

Quarch Technology Ltd

QSFP Cable Modules

Technical Manual

For use with:

QTL2171 – QSFP28 Cable Module

QTL1366 – QSFP+ Cable Module

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Change History

1.0	14/01/2019	Initial Release

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Introduction

The **QSFP28 Cable Module** and **QSFP+ Cable Module** allow remote switching of the data and sideband pins in a QSFP Cable for test automation or fault injection purposes.

The modules supports data rates up to 32GB/s (QSFP28 only).

Each pin is individually switched, allowing complete control over the mating sequence of a cable connector.

The switches can be sequenced at precise timings to simulate a hot-swap event, including pin bounce. Individual pins can also be broken or glitched at any time to simulate a fault in the system.

The modules fit directly into a single QSFP+ or QSFP28 receptacle. Your normal QSFP is attached to the rear.

Technical specifications

Power requirements

The module takes power from its controller: Either a QTL1260 Interface Kit, or a QTL1461/QTL1079 Array Controller. No power is required from the host/device.

Switching characteristics

QSFP Connector Pin	Description	Switching Action
1, 4, 7, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 32, 35, 38	Ground pins	All connected to Ground on the Module
2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 33, 34, 36, 37	SAS Data Signal pins	Each signal is individually switched by an RF Switch
1, 29, 30	Transceiver Power	Each power supply is individually switched by a 2A power FET
11, 12	TWI Bus	Each signal is individually switched by a digital switch, data read from the transceiver can be altered by the module
8, 9, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	Other Management Interface	Each signal is individually switched by an FPGA

Protocol Compatibility

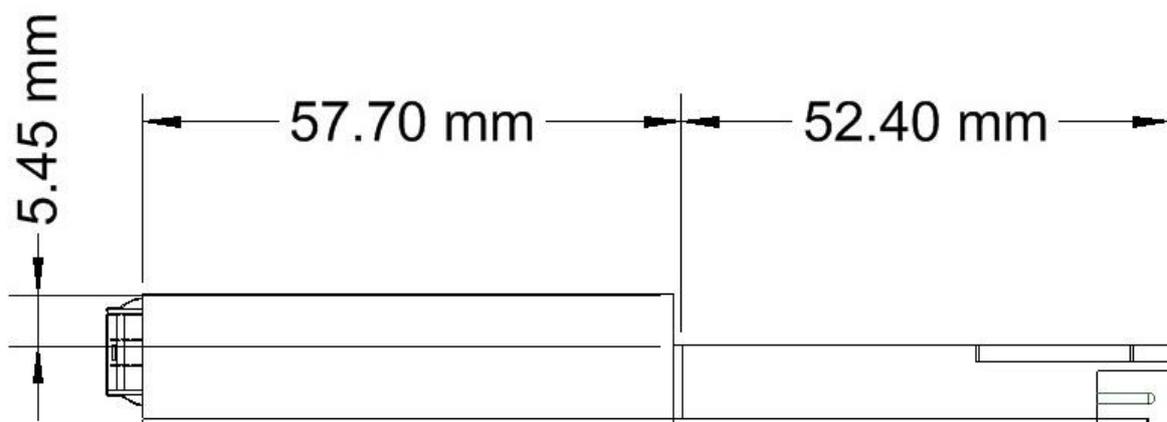
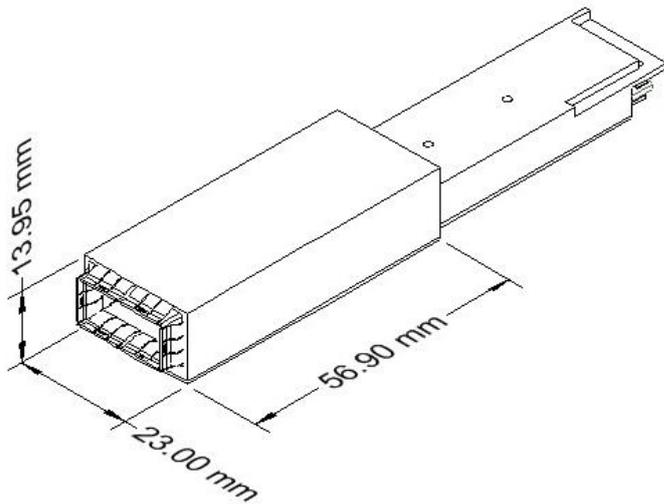
The modules are protocol agnostic, and can switch any protocol which is compatible with QSFP+ or QSFP28 electrical specification.

Depending on the quality of your host, device and cabling, there may be some cases where the highest speed protocols do not work error-free through the modules. We always recommend that you evaluate a module in your live system before purchasing, especially when long cables are used.

