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RADC-TR-82-88 Final Technical Report November 1982

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DESIGN AND DEVELOP A CONCENTRIC CORE OPTICAL FIBER

Galileo Electro-Optics Corp.

Henry J. Hoar Jr.

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE; DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

ROME AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER Air Force Systems Command Griffiss Air Force Base, NY 13441

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Galileo Electro-Optics Corporation is pleased to submit to Electronic Systems Division, Hanscom Air Force Base, this final report on the "Design and Development of Concentric Core Optical Fibers."

The material in this report summarizes all aspects of research and development conducted by Galileo, as Contractor, under Government Contract No. F19628-80-C-0200.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

The objective of this program was to develop and characterize concentric core optical fibers for secure communications. The configuration of the concentric core fiber was to have a central core of high refractive index glass, surrounded by a ring clad area of lower refractive index, surrounded again by an annular or ring core, and totally surrounded by an outer clad, again of lower refractive index. (See Figure 1 for refractive index profile). Two fabrication techniques were to be investigated. These were rod and tube, and an "All Chemical Vapor Deposition"(CVD) process. The latter technique proved to be the more effective technique in producing fiber of required characteristics. The "All CVD" technique was used to produce twenty (20) preforms. Twelve (12) of these preforms were actually drawn into fiber. Eight (8) preforms were lost in fabrication. The geometrical properties were measured using a microscope, and photographic recording device. The optical characteristics (Table 1, Concentric Core Design Goals), spectral attenuation, numerical aperture, and pulse broadening, were measured by standard inspection methods. Optical cross talk, and the amount of signal that is leaked from the central core to the annular core, was a more difficult measurement. A new technique was developed under this contract to test the actual levels of cross talk between the central and ring cores. The design goals of this program were achieved to a relatively high degree. The physical geometries of the concentric core fiber were achieved with little difficulty in fabrication or



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TABLE 1. CONCENTRIC CORE DESIGN GOALS

GEOMETRICAL

Central Core Diameter	<u>></u>	25µm
Width of Ring (Annular Core)	2	15µm
Outside Diameter	<u><</u>	180µms
Ellipticity	<u> </u>	95%
Concentricity	<u>></u>	2µm

OPTICAL

• Numerical Aperture	
Central Core	<u>></u> .2
Ring Core	<u>></u> .2
• Attentuation	
.82 µm	<u><</u> 4.0 db
1.2 - 1.3 µm	<u><</u> 2.0 db
•Inter-Channel Cross Talk	-30 db
•Bandwidth Central Core	100 MHz, kilometer

characterization. The desired levels of attenuation, bandwidth, numerical aperture, and cross talk were achieved, although not all in the same fiber.

2.0 TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES

The objectives addressed are those set forth in Contract Number F19628-80-C-0200. The intent of the program was to design and to develop a concentric core optical fiber. To accomplish this end, the following tasks were undertaken:

- To design and develop a concentric core opti 1 fiber with a refractive index profile simila > that shown in Figure 1.
- 2) To design and develop new test methods to characterize the concentric core fiber for the following parameters:
 - (a) Geometrical evaluation including: Central Core Diameter
 Width of Ring (Annular) Core
 Outside Diameter
 Ellipticity
 Concentricity

- (c) Inter-Channel Cross Talk
- (d) Bandwidth (central core)
- 3) To fabricate, draw, characterize, and deliver three (3) lengths (1 kilometer each) to meet design goals set forth in contract (see Table 1 for specifications).

3.0 TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3.1 The first objective in this contract involved a comparison of two (2) fabrication techniques (i.e., Rod and Tube versus "All CVD"). Both techniques will be summarized as to feasibility versus yield and quantity.

