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News Release

OFS MIDIA® FX PLUS CABLE PENETRATES US MARKET

Cost Effective, Easy Installation for US Government Customers

FOSE, Washington DC, March 23, 2004 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announces that its MiDia® FX plus cable, a lightweight, flexible fiber optic cable optimized for air-blown installations in microduct systems in metropolitan and access networks has been purchased by several large US-based service providers.

MiDia FX plus cable is a revolutionary reduced-diameter cable, containing up to 72 individual fibers, surrounded by specially engineered water-blocking compound, all contained in a flexible polyolefin jacket, making it ideal for deployment in congested metro ducts. The cable's performance is optimized with OFS' industry leading AllWave® fiber.

“The MiDia FX plus cable design offers US Government customers an installation option that is both cost-effective and easy to implement,” said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Cable & Connectivity Division, OFS. “This flexibility provides greater control over build costs because fiber can be installed on an as-needed basis to meet short or long term goals.”

Traditional cable installation relies on heavy pulling equipment, a large installation crew and is more likely to damage the cable. The pulling process is slow – typically only up to 100 feet of cable per minute - and span lengths are limited. Blown cable installations are significantly faster than cable pulling, with speeds of up to 300 feet per minute, place little stress on the cable, and allow smaller crews to install longer lengths of cable.

MiDia FX plus cables are ideal for installation in microduct systems utilizing air-blowing equipment. The duct systems used in these applications typically consist of multiple microducts contained within a larger duct. Air-blown cable installations use lightweight air-blowing machines to gently push the cable in, using a stream of air. Implementing blown

fiber products can dramatically reduce installation costs – more than 50 percent in some instances.

The flexibility of MiDia FX plus cable enables relatively new network owners to join existing traditional global service providers in fiber optic rollout because it supports an incremental capital investment strategy, designed to grow with customers needs. The MiDia FX plus cable is suitable for a broad range of underground applications, particularly where there is a need for rapid deployment. This includes, for example, congested metro routes with limited duct space or digging restrictions, as well as areas where new rights of way have to be secured.

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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