



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

OFS AND TRANSMODE TO DEMONSTRATE 16-CHANNEL CWDM SOLUTION FOR METRO NETWORKS

Commercial Solution Further Increases Capacity, Helps Reduce Costs in Metropolitan Edge and Access Networks

OFC, Booth 2141, Atlanta, Georgia, March 25th, 2003 –OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, and Transmode Systems AB, a supplier of Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing (CWDM) equipment, today announced the demonstration of a commercial 16-channel CWDM solution.

The demonstration, using OFS' ground-breaking AllWave® fiber, a zero water peak fiber, and Transmode's T1600 CWDM system will be conducted in OFS' booth #2141 at the Optical Fiber Communications Conference (OFC) being held here this week. This high-channel solution can help reduce metropolitan network operating costs by as much as 65 percent compared to DWDM technology.

"AllWave fiber is uniquely designed for metro applications and provides the lowest loss across the entire spectrum, as well as zero water peak loss," said Nick Khoury, President, Optical Fiber Division, OFS. "Combined with Transmode's T1600, this solution enables maximum system reach and loss budget over the highest CWDM channel count available anywhere."

The OFC demonstration displays 16-wavelength transmission from 1310 nm to 1610 nm, using 20 nm spacing between wavelengths as specified in ITU G.694.2, over AllWave fiber. This contrasts with typical 4 or 8 wavelength CWDM systems aimed at conventional single mode fiber installations. However, scalability to 16 wavelengths CWDM is critical for future bandwidth growth at a lower first cost compared to DWDM.

Multi-service and multi-protocol traffic, such as Gigabit Ethernet, Fiber Channel, and SONET/SDH on bit rates from 2.5 Gb/s onwards are supported with the greatest flexibility

with the zero water peak and low 1625 nm loss of AllWave fiber. Additionally, more wavelengths give carriers flexibility to reserve CWDM wavelengths for future DWDM expansion without service interruption.

“Metro carriers looking for ways of reducing their expenditure find CWDM better suited for their requirements, and better suited for their budget, than DWDM systems,” said Isaac Olasoko, CEO of Transmode Systems. “With the continued development of CWDM technology and products from frontrunners like OFS and Transmode, network providers can reap more economic benefits at the metro level while maintaining the same security, reliability and quality as a DWDM system.”

OFS' AllWave fiber is the industry's first zero water peak fiber that provides for Full-Spectrum use in the 1260-1625 nm region. The elimination of the water peak in AllWave fiber provides best-in-class loss performance throughout the whole spectrum (with 33 -50% increase in bandwidth capacity) and improves PMD performance in cables. Zero water peak enables cost effective CWDM operation in the 1400 nm band, facilitating the use of low-cost uncooled lasers and less stringent filter specifications, all of which significantly help reduce system costs. Furthermore, increased bandwidth, and compatibility with existing network architectures, makes AllWave fiber a superior choice for metropolitan and access optical networks.

About Transmode Systems AB

Transmode Systems (www.transmode.com) is a CWDM pioneer, with expertise in datacom and telecom networking, optical technologies and network management systems. Since 2000, Transmode has focused on CWDM as a key optical technology to fully exploit the existing networking protocols. Transmode has been shipping CWDM systems since March 2001 and has today customers on the European, US and Asian markets

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