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News Release

OFS INTRODUCES FORTEX™ DT TOTALLY DRY LOOSE TUBE CABLE

Industry's First Entirely Dry Loose Tube Cable to Meet the Stringent Water-Blocking Requirements for Outside Plant Installation

NFOEC, Booth #601, September 8, 2003 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced Fortex™ DT cable, the industry's first totally gel-free loose tube fiber optic cable that meets the water-blocking requirements of Telcordia's GR-20-CORE outside plant cable standard. This entirely dry cable uses superabsorbant polymer technology to replace the messy petroleum-based filling and flooding compounds traditionally used to prevent the spread of water in outside plant cables. Fortex™ DT cable is the latest in OFS' line of totally dry outside plant cable products, which also includes the AccuRibbon® DC central tube cable that was successfully introduced to the industry in 2002.

Fortex DT cable can help reduce fiber cable installation costs in several ways. Cable preparation is streamlined since the fibers emerge from their buffer tubes ready for fusion splicing or optical testing. The need for towels or citrus-based solvents to clean the gel off the fibers, as well as off of work area tables and floors, is eliminated. Expensive fusion splicing equipment is less likely to become contaminated, reducing the frequency with which it must be returned to the manufacturer for cleaning and recalibrating. In addition, by removing the major cause of contamination in splice trays, users of the cable can be more at ease about the reliability of their splices. Finally, by eliminating the use of the petroleum-based water-blocking gels, work area safety concerns over accidentally slipping are eliminated.

Fortex DT cable is currently available in three constructions containing up to 288 fibers: Single Jacket, which is an all-dielectric construction ideal for use in underground duct and aerial applications; Light Armor, which is a single jacket and single armor construction that is typically used in heavy duty aerial applications and in duct applications for cable locating

purposes; and Armored, which is a double jacket and single armor construction that is used for direct-buried or other applications where additional protection is desired. Fortex DT is available with zero water peak AllWave[®] fiber, non-zero dispersion TrueWave[®] fibers, as well as other popular OFS fiber designs. The cable meets the stringent requirements of the Telcordia GR-20-CORE and RUS PE-90 industry outside plant cable standards.

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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