



Optoelectronic Component Makers Add New Member Companies To 10Gbit/s Transponder Multi-Source Agreement Group

Eatontown, NJ - OFC - Anaheim, CA, Agere Systems (formerly known as the Microelectronics Group of Lucent Technologies), Alcatel Optronics, and Opnext (formerly Hitachi Fiber Optic Components Business Unit) today announced an expanded multi-source agreement for 10 gigabit-per-second (Gbit/s) transponder modules used in optical networking systems. It adds Agilent, Ericsson Microelectronics, Mitsubishi Electric, JDS Uniphase, NEC and ExceLight (a subsidiary of Sumitomo Electric Industries) to an agreement signed last March by Alcatel Optronics, Opnext and Agere Systems.

The expanded agreement allows all of these optoelectronic manufacturers to supply communications system providers with internationally compatible sources of 10 Gbit/s transponders to meet industry demand for high-speed fiber-optic communications components.

The transponders are optical transmitters and receivers in a single package that can be used in synchronous optical network/synchronous digital hierarchy (SONET/SDH) and dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) systems, inter and intra office metropolitan rings, optical add/drop multiplexers, and Internet Protocol (IP) switches and routers. They combine lasers and photodetectors with high-speed integrated circuits to perform functions such as clock synthesis, clock recovery and multiplexing and demultiplexing of 16 x 622-megabit-per-second (Mbit/s) channels.

Under terms of the agreement, transponders from all of the companies must conform to specified packaging dimensions and pin functionality, and they must meet or exceed specified optical and electrical characteristics. The agreement allows for all types of devices (VSR, IR, LR, & WDM) to be available using the same design platform. The companies involved in the agreement all have an optics manufacturing capability in-house.

Makers of optical networking systems find transponder modules attractive, because this highly integrated packaging approach can cut several months of system development and manufacturing time, consume less power and increase port densities over board-level solutions built from discrete components. With so much functionality in one module, timely and sufficient component supply becomes even more essential for successful system delivery. By extending this multi-source agreement to include nine major global component suppliers, systems makers can feel more confident about getting the components they need and to incorporate them without costly and time-consuming system redesigns.

The companies involved in this multi-source agreement are exhibiting their optoelectronic components at the Optical Fiber Communications (OFC) conference, being held in Anaheim, California March 19-21.

For further information, customers may contact the following company representatives by e-mail:

Agere Systems: John Bell, stcjb@lucent.com
Alcatel Optronics: Arnaud Fardoit, arnaud.fardoit@alcatel.fr
Opnext: Atsushi Takai, atsushi.takai@opnext.com
Agilent: Dan Rausch, dan_rausch@agilent.com
Ericsson Microelectronics: Torbjorn Palm, torbjorn.palm@mic.ericsson.se
Mitsubishi: Shinji Shibao, shinji.shibao@kama.melco.co.jp
JDS Uniphase: Tony Musto, Tony.Musto@us.jdsuniphase.com
Sumitomo: Gregg Cockroft, gcockroft@excelight.com
NEC: Tetsuyuki Suzuki, tet-suzaki@cj.jp.nec.com

About Opnext

From the latest communications networks to new security systems, and from major advances in medical systems to high-demand consumer electronics, Opnext laser technologies add the spark of innovation to a world of new applications. The company's industry expertise, future-focused thinking and commitment to research and development combine in bringing to market solutions that are ready for the next generation of laser-based products. Formed out of Hitachi, Opnext has built on more than 30 years experience of advanced technology to establish its broad portfolio of solutions and solid reputation for excellence in service. For additional information, visit www.opnext.com.

Editorial Contacts:

Rebecca B. Andersen
Opnext, Inc.

(P) 732.544.3338
(F) 732.544.3561
RAndersen@opnext.com