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News Release

OFS LABORATORIES RECEIVES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FUNDING TO COMMERCIALIZE REVOLUTIONARY HIGH POWER FIBER LASERS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

Murray Hill, NJ, September 28, 2004 - The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), through its Advanced Technology Program (ATP), has agreed to provide up to \$2 million to OFS Laboratories to support the development of new processes for manufacturing high power fiber lasers in their state-of-the-art laboratories and manufacturing facilities in Murray Hill and Somerset, New Jersey. Fiber lasers allow the creation of new manufacturing and communications systems that are more reliable, energy efficient and easier to operate compared to solid-state laser technologies now in use, as they can overcome many of their limitations such as beam quality, pulse repetition rate, and average power limitations. Founded in 1901, NIST is a non-regulatory federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce (www.nist.gov), whose mission is to develop and promote measurement, standards, and technology to enhance productivity, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life. The ATP bridges the gap between the research lab and the market place by providing early stage investment to accelerate the development of innovative technologies that can provide significant commercial payoffs and widespread benefits for the nation. The rigorously peer-reviewed cost-sharing ATP process evaluates proposals on the degree of innovation and its ability to actually bring new technologies to market that can provide a high payoff for the nation as a whole – in addition to a direct return to the innovators.

“The history of OFS Laboratories is quite literally the history of leadership in the design of optical fiber and the development of new processes for making optical fibers. We are continuing that tradition, established when we were part of Bell Laboratories,” said Dr. David DiGiovanni, Director of OFS Laboratories. “As the corporate research unit of OFS we have defined the innovative designs and fabrication processes for fibers and optical components that will enable whole new applications and markets for fiber lasers. We are very pleased to

have our plans for innovation validated by the rigorously tough evaluations and peer-reviewed competition for this prestigious NIST ATP award.”

ATP funding requires a well-defined path to technology commercialization. Dr. Timothy F. Murray, President of OFS’ Specialty Photonics Division commented, “ We know NIST puts a high degree of emphasis on funding technologies that catalyze economic growth and competitiveness. Our division specializes in application-specific specialty fibers and devices that allow our customers to generate new market niches or entirely new markets. Our fiber laser development plan was perfectly aligned with NIST philosophy, and their funding will enable us to develop the technologies much sooner than would have otherwise been possible. We have a long history of developing new processes with OFS Laboratories.”

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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