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News Release

OFS ANNOUNCES PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING OPTICAL CONNECTIVITY PRODUCT

New Connection Innovation Reduces Maintenance Costs and Improves Transmission

OFC, Booth 2141, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2003 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today introduced new performance enhancing connectivity products, the Polarization Maintaining (PM) Jumper and the Universal Modular Adaptor (UMA). With the launch of these two new products, OFS is establishing new industry standards for connectivity performance and ease of use.

“As the fiber, cable and transmission equipment in network architectures continues to evolve to meet the needs of increasingly utilized networks, OFS is creating connectivity products that will optimize the entire network performance,” said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Cable, OFS. “Standardizing connectivity products wherever possible enables our customers to lower costs by keeping inventories down and streamlining maintenance.”

The Polarization Maintaining Jumper

The PM Jumper lowers cross talk and splicing costs and offers more flexibility throughout the lifecycle of a system because of its use of connectors, eliminating the need to splice the fibers. The PM Jumper is the world’s first ultra low loss, high extinction ratio, small form factor (SFF) polarization-maintaining connector designed to exhibit stable crosstalk performance, even in environments where the system is stressed. It meets all industry standards for environmental requirements.

PM connectors are key to modular equipment by enabling joints to be disconnected and reconnected many times without performance degradation. Comprised of polarization maintaining fiber and LC connectors, the PM Jumper improves transmission by optimizing the alignment of the polarization axes of the connected PM fiber; this is the most critical factor in the reduction of crosstalk. Fiber splicing likewise contributes to crosstalk.

The improved PM connectors use a unique connector design and an improved tuning method to achieve excellent insertion loss, return loss and crosstalk performance. This innovation yields 27 dB or better crosstalk performance while OFS' competitors specify 25 dB as a nominal value. The OFS PM connector maintains this high level of performance even when stressed environmentally with temperature changes ranging from -20 to 70 °C.

Universal Modular Adapter

The Universal Modular Adaptor (UMA), the latest addition to the Universal Build Out (UBO) family of products is a modular two-piece adaptor system that makes connector systems more versatile. The two-piece adapter system with varying ferrule sizes enables intermateability with a variety of typical connectors including the ST® , SC and LC connectors. The hybrid adapter allows equipment designers to standardize on a single connector type for their “behind the faceplate” connection, while allowing their customers to choose their preferred connector on the front of the faceplate. This ability to connect using a variety of connector types (on the front and back of the faceplate) offers the most flexibility to upgrade to next generation connector systems, while helping to lower costs through utilizing existing connector inventories.

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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