Module connections

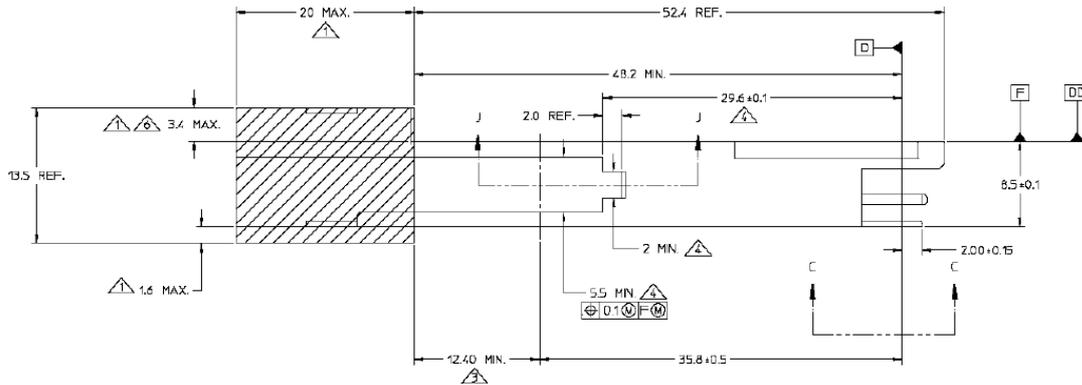
- MALE: The male side connects into an SFP receptacle
- FEMALE: Your normal SFP is connected to the female side
- CABLE: Connection to a Torridon Controller

Mechanical characteristics



Dimensional Non-Conformities:

QSFP Dimensional Specification:



The height and length of the exterior part of a QSFP are limited to 3.4mm above the top surface of the QSFP and 20mm outside of the cage, the Quarch module breaks these specifications. The additional height of the module may cause mechanical interference if there is limited clearance around the QSFP port.

In addition the single QSFP module is 23mm wide compared to the QSFP specification of 19mm, this will prevent single modules being used side by side in a ganged QSFP cage.

Control Interfaces

All Torridon modules are designed to be used with a Torridon Array Controller (QTL1461, QTL1079) or a single Torridon Interface Kit (QTL1260).

The control cable is an ultra-thin flex cable.

Control Interface	Form Factor	Torridon Ports	Control Methods Available	Interfaces
QTL1079 28 Port Torridon Array Controller	1U 19" Rack Mounted unit	24 at the front 4 at the rear	Terminal Scripting TestMonkey 2 GUI	Serial via DB9 or RJ45 Ethernet USB
QTL1461 4 Port Array Controller	160x165x53mm Enclosure 1U Enclosure also available	4 ports on front	Terminal Scripting TestMonkey 2 GUI	Serial via RJ45 Ethernet USB
QTL1461 Torridon Interface Kit	60mm x 45mm x 30mm Box	1 port	Terminal Scripting TestMonkey 2 GUI	Serial via RJ-45 Serial via USB/Serial convertor USB

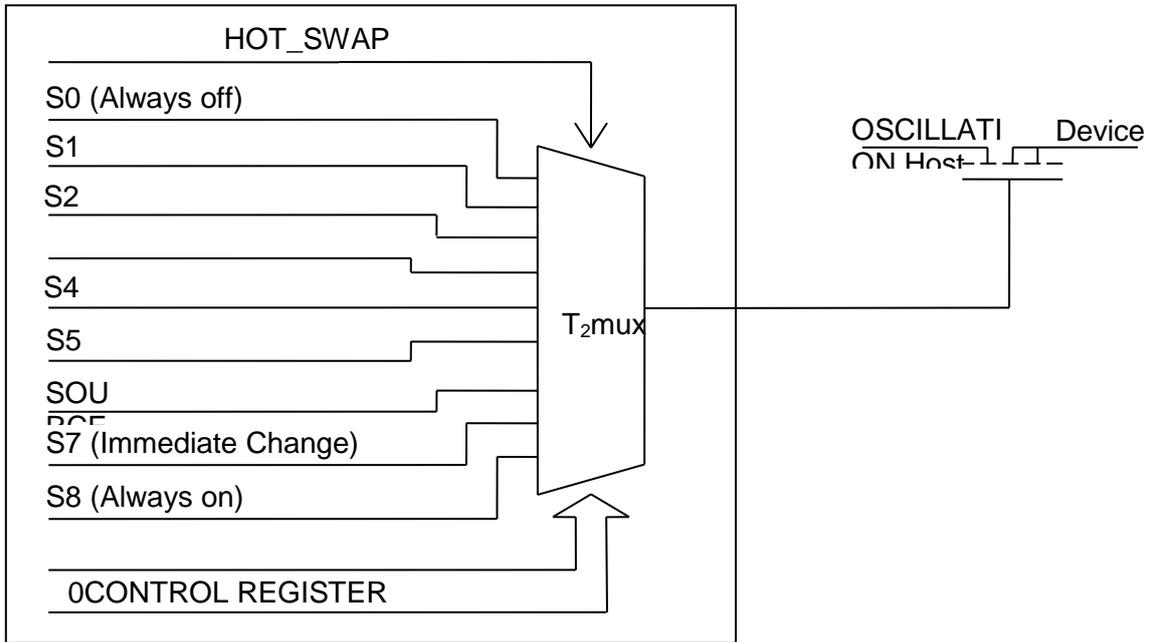
Signal Configuration

Each signal that is switched by the module is usually assigned to one of the 6 timed sources, S1 – S6. Each signal can also be assigned directly to 'always off' (source 0), 'immediate change' (source 7) or 'Always on' (source 8).

