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News Release

OFS ANNOUNCES AccuBreeze™ FX CABLED FIBER UNIT FOR AIR-BLOWN INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS

Dry Unit Design Helps to Lower Fiber Cable Installation Costs

SuperComm, Booth # 23729, Atlanta, GA, June 3, 2003 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today introduced the latest product in its line of innovative cables, AccuBreeze™ FX cabled fiber unit, a dry-core, lightweight, flexible fiber optic unit optimized for air-blown installations in microduct systems for metropolitan and access networks. OFS will be showcasing a live blowing demonstration featuring the AccuBreeze FX cabled fiber unit, in conjunction with a Microjet™ EM25 installation machine from Sherman & Reilly, Inc., at its booth during SuperComm.

AccuBreeze FX offers a dry cabled fiber unit with no messy filling compound to clean up or slow down installation times. This enables simpler, faster and less costly fiber access. The design is used with proven air-blowing technology, licensed by OFS from BTextact Technologies, British Telecom's (BT) advanced research and technology business, the original developer and patent holder of the technology. The unit's performance is optimized with OFS' industry leading AllWave® fiber.

"The AccuBreeze FX cabled fiber unit offers service providers a new installation option", said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Cable & Connectivity Division, OFS. "The lightweight, flexible design makes it ideal for deployment in standard, congested duct networks."

OFS and Sempra Fiber Links, a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), are in development to make AccuBreeze FX cable compatible with Sempra's Fiber-In-Gas (FIGSM) installation technology, especially for residential applications. This can dramatically reduce fiber installation costs, construction time and disruption of public rights-of-way.

AccuBreeze FX cabled fiber units are ideal for installation in microduct systems utilizing air-blowing equipment. The duct systems used in air-blown fiber applications typically consist of

multiple microducts contained within a larger duct. Air-blown cable installations use lightweight air-blowing machines to gently push the cable in, using a stream of air. Implementing blown fiber products can dramatically reduce installation costs – more than 50 percent in some instances.

The flexibility of AccuBreeze FX units enables relatively new network owners to join existing traditional global service providers in fiber optic rollouts because it supports an incremental capital investment strategy, designed to grow with customer's needs. The AccuBreeze FX unit is suitable for a broad range of underground applications, particularly where there is a need for rapid deployment. This includes, for example, congested metro routes with limited duct space or digging restrictions, as well as areas where new rights of way have to be secured.

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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