Smarter shading

The market for window covering automation continues to grow...and with that growth come innovative solutions for integrated remote control systems for blinds and drapes.

TECHNIKU...REMOTE CONTROL SOLUTIONS!

Techniku offers a wide variety of low voltage automation solutions for interior window coverings and at the center of our product offering is our control platform. As a supplier to OEM's and fabricators, Techniku's channel position requires that our products provide the ultimate flexibility that results in a control solution suitable for each installation...because we know that each situation is different and one solution does not fit all.

Electronic Interface (EI)

Techniku's Electronic Interface is a small, powerful unit that serves as the motor, power and communication "hub" to the automated window covering and includes two communication ports, one switch/dry contact port and one encoder port (usage determined by motor). Developed on the foundation to allow modular upgrades, the consumer can expand or change control platforms over time with simplicity. With a small, aesthetically-designed package, the Electronic Interface can be installed at the window covering or to a central location depending on the installation. Additionally, multiple Electronic Interfaces can be "daisy-chained" to operate from one wall switch or through one of the communication options which include infrared (IR), one-way radio frequency (TRF1), two-way radio frequency (Z-Wave) and dry contact.

Infrared (IR)

The infrared module (must be in direct line-of-sight from the remote control) can be operated from a six channel IR remote control. From the remote control, all channel and limit setting (top/bottom if necessary and intermediate) can be done from the "Program" button. And when using the extended IR receiver, a clear LED provides feedback during the programming sequence. With six individual channels, the IR remote control can operate an unlimited number of Techniku IR automated window coverings.

TRF1 (One-Way Radio Frequency - RF)

Techniku's proprietary radio frequency solution can be operated from a one or four channel remote control or wireless wall switch. The TRF1 module operates from the same power source required for the motor...which means it can operate all Techniku battery systems (without requiring a power supply)! The one or four channel remote control / wall switch can operate an unlimited number of Techniku TRF1 window coverings with an impressive range.

Z-Wave (Two-Way Radio Frequency - RF)

The new Z-Wave (two-way) radio frequency solution is based on a wireless two-way mesh network. Z-Wave is an open protocol, allowing for a variety of home technologies like lighting control, HVAC, access control and a variety of other home controls to operate together seamlessly on the Z-Wave standard.

Dry Contact / Switch

The Electronic Interface also has a standard dry contact/switch port. With 20 gauge/3 conductor wire, it can be wired to a wall switch or a sophisticated home automation solution. With simple open, close and stop commands, Techniku motors can operate on a switch alone or in combination other communication options!

Farnborough Blinds –The Control Masters

From its very beginning Farnborough Blinds realised the potential in developing skills and technology for the electric blind market, and by the end of the 1980's, Farnborough Blinds were able to offer motorised control on most of their blind range. Initially the technology was expensive, bulky and time consuming to manufacture, with only a relatively small market, time however has seen both the technology and the markets evolve. Now In 2008, The Farnborough Blind Company boasts the ability to motorise any blind system with an almost endless option for control, including infra-red and radio switching, or through RS232/485 using the CM1 and CM3 control units.

In particular the development of the CM control units has generated a lot of business. It was through the frequent requests of clients wanting to interface blinds with the advancing technology of building management, and lighting control systems, such as Lutron and Crestron, along with the

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emergence of the 'smart home', that we soon identified the need for a more intelligent way of switching blinds, rather than the simple on/off control provided by just a wall switch. In our research we found the few relay switching devices currently on the market were not specifically designed for blind control and did not adequately offer the flexibility, or the functions our clients required. So out of necessity the CM1 unit was initially designed, consisting of a pair of programmable processor controlled relays, and then subsequently the CM3 unit, consisting of three pairs of relays, and a learning infra-red capability. The host of functions these units offer such as RS232/485 control, volt free switching, trigger inputs, programmable time delays and definable relay responses, meant we could now provide each project with a control unit specifically programmed to operate blinds to their unique requirements.

The CM unit's versatility has also been quickly identified and exploited by other markets, outside of the blind industry, with enquires from areas as diverse as disabled individuals wanting to use the units to automate electrical equipment around the home, through the existing control system on their wheel chairs, to a recent enquiry from a customer who wanted to use the unit to sequence lighting on and off along his driveway as his car approached the house.

We feel our ability and experience in custom designing products for the electric blind market is what sets apart the Farnborough Blind Company from many other electric blind companies that are currently restricted to supplying 'off the shelf products', without the flexibility to tailor to the customers' individual needs. An example of this was apparent when we took on a project for 'St. George's Church, County Leitrim, Ireland'. The design brief was to supply 15 motorised banners to operate in a specific sequence to 5 orchestral music tracks. Whilst the motorisation of the banners was relatively easy to accomplish, using standard 240 volt tubular motors, the control system required a much greater degree of customisation. We achieved this by sourcing an audio circuit that would play music tracks from a SD memory card and integrated this with our CM3 unit. The music tracks supplied as .mp3 files by the client were stored on the memory card, and then custom programming was written to the CM3 unit to trigger the audio tracks to play at the correct timings, whilst individual relays were programmed to activate the motorised banners in the sequence requested. Despite the complicated requirements of the installation the project was installed on time and operated without problem.

