

Orange Launches OptoLock-Enabled Fiber Optic Home Installations

Cork, Ireland—March 15, 2010—Firecomms, a leading developer of high-speed Plastic Optical Fiber (POF) transceivers, announces that its OptoLock transceiver is a key component of the home networking solution being deployed by Orange. A key brand of France Telecom, one of the world's leading telecommunications operators, Orange is deploying POF as the medium of choice in the home to reduce installation times, guarantee network reliability, and enhance customer satisfaction ratings.

Orange's OptoLock-enabled fiber optic kits offer a reliable home networking solution by allowing the distribution of a POF network throughout the house. The ready-to-install fiber optic kit enables Orange customers and installers to connect a TV or computer within a high-speed home network in just minutes, minimizing the visual impact of the connection due to POF's ultra-thin diameter.

Orange has cited technical performance, simplicity of installation, and discreet design as benefits of the fiber optic kit. According to Orange field trial results, 98% of users expressed deep satisfaction with this innovative technology.

"This POF product offering by one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world demonstrates the overwhelming benefits of POF to operators and customers alike," says Hugh Hennessy, vice president of sales and marketing for Firecomms. "This deployment is one of many as operators and installers seek ways to overcome the disadvantages associated with traditional wired technologies."

The design of OptoLock enables the fiber to be cut and terminated to the exact required length on site, enabling even the most novice consumer to quickly and easily terminate the bare optical fiber. This means that OptoLock enables all the advantages of optical fiber to be brought into the home with do-it-yourself simplicity and costs. The benefits of this simple, robust high-speed interface will be significant as high-speed services like 100 Mb IPTV are delivered into the home.

Due to its ease of use, large core tolerances, and low costs, POF is enjoying substantial growth in home network and point-to-point interconnection. The annual worldwide POF market is estimated to be worth over \$2.5 billion in 2011, according to market research by Information Gatekeepers.

About Firecomms Ltd.

Firecomms, a semiconductor company, develops high-speed optical components that drive IPTV home networks and in-car multimedia entertainment systems. The company's revolutionary OptoLock technology, licensed worldwide, has created the ability to bring fiber into every home in the world.

Firecomms is headquartered in Cork, Ireland and has facilities in Japan and the USA. For additional information about the company, visit its web site at www.firecomms.com.

OptoLock is a registered trademark of Firecomms Ltd.

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