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News Release

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## **OFS COMPLETES PATENT LICENSING DEAL WITH BTEXACT**

### ***BTexact Technologies' Air Blowing Technology Enables Fiber-to-the-home Solution***

**Atlanta, GA, December 9, 2002** – OFS, designer, manufacturer and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has signed a license agreement with BTexact Technologies, the advanced research and technology business of British Telecommunications plc (BT), to allow it to use BT's blown fiber technology and know-how.

The blown fiber technique reduces the cost and increases the reliability of installing fiber in duct networks. OFS will use the technology in its fiber-to-the-home solution, the Access ADVANTAGE System. The Access ADVANTAGE System is a comprehensive solution enabling economical optical connectivity to homes, businesses, and multiple dwelling units (MDUs), including those in previously hard-to-reach areas.

Pairing BTexact's blown fiber technology with OFS' industry leading optical fiber and cable innovation has proven instrumental in lowering fiber deployment costs related to FTTx build.

“Previously unavailable right-of-ways, such as gas lines and sewer pipes can now be utilized to reach the customer. The BTexact technology coupled with OFS' fiber and micro cable capabilities will provide a quantum leap in the development of economic FTTx solutions,” explained Paul Neuhart, President Optical Cable Division at OFS.

Stewart Davies, chief executive officer of BTexact Technologies, said: “BTexact Technologies has an international reputation for creating the technology that underpins some of the world's most pioneering commercial applications. We are pleased that we have been able to provide OFS with solutions that will enable them to provide fibre-to-the-home far quicker and more cost effectively than was previously possible. BTexact has a rich portfolio of technologies and we have barely scratched the surface of our portfolio's licensing potential, but it is through agreements such as these that we are beginning to realise that promise.”

OFS' revolutionary XpressTube™ FX blown fiber unit designs can be blown into inexpensive duct networks, eliminating invasive and disruptive excavation costs, and expenditures on costly 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.

The Access Advantage solution is optimized with OFS' award winning AllWave® and LaserWave® fibers to lower the service provider's cost per bit over the lifetime of the cabling system. AllWave fiber enables the use of coarse wavelength division multiplexing (CWDM) in the 1400 nm wavelength band to support lower cost services to businesses and homes connected to PONs or local Ethernet switches. LaserWave multimode fibers enables the use of lower cost optical transceivers thereby reducing the cost of connections to local Ethernet switches for homes and businesses. ENDS

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**About BTextact Technologies**

BTextact Technologies, BT's advanced research and technology business, offers expertise and experience in communications technology and e-business, backed by a team of more than 3,000 technologists and one of the world's largest communications research and development facilities. As the centre of technical expertise for the BT Group, BTextact has established a record of world-first achievement and of successful delivery of projects, large and small. It has also created an intellectual property portfolio of some 14,000 patents based on almost 2,000 inventions, some of which are being converted into valuable new businesses by BTextact's Brightstar incubator.

BTextact helps businesses and organisations inside and outside BT Group gain maximum advantage from communications technology. It creates value and competitive advantage by combining a deep knowledge of networks and networked applications with proven skills in business consulting, change management and innovation. Its services are focused to help customers assess the value and performance of communication technologies and systems, identify potential risks and ensure they gain maximum advantage from investments in communications technologies and applications.

BTexact's employees include many who are world leaders in their specialist fields, working at the forefront of standards development and new technologies in areas including multimedia, IP and data networks, mobile communications, network design and management, and business applications. Services are offered to customers directly or through world-class business partners, which include BT Group businesses such as BT Retail, BT Wholesale and BT Ignite.

BTexact is headquartered at Adastral Park, at one end of the Cambridge-2-Ipswich Hi Tech Corridor, and is a founder member of the Cambridge Network. It has offices and laboratories worldwide including locations across the UK and in Asia, continental Europe, and North America. For more information about BTexact Technologies, please go to [www.btexact.com](http://www.btexact.com).

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## **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](http://www.ofsoptics.com).

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