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News Release

OFS DELIVERS BROADBAND-ENABLING FIBER OPTIC TECHNOLOGIES

Demand Increases for Fiber Optic Technologies Used to Deliver Broadband Services

OFC, Booth 2141, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2003 – To meet the growing needs of service providers around the globe, OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, announced a series of scalable FTTx solutions and Metro access breakthroughs designed to provide a flexible, pay-as-you-grow strategy for delivering broadband services here today at the Optical Fiber Conference (OFC). In addition, the company said it has signed an agreement with the Reedsburg Utility Commission (RUC) that will provide broadband access to more than 8,000 residents in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

“Our evolutionary product line delivers the building blocks for a completely flexible, scalable, deploy-as-needed broadband access strategy,” said Eddie Edwards, President and CEO, OFS. “OFS’ fiber and cable products are optimized to deliver existing and emerging broadband services, while providing leading-edge innovation, cost-effective installation, and maximum network operability and investment protection.”

By the end of the year, every business and residential site in Reedsburg, Wisconsin will have on-demand access to high-speed voice, video and data services. As part of the agreement with the RUC, OFS will provide its innovative fiber and cable products not only to deliver immediate broadband services to the community, but also to provide the RUC with a migration strategy for emerging broadband applications.

“Reedsburg is creating a resource that puts its community at the forefront of connectivity. With its flexible broadband foundation, it will remain there well into the future,” said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Cable and Connectivity Division, OFS.

OFS leads the industry in the design and manufacture of fiber designed specifically for metropolitan and local access networks and has shipped more than 5 million kilometers of its AllWave® Fiber – enough to encircle the globe ~124 times – since announcing it in 1998.

The revolutionary fiber employs a unique manufacturing process that opens up previously unusable portions of the spectrum, thereby increasing capacity in optical networks up to 50 percent compared to traditional single-mode fibers.

Here at OFC, OFS is debuting new cable and connectivity products to facilitate easier installations, lower deployment costs, and increase network upgrade and operation flexibility. The company introduced its XpressTube® FX cable, a lightweight, flexible fiber optic cable optimized for air-blown installations in microduct systems in metropolitan and access networks. The new cable will become part of the OFS AccessAdvantage™ family of products announced last year at the Fiber-to-the-Home Conference in New Orleans. The AccessAdvantage solution is a complete building block set for rapid FTTx deployment, and offers the required fiber and cable components for cost-effective broadband delivery.

In addition, OFS announced two new performance enhancing connectivity products, the Polarization Maintaining (PM) Jumper and the Universal Modular Adaptor (UMA). With this launch, OFS is establishing new industry standards for connectivity performance: ease of use and flexibility. Standardizing connectivity products such as the PM Jumper and UMA enables customers to lower operating costs by keeping inventories down and streamlining maintenance.

OFS continues to team with its customers and other vendors to innovate and deliver broadband and metro access solutions. At OFC, OFS and Lucent Technologies will demonstrate unprecedented service using a CWDM-enhanced PON fiber-to-the-home access system that enables the delivery of bandwidth-rich services to consumers with fiber-to-the-home access. This demonstration, conducted in conjunction with scientists from OFS Labs and Bell Labs, the research and development arm of Lucent Technologies, illustrates how a CWDM PON overlay to an existing Power-Splitting PON (PS-PON) architecture can offer increased security and capacity to businesses by providing transparent wavelength services.

In addition to today's contract announcement with the Reedsburg Utility Commission, OFS announced earlier this month at CeBit 2003 in Hannover Germany, several international optical fiber and cable wins.

- Attika Telecommunications will deploy OFS' award-winning AllWave® Fiber, the industry's first fiber designed specifically for metro and local access networks, and its high fiber density MiDia® FX Cables, to build-out a metropolitan area network in downtown Athens. The

network will be completed in time to support the 2004 Summer Olympic games.

- PTK Kosovo will deploy the latest generation of AllWave Fiber for its continued build-out of Kosovo's optical fiber network. The network will bring basic phone service to the residents of Kosovo and enable wireless and Internet services.

- Hvratski Telekom will install OFS' single-mode fiber and cable products in its network in Croatia. The company is the only provider in that country to offer the full range of telecommunications services, including fixed telephony, mobile telephony, data transfer, and Internet and international communications.

- KMSC has selected OFS to supply a series of cables for the execution of a fiber optic cable transmission ring for the Kuwait Ministry of Communication. When complete, the ring will connect all existing exchanges in Kuwait to the international gateway.

"We're beginning to see much anticipated growth in the industry and an increased demand for fiber optic products that enable more cost-effective and flexible networks," said Nick Khoury, President, Optical Fiber, OFS "We've long been a leader in the design and development of products that adapt easily to the ever-changing telecommunications landscape, and today's announcements are a testimony to our success."

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