

Firecomms Licenses *OptoLock*® Plugless Transceiver to Leading Fiber Optic Manufacturer in Taiwan

Cork, Ireland—April 29, 2008—Firecomms announces that it has licensed its OptoLock® interconnect technology to APAC Opto Electronics, Inc., a leading manufacturer of high-performance fiber-optic transmission components in Taiwan. An easy-to-use, low-cost housing for instant termination of bare Plastic Optical Fiber (POF), OptoLock provides plugless terminations that allow for simpler, quicker connections of communications and infotainment network devices.

"With the rapid adoption of OptoLock by an increasing number of equipment providers, we are happy to license our technology to APAC Opto Electronics, Inc., a company that has been supplying transceivers to optical equipment companies worldwide since 1998," says Firecomms' General Manager, Asia Pacific, Niall Keegan. "APAC, like all suppliers of OptoLock products, will manufacturer product based on a common optical and electrical specification, footprint, and fiber interface."

OptoLock can be used in Fast Ethernet ports directly as it is fully compatible with the IEEE 802.3u Fast Ethernet data communications standard. The RCLED (Resonant Cavity Light Emitting Diode) operates at 660+/- 10nm peak wavelength. This device is mechanically and electrically interchangeable with SMI (Small Media Interface) connectors also enabled by Firecomms EDL300 transceivers.

"APAC has been seeking an easy POF solution for some time, so we're pleased to become a member of the OptoLock supply chain," says Dr. Hank Hung, president of APAC Opto Electronics, Inc. "By combining Firecomms' technology with APAC's manufacturing expertise on OE transceivers, we are able to provide low cost and short lead-time products for POF networks. Our POF transceivers are currently ready for market as we have been a licensee for OptoLock since late 2007."

Firecomms leads the development of devices that 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 of applications. Created for consumer,

industrial, and automotive applications in which plastic fiber can be used more easily and at lower costs than copper or glass fiber, POF is now used in millions of small area networks, such as those in cars, and is rapidly gaining ground in home network and point-to-point interconnections. The POF market is estimated to be worth over \$1 billion per year beginning at the end of 2008.

About Firecomms Ltd.

Firecomms, a compound semiconductor company, develops high-speed light sources in visible-range wavelengths. Firecomms' lasers and LEDs provide the groundwork that will revolutionize optical data communications for small area networks, such as in-car networks and home networks. Firecomms' low-power visible lasers unleash the potential for advances in medical devices, barcode scanners, and optical storage devices.

The Ireland-based company leverages its ten years of photonics research experience, optical expertise, and extensive IP portfolio to develop cost-effective solutions for applications in which the use of glass fiber optics is prohibitively expensive. Additional information about Firecomms is available at www.firecomms.com.

OptoLock is a registered trademark of Firecomms Ltd.

About APAC Opto Electronics, Inc.

Founded in 1998, APAC Opto Electronics, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of high-performance fiber-optic transmission components for Local Area Networks (LANs), Wide Area Networks (WANs), Storage Networks (SANs), Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs), and Access Networks (ANs) with design and manufacturing in Taiwan.

APAC Opto supplies a broad range of optical communication components including O/E transceivers, sub-modules, and Ethernet products to Internet service providers and telecommunications companies worldwide. Additional information about APAC Opto Electronics is available at www.apacoe.com.tw.

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