



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

JOHN STRUHAR OF OFS TO CHAIR TIA'S FIBER OPTICS LAN SECTION

Arlington, Va., March 15, 2002 -- John Struhar of OFS, Norcross, Ga., has been named chair of the Fiber Optics LAN Section (FOLS) of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) for 2002. Now in its ninth year, the FOLS offers companies involved with fiber components for LANs a forum to work together on programs that expand the implementation of enterprise fiber technology. FOLS also serves as a resource for users who want to learn more about the benefits and application of enterprise fiber optics, providing technical information and expertise, resource directories, case histories and information on evolving standards.

"I am excited to have this opportunity to work with my colleagues in the industry to further expand the use of optical fiber in LANs," said Struhar, distinguished member of the technical staff (DMTS) and fiber optic application engineer at OFS. "Last year's challenges in the optical fiber business have brought us new opportunities in 2002. Although the economy has caused all network planners to think carefully about any upgrades, optical fiber is an excellent choice for companies that are looking at the long-term costs of their networks as fiber offers easy upgrades, low maintenance and extremely high reliability. Initial installed costs are also coming close to parity with those of copper as users turn to new technologies such as media converters, or take advantage of new standards like TIA/EIA-785."

"We are very lucky to have John in this pivotal role," said Bob Pollock, director of marketing at Corning Cable Systems and FOLS chair in 2001. "He has been involved with the Section from its inception and brings not only tremendous technical knowledge, but true perspective on the development of this marketplace."

In addition to publishing and presenting frequently, Struhar was a driving force in the development and ultimate ratification of TIA/EIA-785, 100BASE-SX fiber standard for short wavelength fast Ethernet.

In addition to Struhar, other leaders in the fiber industry have been selected to lead the FOLS in 2002, including Section Vice Chair Robert Lopes, Micro Linear Corporation; Communications Subcommittee Chair Louise Bryant, OFS; Membership Subcommittee Chair Cindy Montstream, Ortronics; and Standards Subcommittee Chair Herb Congdon, AMP/Tyco Electronics.

Information on the FOLS, along with technical, application and standards information can be found on the Section's Web site at <http://www.fols.org>.

Note: The opinions expressed in this release are those of the Fiber Optics LAN Section of the Telecommunications Industry Association and are not necessarily those of the entire TIA membership.

The Fiber Optic LAN Section of TIA is a consortium of leading fiber optic cable, component and electronics manufacturers. The FOLS focuses on educating end users and influencers about the technical advantages and affordability that optical transmission brings to local area networks and fiber-to-the-desk applications. Member companies of the FOLS include 3M/Volition, AMP/Tyco Electronics, Corning, Corning Cable Systems, Leviton Voice & Data, Micro Linear Corporation, OFS, Optek Technology, Panduit, Ortronics, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave and Transition Networks. Visit the FOLS at www.fols.org.

TIA is the leading trade association serving the communications and information technology industry, with proven strengths in market development, trade shows, domestic and international advocacy, standards development and enabling e-business. Through its worldwide activities, the association facilitates business development opportunities and a competitive market environment. The association provides a market-focused forum for its more than 1,100 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in global communications. TIA represents the communications sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). Visit us at <http://www.tiaonline.org>.

About OFS

OFS is a world-leading designer, manufacturer and provider of optical fiber, optical fiber cable, connectivity, FTTx and specialty photonics solutions. Our marketing, sales, manufacturing and research teams provide forward-looking, innovative products and solutions in areas including Telecommunications, Medicine, Industrial Automation, Sensing,

Government, Aerospace and Defense applications. We provide reliable, cost effective optical solutions to enable our customers to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's digital and energy consumers and businesses.

OFS' corporate lineage dates back to 1876 and includes technology powerhouses such as AT&T and Lucent Technologies. Today, OFS is owned by Furukawa Electric, a multi-billion dollar global leader in optical communications.

For more information, please visit www.ofsoptics.com.

CONTACT:

Sherry Salyer

OFS Public Relations

shsalyer@ofsoptics.com

Direct: 770-798-4210

Mobile: 678-296-7034