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News Release

OFS ACCESS ADVANTAGE™ SYSTEM QUADRUPLES REACH OF A REAL-WORLD FTTP DEPLOYMENT TO 40+ KM

LOW LOSS SYSTEM EXTENDS REACH SERVING MORE SUBSCRIBERS AT LOWER COSTS

Nocross, GA, May 25, 2004 - OFS, designer, manufacturer and supplier of leading edge fiber optic network products today announced that its low-loss Access ADVANTAGE™ System featuring AllWave® Zero Water Peak Fiber has enabled over four times the rated reach of the active equipment in a real-world FTTP deployment. Using low cost equipment, the Douglas County School System, located 22 miles west of Atlanta, was able to achieve over four times the equipment's rated 10km reach and avoid the need for more expensive optical transmission devices. The extended reach, enabled by the low-loss Access ADVANTAGE System, can allow carriers to significantly broaden network coverage to serve many more subscribers from each active node while also avoiding the need for expensive transmission systems and exotic high-power fibers.

"Thanks to AllWave® fiber and the Access ADVANTAGE system, our optical loss is unbelievably low," said Lee Christianson, the Senior Project Manager for the School District. "Though the much less expensive equipment is only rated to go a maximum of 10km on a conventional fiber and cabling system, with the AllWave fiber and Access ADVANTAGE system we went 7km, then 14km, then 21km, and then out to 42km. And it was still going when we stopped testing because we didn't need to go beyond 40km." These remarkable real-world results were achieved using OFS' completely backward compatible AllWave fiber that avoids the need to add a new fiber type to carrier networks and inventory; the use of expensive, high power equipment; and the complications from splicing together fibers with different characteristics.

In addition to extending the reach and lowering the cost of point-to-point Ethernet networks such as those used for Douglas County, the Access ADVANTAGE system can also save

over \$200 per subscriber by using low power to deliver high quality analog video, compared to high power analog video systems that require special high power fibers.

“AllWave fiber, the world’s only Zero Water Peak Fiber, buys us the full 16 CWDM channels, adding 50% more bandwidth, so for us, bandwidth is not an issue,” stated Lee Christianson.

“By lowering system loss and adding 50% more bandwidth, the superior transmission performance of the Access ADVANTAGE system extends reach, lowers cost, and supports existing voice, data, and analog and digital video applications. In addition the Access ADVANTAGE system provides the lowest cost upgrade path for future high bandwidth applications,” said Paul Neuhart, President, Optical Fiber, Cable and Connectivity Division, OFS.

OFS created the Access ADVANTAGE system using Award winning low-loss AllWave® Full Spectrum fiber, Low-loss splicing performance, Low-loss LC or SC connectors, Low-loss splitters, and Bend loss insensitive Blue Tiger™ jumpers.

The Access ADVANTAGE system is the first end-to-end FTTP optical fiber cabling system that enables the lowest cost and extended reach for current and future PON applications, point to point, and mixed architecture networks, for analog and digital voice, data and video applications.

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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