Signals assignment is done through the command:

SIGna1:[name]:SOURce [Source#]

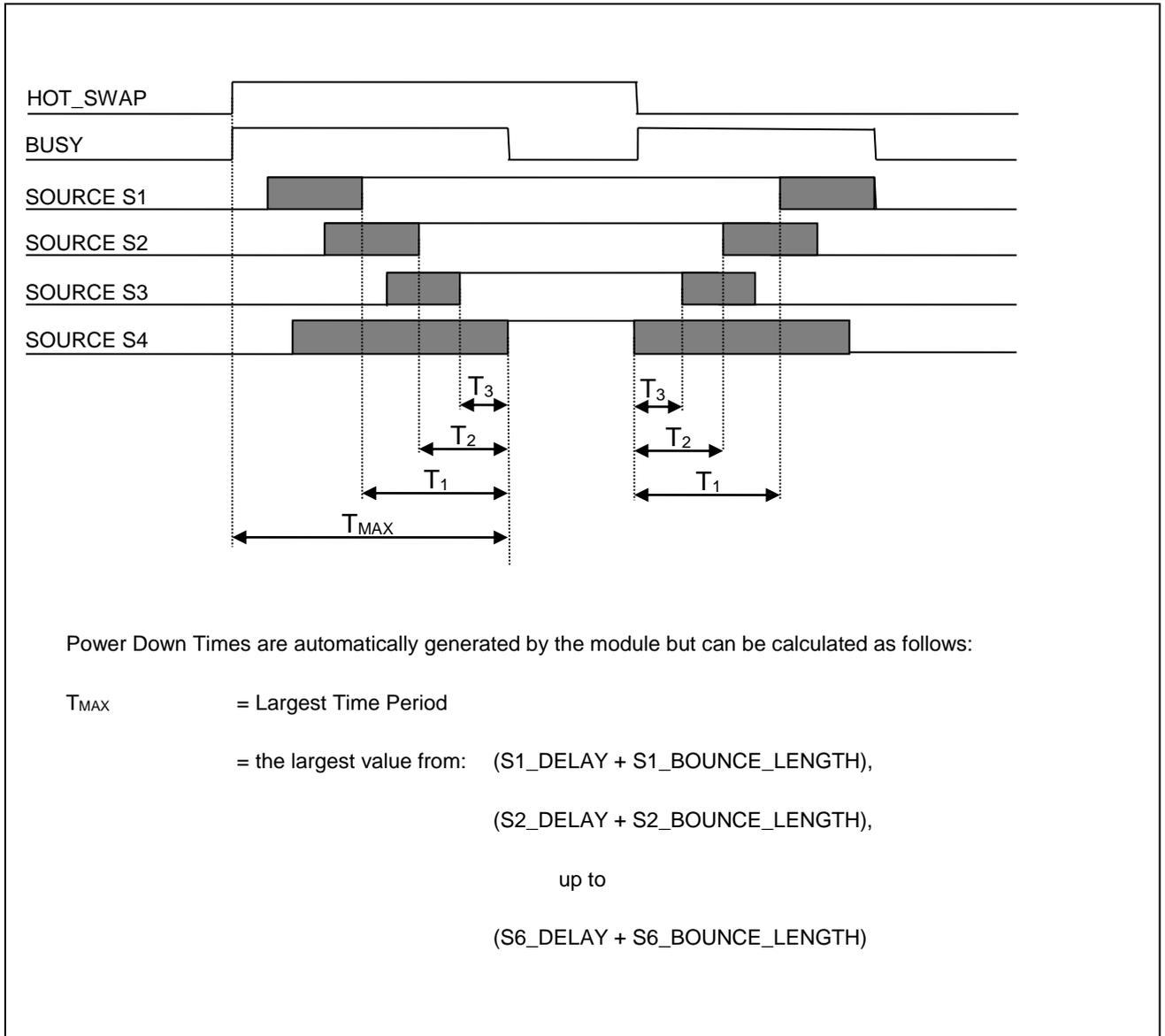
Source Number	Description
0	Signal is always OFF
1	Signal assigned to control source 1
2	Signal assigned to control source 2
3	Signal assigned to control source 3
4	Signal assigned to control source 4
5	Signal assigned to control source 5
6	Signal assigned to control source 6
7	Signal changes with HOT_SWAP state
8	Signal is always ON



This diagram shows the 9 possible source settings entering the control MUX for a switched signal. The value of the control register will determine which of the sources are used to control the signal. When enabled, the hot-swap line will cause the MUX to pass the control signal from that source through to the switch.

Power Up vs. Power Down Timing

Each control source is always configured with power-up parameters. The power-down profile is automatically generated by the module, and is the mirror image of the power up:



If you require a different power down sequence then you can alter any of the source timing values, pin bounce or signal assignments while the module is in the plugged state. When you initiate the 'pull' action, the new settings will be used.

Glitch Control

Any control signal may be glitched for a pre-determined length of time using the glitch generator logic.

