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Antennas, Photonics, & RF Communications

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Pharad Debuts its USB Controlled Dither Free Modulator Bias Controller at OFC/NFOEC 2014

Hanover, MD – March 11, 2014 – Pharad debuted the latest addition to its range of dither-free modulator bias controller circuits at the OFC/NFOEC Exhibition being held in San Francisco, CA. The new MBC-DF-UC-U bias controller for OEM applications features several enhanced capabilities: continuous tuning of the modulator bias voltage via USB computer control, a simplified easy-to-use control interface, as well as direct reporting of optical power in the set-up. The MBC-DF-UC-U modulator bias controller also provides a small form factor board with a compact footprint of 2.5″ × 2.0″.

The MBC-DF-UC-U dither-free bias controller provides precision and highly stable control of optical modulators; the modulator bias voltage is automatically adjusted to maintain its set point as it drifts over time. The bias controller operates in conjunction with on-board inline optical power monitors. This eliminates the need for any user supplied external optical couplers or photodetectors, simplifying experimental set-ups and allowing the controllers to be readily integrated into systems. Since the board features dither-free control, the pilot tones found in conventional bias controllers are avoided, making it the ideal solution for high performance analog fiber optic links.

Pharad's range of bias controllers can operate with modulators having both periodic and non-periodic transfer functions. Customers are using the Pharad OEM boards for stable control of lithium niobate as well as gallium arsenide modulators, and operation with other modulator material technologies is currently being evaluated.

Pharad's new bias controller model as well as its other RF-over-Fiber technology products are being showcased in Booth 1333 at OFC/NFOEC 2014.

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