



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

BRISTOL VIRGINIA UTILITIES SELECTS OFS' ALLWAVE® FIBER FOR ITS FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

Fiber to be used for FTTH and FTTB Throughout Area

NFOEC, Booth #4408, Dallas, TX, September 16, 2002 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced that Bristol Virginia Utilities purchased over 130 miles of OFS' AllWave® fiber cable. AllWave fiber, designed for optimum performance in local/access metro networks, eliminates the water peak to provide 50% more spectrum as compared to conventional single-mode fiber.

Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) will use the AllWave fiber cable to connect businesses (FTTB) and residences (FTTH) in the City of Bristol and surrounding areas.

"Using the right kind of fiber is extremely important to our business," said Jim Kelley, Telecommunications Manager for BVU. "OFS' AllWave fiber allows us to take advantage of 50% more of the spectrum, offering us lowest initial and aging loss performance which in turns offers our customers cost-effective and efficient network services."

OFS' AllWave fiber processing breakthrough achieves lower loss than any other low water peak fiber on the market - less than half the aging loss of the nearest competitor. The water peak that appears in the vast majority of commercial fibers prevents transmission in the wavelength range extending from roughly 1350 nm to 1480 nm, since most commercial processing traps water molecules in the optical fiber causing high signal loss in that region. OFS was the first manufacturer to discover how to eliminate the water molecules.

"Our AllWave fiber is ideal for use in Bristol's metro and access networks," said Nick Khoury, President, Optical Fiber Division, OFS. "The fiber is specifically designed to lower overall network cost, while increasing overall efficiency and could save Bristol up to 40 percent in overall network costs."

About AllWave Fiber

Fully standardized in ITU as a G.652c fiber, AllWave fiber offers the same dispersion as conventional single-mode fiber but with reduced loss and zero water peak in the 1400 nm water peak band. This enables the use of extra bandwidth equivalent to 100 dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) channels. AllWave fiber is also compatible with existing single-mode fiber systems, thereby allowing it to mesh seamlessly with existing networks.

Ideal for use in metro local and access networks, including CATV, AllWave fiber can increase network capacity over 50% while reducing applications costs by up to 40 percent in typical fiber optic systems. The fiber reduces costs by allowing carriers to use coarse wave division multiplexing (CWDM) a new technique that offers carriers lower cost channels for capacity upgrades than dense wave division multiplexing (DWDM), the upgrade technique used in long distance networks. This low cost alternative, pioneered by OFS and now emerging commercially, enables carriers to add new capacity and services cost effectively today while still allowing further upgrade by DWDM.

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