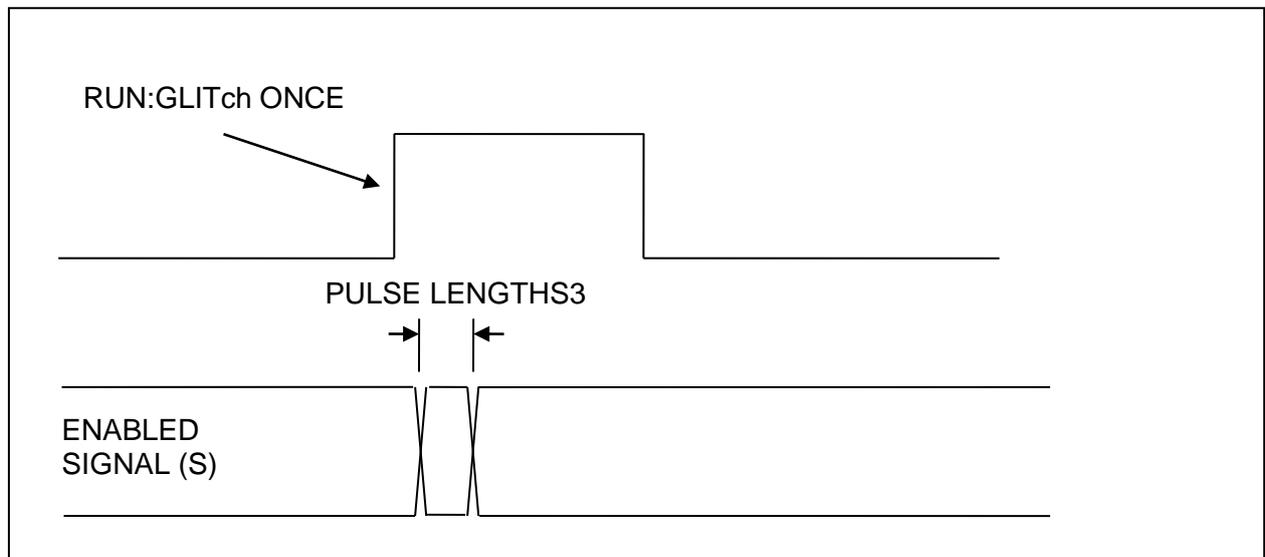
Each Signal Control register contains a “**GLITCH:ENABLE**” bit which determines whether the glitch logic will affect that signal. The setting, defaults to off, so any glitches will have no effect unless explicitly set to do so.

Glitches will invert the current state of the switched signal. Therefore if a switch is currently OFF, a glitch will turn it ON, and if the switch is ON, it will turn OFF.

For modules that support signal driving, the glitch action will drive the signal following the ‘**DRIVE:OPEN**’ and ‘**DRIVE:CLOSED**’ settings

Glitches may be applied in 3 modes:

Glitch Once



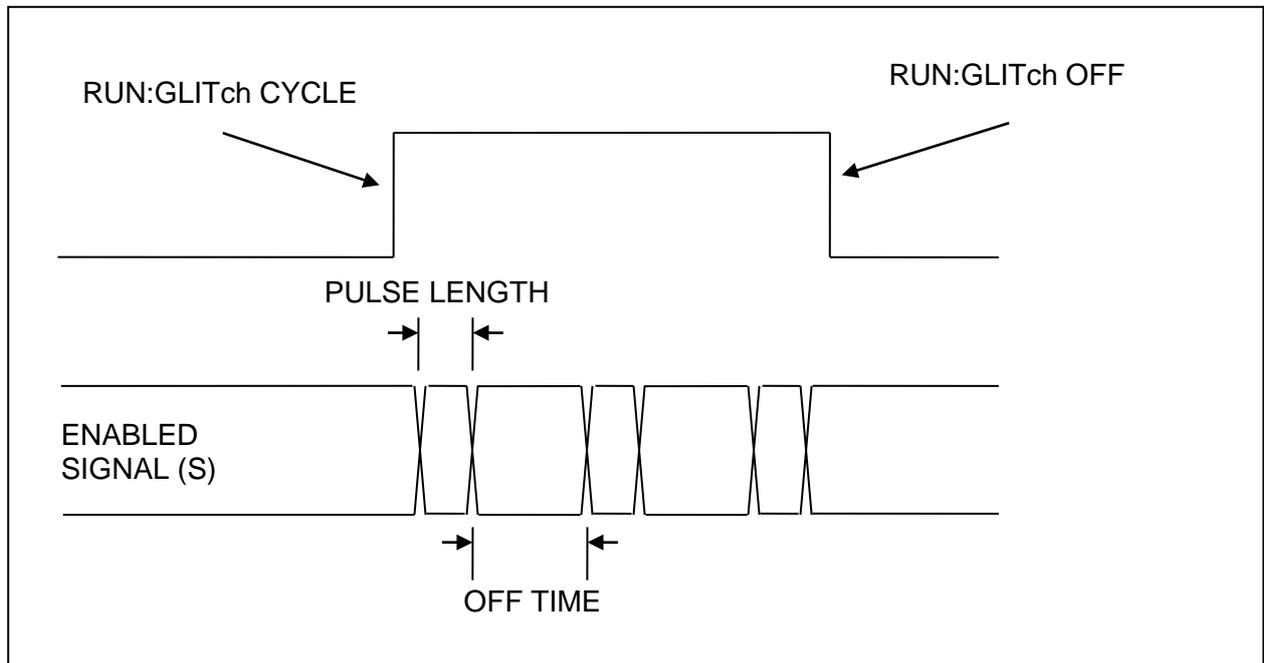
A single glitch is generated when the **RUN:GLITCh ONCE** command is executed.

