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News Release

OFS FIBEROPTIC CABLE SELECTED FOR LANDMARK OPTICAL NETWORK BUILD IN ARGENTINA

AllWave® and TrueWave® Selected To Deliver Network Services to Province of La Pampa

Atlanta, GA, August 21, 2003 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has been selected by Tecnologia en Servicios Urbanos - TESUR S.A. to provide optical fiber and connectivity products to the government of the Province of La Pampa in Argentina, to build the first optical network of its kind in the Province. The network, called Red de Fibra Optica y Sistemas de Comunicaciones Multimediales - SICOMU (Fiber Optics and Multimedia Communications System Network), is a part of the project, Acueducto del Rio Colorado (Rio Colorado Aqueduct) under execution for the government of La Pampa. The project is being built by a joint venture formed by TECHINT – SKANSKA with its subsidiary TESUR, a leading telecommunication network construction and services company. The network will operate and control a newly built aqueduct infrastructure, as well as will create a connectivity network within the province among education, medical, security, justice, and research institutions, and private companies, delivering voice, data, video, and a wide range of digital services.

The network will support the entire control system of the aqueduct, encompassing seven jurisdictions in the Province of La Pampa. It will provide water to 85% of the province's population, reaching more than 85 towns and cities. The network will also connect governmental, education and public institutions including: the Universidad Nacional de La Pampa (La Pampa National University), the INTA – Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (National Institute of Agricultural Technology), Establecimiento Asistencial Dr. Lucio Molas (Dr. Lucio Molas High Complexity Health Complex), Ministerio de la Producción (Production Ministry), among others.

“This fiber optic network is critical to bringing the province of La Pampa into the 21st Century,” explained Ernesto Franco, Finance Minister of La Pampa. “This network is invaluable not only to adequately manage the aqueduct operation but also to create the basic infrastructure to develop all social and economic areas of the province. It will also extend its benefits to most of the province population by providing enormous communication resources, that will allow us to take advantage of numerous business, educational and cultural opportunities offered by our present global society.”

The network solution will enable the access of real time data at any time and any point of the network. The network allows for redundant paths for data and service transmission to secure the aqueduct operations.

OFS has been working with the Ce.Si.Da., Centro de Sistematización de Datos (Data Systematization Center), a unit of the Government of La Pampa, over the past five years to fully support the optical fiber deployment, including designing the cables and network architecture and designating fiber applications. The solution includes loose tube armor composite cable with OFS’ industry leading, zero-water peak Full Spectrum™ AllWave® fiber optimized for the Metropolitan and regional links, and TrueWave® RS fiber for long haul needs. TrueWave RS fiber, the industry’s first Non-Zero Dispersion Fiber (NZDF), is optimized for long haul and regional metro networks. TrueWave fiber delivered uncompensated reach over a link of 120 kilometers without the need for a regeneration signal, reducing the equipment costs of the network.

“OFS shares La Pampa’s enthusiasm and commitment to elevating the work, play and educational lives of its citizens,” explained Paul Neuhart, President Optical Fiber Cable and Connectivity division for OFS. “Understanding the needs of La Pampa, and working with TESUR, the OFS solution addresses La Pampa’s current needs for high speed, high quality information access as well its future scalability requirements.”

About TESUR S.A.

TESUR, a company of The Techint Group, specializes in the construction of telecommunications networks of all kinds. TESUR is a leading company in Argentina for the laying of fiber-optic cable, and its services include the engineering and construction of public switched networks, subscriber extensions, wireless local loops, Local Multipoint Distribution Systems (LMDS), cellular or mobile telephone infrastructure applications, microwave links, cable TV installations and digital networking.

For more information visit www.techintgroup.com

About the Government of La Pampa

The Government of La Pampa has taken as his most important objective to undertake activities focused to position the province and its people in an advantageous situation to participate in the present and future global society, under the premise of equal opportunities for their citizens. The Ministry of Finance and its unit Ce.Si.Da. have developed a strategic plan on 3 areas: system development, service provision, and infrastructure construction. The project SICOMU, as a part of the infrastructure construction phase, will serve more than 90% of the province population and will allow La Pampa, an inland province in the center of Argentina, to become a digital bridge for the neighboring provinces.

For more information visit www.lapampa.gov.ar

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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