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News Release

WISCONSIN UTILITY CHOOSES OFS FOR FIBER-TO-THE-HOME ROLL-OUT

AllWave® Fiber Provides Revenue Generating Broadband Scalability for Reedsburg Utility

OFC, Booth 2141, Atlanta, GA. March 25th, 2003 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that it has been awarded a contract from Reedsburg Utility Commission (RUC) to deploy OFS' AllWave® fiber in OFS' cables for fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) services. OFS' fiber and cables are expected to deliver voice, video and data capabilities to every business and residential site in the city of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, a central Wisconsin community of 8,000 residents.

"Schools, health care facilities, businesses, libraries, law enforcement and residents will all benefit from this powerful new broadband offering," said Reedsburg Mayor Carl Stolte.

The utility is deploying AllWave fiber using OFS' PowerGuide® all-dielectric self-supporting (ADSS) and LightPack® fiber cables, optimized for FTTH deployment in the city of Reedsburg. The project is targeted for completion by the end of 2003. When used together, PowerGuide and LightPack cables' offer the exceptional long-term performance and reliability of an ADSS design, coupled with the ease of handling and low-cost installation of a reduced diameter cable, resulting in a complete, cost-effective cabling solution for FTTH.

RUC will combine high-performance OFS AllWave fiber with the FTTH hardware of Optical Solutions Inc. (OSI), and the network design and engineering expertise of Amelia Systems, Inc. (ASI) of De Pere, Wisconsin, to offer resident and businesses cost-competitive communications services for years to come.

"Amelia Systems is extremely pleased to work with OFS to enable scalable broadband capabilities bringing the RUC's vision into reality," said Don Calcagno of Amelia Systems.

"When all is said and done, every member of the Reedsburg community will be offered

voice, high speed data and video over one of the most technologically advanced networks in the country."

According to James Salter, past president of the National FTTH Council, "With the fiber's tremendous bandwidth, the benefits of current and future broadband applications for work, telemedicine, education, entertainment, commerce, community outreach and security can be fully realized and enjoyed by homeowners. For homeowners, the benefits of FTTH typically start with the fiber's ability to converge traditional services such as phone, cable TV, high-speed Internet connectivity and security, into one convenient and affordable package."

"Reedsburg is creating a resource that puts its community at the forefront of connectivity. With its flexible broadband foundation, it will remain there well into the future," said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Fiber Cable and Connectivity Products, OFS.

"OFS' AllWave fiber offered the ability to scale our broadband capabilities well into future generations," said RUC Manager Dave Mikonowicz. "This scalability coupled with OFS' product value and high level of technical support and expertise, was the major factor in our choice of AllWave fiber."

OFS' patented AllWave fiber is the industry's first zero water peak fiber that utilizes the entire optical fiber spectrum from 1310 nm to 1625 nm, generating up to 50 percent more bandwidth than conventional single-mode fiber. The additional bandwidth provided by AllWave will help to ensure that the Reedsburg fiber optic infrastructure has enough capacity to meet the needs of emerging bandwidth intensive applications, such as coarse wavelength division multiplexing (CWDM), and the imminent phase-in of high definition television (HDTV) mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

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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