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OIF Releases Tunable Laser and Transmitter Assembly Agreements

FREMONT, CA – December 8, 2008 – Members of the Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) have fine-tuned the organization’s Integrable Tunable Laser Assembly Multi-Source Agreement (ITLA-MSA) version 01.2. The new version of the ITLA-MSA is a result of continued refinements, added features, and improved performance. In addition, the ITLA platform has been leveraged into the next generation tunable laser agreement, the Integrable Tunable Transmitter Assembly (ITTA). The OIF’s tunable laser projects continue to receive a high level of interest from the industry and member companies since the first tunable laser agreement which was released in 2002.

“The OIF has played a pivotal role in the standardization of tunable lasers in the telecom industry with the ITLA and ITTA multi-source agreements,” said Raj Batra, of Emcore and the OIF’s Software Working Group chair. “These agreements have helped fuel the rapid adoption and integration of tunable lasers into telecom equipment allowing vendors to displace fixed wavelength lasers in DWDM applications.”

Integrable Tunable Laser Assembly

The OIF’s PLL Working Group receives continuous feedback from the industry, evolving the ITLA-MSA to meet the changing needs of the industry. The

new version realizes performance and cost improvements by optimizing the command set which enables the use of smaller, lower power microprocessors and leads the way in future size reduction of the ITLA. New features have also been added to support applications requiring non-traffic interrupting off-grid tuning as well as those requiring sub-tones for channel identification.

Additionally, a project within the OIF Software Working Group has been created to work on interface testing to help ensure consistent software interface implementations across multiple ITLA vendors.

Integrable Tunable Transmitter Assembly

The Integrable Tunable Transmitter Assembly (ITTA) is a tunable laser integrated with a modulator encompassed by an electronics board containing the necessary laser and modulator control electronics. The ITTA uses an enhanced version of the ITLA's command interface that has been extended to include software control of the integrated modulator. The ITTA comes in two form-factors: One that is similar in size to the ITLA and a reduced size version compatible for use within a 300pinSFF transponder.

The ITTA is designed for use in both 300 pin transponders as well as discrete line card applications. The ITTA agreement details a communication protocol, electrical interface, power supply, optical specifications, and a mechanical interface for use in telecommunications equipment operating in the C or L band.

Continuing Tunable Laser Support

The ITLA and ITTA multi-source agreements are the latest in a series of four tunable laser projects completed by the OIF. The first project resulted in the Tunable Laser Implementation Agreement, OIF-TL-01.1 and involved a large number of contributors from a wide variety of consumers and suppliers of tunable lasers. It addressed the communication protocol, electrical interface and mechanical form factor interoperability for tunable continuous wavelength (CW) lasers.

The second project, an MSA for the Tunable Laser IA, generated a more comprehensive specification of the optical, electrical, mechanical, and communication protocols.

The OIF-IAs can be found at www.oiforum.com as document OIF-TL-01.1.pdf at <http://www.oiforum.com/public/documents/OIF-TL-01.1.pdf> and OIF-TLMSA-01.0.pdf at <http://www.oiforum.com/public/documents/OIF-TLMSA-01.0.pdf>.

About the OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is the only industry group uniting representatives from data and optical networking disciplines, including many of the world's leading carriers, component manufacturers and system vendors. The OIF promotes the development and deployment of interoperable networking solutions and services through the creation of Implementation Agreements (IAs) for optical networking systems and optical, interconnect, network processing and component technologies. The OIF actively supports and extends the work of national and international standards bodies with the goal of promoting worldwide compatibility of optical internetworking products. Working relationships or formal liaisons have been established with the IEEE 802.1, IEEE 802.3ba, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 13, ITU-T Study Group 15, IPv6 Forum, IP-MPLS Forum, MEF, ATIS OPTXS, ATIS TMOC, Rapid I/O, TMF, Ethernet Alliance and the XFP MSA Group. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com <http://www.oiforum.com>.