

For Immediate Release:

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Sumitomo Electric Lightwave Introduces The Industry's Fastest Fusion Splicer

Sumitomo's FastCat™ Core Alignment Fusion Splicer, the industry's first splicer with dual heaters, improves splicing efficiency and productivity in the field by 70%, helping to reduce overall FTTx deployment costs.

Research Triangle Park, NC, March 20, 2006 — Sumitomo Electric Lightwave, the leading manufacturer of fiber optic cable, air-blown fiber systems, interconnect products, and fusion equipment, announced today the introduction of the industry's first Core Alignment Fusion Splicer with a dual heating system. The Type-39 FastCat's advanced electronic design, which accommodates a built-in dual heating system and simultaneous operation, makes it the fastest fusion splicer on the market by reducing the bottle neck of "heater wait time" by 88%. With an individual heater cycle time of only 30 seconds (60mm Fiber Protection Sleeves) and a splice cycle of only 9 seconds, the FastCat improves splicing efficiency and productivity by 70%, thereby reducing labor time and costs while increasing project and customer service turn-up.

Designed for portability, precision splicing, reliability, and speed — without foregoing affordability— the FastCat splicer is ideal for splicing applications in the central office or headend, the feeder portion of the FTTx network where speed in high fiber applications is crucial, and at terminals leading to the final drop to the premise or home. For added convenience and functionality, the FastCat design includes a multi-position monitor to accommodate front-to-back and back-to-front viewing for a vast array of splicing applications, and an extended battery life. The splicer is RoHS compliant.

Additionally, the splicer's High-resolution Direct Core Monitoring (HDCM) image processing software is used to perform core alignment and estimates splice loss for creating low-loss optical fiber splices with typical splice loss of less than 0.02dB for single-mode fiber and less than 0.01db for multimode. Like other Sumitomo splicers, the FastCat is manufactured with durable metal rather than plastic materials predominantly used in the industry.

"The introduction of the FastCat and its advanced electronic design allowing simultaneous heater operation represents a giant leap in fusion splicing technology," comments Joshua Seawell, Sumitomo's fusion splicing product manager. "We're pleased to have developed yet another innovation that contributes to the Sumitomo mission of providing our customers with more efficient and cost effective solutions enabling them to achieve their FTTP/FTTH vision."

The FastCat will be available for mass distribution in latter 2nd quarter, 2006. Customers may arrange a demonstration and pre-distribution viewing by registering at www.sumitomoelectric.com/fastcat/.

About Sumitomo Electric Lightwave: Sumitomo Electric Lightwave (SEL), located in Research Triangle Park, NC, is dedicated to tailoring the fiber optic networks of major telecommunications companies through the manufacturing of optical fiber cable, ribbon-configured network solutions, interconnect assemblies, fusion splicers, FTTH products, and its FutureFlex® Air-blown Fiber®Cabling System. SEL is a subsidiary of Sumitomo Electric Industries, which has been cited by Cabling Industry Analyst's 2005 report as the world's largest cable manufacturer measured in sales. For more information, please call 800-358-7378, email us at info@sumitomoelectric.com, or visit us at www.sumitomoelectric.com.

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