



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

OFS ANNOUNCES LASERWAVE™ XL EXTENDED REACH 10 GB/S MULTIMODE FIBER

First Multimode Fiber to Assure Extended Reach of 10 Gb/s Applications Beyond 300 Meters with Low Cost 850 nm Lasers

BICSI, Booth 303, New Orleans, LA, August 19, 2002 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today introduced LaserWave™ XL 10 Gb/s multimode fiber. LaserWave XL fiber supports distances up to 600 meters with low cost 10 Gb/s 850 nm Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers (VCSELs).

The 10 Gb/s 850 nm reach of LaserWave XL fiber is 600 meters with 0 dB connection loss, 550 meters with up to 4 LC connections, and 500 meters with 4 SC or ST® connections.

"OFS is able to provide extended reach by imposing very stringent Differential Mode Delay requirements on LaserWave XL fiber," said Peter Pilon, Vice President, Technology and Customer Focus at OFS' Sturbridge, Massachusetts facility. "Furthermore, the OFS MCVD process allows accurate control of the refractive index profile across the core and in the core center, which is critical to attaining the LaserWave XL level of performance."

LaserWave XL fiber provides optical system cost savings of 20% for typical installations of 550 meter links compared to single-mode fiber based systems. The large multimode core diameter of LaserWave fibers enables the lowest system cost from 10 Mb/s through 10 Gb/s by easing alignment tolerances in the optics throughout the system.

LaserWave fibers also extend reach for 1 Gb/s applications and support legacy lower speed applications. LaserWave XL fiber is the first fiber to support the OF-500 channel length described in the international cabling standard, ISO-11801 2nd edition - Customer Premises Cabling, with 10 Gb/s 850 nm applications.

"In addition to its other immediate benefits, LaserWave fibers now allow low cost multimode systems to support ultra long building backbones and many campus backbones, significantly cutting costs for our customers," said Janice Haber, Vice President Marketing and Systems Engineering, OFS.

LaserWave XL fiber joins LaserWave 300 and LaserWave 150 fibers, the world's first 10 Gb/s 850 nm laser optimized multimode fibers, which have been shipping in volume since December 1999.

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.

CONTACT:

Sherry Salyer

OFS Public Relations

shsalyer@ofsoptics.com

Direct: 770-798-4210

Mobile: 678-296-7034