the terminal connectors on the PIXIE board and the metal body of the USB connector is very close and, in some circumstances, could short out the terminals, which is not so good.
To prevent this, add a couple of pieces of electrical tape one on top of each other onto the USB connector as shown below before assembling the board onto the Raspberry Pi.

5.2 Mounting the boards.

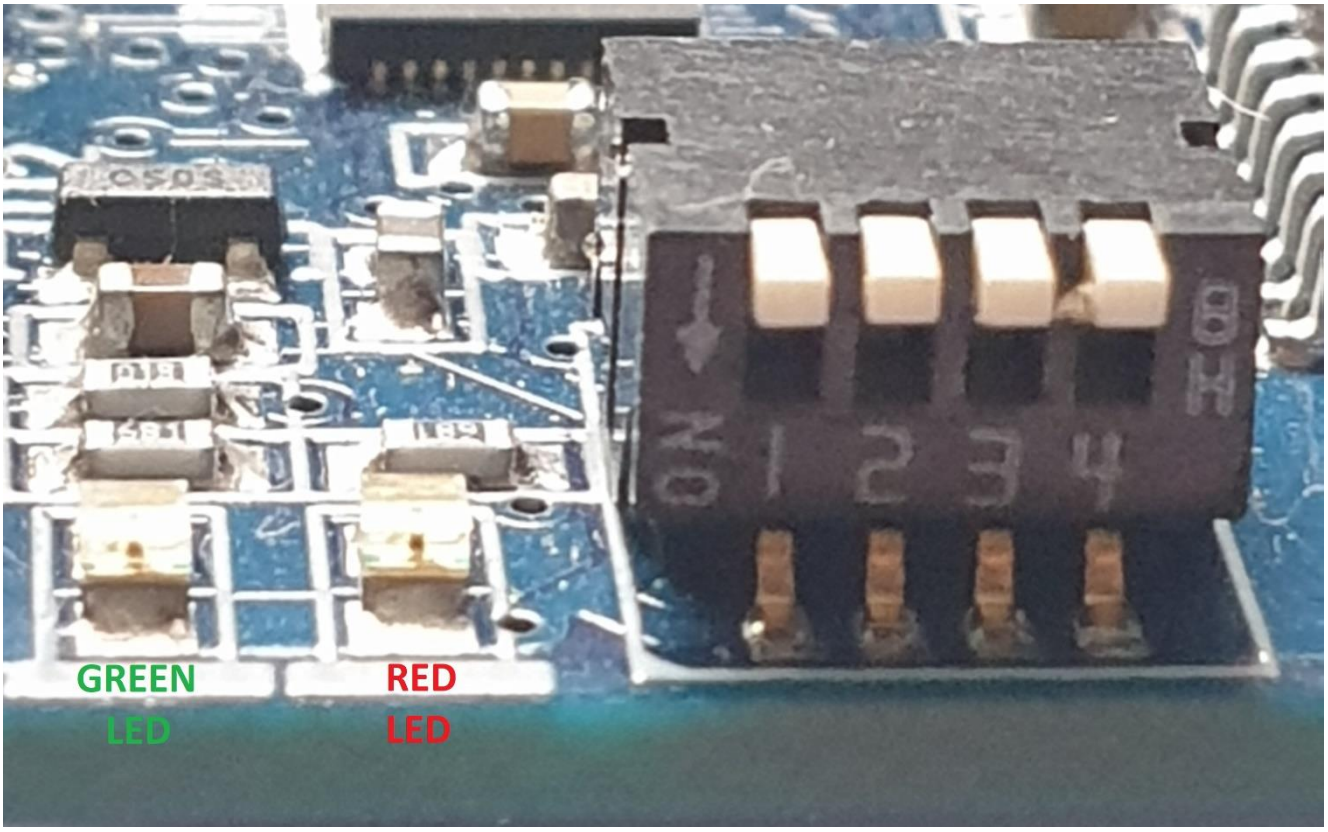
Using M2.5mm - 4mmAF – 17mm long hex standoff's mount the PIXIE boards onto the Raspberry Pi as shown. On some Pixie board's the connector CON3 obscures one of the mounting holes to the Raspberry Pi board when mounted directly to it ,so only 3 pillars are used which is sufficient to securely mount the boards together. Boards mounted on top of this one can use all 4 pillars by using the offset hole.
Mount the pillars to the Raspberry Pi using the nuts provided, the screws provide are used to secure top board to the pillars when multiple Pixie boards are used.





5.3 Set the boards identity.

Set the select switches shown to give each stacked PIXIE board a unique identity.



Use the following truth table to set the switches for the correct address.

Board Id	SW1	SW2	SW3	SW4
0	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
1	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
2	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
3	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
4	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
5	ON	OFF	ON	OFF
6	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
7	ON	ON	ON	OFF
8	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
9	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
10	OFF	ON	OFF	ON
11	ON	ON	OFF	ON
12	OFF	OFF	ON	ON
13	ON	OFF	ON	ON
14	OFF	ON	ON	ON
15	ON	ON	ON	ON

The default I2C address for each board will be 0x10 + “Board Identifier”.

5.4 Power up and LED status.

Power on the Raspberry PI and PIXIE board's combination.

The **GREEN LED** on each of the PIXIE boards will illuminate indicating power present.

If the **RED LED** is flashing ON for 200mS with a 2 second OFF pause in between flashes, this indicates the board required configuration.

List of **RED LED** flashing states.

Off,	the board is configured and fully functional.
1 Flash,	the board is not configured.
2 Flashes,	the board has an invalid identity, contact the manufacturer for advice.
3 Flashes,	the board has a corrupt EEPROM, power cycle to correct the issue & defaults have been applied.

If the speed of the LED flashes is only 100mS with 1 second pause, this means that the board is working in its boot mode and needs the firmware to be reloaded.
See the Firmware section in the PIXIE board configuration guide to resolve this problem.

5.5 Principle of operation.

The board except for the decoding logic contains just a breadboard area for prototype circuits to be built and tested.
The board supports two chip enable's and two interrupts which can combine both into one single interrupt for the board.
This device uses the board references /CE0, /CE1, /IRQ0 and /IRQ1.

5.6 Configuration.

See the PIXIE configuration manual for information to configure the board.

5.6.1 Board specific configuration.

There are no additional board specific configuration requirements for this board.

6. Software support.

There is no software other than that provided for configuration for this board which can be found in the PIXIE software manual.

7. Warranty conditions

All fully assembled & tested products of AEL Microsystems Ltd are guaranteed for one year from the date of shipment against defects in materials & workmanship and perform in accordance with applicable specifications. AEL Microsystems Ltd warrants that the application support SOFTWARE will perform substantially with the accompanying written materials for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of receipt.

This warranty does not extend to products which have been altered or repaired by persons other than persons authorised by AEL Microsystems Ltd, or to products that have been subjected to misuse, abuse, neglect, improper installation or application, accident, disaster, or modification not approved by written instructions from AEL Microsystems Ltd.

Final determination of the suitability of this product for the use contemplated by the buyer is the sole responsibility of the buyer and AEL Microsystems Ltd shall not be responsible for its suitability and assumes no liability arising out of the use or application of the device described herein.

In the event that this product fails to operate as warranted, the buyer shall obtain a return number from AEL Microsystems Ltd and forward the product in suitable packaging with a detailed failure report to AEL Microsystems Ltd, the cost of transportation being the responsibly of the buyer. The returned product will be repaired or replaced at the discretion of AEL Microsystems Ltd.

While every effort is made to repair or replace any item as quickly as possible, no guarantees can be made for the time taken, & AEL Microsystems Ltd cannot be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused.

8. Notes