



Firecomms OptoLock®-Based Products in European Operator Field Trials

Cork, Ireland—September 22, 2009—Firecomms Ltd., a leading developer of high-speed Plastic Optical Fiber (POF) transceivers and Surface Emitting Lasers (VCSELs), today announces that its OptoLock technology is the backbone of a range of Homefibre POF networking equipment that will be used in field trials by several Tier 1 European operators during 2009.

Homefibre announced that it will partner with several operators in Europe over the coming months to install plastic optical fiber networks in homes, hospitals and hotels. The company's range of OptoLock-based products will be featured on the ICT BONE booth (stand #267) at ECOC (European Conference and Exhibition on Optical Communication), as part of the EU sponsored ICT ALPHA project.

"We are delighted to partner with Firecomms, a world leader in POF transceiver technology, in enabling our range of networking products," adds Josef Faller, managing director of Homefibre. "Our range of OptoLock-enabled switches and converters allows our customers to drastically reduce installation times while improving the overall quality and reliability of the installed network."

"The positive market reaction to HomeFibre's products is due to the simplicity of the application using Firecomms' OptoLock technology," says Hugh Hennessy, Firecomms' vice president of sales.

OptoLock, a widely deployed plugless interface for Plastic Optical Fiber, enables a simple to use Fiber Optic link in consumer applications. Ideal for 100 Mb Ethernet applications with stringent quality of service requirements such as IPTV gateways, Set-Top Boxes, Residential Gateways and ONTs (Optical Networking Terminals), OptoLock significantly quickens and simplifies the connection of devices in communications and infotainment networks. The innovative design of OptoLock enables the fiber to be cut and terminated to the exact required length on site, allowing even the most novice consumer to quickly and easily terminate bare optical fiber.

Firecomms leads the development of devices to drive POF, a low-cost optical alternative to copper cabling. Due to its ease of use, large core tolerances, and low costs, POF is enjoying significant growth in a wide range

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of applications. Created for consumer, industrial, and automotive applications in which plastic fiber can be used more easily and at lower cost than copper or glass fiber, POF is now used in millions of small area networks, such as those in use in many car models, and is rapidly gaining ground in home network and point-to-point interconnection. According to market research by Information Gatekeepers, the POF market is estimated to be worth over \$1 billion per year by the end of 2009.

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. Additional information about the company can be found on its web site at www.firecomms.com.

About Homefibre

Homefibre provides a highly innovative, next-generation optical network infrastructure system, based on Plastic Optical Fiber, which allows for the installation of an in-house broadband and multimedia backbone for the reliable integration of various digital services and applications.

Homefibre's product portfolio consists of POF cable, optical wall outlets, media converters, and optical switches, all of which enable providers of IPTV services and advanced audio/video services to install a future-proof home network infrastructure. Additional information about Homefibre is available at www.homefibre.at.

Homefibre is member of EU ICT "ALPHA" (Architectures for fLexible Photonic Home and Access) consortium which aims to build innovative architectural and transmission solutions for access and in-building integrated multi-service Internet/Intranet and 3G/3B3G networks with adequate management. Details about ALPHA are available at www.ict-alpha.eu.

OptoLock is a registered trademark of Firecomms Ltd.

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