Immediate Release:

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Sumitomo Electric Lightwave Introduces Industry's First Handheld Fiber Cleaver with Automatic Blade Adjustment for FTTx Termination Efficiency

Research Triangle Park, NC, June 25, 2008 — Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, a leader in fiber optic product manufacturing, introduces the FC-7R fiber cleaver, the industry's first and only handheld, 1-step, fiber cleaver with automatic blade adjustment for use in fusion splicing, field termination, and other precision applications. The new unit addresses the market need for a more precise fiber cleaver that eliminates the time consuming and error prone process of height and blade rotation adjustments, thereby increasing ease of use, precision, and the cleaver's maximum product life .

To resolve field technicians' difficulties and frustrations with manually adjusting and rotating the cleaver blade position for accurate fiber cleaves, Sumitomo's patent pending technology automatically rotates the cleaver blade during use for easy, fast, and precise cleaves in a one-step process. The difficult process of blade rotation adjustments have in the past necessitated increased service and maintenance of the fiber cleavers. Most cleaver manufacturers advertise long maximum life of the cleaver blade, but typically only one-third or less of the advertised life is actually realized due to the wear, tear, and misalignment of the blade rotation function. The FC-7R significantly reduces the need for maintenance and service by extending the maximum life of the cleaver blade to approximately 24,000 cleaves. The one-hand, one-step automated cleaver ultimately allows the user to streamline the cleaving process undisrupted to cleave single or multiple fibers with maximum precision and time efficiency.

"The introduction of the FC-7R, along with our recent first-to-market innovations including the industry's only dual-heater splicers, reflects Sumitomo's commitment to offering our customers new and better technologies for speed, increased productivity, and lower deployment costs for their networks," comments Joshua Seawell, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave's fusion and termination product manager.

Sumitomo's new FC-7R is the next generation cleaver in the company's FC cleaver product line. The FC-7R features not only the automatic cleaver blade rotation, but also offers a larger built-in fiber scrap catcher than the earlier FC-7 cleaver. Like the FC-7, the new cleaver's one-step, one-hand, operation has maintained the specifications for clean, precise cleave quality that ensures low reflectance terminations enabling optimum performance of fiber optic components and systems. The cleaver prevents double scoring of fibers and offers a typical cleave angle of <0.5 degrees and is ideal for use with both single and mass (up to 4-fiber ribbon) splicing of both single-mode and multimode fibers in a light and portable unit, providing a footprint and design that optimizes limited workspace.

About Sumitomo Electric Lightwave:

Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, located in Research Triangle Park, NC, is the North American operation within the global network of Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. (SEI). Established in 1984, the company is dedicated to tailoring the fiber optic networks of major telecommunications companies through the manufacturing of optical fiber cable, ribbon-configured network solutions, optical network products, fusion splicers and accessories, Fiber-to-the Home (FTTH) solutions, and its FutureFlex® Air-blown Fiber® LAN Infrastructure. Sumitomo Electric Lightwave is the industry's leader in ribbon-configured solutions that increase the bandwidth opportunities of its customers. Sumitomo has been cited as the world's largest cable manufacturer in the 2007 Cables Industry Analyst Report. Visit www. Sumitomoelectric.com