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News Release

CESKY TELECOM TURNS TO OFS TO ACCELERATE BUILD OUT OF ACCESS NETWORK

CeBIT, Hannover, Booth CO6, March 14, 2002 - The newly formed OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fibre optic products, today announced that it has been selected by CESKY TELECOM, a.s. (Czech Telecom) to provide micro-cables to accelerate the deployment of its access network.

The deployment of OFS' DuctSaver FX fiber cable and blowing units will give CESKY TELECOM a flexible and speedy solution as it responds to increasing consumer demand for Internet access. The company is increasing the capacity of metro and access networks to connect more users to high-speed Internet services.

Central to CESKY TELECOM's decision to use OFS' small diameter products is its strategy to maximise investment in existing ducts, by installing micro-ducts within them. DuctSaver FX cable can also be run through utility and gas lines. CESKY TELECOM's decision to use OFS' products follows successful trials of the micro-cables in Plzen in the autumn of 2001.

"Speed, flexibility and economy are the three benefits of our micro-cable products," said Willie O'Connell, EMEA Vice President of Sales, OFS. "The blowing performance of the OFS fiber ribbon means CESKY TELECOM can quickly deploy new capacity and make use of existing infrastructure."

"OFS' DuctSaver cable is the first of its kind in the industry and directly advances our business aims," said Patrik Jalamudis, manager for development of access networks at CESKY TELECOM. "But beyond technology, OFS understand our challenges, having worked with us for nine years, and they offer the best technical support."

DuctSaver FX

DuctSaver FX cable is an all-dielectric fibre cable measuring 5.8mm in diameter and is designed to run in utility lines and existing city ducts. DuctSaver FX cable has a 48-fibre count, which allows for the highest fibre density in the smallest space. It uses standard 6-fibre ribbons, providing a fibre density almost identical to the highest fibre count cables.

The 2.8mm diameter blowing units offer 4 to 12 individual fibres or 6 fibre ribbons. Fibre ribbon provides extra simplicity and cost savings for CESKY TELECOM, reducing the cost and time of deployment and repair.

About CESKY TELECOM

With nearly four million telephone lines in operation, CESKÝ TELECOM, a.s., is the leading telecommunications company in the Czech Republic. Through its subsidiary company Eurotel Praha, spol. s r. o., it also has a significant presence in the Czech mobile services market.

CESKÝ TELECOM pays close attention to the improvement in the growth potential of data and Internet services. According to GfK, a prominent market research firm, IT managers regard CESKÝ TELECOM as the best data service provider in the Czech Republic. The recent establishment of IMAGINET (the e-business subsidiary of CESKÝ TELECOM) also intends to position itself as the country's leading comprehensive service provider in the realms of e-commerce and other non-traditional business. CESKÝ TELECOM also places a great deal of emphasis on the presentation of its products and services through its web pages. In a survey conducted by e-biz magazine, www.telecom.cz ranked first out of all Czech Top 100 web pages.

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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