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The PowerExpander SRS from PowerBox helps (not only) Futaba users

Since the introduction of Futaba’s FASStest telemetry protocol we Futaba pilots have been waiting in vain for a FASStest receiver offering more than eight channels, i.e. a successor to the R6014HS receiver, which employed the FASStest protocol.

For example, if I build a model today which needs fourteen channels, then I need two cascaded Futaba R7008SB receivers, i.e. I wire them together. I program one receiver to channels 1 to 8, and the other to 9 to 16. This works perfectly, but there is a caveat: Futaba currently sells these receivers at a princely price of 149 Euro per unit, which means that I have to invest 298 Euro to obtain the fourteen channels I need.

PowerBox Systems now offers a solution to this problem in the shape of the Power-Expander SRS. The unit works in conjunction with the radio control systems made by Futaba, Graupner, Jeti, JR, Multiplex and Spektrum, and is available in two versions which differ only in the integral battery connector: the one version of the Expander is fitted with an MPX connector, the other with a Deans connector.

The abbreviation SRS, which you will find appended to a number of PowerBox devices, stands for Serial Receiver System. This means that any receiver with a serial BUS port can be connected to such devices, and the PowerBox software will support them. The advantage is that the receiver only needs to be connected to the SRS device by means of a single, three-core patch-lead, despite the fact that it outputs all the channels generated by the system itself. For example, in my case as a Futaba adherent using the FASStest protocol this means sixteen proportional and two switched channels. With the Expander I can use the smallest available fully featured Futaba FASStest receiver - the R7003SB - and still have access to all my eighteen channels.

However, the PowerExpander SS can do more than “just” make eighteen channels available:

- It offers the facility to connect a second BUS-enabled receiver, in so doing creating a system with receiver redundancy.
- The current capacity is significantly higher than with a single receiver: the peak current capacity is 30 A.
- A battery (2S LiPo, 2S LiFePo, 5S NiCd / NiMH) can be connected to the integral MPX or Deans connector.
- The unit features an integral Power-Bus socket.

The sockets on the Expander are arranged as follows: USB = software update socket / RX1 & RX2 = receiver 1 and receiver 2 / MISC = Power-Bus socket / 1 to 18 = servos.

Naturally it is also possible to connect other PowerBox systems in order to operate the flexible Expander using a dual power supply. To sum up: the requests from Futaba users for eighteen channels have been answered - by PowerBox Systems!