

For Immediate Release

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AFCS Forum Unites Industry Leaders to Advance Fiber Connectivity and Switching

Newly launched organization gathers major telecom players as charter members

LAS VEGAS – NXTcomm – June 16, 2008 – Industry-leading service providers, optical switch vendors, network infrastructure providers, manufacturers, OSS vendors, and market researchers today announced their collaboration in the creation of the Advanced Fiber Connectivity and Switching (AFCS) Forum, an organization focused on accelerating the adoption and deployment of emerging technologies for intelligent remote fiber management.

The AFCS Forum will facilitate knowledge sharing and cross-industry dialogues in an open environment to increase industry awareness of optical switching and advanced fiber connectivity solutions worldwide.

The Forum's charter members are:

- Verizon (www.verizon.com)
- Tyco Electronics (www.tycoelectronics.com)
- Telect, Inc. (www.telect.com)
- Telcordia Technologies, Inc. (www.telcordia.com)
- Sumitomo Electric Lightwave (www.sumitomoelectric.com)
- Polatis (www.polatis.com)
- Ovum (www.ovum.com)
- KDDI R&D Laboratories, Inc. (www.kddilabs.jp)
- Glimmerglass (www.glimmerglass.com)
- FiberZone Networks (www.fiberzone-networks.com)
- Draka (www.draka.com)
- CrossFiber (www.crossfiber.com)
- Corning Cable Systems (www.corning.com/cablesystems)
- Calient Networks (www.calient.net)
- Boston Applied Technologies, Inc. (www.bostonati.com)
- AT&T (www.att.com)
- Arcswitch (www.arcswitch.com)
- ADC (www.adc.com)

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“Industry and region-wide, we’ve seen increased customer interest in bandwidth-intensive services, from voice over IP to high-definition TV,” said David Rapp, member of AFCS Forum’s Board of Directors. “With today’s service providers driven to optical fiber solutions to deliver these services, it’s an opportune time for a coordinated effort to educate the industry on the best practices and applications of these technologies.”

The AFCS Forum will promote the application of physical-layer switching and management tools to perform the following tasks remotely: fiber provisioning and connectivity, fiber protection and restoration, as well as fiber testing, monitoring, and troubleshooting. It will also work to resolve obstacles that block the deployment of remote fiber management technologies. This will include collaboration with other industry forums and standards bodies such as ATIS to identify needs for updated or new standards.

With fiber-optic networks enabling faster data transmissions, many carriers are turning to optical switching technologies to keep up with growing bandwidth demands. Operators upgrading their networks to accommodate the heavy load of data and video traffic will need reliable fiber management systems to minimize the impact on customer service.

“The AFCS Forum gathers a diverse set of companies involved in the deployment of next-generation networks, from the manufacturers developing the necessary fiber network equipment to carriers planning their infrastructure upgrades,” explained Rapp. “Our collective knowledge will allow us to push a united effort that emphasizes the promising possibilities of fiber networks for everyone in the telecom value chain.”

For more information on the AFCS Forum or how to join, visit www.afcsforum.org.

About AFCS Forum

The Advanced Fiber Connectivity and Switching Forum (AFCS Forum) was established in 2008 by industry leaders committed to expanding their understanding of key fiber connectivity and optical switching technologies. The mission of the Forum is to accelerate the adoption and deployment of optical switching and advanced fiber connectivity solutions into networks worldwide.