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Stratos Optical Introduces
Miniaturized Expanded Beam Fiber Optic Connector

– Enables mobility and portability for state-of-the-art high definition broadcasting and cinema applications –

CHICAGO, IL (April 15, 2007) --- Stratos Optical Technologies, a leader in fiberoptic system solutions for the broadcast industry, announced the debut of their HMC miniature expanded beam fiber optic connector at the NAB 2007 Convention in Las Vegas, April 14-19. The HMC will be demonstrated at the Stratos Optical exhibit (#C1930).

By incorporating the very latest design and manufacturing technologies, Stratos Optical has produced the smallest 4-channel expanded beam connector in the world, with a diameter of just over ¾” (21 mm). The HMC is small enough for use with compact, state-of-the-art high definition broadcast and cinema cameras and disk recorder products. The HMC’s compact design also gives system designers the option of using expanded beam technology in situations traditionally limited to telecom-style PC patch connectors. Smaller and lighter than most comparable expanded beam products on the market, the HMC is available in multimode and in single mode 2 and 4 fiber configurations.

The HMC was developed from proven expanded beam technology that Stratos pioneered, which offers highly reliable performance in harsh environments as well as simple and fast termination. The HMC offers many of the same benefits as industry standard HMA connectors—rugged design, hermaphroditic connection, resistance to contamination and a robust optical connection. Additionally, HMC bulkheads can be installed in standard 1RU rack panels configured for industry-standard D mounts. The HMC’s full rubber body provides total durability against everyday wear and tear.

The HMC is the latest innovation in Stratos’ line of expanded beam fiber optic connectors for broadcast applications. Stratos’ SMPTE-compliant Hx1080 fiber optic connector, introduced in 2005, is being embraced by broadcasters and system integrators throughout Europe and North America for both outdoor and studio applications.
As fiber becomes the standard for live venue productions and installed transport networks, Stratos’ expanded beam fiber optic connectors are proving to be a popular solution on the merits of their dependable performance and ease-of-use. Easy to install, field-reparable, and requiring limited tools and training, this breed of connectors provide an easy upgrade solution to high maintenance, low reliability butt-joint connectors.

**Expanded Beam Technology**

An impressive characteristic of expanded beam technology is that the fiber optic filament is fully enclosed and sealed behind a hard-coated lens, forming a no-contact connection. The hermaphroditic design allows simple and rapid rigging and repair because every connection is identical. In live event broadcast, this solution delivers breakthrough performance results for applications commonly supported with interconnects that exhibit performance degradation after a few couplings. Expanded beam connectors are inherently resilient to environmental factors such as dirt and contamination. The sealed state of the filament allows the lens to be cleaned with a simple wipe of a cloth, then quickly reconnected for uninterrupted transmission.

Stratos International has established a global network of qualified and approved support outlets for its expanded beam line of fiberoptic connectors, providing immediate customer care and technical support for fast reaction, live broadcast applications.

The HMC is currently available. For price and delivery quotations contact Product Managers Dave Mullen at 708-867-9600 (dmullen@stratoslightwave.com) in North America or Peter Munday at +44-1440-766630 (pmunday@stratoslightwave.com) in Europe. Product information is available on the company website, www.stratoslightwave.com.

**About Stratos International – RF, Microwave, and Optical Connectivity Solutions**

Stratos International includes the Trompeter, Stratos Optical Technologies and Semflex brands. Collectively, these brands encompass a unique, integrated capability in the design and manufacture of copper RF & microwave interconnects and fiberoptic subsystems, components and connectors used by military/aerospace, telecom/enterprise, industrial and broadcast/video customers worldwide.

Stratos Optical Technologies has a rich history of optical and mechanical packaging expertise and pioneered several optical technologies including media conversion devices with innovative form-factors and harsh environment products. Today, Stratos
Optical Technologies offers connectivity products and subsystems for fiber transport of military/aerospace communications, broadcast video signals, telecom and FTTH provisioning. The company has a strong IP portfolio of more than 100 patents.

Stratos Optical Technologies has offices in Chicago, IL; Melbourne, FL; and Haverhill, United Kingdom. For more information call 800.323.6858 or visit the company website at www.stratosoptical.com.

Stratos International shares trade on the Nasdaq market under the symbol STLW. The company headquarters is located in Chicago, IL. For more information call 800.323.6858 or visit the company website at www.stratosintl.com.

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