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News Release

REDEFINING LONG HAUL NETWORKS, OFS ANNOUNCES TRUEWAVE® REACH FIBER WITH RIGHTWAVE™ MATCHED DISPERSION COMPENSATING FIBER MODULE

OFC, Booth 4700, Anaheim, CA, March 19, 2002 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced the introduction of its latest long-haul fiber, TrueWave® REACH fiber, designed to reduce the overall cost of an optical network.

The first of its kind in the industry, the new fiber meets current and emerging optical system needs with the broadest available spectral bandwidth, best matched non-zero dispersion fiber (NZDF) dispersion compensation, the RightWave™ module and ability to excel with both current and emerging amplification technologies.

Due to the innovative fiber design, OFS' newest fiber has the lowest dispersion slope, best dispersion compensation over the widest bandwidth, and lowest system polarization mode dispersion (PMD) in the industry. This enables lighting channels on the fiber at less cost than with other NZDFs at both current and faster data rates.

Raman Ready

TrueWave REACH fiber is optimized to take advantage of emerging Raman amplified systems. Raman amplification benefits emerging networks by allowing broadband amplification and farther reach without costly regeneration. The novel design enables substantial flexibility for increased capacity with both today's EDFA amplified systems and emerging Raman amplified systems.

"As all-optical networks become more prevalent, operators are more and more looking to increase the capacity and reach of transmission systems," said Patrick Fay, KMI. "Raman ready fiber not only is a cost-effective method that benefits farther reach without costly regeneration, but leaves an open migration path for future systems."

Open Migration Path

By providing the most flexibility for capacity as optical networks evolve, TrueWave REACH fiber leaves an open migration path for OFS customers. The compensated broad spectral range, moderate dispersion to enable high data rates and tight channel spacing, and industry-leading system-link PMD and Raman gain, are a few of the enabling factors.

"Using the Bell Labs heritage of optical systems expertise, coupled with leading optical fiber and components R&D, we have designed a fiber that allows systems equipment vendors to provide end-users the lowest possible cost per bit network, both today and tomorrow," said Janice Haber, Vice President, Systems Engineering and Market Development, OFS.

"TrueWave REACH fiber offers more flexibility for growth than any other NZDF on the market, enabling lowest cost regardless of the direction of system equipment evolution."

Benefits Summary

- Broadest spectral range for both EDFA and Raman amplified systems;
- Best dispersion compensation with lowest residual dispersion for NZDF over available C, L and S bands;
- Lowest system path PMD for longest distance;
- Increases regenerator spacings well beyond today's typical 600 km distance to 1500 km or more for 10 and 40 Gb/s transmission
- Highest performance at the lowest system cost.

Test Results

This performance has been demonstrated by system experiments with terrestrial (100 km) span lengths:

- a. With 3.08 Tb/s (77 channels at 40 Gb/s) in the C + L bands over 1200 km (OFC'2001);
- b. With 80 C-band channels at 10 Gb/s over 3200 km (ECOC'2000);
- d. c. With 40 S-band channels at 10 Gb/s over 600 km (OFC 2001).With 3.2 Tb/s (80 channels at 40 Gb/s) over 2000 km using RightWave modules providing simultaneous C+L-band dispersion compensation.

All four experiments employed distributed Raman amplification in the TrueWave REACH fiber.

About the TrueWave Fiber Family

Introduced in 1994, TrueWave fiber was the first NZDF. Since that time, OFS has continued to further the innovation of that first product with new introductions, including the current TrueWave RS fiber used in metro express and regional ring applications, and TrueWave SRS and XL fibers used in ocean applications.

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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