

For Immediate Release:

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Sumitomo Electric Lightwave Introduces Industry's First FTTx Bend-Insensitive Ribbon Drop Cable at GlobalComm/OSP Expo

Research Triangle Park, NC, June 5, 2006 — Sumitomo Electric Lightwave—the leader in optical fiber ribbon technology, as well as optical cable, interconnect, and fusion splicing equipment manufacturing—announced today the introduction of the industry's first ribbon drop cable for the last drop to the premises or home. Prompted by the major carriers' growing trend and preference in the utilization of ribbon products in the FTTx network, Sumitomo designed the cable to allow for mass fusion splicing, quicker and easier gel-free cable entry, and faster fiber access through easy-peel ribbon technology, which increases the speed and number of both fusion splicing and connectorized terminations.

The gel-free ribbon drop cable is available with either 12-fiber PureAccess bend-insensitive SMF or new bend-insensitive 3x4 modular ribbon, which improves handling and more cost-effective deployment of FTTH/FTTP 4-fiber branching network topologies. The incorporation of bend-insensitive fiber improves flexibility with bend-radiuses of half that of standard SMF ribbon, thereby enabling tighter routing and minimizing the space within terminals, hubs, and ONTs. The use of ribbon in terminals improves reliability, handling, and storage by eliminating buffer tube issues, such as kinking, stranding buffer tube memory, and shrinkage.

As the final link to the end-user, the ribbon drop cable is compatible with standard multi-fiber connectors (MFCs) for plug-n-play terminal applications, ideal for terminal tether, and may be used for both aerial and buried FTTx applications.

To improve the ease of both mass fusion splicing and connectorized terminations, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave has incorporated its proprietary control process and Easy Split & Peel technology to construct hassle-free splittable and peelable ribbon, which eliminates the need and cost of special tools, further increasing productivity and time savings. The dry ribbon cable design allows the installer or technician to bypass the cable cleaning procedure and to quickly and easily peel back the ribbon, by hand, to expose the underlying fiber in preparation for connectorization or splicing. Sumitomo's exclusive ribbon technology ensures the fiber coating is protected, thereby guarding against fiber damage, mechanical abrasions, and shearing of fibers during splitting. The option of the 3x4 modular ribbon allows installers to easily branch off 4 fibers originating from the hub, terminal or closure to quickly and easily mass splice to an existing ribbon cable or pre-connectorized fanout.

“Sumitomo's expertise and leadership in ribbon fiber control processes and manufacturing has led us to the development of an outstanding ribbon drop cable that will help our customers deploy their FTTH/FTTP network more efficiently and cost effectively, “ comments Tony Squires, Sumitomo's cable product manager.

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.