News Release

OFS BRINGS BROADBAND ACCESS TO LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, THROUGH EXISTING NATURAL GAS LINES

New MicroDuct Technologies Help Reduce Installation Cost Significantly Without Disruption To Urban Planning

Atlanta, GA, April 1, 2003 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that its DuctSaverTM FX cable was selected by the the city of Long Beach, California to be installed in one mile of natural gas lines. The ground-breaking application of this new technology is permitting cable to be installed in active gas pipelines. The DuctSaver FX cable will connect several buildings in Long Beach, giving them broadband access for the first time.

The technology created by Sempra Fiber Links, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), allows for the installation and operation of a fiber-optic based communications system inside a pipeline while gas is flowing, eliminating the need for reengineering. The process does not require street trenching in the manner of traditional laying of fiber and, for that reason, it is quicker, less costly to install, and less disruptive to traffic and urban-planning schemes. The Sempra Fiber Links' fiber-in-gas, or FIGSM system, incorporates patent-pending fittings that allow the insertion and extraction of a conduit through active natural gas pipelines without disrupting the service.

OFS' DuctSaver FX cable, novel and unmatched in design, is an all-dielectric fiber cable measuring 5.8 mm (0.23 in) in diameter. It is designed to run in utility lines, existing city ducts and gas lines and has been successfully deployed previously here in the US and in Europe. The 48-fiber count cable design allows for a higher fiber density in a smaller space, dramatically increasing the capacity of rights-of-way.

"The DuctSaver FX cable is an ideal choice for the new and very popular microduct system technologies. By installing DuctSaver FX cable in city ducts, service providers can ramp-up

in a time and cost efficient manner," said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Fiber Cable & Connectivity, OFS. "In addition, the design fits a multiple sub-duct application perfectly. This provides an open upgrade path allowing for new advances in technology to handle the traffic without the addition of new infrastructure".

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.

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