3.1.1 Rod and Tube Technique:

A graded index preform was fabricated by standard techniques and insert d into a silica tube whose inside surface consisted of several layers of sintered glass core composition. The core glass was deposited on the inside surface of the tube by passing a gaseous mixture of O_2 , SiCl₄, GeCl₄, and POCl₄ through the rotary tube while at the same time, traversing a H_2/O_2 flame over the outside surface of the tube. A chemical reaction occurs with oxides of silica, germanium, and phosphorus, allowing deposition to occur on the inside surface of the tube. Multiple layers of glass soct are deposited in this manner, and built up to a suitable

thickness. For preforms 1-A and 2-A, the volume of GeCl₁₁ gas was kept constant, thereby, producing a core layer of uniform refractive index (step index). After inserting the graded index rod into the core glass deposited tube, one end of the tube was thermally sealed to the preform and the entire tube was collapsed. Two collapsing techniques were attempted: preform 1-A was collapsed under a partial vacuum, while preform 2-A was collapsed under ambient pressure. Neither technique produced a useful preform, due to bubbles, seed formation, and interfacial cracking. Bubble formation occurred at the interface between the graded index preform and the tube containing the deposited ring core, due to surface irregularities (scratches or localized variations in the preform/tube diameter) which resulted in air entrapment and the formation of seeds. In addition, localized cracking of the ring core occurred due to the abrupt thermal mismatch between the pure silica clad of the graded index preform (low expansion), and the deposited glass of the ring core (high expansion). Interfacial cracking was most apparent in areas exhibiting many bubbles or seeds. Due to these collapsing problems, and general mechanical difficulty associated with properly aligning the preform within the tube, the rod and tube approach was terminated, and the "All CVD" technique was pursued.

3.1.2 "All_CVD" Technique:

The "All CVD" preforms were fabricated in the following general manner. An acid etched and methanol degreased 15 x '7 (Amersil) waveguide tube was inserted into the lathe. A boron containing barrier layer was deposited using $SiCl_4$, BCl_3 , and O_2 in the gas stream. The ring core was then deposited using 02, POCl2, SiCl_{μ}, and GeCl_{μ} in the gas stream. For preform Number 1, the flow rate of $GeCl_{li}$ was kept constant during each pass to create a step index profile (10 passes), while for preform Number 2, the flow rate of GeCl_hwas incrementally increased in a linear fashion for onehalf of the total number of ring core passes, and then decreased in a similar manner to create a graded index profile. There were thirteen (13) total passes in this core deposition. The ring clad was subsequently formed from oxides of silica and boron. The central core was deposited using the same gases that we used for deposition in the ring The ${\rm GeCl}_{\rm h}$ was incrementally increased in core. a linear fashion for each consecutive pass. Five (5) central core passes were deposited in preform Number 1 and preform Number 2.

Seeds were formed during the collapse of preform Number 1, which resulted in the preform being scrapped. No problems were encountered during the collapse of preform Number 2. This preform

was drawn into fiber, and a primary buffer of ultraviolet curable resin was applied. The fiber was then characterized for geometrical and optical properties. The data, shown in Table 2, indicates that the "All CVD" technique produced fiber that nearly met the design goals of the program. It was decided that the technique was well suited to producing concentric core fibers. However, some modifications to the fabrication technique, gas flow rates, and number of deposition passes must be explored. A total of twenty (20) preforms were made using the "All CVD" technique. Twelve (12) preforms were successfully fabricated, drawn into fiber, and characterized (see Table 2 for fabrication information). It was possible to change gas flow rates and number of deposition passes to meet all geometric specifications. All the design goals were not met in any one fiber, however, Galileo did manufacture concentric core fibers which exhibited acceptable levels of performance in all specified areas.

- 3.2 The second objective set forth in this contract was to characterize the manufactured fiber for the following parameters: geometry, attenuation, numerical aperture, bandwidth, and inter-channel cross talk.
 - a) Geometrical data is summarized in Table 3. A microscope with photographic recording device was utilized to determine the physical characteristics.

