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News Release

NETCOLOGNE SELECTS OFS OPTICAL FIBER CABLE FOR OPTICAL BUILD IN THE RHEIN-ERFT REGION

Bonn, Germany, March 24, 2005 - OFS, designer, manufacturer and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has been selected by NetCologne GmbH, one of Germany's largest regional telecommunications carriers, to upgrade their network in the Rhein-Erft region with 80 kilometers of AllWave® Zero Water Peak (ZWP) optical fiber in its 144 fiber-count laminated aluminum polyethylen sheath cable design.

The installation of AllWave ZWP fiber can increase capacity for voice and data in the areas served by NetCologne by up to 50%. AllWave ZWP optical fiber developed by OFS offers this advantage to its customers by allowing transmission in the 1400-nanometer range and consequently can increase the useable wavelength range by as much as 50%.

"With this forward looking technology we can create as much as 50% additional bandwidth capacity with the same investment," said Mr. Norbert Rüttgers, Manager Planning & Implementation Network Operation of NetCologne.

"The installation of AllWave ZWP gives NetCologne a competitive advantage over communication providers in the area by offering its customers increased bandwidth to improve the customer experience on the NetCologne network," added Reinhard Schmidt, Sales Director of OFS Europe. "We are proud that we are able to support NetCologne with our premium products. With our sales office in Bonn, in the immediate proximity to Cologne, we were able to meet new requirements of NetCologne in a real-time fashion."

NetCologne has also contracted OFS' Mini and Micro cables. These cables enable NetCologne to create additional bandwidth capacities in the fully loaded ducts within a very narrow space. Cables with an outer diameter of 3.5 to 6 mm and a maximum fiber count of 72 fibers will be blown into 'microducts.' This enables the carrier to supply customers with optical fiber according to local requirements. The achieved savings opportunities to

NetCologne will be considerable because civil engineering work to create the infrastructure is not required thereby enabling expedited completion of the project.

NetCologne is developing new pathways to access its customer base in Cologne, including through the sewer network of Kerpen where it has laid tubes and optical fiber cable, without disrupting the environment. "In addition to avoiding costly and time consuming civil engineering, this procedure was agreeable for the neighborhood because we were also able to avoid digging up the ground, thereby protecting the existing plants and trees against possible damage. Moreover, by using the sewer infrastructure, we are able to bypass areas that cannot be built out," Rüttgers indicated.

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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