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New 40/42-788 family from Pickering Interfaces delivers highest channel count microwave multiplexer switches in PXI

Versatile high channel count microwave MUX range also offers increased bandwidth up to 40GHz

May 2024 – Clacton-on-Sea, UK – [Pickering Interfaces](#), the leading provider of modular signal switching and simulation products for electronic test and verification, has announced a new family of high channel count PXI and PXIe microwave multiplexer (MUX) modules. Expanding Pickering's range of RF and microwave switching, the 40/42-788 family is based on industry-leading, superior-quality Radiall mechanical microwave switches, with bandwidth options from 8GHz to 40GHz. Versatile switching configurations are available with single or dual SP8T, SP10T or SP12T multiplexers, suitable for constructing complex microwave switching networks.



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As well as microwave switching applications, the modules also suit many uses in the RF spectrum, where extremely low insertion loss and ultra-high isolation are critical. Microwave MUXs have numerous uses in communications test, including routing a measurement instrument, such as a network analyzer or even an antenna, to multiple UUTs (unit-under-test) in ATE systems.

The 40-788 (PXI) and 42-788 (PXIe) range of PXI microwave multiplexer modules are suitable for switching 50 Ω signals from 8GHz up to 40GHz. They are available in terminated and unterminated SP8T, SP10T or SP12T configurations, all occupying four chassis slots with a single relay mounted on the front panel. The internal relay termination feature can improve signal integrity by routing unused signals to a 50 Ω load.



Remote versions are also available, which can support one or two relays, each connected to a dual-slot PXI or PXIe controller module via two 1.5m cables, with optional mounting brackets available for each relay type. These variants occupy less PXI chassis space than the panel mount versions and allow the microwave relays to be placed closer to the UUT and RF test equipment, potentially shortening the length of cables and improving system performance.

“These modules give you the highest RF and microwave switching performance available within a Pickering switching system,” noted Switching Product Manager at Pickering, Steve Edwards, “as well as the highest channel count microwave multiplexer switches available from any PXI vendor. This can result in fewer switches and associated interconnections being required for high channel count microwave switching applications, improving signal quality and ease of programming.”

The 40/42-788 family is provided with a switch cycle counting feature to aid with test system health monitoring. Determining the number of operations per channel can help manage the wear-out process by allowing alternate lower-usage paths to be substituted for high-use channels. LED indicators are fitted on the front panel to indicate a closed RF path.

Connection is made by high-performance SMA, SMA 2.9, or N-type connectors, as bandwidth dictates. High-quality interconnection cables are also offered to support RF and microwave applications.

The 40/42-788 is supplied with drivers that allow support in all popular software programming environments and operating systems. All standard products manufactured by Pickering Interfaces include a three-year warranty and guaranteed long-term product support. For pricing and availability information, please visit: www.pickeringtest.com

Design, Deploy & Sustain Your Automated Test System

About Pickering Interfaces

Pickering Interfaces designs and manufactures modular signal switching & simulation for use in electronic test & verification. We offer the largest range of switching & simulation products in the industry for PXI, LXI, and PCI applications. To support these products, we also provide cable & connector solutions, diagnostic test tools, application software and software drivers created by our in-house software team.

Pickering's products are specified in test systems installed throughout the world and have a reputation for providing excellent reliability and value. Pickering Interfaces operates globally with direct operations in the US, UK, Germany, Sweden, France, Czech Republic, and China, together with additional representation in countries throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. We currently serve all electronics industries, including automotive, aerospace & defense, energy, industrial, communications, medical, and semiconductor. For more information on signal switching & simulation products or sales contacts, please visit: www.pickeringtest.com



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