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News Release

OFS ENHANCES PERFORMANCE OF THE FIRST AND ONLY ZERO WATER PEAK FIBER

Improvements to Full Spectrum Zero Water Peak AllWave® Fiber Enable FTTP Network Operators to Lower Costs and Increase Flexibility

FTTH Conference, New Orleans, Booth 120, October 7, 2003 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced enhancements to attenuation, dispersion slope and geometry to its industry-leading full spectrum zero water peak, AllWave fiber. AllWave fiber, with the lowest attenuation and splice loss, enables access networks to reach greater distances while reducing capital investment.

AllWave fiber, OFS' standard single-mode fiber for the last two years, offers the lowest loss of all commercially available low water peak fibers, spanning the entire wavelength range from 1260 nm to 1625 nm. For AllWave fiber, a patented process developed at OFS permanently eliminates defects that can lead to increased attenuation over time in the 1400 nm band, inherent in all other low water peak fibers. This assures the network operator of stable transmission in the 1400 nm band over the lifetime of the cable.

OFS is now specifying maximum loss across the 1400 nm band to be less than 0.03 dB/km relative to the AllWave fiber benchmark 1383 nm loss of 0.31 dB/km. OFS maintains its leadership in attenuation at 1383 nm by specifying a maximum of 0.31 db/km, 11% better than major competition. The maximum values for attenuation at 1550 and 1625 nm for AllWave fiber are also improved. In an effort to lower network cost, OFS has lowered dispersion slope for AllWave fiber to 0.089 ps/nm2-km. Improved loss performance and lower dispersion slope enables the Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) service providers to increase reach by the use of low cost transmitters, improve system margins and increase network planning flexibility. With lowest loss across the 1400 nm band, AllWave fiber gives network operators the option of using low cost Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing

(CWDM) overlays on Passive Optical Networks (PONs) to provide premium point-to-point services for high bandwidth customers.

“As the industry’s benchmark full spectrum fiber, AllWave fiber offers increased bandwidth and capacity to users in all FTTP applications. AllWave fiber is the ideal choice for emerging access networks,” explained Mike Pearsall, Vice President, Optical Fiber Marketing and Sales, at OFS.

The splicing performance of AllWave fiber has also been significantly improved. The mode-field diameters (MFD) at 1310 and 1550 nm are specified at 9.2 ± 0.4 µm and 10.4 ± 0.5 µm respectively. Clad non-circularity has been improved by 40% from 1% to 0.6%. The excellent geometrical properties and tight mode field control of AllWave fiber enable consistently low loss splices. Recent testing has shown typical splice loss for AllWave fiber to be less than is 0.02 dB, when matched to AllWave fiber, or 0.03 when matched with other standard G.652 fibers. The improvements in geometry help to eliminate splice remakes in the field, and improve splice yields, lowering installation cost for the end user. Improved splice/connection loss coupled with low attenuation also improves system margins thereby extending the reach of both PON and point-to-point systems.

OFS leads the industry in the design and manufacture of fiber designed specifically for metropolitan and local access networks and has shipped more than 8 billion meters of AllWave fiber since pioneering full spectrum fibers in 1998. AllWave fiber has set and maintained leadership with best in class specifications, is fully compliant with ITU-T G.652 standards for single-mode optical fiber, and far exceeds requirements of the latest ITU-T G.652.C and G.652.D low water peak fiber standards. AllWave fiber is an integral part of OFS’ Access ADVANTAGEä System, a comprehensive FTTP solution enabling economical optical connectivity to homes, businesses, and multiple dwelling units (MDUs).

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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