



## R-DAS- AED Electronics

Price: £150 (approx)

Contact: <http://www.iae.nl/users/aed/rdas/rdas.htm>

R-DAS stands for the Rocket Data Acquisition System and true to its name it will store both analog and digital data gathered during your rocket flight. In addition it can do all that you would expect of a top-of-the-range altimeter, including deployment of drogue and main parachutes. R-DAS can be configured through its RS232 interface and the accompanying Windows software, which can be downloaded from the AED internet site. Flight data is also downloaded in the same way, whether you lost power or not during the flight, and is displayed graphically within the software.

The construction of the R-DAS unit is based on a double sided PCB and if mounted correctly to a solid board within a cargo bay can withstand quite a crash! In my field tests R-DAS withstood a 1000ft drop onto solid concrete when the chute mount on the cargo bay failed. R-DAS was happily beeping out the altitude on recovery and on downloading the data we discovered that R-DAS had withstood an impact of 65Gs!



R-DAS is easy to configure and use with options for Break Wire and G-Switch launch detect. Timed or smart recovery can be selected for the drogue and main chute deployment giving a good degree of flexibility.



R-DAS also has the capability to be exploited further with the use of its expansion board. Currently R-DAS has 2 boards that allow the unit to have additional igniter outputs, ideal for staged flights, and a board that allows temperature and horizontal acceleration data collection. The guys at AED have been working hard on the development of a telemetry system which promises to bring real-time data transmission during flight and a GPS board!!

It is worth knowing that AED are a very responsive company and suggestions made by the customer base have often been incorporated into the product. AED also operate a user mail list that it worth adding your name to.

To summarise, the R-DAS product is very easy to use, robust and well built. It is supported by a forward thinking company and performs well in the field. I like the product a lot and believe that if you can afford one you should certainly rush out and buy one!

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