The length of the glitch is determined by using the **GLITCh:SETup** command or the **GLITCh:MULTiplier** and **GLITCh:LENGth** commands:

$$\text{PULSE LENGTH} = \text{GLITCh:MULTiplier} \times \text{GLITCh:LENGth}$$

Repeated use of the **RUN:GLITCh:ONCE** command will generate multiple glitches, it is not necessary to use the **RUN:GLITCh OFF** command after a single glitch.

Glitch Cycle



A sequence of glitches is generated when the **RUN:GLITCh CYCLE** command is executed, and continues until **RUN:GLITCh OFF** is executed.

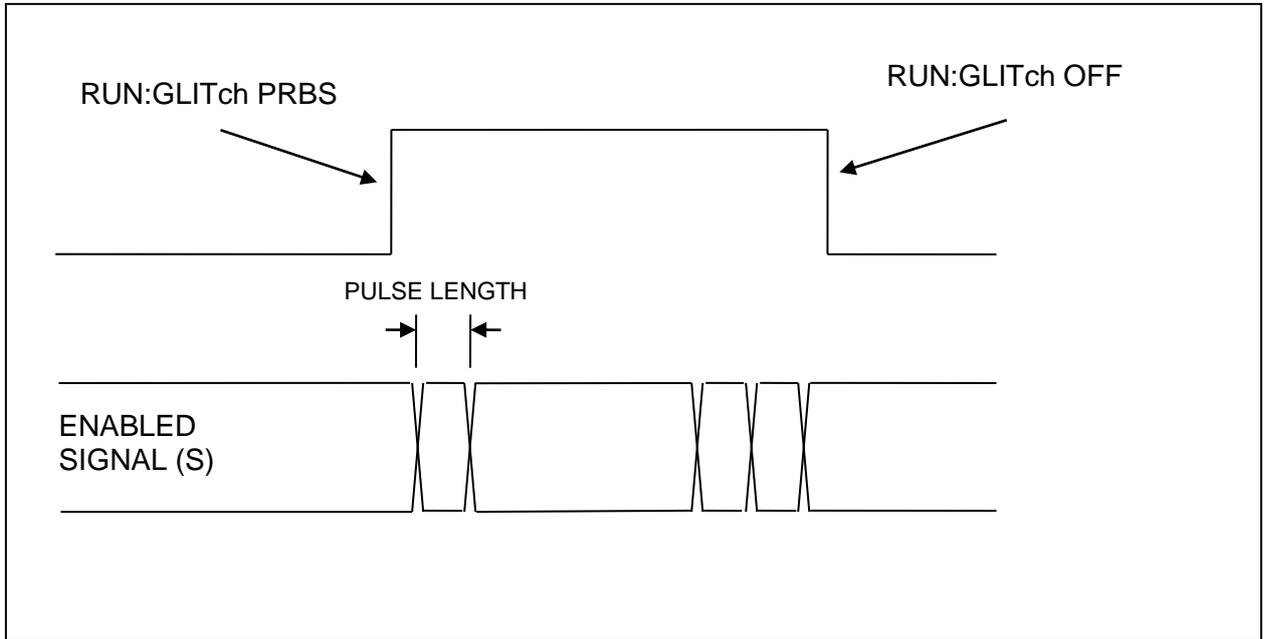
The length of the glitch is determined by using the **GLITCh:SETup** command or the **GLITCh:MULTiplier** and **GLITCh:LENgth** commands:

$$\text{PULSE LENGTH} = \text{GLITCh:MULTiplier} \times \text{GLITCh:LENgth}$$

The length of time between each glitch pulse is set in the same way as the glitch length, The length of the gap is determined by using the **GLITCh:CYCLE:SETup** command or the **GLITCh:CYCLE:MULTiplier** and **GLITCh:CYCLE:LENgth** commands:

$$\text{OFF TIME} = \text{GLITCh:CYCLE:MULTiplier} \times \text{GLITCh:CYCLE:LENgth}$$

Glitch PRBS



A pseudo random sequence of glitches is generated when the **RUN:GLITCh PRBS** command is executed, and continues until **RUN:GLITCh OFF** is executed.

The length of the glitch is determined by using the **GLITCh:SETup** command or the **GLITCh:MULTiplier** and **GLITCh:LENGTh** commands:

$$\text{PULSE LENGTH} = \text{GLITCh:MULTiplier} \times \text{GLITCh:LENGTh}$$

The number of glitches in a set length of time is determined by the **GLITCh:PRBS** command. A value of 2 will result in glitches at a ratio of 1:2 (the line will be in a glitched state 50% of the time), whilst a value of 256 will produce glitches in a ratio of 1:256.

Default Startup State

On power up or reset, the control modules enter a default state. On the cable module all signals are connected at startup. The “run:power down” command will immediately disconnect the cable without needing any initial setup.

