**+++ Press Release +++**

**50 Years of Bit Parallel Encoders from POSITAL**

Innovative designs help keep an old favorite available

**<location>,<date> -** Encoder-maker POSITAL has announced that it remains committed to supplying customers with absolute encoders with bit parallel communications interfaces. “Rotary encoders with parallel interfaces have been sold under the FRABA and POSITAL brands since 1972” comments Christian Fell, leader of POSITAL’s North American operations. Absolute encoders with parallel interfaces have always offered excellent dynamic response. However, the resolution of these encoders depends on the number of conductors in the connecting cable, resulting in a trade-off between resolution and cable size. As the performance of serial interfaces improved, parallel interfaces became less popular, and this interface has been dropped from many manufacturers’ catalogues. Nevertheless, with many parallel interface encoders still in service, there is a modest but steady demand for plug-compatible replacements.

POSITAL’s ability to supply this low-volume niche market with cost-effective products is directly related to its modular design philosophy and flexible “minimum order quantity: one” manufacturing system. Fell explains: “Our encoders are designed as assemblies of inter-changeable components. Except for a few specialized parts, our parallel interface encoders have most of the same components as encoders with serial, fieldbus, or industrial Ethernet interfaces. As long as we can source the necessary parts, we will continue to supply this market.”

POSITAL absolute encoders with parallel interfaces are based on the company’s optical measurement technology and are available in single (up to 16-bit resolution) and multi-turn (up to 25-bit output) configurations. Output is managed by an embedded microcontroller so that many coding options, including Binary, Gray and excess Gray are supported. Custom codes – such as Petherick, or those used in cam or end-switch type applications, can be implemented through software, making it possible to reproduce the functional characteristics of older sensors used in long-lived applications like public transport or machine tools. Like other POSITAL encoders, these devices are available with a wide range of options for housing material, flange design and shaft configuration (including through hollow).

**About FRABA and POSITAL**

POSITAL is a supplier of advanced industrial position sensors used in a wide variety of motion control and safety systems. The company is also an innovator in product design and manufacturing processes and a pioneer of Industry 4.0 (Industrial Internet of Things/IIoT), offering customers the benefits of built-to-order products combined with the price advantages of mass-production. POSITAL is a member of the international FRABA group, whose history dates back to 1918, when its predecessor, **Fr**anz **Ba**umgartner elektrische Apparate GmbH, was established in Cologne, Germany to manufacture relays. Since then, the company has played a trendsetting role in the development of rotary encoders, inclinometers and other sensor products. POSITAL has a global reach with subsidiaries in Europe, North America and Asia – and sales and distribution partners around the world.

###### **Further Information**

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