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OneChip Photonics debuts first two products at OFC/NFOEC 2011

Los Angeles – After being in hibernation since 2005, OneChip Photonics is debuting its first two products here at OFC/NFOEC 2011.

We are impressed with how well the company is connected, what its technology is, and who it has working for it.

Based in Ottawa, former Nortel standout Andy Weirich, who directs product line management, says the company is coming to lower prices with its volume indium phosphide, PIC-based technology. Weirich, part of a team of 72, says the company's ability to bypass the discrete-laden, time-intensive traditional transceiver strategies allow it to achieve economies of scale that immediately place it at the front of the line.

The company outsources manufacturing to a concert of six different plants. The technology allows it to easily accommodate EPON, GPON or Active Ethernet, which appears to be gaining traction in Europe.

Weirich insists that the company can test each of the millions of lasers it is sending out and can do so at the wafer level. Process control also is very important.

Certainly the ability to operate out of Ottawa provides an experienced workforce and Weirich says has allowed the company to buy upwards of \$5 million of new equipment for about \$1 million.

Financed by named institutions such as Morgenthaler Ventures and DCM, the company seems destined to be a player for the long-term. While the market now is FTTH transceivers, Weirich says the company will be breaking out into other areas as time goes on.

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