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News Release

ULM-photonics, Primarion, Microsemi and OFS Enable Next Generation of Parallel Optics Interconnects at 10 Gb/s per Channel

Industry Demonstration Paves the Way for 120 Gb/s Link Bandwidth in Enterprise, Telco, and Datacenter Networking Equipment

OFC, Booth 2141, Atlanta, GA. and Ulm, Germany – March 2003– For the first time, four leading fiber optic companies have demonstrated 120 Gb/s optical data link over 300 meters of multi-mode fiber ribbon – VCSEL manufacturer ULM-photonics; IC company Primarion; semiconductor manufacturer Microsemi and OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products. The breakthrough, high-speed parallel interconnects demonstration includes an unprecedented 12 channels of 10 Gb/s per channel at 850 nm over 300 meters of multimode optical fiber ribbon. Until now, parallel optics applications have been limited to 40 Gb/s, using 12 channels at 3.36 Gb/s. The results of this demonstration will be on display at the OFC Conference in the ULM-photonics Booth #4408.

“Together, this group has shown that interoperable component technology is available today to support the next generation of short-reach ultra-high bandwidth optical links using parallel optics”, explains ULM-photonics CEO Burghard Schneider. “This type of cooperation takes a lot of the guesswork out of optical module design with proven compatibility of photonics and optoelectronic components.”

The four companies have raised the bar for the industry, by demonstrating an interoperable components ecosystem for optical module vendors and system companies to embrace leading-edge parallel optics solutions.

The unique, cooperative demonstration utilizes a Primarion® PX 6419 12-Channel VCSEL driver, Primarion PX6429 Optical Receiver, ULM-photonics ULM850-10-TT-C01x12 VCSEL array, OFS Laserwave™ 300 multi-mode optical fiber and Microsemi LX3046 photodiode array

LaserWave fibers are the industry's first 850 nm optimized 10 Gb/s multimode fibers. They enable lowest cost 10 Mb/s through 10 Gb/s interconnects and 120 Gb/s parallel links by offering the highest bandwidth available when using 850 nm VCSELs.

Enterprise data centers are now deploying a unified 10 Gb/s optical infrastructure carrying different protocols for metro, local area, and networked storage applications. Bandwidth demand for router backplanes, cross-connect boxes, and chip-to-chip interconnects will exceed 10X of various 10 Gb/s networks.

About ULM-photonics

ULM-photonics is a leading manufacturer of high-speed Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers (VCSELs) for communication, printing and sensor markets. VCSELs are offered in die and TO46/56 packages for serial and die form for 1x4, 1x12 and other parallel configurations. ULM-photonics offers 10 Gbps, 12 mW and single mode VCSELs. For more information please visit our website at www.ulm-photonics.de.

About Primarion

Primarion is the IC company that brings wideband power and optical datacom to processors to unleash system performance. Primarion is headquartered in Tempe, Ariz., and operates design centers both in Tempe and Torrance, Calif., and an international sales center in Taiwan. For more information, please contact Primarion at www.primarion.com, marketing@primarion.com, or 1-866-321-PRIM.

About Microsemi

Microsemi is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of analog, mixed-signal and discrete semiconductors. The company's semiconductors manage and control or regulate power, protect against transient voltage spikes and transmit, receive and amplify signals. More information may be obtained by contacting the company directly or by visiting its web site at www.microsemi.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.

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