TABLE 2. FABRICATION INFORMATION

		RADC	PREFORM	I NUMBER	~1	
<u>Gas Flows (cc/m)</u>	5	5	9	7	8	6
Cleaning (# Passes) He	5 120	5 120	120	120 120	5 120	5 120
Clad #1 (# Passes) 02 SiCl4 BCl3 .	3 200 50	1200 150 150	1200 150 150	3 1200 150 50	3 1200 150 50	3 1200 150 50
King Core (# Passes) 02 Siclų GeClų Start Middle End POCl ₃	1200 280 300 300 300 20	1200 1200 220 310 220 220	1200 1200 220 310 220 220	1200 1200 220 310 220 20	29 1200 180 220 220 20 20	220 1200 180 220 220 220 220
Ring Clad (# Passes) 02 SiCl ₄ BCl ₄	5 1200 280 75	6 1200 150 75	6 1200 150 75	1200 150 75	8 1200 150 80	8 1200 150 80
Central Core (# Passes) 02 SiCl ₄ Start GeCl ₄ Start POCl ₃	1200 280 600 20	1200 150 300 350 20	1200 150 300 350 20	6 1200 300 350 20	8 1200 350 420 20	1200 150 350 420 20
Fabrication Date	11/24	4/14	4/15	4/16	4/23	4/27

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TABLE 2. FABRICATION INFORAMTION (continued)

RADC PREFORM NUMBER

				=		
Gas Flows (cc/m)	10	12	<u>13</u>	14	<u>16</u>	17
Cleaning (# Fasses) He	5 120	5 120	5 120	120 120	120 120	5 120
Clad #1 (# Passes) 02 SiCl4 BCl3	3 1200 150 50	3 1200 150 50	1200 150 60	3 1200 140 60	3 1200 150 60	3 1200 150 60
Ring Core (# Passes) 02 Sicl ₄ Start GeCl ₄ Middle End POCl ₃	29 1200 220 360 220 220	1200 180 220 310 220 220	1200 180 220 310 220 220 220	1200 180 220 310 220 220	1200 1200 210 310 210 210	25 1200 180 220 220 220 220 220
Ring Clad (# Passes) 02 Sicl ₄ Bcl ₄	8 1200 150 80	12 1200 150 85	12 1200 150 85	12 1200 150 85	12 1200 150 85	12 1200 150 85
Central Core (# Passes) 02 SiCl4 GeCl4 Start POCl3 Middle	8 1200 350 420 20	12 1200 150 300 410 10	12 1200 150 300 410 10	1200 1500 300 410 10	12 1200 150 300 410 10	12 1200 300 410 10
Fabrication Date	4/28	01/9	11/9	6/12	6/16	6/17

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			FTRFP N	ШМВЕВ			Dast nad
	~		9 9	7	Ĵ	σ	Concentric Core Dimensions
ע הארת ע		1	,			ł	
ATAU W							
w Date	12/2	4/15	4/16	4/16	4/29	4/29	
.w Temp. (^U C) er D1a. (μm)	2100	2130	2130 /	2130	2130	2130	
	ł	180.10	1	180.10	1	ł	
	I	0.66	1	0.71	1	ı	
aximum	I	182.80	1	182.70	ł	ł	
[in1mum	1	178.00	ł	177.50	ı	ł	
gth (meters)	I	1430	503	1058	325	1370	

Length (meters)	I	1430	503	1058	325	1370	
GEOMETRICAL DATA Radius (um)							
Central Core	51	15	17.50	17.50	10	10.30	15
Ring Clad Ring Core	0,0 70	40 52,50	37.50	41.25	27.50	30 20 20	42 60
Outer Clad	89	06	90.06	3.70	94.00	16	606
Thickness (µm)							
Central Core (Dia)	42	30	35	35	20	22.60	25
Ring Clad	25	25	20	24	7.50	9.40	30 -
Ring Core	10	12.50	15	16	30	30.60	 15
Outer Clad	33	37.50	37.50	36	36	38.40	- 30
Ellipticity (%)	97.50	98	98	66	66	66	2 95
Concentricity (µm)	0.50	0.50	0.20	0	0.50	0.20	< 2

