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News Release

OFS SELECTED BY GRAYBAR-EVERGREEN UTILITY CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE A FIBER-TO-THE-BUSINESS SOLUTION FOR WASHINGTON, NORTHSORE SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

Access ADVANTAGE™ System to Deliver Broadband Services to Washington School District

SuperComm, Booth 23729, Atlanta, GA. June 3, 2003 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has been awarded a contract from Graybar-Evergreen Utility Contractors, North America's largest distributor of telecommunications, networking and electrical products, to deploy its Access ADVANTAGE™ System for the Washington, NorthShore School District.

The Access ADVANTAGE system will provide a complete passive optical solution for the NorthShore School District to connect their schools via a fiber optic communication system. The system helps to significantly lower the fiber deployment costs associated with this Fiber-To-The-Subscriber (FTTx) build with new optical cable technologies that can use diverse right-of-ways to connect the district administration offices to school locations. Initial investment costs are likewise kept to a minimum as fiber can be deployed as needed, based on school district growth. The system offers total support ranging from initial consultation to solution warranty. W&H Pacific served as consultants to the NorthShore School district to enable this deployment.

"OFS' Access ADVANTAGE system was ideal for deploying fiber to 29 campuses throughout the NorthShore School District because it is a total, end-to-end solution," explained Bill Hunsinger of Evergreen Utility Contractors. "OFS was the only vendor with a complete broadband access offering, including on-site support for the AllWave® fiber, with maximum potential to use the fiber's performance characteristics, making it the best choice for a non-traditional entity, such as the school district."

“The school district is now enabled with higher data rates for communication transfers between schools as well as more bandwidth for classrooms to access the Internet at a quicker speed,” said Bill Hunsinger of Evergreen Utility Contractors. “The flexible solution offers us the opportunity to grow as needed and as budget permits.”

“Access ADVANTAGE will meet NorthShore School District’s immediate needs of a low cost, easily deployed fiber optic network, as well as their long term needs to expand their bandwidth capacity over the lifetime,” explained Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Fiber Cable and Connectivity, OFS. “Deploying AllWave fiber in the network offers the potential to use coarse wavelength division multiplexing (CWDM) in the 1400 nm wavelength band to support lower cost services to school district facilities connected to Passive Optical Networks (PONs) or local Ethernet switches.”

About Access ADVANTAGE System:

The Access ADVANTAGE system supports all FTTx architectures, including PON and Point-to-Point (P2P) implementations, and relevant standards that are currently in place. Access ADVANTAGE based networks enable revenue generating services such as secure high-speed business data, HDTV broadcast, instant video on demand, and high-resolution internet video games. The Access ADVANTAGE system is the first FTTx solution to combine lowest cost per bit fibers and innovative cabling and apparatus into a total offering.

The Access ADVANTAGE system helps to significantly lower the fiber deployment costs associated with the FTTx build with new optical cable technologies that can use diverse right-of-ways to connect the service provider to its customers. Among these technologies are the air-blowing, optimized DuctSaver™ FX and MiDia®FX micro-cable designs. These revolutionary small fiber cables are blown into existing duct networks, avoiding the cost of invasive and disruptive excavation and procurement of rights of way. Initial investment costs are likewise kept to a minimum as fiber can be deployed as needed based on customer demand. Furthermore, OFS’ PowerGuide®TTH all dielectric self-supporting cables (ADSS) ease the rapid deployment of inexpensive aerial networks.

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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