



Luxtera Launches World's Longest Active Optical Cable to Meet Design Demands of Data Centers

40 Gigabit Ethernet-ready four kilometer cable provides data centers with virtually unlimited reach for ease of installation to maximize layout, performance, flexibility

Carlsbad, Calif. – March 23, 2009 – Luxtera today launched the world's longest [Active Optical Cable](#) (AOC), Blazar. Extending up to four kilometers, this 40 Gigabit InfiniBand and Ethernet-ready cable meets the growing demand from data centers for long range connectivity. By providing virtually unlimited reach, Blazar maximizes layout options and simplifies installation, including the ability to easily set up larger clusters and deploy across multiple floors, rooms and buildings.

Blazar utilizes Luxtera's Silicon [CMOS Photonics](#) technology and low cost single-mode fiber to break through the reach restrictions associated with existing vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser (VCSEL) and multi-mode fiber technologies that are currently on the market. These multi-mode fiber solutions are limited up to 100-meter reach with conventional OM-2 fiber at more than twice the cost of single-mode fiber.

Unlike traditional optics that utilize VCSELs and multi-mode fiber for short connections, and edge-emitting lasers and single-mode fiber for long reach, Luxtera's Silicon CMOS Photonics-based single chip transceivers support any distance from one meter to four kilometers utilizing the same low cost transceiver.

“There is an increasing need in data centers for low cost, longer reach cables that provide layout design flexibility and yet maintain the multi-lane, multi-gigabit capability of today's fastest interconnect fabrics,” said Bob Ciotti, Chief Architect of NASA's Advanced Supercomputing center. “We have an immediate need for optical active cables that economically deliver the reach required to interconnect systems in large computing rooms, between different floors and multiple buildings in a campus environment.”

A recent report by Information Gatekeepers, Inc. (IGI) forecasts that the cable market will exceed \$8.5 billion from 2009 through 2013. Another recent market forecast by LightCounting states that, “the active optical cable is a rare market that will grow throughout the forecasting period as AOCs increasingly replace copper links.” With its low cost Silicon CMOS Photonic transceivers and long reach capability, Luxtera is well positioned to claim a large share of this market.

“Active optical cable has made significant inroads in the datacenter in the last 18 months, being lighter, cheaper and often more reliable than copper links connecting equipment,” said Brad Smith, Senior Vice President and Analyst at LightCounting, LLC. “Luxtera's extended-reach Blazar shows how the optical industry is meeting the IT industry's growing requirements for active optical cable.”



“As the demand for longer reach and high performance interconnect increases, Luxtera is leading the industry by meeting these evolving needs of data centers. With its Silicon CMOS Photonics technology-based Blazar, Luxtera is delivering active optical cable connectivity which extends the reach well beyond that of traditional VCSEL and multi-mode fiber technologies at lower cost points,” said Marek Tlalka, Vice President of Marketing for Luxtera. “We’re excited to deliver solutions that can service any reach in the data center.”

Luxtera is now shipping Blazar Active Optical Cables in multiple lengths from two meters to four kilometers.

Luxtera will demonstrate the extended reach of Blazar at the OFC/ NFOEC conference in San Diego, March 22-26, 2009, booth number 3518.

About Luxtera:

Luxtera, Inc. is the world leader in Silicon CMOS Photonics. Its mission is to fulfill the world’s insatiable demand for bandwidth by uniting the high performance of fiber-optic communications with the low cost and high volume manufacturing advantages of mainstream Silicon CMOS fabrication. Headquartered in Carlsbad, California, Luxtera is a [fabless semiconductor](#) company that was founded in 2001 by a team of industry-renowned researchers and technology managers drawn from the communications and semiconductor industries. Luxtera has received funding from leading venture capitalists including August Capital, New Enterprise Associates and Sevin Rosen Funds. More information can be found on the company's web site: www.luxtera.com.

Media Contact:

Katie Lister

[Vantage Communications](#) for Luxtera

407-767-0452 x229

klister@pr-vantage.com

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