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TABLE 3. CONCENTRI	C CORE F	LBER: DR	AW & GEON	TETRIC DA	TA SUMMAI	TNOD) II	INUED)
		RADC	FIBER NUN	IBER			Desired
	10	<u>12</u>	13	14	<u>16</u>	11	Core Dimensions
<u>DRAW DATA</u> Draw Date Draw Temp. (^o C) Fiber Dia. (_u m)	4/28 2130 -	6/18 2130 178.30	6/18 2130 177.40	6/23 2130 178.30	6/23 2130 177.90	6/23 2130 178.40	
x σ Max1mum Min1mum	180.10 1.42 182.50 171.90	177.72 1.01 181.20 175.40	178.02 0.81 181.40 173.80	178.05 0.83 182.00 174.50	177.97 0.78 181.20 174.50	178.09 0.89 181.10 175.70	
Length (meters)	861	932	1255	1120	960	1338	
GEOMETRICAL DATA Radius (µm)							
Central Core Ring Clad Ring Core	12.15 30 60 01 50	25 50 61.30	23.80 46.90 52.50 87.50	26.90 48.10 60.60	25 46.30 57.50 03.10	27.50 46.30 62.50	00000 00000
Thickness (µm)	>···			•		2	2
Central Core (Dia) Ring Clad	24.30 7.50	50 550	47.50 21.3	53.80 21.3	50 20	55 18.80	25 30 30
king core Outer Clad	32.50	10 28.80	27.50	13. 00 30	11.30 33.80	27.50	GT ~
Ellipticity (%)	66						<u>2</u> 95
Concentricity (µm)	0.50						5 *

It became apparent that by varying the gas flows and deposition rates, one could attain the design goals set forth in this contract with relatively little trouble, and that the majority of the research would involve meeting the other design goals. (See Appendix A for photographic results).

 b) N.A. - defined as the sine of the half angle of the emission cone.

Attempts were made to measure the numerical aperture of the central and ring cores using a 10 mW helium neon laser as a source. The operative laser was focused onto the input end of the fiber using a 10X, 0.25 N.A. microscope objective and launch probe. The output end of the test fiber was positioned about the axis of rotation of a rotary stage. A small area detector was used to detect relative intensity emitted from the fiber, as a function of angular displacement of the fiber end. This technique did not produce useful results, due to large intensity variations in the output radiation pattern. This is a common problem associated with laser emission, and is known as "laser speckle". A filtered, incoherent source, must be used for this purpose. Even after utilization of said source, intensity was the limiting factor. Galileo was unable to characterize the fiber via intensity scan.

The technique which eventually was employed involved "enclosed power". This procedure requires a large active area detector, which is butted to the output end of the test fiber, and captures all the emitted power. It is backed off until only 90 percent of the power is captured by the detector (See Figure 2). The formula applied to calculate N.A. is as follows:

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N.A. = sine
$$\left[\arctan\left(\frac{d+d'}{r} \right) \right]$$
 (1)

- Where d = The displacement distance from the detector required to capture 90 percent transmission.
 - d' = The distance from the active area of the detector to the front surface of its faceplate.

r = Radius of the detector's active area.

c) Attenuation was measured on both the ring and central cores of all the preforms that were drawn into fiber (See Figure 3 for test apparatus). The description of the measurement technique is as follows: A 100 watt tungsten flat filament light source was mechanically chopped, and the frequency referenced to a lock-in amplifier. The light emission from the source was focused down with a 10X microscope objective onto a 18 µm core ⇒ step index fiber. When properly aligned, this technique allows for selective core excitation. The standard "cut-back" technique was then utilized. Attenuation was calculated using the following formula:



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$$db/km = \frac{10 \log \frac{r_2}{P_1}}{L1-L2}$$
 (2)

Where $P_1 = Voltage$ detected in the long length.

- P₂ = Voltage detected in the reference length.
- L1 = The sampled length (long length).
- L2 = The reference length (2 meters).
- d) The successful application of a concentric core fiber is based in part upon the requirement that interchannel cross talk (specifically from the central core to the ring core) be minimized. A novel technique to measure cross talk was developed at Galileo and is illustrated in Figure 4. The procedure for the cross talk measurement is detailed in the following paragraph. The numbers in parenthesis refer to the various components listed in Figure 4.