The default hot-swap scenario will disconnect data pins immediately, followed by the management interface (as the management interface uses longer pins)

Source Number	Initial Delay	Pin Bounce Mode	Bounce Length	Bounce Period	Bounce Duty Cycle
1	0mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%
2	25mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%
3	0mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%
4	0mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%
5	0mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%
6	0mS	Standard	0mS	0uS	50%

Signal	Assigned Source
VCC_TX, VCC_RX, VCC_1	Source 1
All other signals	Source 2

Hot-Swap State:

The cable is in the ‘plugged’ state, waiting for a **RUN:POWER DOWN** command to disconnect it.

Controlling the Module

The module can be controlled either by:

- Serial ASCII terminal (such as HyperTerminal)

This is normally used with scripted commands to automate a series of tests. The commands are normally generated by a script or user code (PERL, TCL, C, C# or similar).

- Telnet Terminal (Only when connected to an Array Controller).

This mode uses exactly the same commands as the serial ASCII terminal, but run over a standard Telnet connection.

- REST API (Only when connected to an Array Controller).

Controllers provide a basic REST API, allowing multi-user control over Torridon products.

- USB

Quarch's TestMonkey application can control a single module via USB, this allows simple graphical control of the module. The Quarch C# API and Python examples allow automation via USB.

Terminal Command Set

These commands are based on the SCPI style control system that is used by many manufacturers of test instruments. The entire SCPI specification has NOT been implemented but the command structure will be very familiar to anyone who has used it before.

- SCPI commands are NOT case sensitive
- SCPI commands are in a hierarchy separated by ':'
(**LEVe11:LEVe12:LEVe13**)
- Most words have a short form (e.g. '**register**' shortens to '**reg**'). This will be documented as **REGister**, where the short form is shown in capitals.
- Some commands take parameters. These are separated by spaces after the main part of the command (e.g. "**meas:volt:self 3v3?**" obtains the 3v3 self test measurement).
- Query commands that return a value all have a '?' on the end
- Commands with a preceding '*' are basic control commands, found on all devices.
- Commands that do not return a particular value will return "**OK**" or "**FAIL**". Unless disabled, the fail response will also append a text description for the failure if it can be determined.

[comments]

Any line beginning with a # character is ignored as a comment. This allows commenting of scripts for use with the module.

*RST

Triggers a reset, the module will behave as if it had just been powered on.

*CLR

Clear the terminal window and displays the normal start screen. Also runs the internal self test. The same action can be performed by pressing return on a blank line.

*IDN?

Displays a standard set of information, identifying the device. An example return is shown below:

Family:	Torridon System	[The parent family of the device]
Name:	Ethernet Cable Pull Module	[The name of the device]
Part#:	QTL1271-01	[The part number of the hardware]
Processor:	QTL1159-01,3.50	[Part# and version of firmware]
Bootloader:	QTL1170-01,1.00	[Part# and version of bootloader]
FPGA 1:	1.0	[Version of FPGA core]

***TST?**

Runs a set of standard tests to confirm the device is operating correctly, these tests are also performed at start up. Returns 'OK' or 'FAIL' followed by a list of errors that occurred, each on a new line.

CONFig:MODE BOOT

Configures the card for boot loader mode (to update the firmware), requires an update utility on the PC.

CONFig:MESSAgEs [SHORT|USER]**CONFig:MESSAgEs?**

Gets or sets the mode for messages that are returned to the user's terminal

Short: Only a "FAIL" or "OK" will be returned.

User: Full error messages are returned to the user on failure.

CONFig:TERMinAl USER

Sets the terminal response mode to the default 'User' setting. This is intended for use with HyperTerminal or similar and manually typed commands.

CONFig:TERMinAl SCRIPT

Sets the terminal response mode for easier parsing. Especially useful from a UNIX/LINUX based system. Characters sent from the PC are not echoed by the device and a <CR><LF> is sent after the cursor to force a flush of the USART buffer.

CONFig:TERMinAl?

Returns the current terminal mode.

CONFig:DEFault STATE

Resets the state of the module. This will set all source/signal/glitch etc logic to its default power-on values. Terminal setting will not be affected. This command allows the module to be brought back to a known state without resetting it.

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:SETup [#1] [#2] [#3] [#4]

Sets up the source in a single command. All parameters are positive integer numbers:

#1 = Initial delay (mS)

[Limits: 0 to 127ms in steps of 1ms, 0 to 1270ms in steps of 10ms]

#2 = Bounce length (mS)

[Limits: 0 to 127ms in steps of 1ms, 0 to 1270ms in steps of 10ms]

#3 = Bounce Period (uS)

[Limits: 10 to 1270us in steps of 10us, 1000 to 127000us in steps of 1000us]

#4 = Duty Cycle (%)

[Limits: 0 to 100% in steps of 1%]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:DELAY [#ms] [#Unit*]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:DELAY?

Sets the initial delay of a source in mS. The delay is entered as a integer number with no units. E.g. "Source:1:delay 300".

