

HARDWARE.astronomy: Housekeeping Box (H.aHk Box)

Here we present the HARDWARE.astronomy Housekeeping Box (H.aHk Box). The H.aHk Box is a low-cost open-source temperature monitoring and control system. It employs existing open-source devices (e.g Arduino, RaspberryPi) to reduce costs while also limiting the complexity of the development. The H.aHk Box features a chassis with a control computer, and 10 expansion card slots that can achieve a variety of capabilities. The first deployment of the H.aHk Box will be for the ZEUS-2 submillimeter grating spectrometer. As such the modular cards will include AC and DC excited 4-wire bridges, 2-wire bridge, and PID controller card. The system can output up to 200 watts, and achieve sub-millikelvin temperature sensing accuracy. The schematics, firmware, software and parts list will be published online allowing for other projects to adopt the system and create custom expansion cards as needed. Here we provide an overview of the project, initial layout of the chassis, electrical design, and specifications, as well as a proto-type expansion card.