With the changes in technology happening at an ever faster rate we are conscious of the need to stay up to date in order to meet the demands of the industry of tomorrow, currently we are researching and developing ways to produce quieter motorised blind systems and it is through our policy of continued investment towards developing our skills and technology in the field of electric blinds that we expect Farnborough blinds to remain a leading supplier for the future.

Tel - 01689 831 591

Automatic blinds – affordable and safe

Automatic blinds offers huge security benefits for both the domestic and business customer, and can be set to automatically open and close at various times of the day, or be activated by sunlight. This is ideal for those going on holiday or when business premises are left unattended.

Automated blinds systems used to be a luxury that only a few could afford, but recent advances in technology have now made them affordable for everyone. The recently updated Powershade has been simplified to make it easy to install and easy for the consumer to operate.

Safety is a big consideration in homes and businesses today and an automatic blind is on of the safest available due to the fact that there are no hanging cords or loops thus reducing the hazard one of the safest products you can install, especially with children around.

When blinds are high up or for those with physical limitations, automatic blind allow them to be operated remotely at the touch of a button. Recently simplified Powershade handsets are even easier for everyone to use and programming the blinds to specific needs is very simple.

All this technology is neatly configured with the headrail of the blind, maintaining a sleek modern look that fits in discreetly with any room or setting.

Powershade Vertical Blinds are available with a huge variety of fabrics, including performance fabrics that will suit any type of room and bring practicality and style to any home or business.

Expert advice and support is provided, and full training is available.

For further information on the Powershade range please call 0141 814 3508 or email info@eclipse-blinds.co.uk

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Sophisticated Systems

Our lives today are very demanding and in the workplace we increasingly expect technology to help us to achieve our needs, in terms of software, telephones and computers to produce and transmit information, and in terms of working in a comfortable environment.
In our cars, we expect to be guided by automated systems, in climate controlled comfort, to our destinations.

For our homes, technological advances can be utilised to achieve energy efficiency and cost savings and, ultimately, run our homes for us, in the way that suits us best as individuals. More house-builders are recognising the importance of smart home technology and installing intelligent building control modules to provide enhanced power, audio, visual and lighting specifications. It's natural that people should want to achieve the simplicity and comfort in their homes that they have learned/are learning to expect in the workplace, and buyers will increasingly seek out those homes offering the functionalities that can enhance their lifestyles. Somfy is helping to educate people that this is nowhere near as complex to achieve as you might think. Today Somfy has solutions utilising intelligence embedded into products, enabling communication with and control of everyday items such as blinds and curtains, etc. The Somfy range of interface units, eg animeo 4AC MoCo (motor controller) are used to provide the link between a home automation system (eg Lutron, Crestron, AMX) and the relevant direct wired, Infrared or RTS controlled end products.

Imagine. You've spent a fortune on your home cinema set up and you're ready to settle down to enjoy a high definition film/concert, with high quality surround sound emitting from your hidden speakers.
You settle down with your remote controls. At the push of a button your fabulous widescreen TV glides out from its concealed housing, the lights dim, the projection screen glides down. Do you want to have to get up to close your curtains and blinds?

Somfy's Sonesse™ quiet motors that can power those TV and projection screen movements can also be used to power interior blinds, and they, together with the Glystro™ electrically powered curtain track, can also be linked to your home automation system.

For residential or commercial applications, whether the audio visual or home automation system requires contact closure, Infrared or radio signalling, Somfy have a range of buffer units incorporating functions that can be manipulated simply whilst at the same time interfacing with lighting, heating and other building control systems. For buildings with a more complex architecture, they can afford control of large numbers of blinds according to weather patterns, occupancy and time. For example, blinds throughout an entire building could be opened automatically each morning at a different time, and closed each evening according to temperature or measured light levels.

Systems incorporating sun tracking, rain and wind sensors, motion detectors and thermostats can transmit data to actuators which activate or deactivate blinds, lighting and heating systems. For the homeowner, if RTS (radio technology) is selected, then Somfy's 20 channel handset Telis Composio RTS is an ideal accessory, enabling the user to control a wide range of products, including for example, the entire 'home theatre' scenario mentioned earlier.

Whether a large scale commercial project or a high end residential application is being considered, Somfy is always on hand to assist with relevant information, training and technical back up.