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Sumitomo Electric Lightwave Introduces 24-Fiber Bundles for Its FutureFLEX Blown Fiber System

Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC September 10, 2007 - Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, a leader in fiber optic product manufacturing and developer of North America's first air-blown fiber (ABF) system for the LAN, announced today the introduction of 24- fiber bundles to its FutureFLEX® Air-blown Fiber® infrastructure product line.

With the growing adoption of IP Video-based applications and other high-bandwidth services, network capacity has become a central concern for enterprise networks. Although the FutureFLEX Air-blown Fiber system already provides almost limitless network capacity via its tube cable LAN infrastructure —within a typical 4" conduit, ABF offers 38 fiber pathways versus 2 conventional pathways within the same space — the introduction of the 24-fiber bundle now increases fiber capacity in each pathway by an additional 33%.

An added benefit is that the new fiber bundle also reduces labor time by eliminating an extra step in the fiber installation process. Previously, either one single-mode, multimode, or 10 Gig laser optimized multimode 18-fiber bundle and one 6-fiber bundle would be blown in a two-step process to reach a 24-fiber count requirement. As ABF typically requires one-tenth the time and cost for fiber installation or any network moves, adds, or changes when compared to a traditional fiber optic infrastructure, the introduction of the new fiber bundle reduces costs even further.

"In our commitment to offer our customers the most advanced fiber optic infrastructure for the LAN and to assist in improving information technology (IT) efficiency and productivity, we are pleased to introduce the new 24-fiber bundle to our existing product line," comments Kurt Templeman, Sumitomo's FutureFLEX product manager. " This introduction will assist our customers in their effort to stay ahead of bandwidth and network capacity requirements, while further reducing costs and project turnaround times."

As with all FutureFLEX fiber bundles, available in 2, 4, 6, 12, or 18 fiber configurations, the 24-fiber bundles can be blown quickly and easily wherever fiber is needed, including secure and limited access areas. For network expansions, upgrades, or reconfigurations, fiber bundles can quickly and easily be blown in and out in a matter of minutes or hours versus the days, weeks or months associated with pulling conventional fiber optic cable. Unlike conventional cabling systems, fiber bundles blown out can be reused in other parts of the network, preserving the enterprise's fiber investment. Since fiber upgrades require no construction work associated with "pulling" fiber, there is no disruption to operations or the facility. Moreover, the FutureFLEX Air-blown Fiber system also eliminates the need to plan and forecast future technology or network growth by providing immediate network scalability and bandwidth on demand to keep up with the exact pace of emerging technology, such as the recent surge in IP TV and video-based applications.

About Sumitomo Electric Lightwave and FutureFLEX® Air-Blown Fiber® System: Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, located in Research Triangle Park, NC, is dedicated to the development and manufacturing of optical fiber cable, passive components, fusion splicers, and FTTP solutions. Representative FutureFLEX customers include: CNN, ESPN, Pentagon, Mayo Clinic, Starbucks Coffee, McCarran International Airport, Johns Hopkins University, Nissan, ConocoPhillips and others. For additional information, please call 877-356-3539, email fflex@sumitomoelectric.com, or visit us at www.sumitomoelectric.com and www.futureflex.com.