#1 = Initial delay (mS)

[Limits: 0 to 127ms in steps of 1ms, 0 to 1270ms in steps of 10ms]

#2 = Optional unit specifier (High resolution firmware only) [uS, mS, S]. High resolution firmware allows initial delay of 0 to 16,775mS in 1uS resolution. This parameter is optional, to be back-compatible with older firmware

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:SETup [#1] [#2] [#3]

Sets up the bounce parameters in a single command. All parameters are positive integer numbers:

#1 = Bounce length (mS)

[Limits: 0 to 127ms in steps of 1ms, 0 to 1270ms in steps of 10ms]

#2 = Bounce Period (uS)

[Limits: 10 to 1270us in steps of 10us, 1000 to 127000us in steps of 1000us]

#3 = Duty Cycle (%)

[Limits: 0 to 100% in steps of 1%]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:LENGth [#ms] [#Unit*]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:LENGth?

Sets the length of the pin bounce in mS. The delay is entered as a decimal number with no units. E.g. "Sour:2:boun:len 50".

#1 = Bounce length (mS)

[Limits: 0 to 127ms in steps of 1ms, 0 to 1270ms in steps of 10ms]

#2 = Optional unit specifier (High resolution firmware only) [uS, mS, S]. High resolution firmware allows initial delay of 0 to 16,775mS in 1uS resolution. This parameter is optional, to be back-compatible with older firmware

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:PERiod [#us] [#Unit*]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:PERiod?

Sets the bounce period of the pin bounce in uS. The value is entered as a decimal number **with no units**. E.g. "Sour:6:boun:period 300".

#1 = Bounce Period (uS)

[Limits: 10 to 1270us in steps of 10us, 1000 to 127000us in steps of 1000us]

#2 = Optional unit specifier (High resolution firmware only) [uS, mS, S]. High resolution firmware allows initial delay of 0 to 1,677mS in 100nS resolution. This parameter is optional, to be back-compatible with older firmware

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:DUTY [#%]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:DUTY?

Sets the duty cycle of the pin bounce as a %. The value is entered as a decimal number with no units. E.g. "source:3:bounce:duty 50".

#1 = Duty Cycle (%)

[Limits: 0 to 100% in steps of 1%]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:MODE [SIMPLE|USER]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:MODE?

Sets the bounce pattern to **SIMPLE** (Duty cycle driven oscillation) or **USER** (User defined custom pattern).

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:PATtern:WRITE [0xAAAA] [0xDDDD]

Writes a word of the custom bounce pattern to the give address within the pattern

0xAAAA is the address (for example 0x0002)

0xDDDD is the pattern data (for example 0x13F2)

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:PATtern:READ [0xAAAA]

Reads a word of the custom bounce pattern

0xAAAA is the address (for example 0x0002)

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:PATtern:DUMP [0xAAAA] [0xAAAA]

Reads a range of words from the custom bounce pattern

0xAAAA is the start and end address range (for example 0x0002)

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:BOUNce:CLEAR

Removes any pin bounce from the source and sets all bounce settings to default values. See “Default Startup State” for details for the default settings.

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:STATE [ON|OFF]

SOURce:[1-6|ALL]:STATE?

Sets or returns the enable state of the source. Any signals assigned to a disabled (off) source will immediately be disconnected and vice versa. If a source state is changed, all signals assigned to it will change at exactly the same time (if a change is required).

SOURce:[1-6]:BOUNce:PATtern:LENGth [#bits]

SOURce:[1-6]:BOUNce:PATtern:LENGth?

Sets or returns the number of bits of the custom bounce pattern that are to be used. This defaults to the maximum (112) and can be reduced to create more accurate patterns.

SOURce:[1-6]:BOUNce:PATtern:REPeat [ON|OFF]

SOURce:[1-6]:BOUNce:PATtern:REPeat?

Sets the custom pattern repeat **flag**. This is used when the current custom bounce pattern is shorter than the specified bounce length. When the flag is set (default) the pattern will wrap. When this flag is off, the last bit of the pattern will be repeated.

SOURCE:[1-6]:BOUNCE:PATTERN:SETUP [#us] [#binarypattern]

Sets a basic custom pattern from a single command. This command will alter the bounce period, bounce length, pattern length and the custom pattern.

[#uS] – Integer value of uS to specify the period. The length of each bit in the pattern will be half of this value. 20uS is the minimum value (10uS per bit)

[#binarypattern] – String parameter containing 1s and 0s, for example “001” is a 2 bit pattern that is low for 2 bits then high for 1. The given pattern will always be padded up to the nearest millisecond. This is because the total glitch length has a 1mS resolution.

SIGNAL:[SIG_NAME|ALL]:SETUP [#num]

SIGNAL:[SIG_NAME|ALL]:SOURCE [#num]

Assigns a given signal to a numbered timing source (0-8). SIGNAL_NAME is one of the signals/groups as found in the ‘Signal Names’ appendix at the end of this manual

SIGNAL:[SIG_NAME|ALL]:GLITCH:ENABLE [ON|OFF]

SIGNAL:[SIG_NAME|ALL]:GLITCH:ENABLE?

Enables a signal for glitching. If this is on, the signal will be glitched whenever the glitch logic is in use. Multiple signals may be set to glitch at the same time.

GLITCH:SETUP [MULTIPLIER_STEP] [#count]

Sets up the length of the glitch in a single command.

