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News Release

OFS SETS NEW INDUSTRY BENCHMARK FOR PMD PERFORMANCE

State-of-the-Art Manufacturing Control combined with Innovative Measurement Capabilities Address Service Providers' Top Network Performance Concern

OFC Conference, Los Angeles, Booth 2538, February, 24, 2004 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that state-of-the-art improvements in their fiber manufacturing process have reduced the average Polarization Mode Dispersion (PMD) of optical fiber system links deployed with OFS fibers.

The company said an innovative new measurement method, used in combination with significant process improvements, allow Link Design Values (LDV) for its range of application-specific fibers to be decreased by as much 33 percent and maximum individual fiber limits to be decreased by as much as 50 percent. OFS' benchmark control of PMD performance not only helps ensure low initial PMD, OFS patented process ensures PMD stability in the network in the most adverse environments.

This breakthrough sets a new industry benchmark for PMD, which has become the limiting factor in optical fiber bandwidth capacity growth. Uncontrolled PMD can result in serious degradation of network performance as speeds and reach increase, and can cause total system failure. The latest advances in the OFS patented PMD processing and measurement technologies pave the way for an entirely new generation of application-specific ultra-low PMD fibers that enable higher speeds, longer distances and lower network operating and capital costs.

“PMD is a major performance issue facing service providers rolling out today's 10Gb/s systems as well as those planning for next generation fiber optic networks,” said Mike Pearsall, vice president, Optical Fiber Marketing and Sales, at OFS. “With our latest advances in the understanding of PMD and increased control over manufacturing

processes, OFS continues to establish the highest standards in an industry plagued by ambiguities in PMD testing, specifications and quality control.”

To learn more about PMD please stop by OFS' booth #2538 at OFC or visit our website at www.ofsoptics.com.

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