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News Release

FITEL USA CORP. AND OFS DEVELOP THE FITEL S199M-24 24 FIBER SPLICER TO REDUCE SPLICING TIME BY 50%

Improvements in Fiber Geometry and Fiber Ribbon Technology Lead to the Development of the 24 Fiber Splicer

NFOEC, Dallas, TX, September 16, 2002 - Fitel USA Corp., the parent company of OFS, a designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced the S199M-24 24-Fiber Ribbon Splicer that allows splicing of up to 24 fibers simultaneously. The development of the S199M-24 was driven by the consistently improved geometry of fibers, as with OFS' AllWave® zero water peak fiber. The new product will be demonstrated at OFS' booth #4408 and Fitel's booth #1917 at NFOEC 2002.

The splicer reduces overall labor costs by cutting splicing time 50% and will be offered with a modified stripping and cleaving tool providing a complete, enhanced method to fully leverage the benefits of 24 count ribbon.

"Until now, our customers had no alternative but to split 24 fiber ribbons into two sets of 12," said Mr. Terry Kawana, President, Fitel Interconnectivity Corporation. "Now with this breakthrough, our users are able to keep 24 fiber ribbons intact with the S199 M-24, eliminating prior challenges to save users time and money."

"As we pioneered the 24-fiber ribbon, we knew that optical cable users needed a splicer that could handle larger ribbon counts," said Paul Neuhart, President Optical Cable, OFS.

"Collaborating with Fitel Interconnectivity Corp., a division of our parent company, we were not only able to proactively meet the needs of our customers, but develop additional techniques of reducing their costs, while increasing their productivity."

S199M-24 with AllWave Fiber

OFS' latest generation zero water peak AllWave fiber, with 1400 nm attenuation of 0.31 dB/km at installation and for the life of the fiber, enables precedent setting splicing

performance of 24-fiber ribbons. AllWave and other OFS single-mode fibers have new improved geometry specifications that enhance the capabilities of the S199M-24 fusion splicer for maximum splicing performance, resulting in faster installation, higher quality systems and lower cost.

The improved geometry specifications that impact splice quality and performance include tighter cladding diameter variation and core to clad concentricity, as well as less fiber curl.

S199M-24 with AccuRibbon® Cable

OFS pioneered ribbon cable technology to provide greater efficiency in fiber network deployment. The latest developments in ribbon technology have given rise to the need for a splicer capable of handling large numbers of fibers at once.

"The S199M-24 Fiber Splicer was designed with 24 fiber AccuRibbon cable in mind," explained Mr. Terry Kawana, President, Fitel Interconnectivity Corporation "Without the developments in ribbon technology, we wouldn't be seeing the great demand for this splicer."

AccuRibbon cable offers the highest number of fibers in the smallest cables for ultimate space efficiency, with fiber counts up to 576 within a 0.75 in (19.0 mm) diameter and up to 864 fibers within less than a one-inch (24.4 mm) diameter. OFS AccuRibbon cables have sheath options for most installation conditions and four to one time efficiency, splicing 24 fibers at a time, compared to just one.

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