



A Furukawa Company

Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

OFS UNVEILS INDUSTRY-LEADING BREAKTHROUGH WITH NEW GENERATION ALLWAVE® FIBER

NORCROSS, GA, May 13, 2002 - OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced another breakthrough in low water peak fibers with its new generation AllWave fiber. AllWave fiber offers initial and lowest aging loss performance in the world's newest commercial optical fiber spectrum.

The processing breakthrough achieves lower, permanent loss than any other no water peak fiber in the market - less than half the aging loss of the nearest competitor. This latest advancement in fiber optic technology extends the award-winning breakthrough OFS achieved in 1998 by introducing AllWave fiber, the world's first commercial fiber with no water peak. 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, in most commercial processing, water molecules get trapped in the optical fiber and cause high signal loss in that region. OFS was the first manufacturer to discover how to eliminate the water molecules and won the prestigious Bell Labs President's Gold Award in 2000, Industry Week's Technology and Innovation Award, as well as The International Engineering Consortium's Innovation Award for outstanding innovation in commercial fiber design and manufacture.

In his never-ending quest to identify and highlight technology breakthroughs, in 1999 George Gilder of Gilder Technology Report, called AllWave "a revolution that expands up to 50% the total bandwidth of singlemode silica strands." Today, George says "With this revolutionary enhancement, OFS continues to outrun its optical fiber competitors with outstanding innovations in no water peak fibers."

"We led the industry in taking the water peak out, and we lead in keeping it out," says Janice Haber, Vice President of Systems Engineering and Market Development for OFS. "Our fiber is tested extensively under extreme hydrogen aging to ensure that the low loss we achieve

will not return. That's something that look-alike products don't necessarily achieve, and that's why we're selling so much AllWave. We've shipped over 5 million kilometers since introducing AllWave at SuperComm in June 1998 and we expect to ship several million kilometers of new generation AllWave in 2002. AllWave is carrying traffic in major cities around the world - New York, Paris, Beijing, and Buenos Aires, to name a few."

"Over the past four years we have been deploying AllWave fiber in our metropolitan networks throughout the northeast corridor, starting with our Boston metro ring in 1998," stated Ron Steele, CTO of NEON Communications. "With the achievement of overcoming the water peak AllWave opened a new optical window in the S-Band, allowing us to meet immediate-term bandwidth needs using conventional optics, while retaining significant future growth potential which we can cost-effectively light with new optics when the need arises."

Fully standardized in ITU as a G.652c fiber, AllWave fiber offers the same dispersion as conventional singlemode 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 singlemode 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 percent while reducing applications costs by up to 40 percent in typical fiber optic systems. The new OFS 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