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News Release

ULTRA-LOW LOSS JUMPER IMPROVES HIGH SPEED NETWORK UPTIME AND PROFITABILITY

Blue Tiger™ High Performance Jumper Exceeds Standards Even in Tight Bends,

FTTH Conference, New Orleans, Booth 120, October 7, 2003 – OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today announced a significant specification enhancement to its Blue Tiger High Performance Jumpers. Used in the most demanding optical networks, Blue Tiger Jumpers now lead the industry with a new low loss threshold of 0.15 dB max with SC and LC connectors, down from the previous mark of 0.25 dB. Blue Tiger Jumpers' improved performance is particularly beneficial in optical networks where loss budgets are limited and tight bends are necessary as fiber is routed at distribution locations.

Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) systems use the 1490 nm wavelength for downstream data and voice, and the 1550 nm wavelength to deliver video services to subscribers. Many of the optical transmission systems such as DWDM, SONET, SDH and Cable TV have evolved to take full advantage of the extended optical spectrum, particularly in the 1530 – 1565 nm to 1565 – 1625 nm region (the C-band and L-band). The significant reduction in bending and insertion loss provided Blue Tiger™ Jumpers enables all of these applications to support longer distance and higher reliability networks.

“Susceptibility to bend-induced losses in these wavelength bands, versus the 1310 nm region, creates a challenge in areas where the handling and routing of fiber paths is necessary,” said Ric Johnsen, Vice President, Optical Cable and Connectivity division, OFS. “High bend losses can increase bit error rates and often force systems to retransmit entire data streams which is a costly proposition. As loss budgets become tighter and networks more demanding, the performance of jumpers becomes more critical.”

The most compelling application of these improved jumpers is in the following places:

- High-speed optical paths in central offices, point-of-presence locations or equipment buildings.
- High-performance optical networks operating in the C- and L-band spectrums.
- Service providers with high performance DWDM traffic systems or digital video systems.
- Service providers with networks carrying high traffic on a single fiber (> OC-48).
- Optical networks with multiple “pass through” nodes.

OFS tests have shown that the measured loss in Blue Tiger Jumpers is well below Telcordia's (formerly Bellcore) specific limit of 0.5 dB for one turn with a 16 mm radius at a wavelength of 1550 nm. The loss at 1625 nm is also well below this limit, even for bends with a radius as tight as 10 mm.

Blue Tiger Jumpers are fully compatible with Non-zero Dispersion Fiber (NZDF) and all single-mode fiber systems. The jumpers also exceed all industry standards for single-mode fiber performance.

“The product's distinctive blue coloring clearly identifies high-speed optical paths so that when a connection needs to be located or rearranged, it can be done quickly and with confidence,” added Johnsen.

Four connector types are available: standard SC, LC, FC, and ST®II+ connectors in lengths from four up to 200 feet. Orders can be placed by contacting OFS at 1-888-fiberhelp or <http://ocdstore.ofsoptics.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.

CONTACT:

Sherry Salyer

OFS Public Relations

shsalyer@ofsoptics.com

Direct: 770-798-4210

Mobile: 678-296-7034