



PRESS RELEASE

CableFree debuts World's First 2.7Gigabit Optical Wireless Laser Solution

Higher speed ultra-high-bandwidth laser offers the first revolutionary solution for next-generation wireless networks

Surrey, UK, 26 June 2001 – Leading laser/IR optical wireless infrastructure provider, Cablefree Solutions, today launches the world's first, commercially available, carrier-class 2.7Gbps Optical Wireless laser solution at Networks Telecom 2001 (**Hall 20, Stand G66**). The new connectivity product offers ISPs, telcos and the corporate sector a major alternative to existing fibre and fixed-wireless radio solutions.

This launch marks a milestone in laser free-space optical wireless, with Cablefree achieving transmission speeds higher than previously available commercially. The new product is also the first optical wireless platform to offer the expanded bandwidth required to support error-correction of transmitted data.

Based on CableFree's well-proven optical wireless gigabit technology, (being the first vendor to launch and ship commercial wireless Gigabit Ethernet in June 1999), the new upgraded communication platform has been designed to meet the speed and bandwidth demands of next-generation networks. Applications for the product include the back up of 2.5Gbps Sonet/SDH fibre backbones, temporary network provisioning, aggregation of Gigabit Ethernet LAN segments, HDTV, digitised RF-over-FSO for cellular networks, and 2.2Gbps Fibre Channel connection for storage area networks.

"If we were to simply offer a transparent 2.5Gbps pipe, without support for error-correction, the product would not find favour with service providers," said Stephen Patrick, Technical Director at Cablefree. "The requirements for error-free communication and resilience on modern telecom networks demand far more sophisticated solutions.

“In the past, Optical wireless, [Free Space Optics], has been largely rejected by service providers due to products that failed to meet user expectations. Key issues, such as expectations for Bit-Error-Rate on telecom fibre backbones, will not be met without FEC technology; sophisticated Management systems are expected as standard offerings; ‘five-nines’ link availability and planning tools are required. Cablefree's product philosophy continues to set it far ahead by providing resilience, features and functionality expected of modern carrier-class wireless infrastructure,” Patrick concluded.

Cablefree Director, Penny Lee, added, “Over recent months the Optical Wireless industry has seen huge hype and pre-announcement of concept-stage products, which vendors have then failed to deliver. CableFree stands well apart having built a reputation for best-in-class products, and providing customers with reliable wireless infrastructure worldwide”

“CableFree will continue to lead in Optical Wireless by launching innovative new products spanning the needs of service provision, enterprise networks, broadcast and even high-speed domestic Internet provision.”

Cablefree’s 2.7Gbps laser solution will be on display to the world at Networks Telecom 2001. Visit us in Hall 20, Stand G66.”

-ends-

N.B. Both Cablefree Solutions™ and Cablefree™ are trademarks of Cablefree Solutions Limited. The graphical representation of buildings connected by beams is a Registered Trademark of Cablefree Solutions Limited.

For further information contact:

Penny Lee
Director
Cablefree Solutions
Cablefree House, St Clare Business Park
Holly Road, Hampton Hill,
Middlesex TW12 1PZ
Tel: +44 (0) 208 941 7975;
fax: +44 (0) 208 941 2410.
E-mail: penny.lee@cablefree.co.uk

or,

Tim Guest or Terry Cartwright,
RPPR (formerly Hill Murray Rogerson)
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0DH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7881 3229/3228;
fax: +44 (0)20 7730 0741.
E-mail: timg@rppr.co.uk; terryc@rppr.co.uk