#1 = Multiplier factor for glitch length (mS)

[50ns|500ns|5us|50us|500us|5ms|50ms|500ms]

#2 = Length of the glitch (number of times the multiplication factor will be run)

[Limits: 0 to 255 in steps of 1]

This gives a maximum glitch of 127.5 Seconds.

GLITch:MULTIplier [MULTIPLIER_STEP]

GLITch:MULTIplier?

Sets the multiplier value for the glitch time to one of the specified durations.

This factor is multiplied with the **GLITch:LENgth** value to give the actual glitch time.

#1 = Multiplier factor for glitch length (mS)

[50ns|500ns|5us|50us|500us|5ms|50ms|500ms]

GLITch:LENgth [#count]

GLITch:LENgth?

This value is multiplied by **GLITch:MULTIplier** to give the glitch duration.

#1 = Length of the glitch (number of times the multiplication factor will be run)

[Limits: 0 to 255 in steps of 1]

GLITch:CYCLe:SETup [MULTIPLIER_STEP] [#count]

Sets up the length of the glitch cycle in a single command.

#1 = Multiplier factor for glitch cycle length (mS)

[50ns|500ns|5us|50us|500us|5ms|50ms|500ms]

#2 = Length of the glitch cycle (number of times the multiplication factor will be run)

[Limits: 0 to 255 in steps of 1]

This gives a maximum glitch cycle time of 127.5 Seconds.

GLITch:CYCLe:MULTIplier [MULTIPLIER_STEP]

GLITch:CYCLe:MULTIplier?

Sets the multiplier value for the glitch cycle time to one of the specified durations.

This factor is multiplied with the **GLITch:CYCLe:LENgth** value to give the actual time between cycled glitches.

#1 = Multiplier factor for glitch length (mS)

[50ns|500ns|5us|50us|500us|5ms|50ms|500ms]

GLITch:CYCLe:LENgth [#count]

GLITch:CYCLe:LENgth?

This value is multiplied by **GLITch:CYCLe:MULTiplier** to give the actual time between cycled glitches.

#1 = Length of the glitch (number of times the multiplication factor will be run)

[Limits: 0 to 255 in steps of 1]

GLITch:PRBS [#1]

Sets the PRBS rate for Pseudo Random repeat glitching, this is a ratio, 2 means 1:2 (approximately 50% of the time the signal will be glitched), 256 means 1:256.

#1 = PRBS Ratio

[2|4|8|16|32|64|128|256|512|1024|2048|4096|8192|16384|32768|65536]

RUN:POWer [UP|DOWN]

Initiates a plug or pull operation (legacy name used to preserve compatibility between Torridon modules). This is the master control for all switches on the card.

The command will fail if you order a power up when the module is already in the connected state and vice-versa as the action cannot be performed.

The “OK” response will be returned as soon as the hot-swap event has begun. If your timing sequence is very long you may have to poll the BUSY bit in register 0 to check when it has completed.

RUN:POWer?

Returns the current plugged/pulled state of the module.

RUN:GLITch ONCE

Triggers a single glitch with length:

GLITch:MULTIplier x GLITch:LENgth.

RUN:GLITch CYCLE

Triggers a sequence of repeated glitches that run until the **RUN:GLITch STOP** command is executed. All signals with **GLITch:ENABle** set to **ON** are glitched for **GLITch:MULTIplier x GLITch:LENgth** and then released for a duration of **GLITch:CYCle:MULTIplier x GLITch:CYCle:LENgth**. This is repeated until the **RUN:GLITch STOP** command is run.

RUN:GLITch PRBS

Triggers a PRBS glitch sequence which runs until the **RUN:GLITch STOP** command is issued.

RUN:GLITch STOP

Stops any running glitch sequence.

RUN:GLITch?

Returns the state of the current glitch sequence running on the module.

Appendix 1 - Signal Names

The following signal names are used to specify a single signal or a group of signals. These may be used in commands that take a parameter “SIGNAL_NAME”.

These signals names are based on the interface specification.

Note that some commands, such as those returning a value, only accept a parameter that resolves to a single signal. In this case you cannot use the group names

Signals (QTL1366 – QSFP Module)

TX1_PL (Data transmitted from the ‘input’ port on Lane 1 (+ve side of differential pair))

TX1_MN

RX1_PL

RX1_MN

VCC_TX

VCC_RX

MOD_ABS

SDA

SCL

TX_FAULT

TX_DISABLE

RX_LOS

RS0

RS1

Signals (QTL2171 – QSFP28 Module)

TX1_PL (Data transmitted from the ‘input’ port on Lane 1 (+ve side of differential pair))

TX1_MN

RX1_PL

RX1_MN

TX2_PL
TX2_MN
RX2_PL
RX2_MN
TX3_PL
TX3_MN
RX3_PL
RX3_MN
TX4_PL
TX4_MN
RX4_PL
RX4_MN
MODPRSL
SDA
SCL
INTL
RESETL
MODSELL
LPMODE

Signal Groups

ALL	(Allows change of all signals at the same time)
MANAGEMENT	(Controls all signals in the management interface)
POWER	(Affects all power signals)
DATA	(Affects all data lanes)