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News Release

OFS FILES PATENT INFRINGEMENT SUIT AGAINST ALCATEL

Atlanta, GA, October 29, 2003 – Fitel USA Corp., the parent company of OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has filed suit against Alcatel in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

The suit charges infringement of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,838, which relates to optical fibers adapted for operation in “Metro” systems utilizing dual bands including wavelength-division multiplexing capabilities in each band, and to wavelength-division multiplexing optical communications systems that utilize this type of optical fiber. The remedies sought include an injunction barring further sale of Alcatel’s TeraLight™ Metro and TeraLight Ultra fibers, as well as damages for past infringement and treble damages for willful infringement.

OFS President of Fiber, Cable and Connectivity and Chief Operating Officer Paul Neuhart commented “We attempted at great length to discuss this matter with Alcatel amicably before filing suit, but unfortunately we were unable to make satisfactory progress in those discussions.”

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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