A 10 mW helium-neon (HeNe) laser (1) was mechanically chopped (2), referenced to a lockin amplifier (12), and focused with a 10X microscope objective (3) onto an $18 \ \mu m$ core diameter step index fiber (4) mounted in a five-axis positioner (5). The concentric core test fiber (7) was mounted on a five-axis positioner, which was mounted on an automated translation stage (6),



(with an accuracy of $\frac{+}{-}$ 0.1 µm travel in a direction perpendicular to the test fiber axis). The two fibers were air-butted. The output end of the concentric core test fiber (7) was observed with a microscope. The input end of the test fiber was aligned to the output end of the step index fiber using the five-axis positioner, so that only the ring core was excited. The output end of the test fiber was then placed in another five-axis positioner (8), and mounted on a translation stage (with $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.1 µm accuracy of travel). The detection probe (a single mode fiber (10) with an approximately 5 µm diameter core), also mounted in a five-axis positioner and a $\stackrel{-}{\rightarrow}$ 0.1 µm resolution translation stage (9), was butted to the output end of the test fiber, aligned for maximum throughput and locked into position. This procedure assured that the measurement of excitation of the ring core was optimized. The input end of the test fiber was then translated to a position whereby only the central core was excited. The signal from the ring core was monitored and recorded. This signal is representative of the cross talk level.

e) Bandwidth relates the information carrying capacity of the fiber. The central core of the fiber was measured using the standard technique, which involves properly aligning the laser emission (λ 820 nm) onto the central core ϕ (laser emission is $\simeq 50 \ \mu$ m in length by 15 m in width). This is accomplished by utilizing a hand held infrared (IR) viewer and actually

viewing the emission, which is superimposed on the fiber face. Alignment onto the active area of the avalanche photodiode (APD) is accomplished in much the same manner. The root-mean-square (RMS) value of the sampled length is recorded and photographed. After carefully cutting back from the launch, leaving \sim 2 meters for the reference length, the above procedure is repeated. Pulse broadening of the sampled length is calculated by the following:

$$PB = \frac{1}{L} \frac{S1^2 - S2^2}{L}$$
(3)

Where S1 = RMS value for the sampled length.

S2 = RMS value for the reference length.

L = Sampled length.

To convert from the time domain (TD) to the frequency domain (FD), the following equation is employed:

$$\frac{1}{PB}$$
 X .22 = fn (FD) (4)

Where PB = The pulse broadening.

.22 = The factor employed to convert to the frequency domain. (See Figure 5 for test apparatus).



All fiber measurements employed the 37 μ m launch probe. The N.A. was characterized (Figure 6) and it was assumed that proper launch conditions were used. (See Table 4 for Optical Summary on all Fibers).

3.3 The third objective was to deliver three (3) kilometers of fiber for evaluation. This was completed, and the fiber submitted exhibited the best of various design goals. (See Table 5 for Delivered Fiber Summary).

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

A concentric core optical fiber for secure communications was designed and developed through an (interactive) approach to fabrication and characterization. The method that was developed is a modified version of a CVD technique. The method produced concentric core fibers with excellent geometrical properties, good cross talk levels, relatively low attenuation, and acceptable numerical aperture. The bandwidth of the central core met the specification goal on only one of the twelve fibers drawn; however, the failure of the later preforms to reach this specified goal was due to problems with the gas delivery system, and should not be a problem in any further production.

The difficult task of accessing cross talk between the central and ring cores was accomplished through the development of a technique which employs a small diameter step index fiber as a launch probe, and a single mode fiber as a detection probe. This method produced repeatable results, and is clearly superior to techniques reported in prior development efforts.



TABLE 4. OPTICAL SUMMARY FOR ALL FIBERS

, ,

Dastnad	Properties	>.2 >.2 Not Specified	<u><</u> 6 6 850 nm <2 6 1300 nm	Not specified	> 100		<pre>> -30 db Core to Ring</pre>	> 1000
	6	.230 .218 n 2m	17.05 22.46	12.33 8.07 300	28	1369	-49. <i>¹</i> -51.7 2	296 296
RADC NUMBER	8	.255 .249 21	11.58 18.00	12.57 12.62 325	107	325	-48.7 -50.2 2	318
	#1			1055	85	1055	31.8 30.4 2	
	9	.247 .238 n 2m	10.84 14.19	5.10 11.40 271	17	271	-24.8 - -23.4 - 2	501 166 271 266
	2	.204 .225 m 2r	15.45 21.20	6.85 16.87 133	23	133	-41.3 -41.6 -	133 296
	2	.208 .187 2	10.93 18.32	11.4 13.8 560	01	560	-33 -39 2500	193 115
		N.A. Central Core Ring Core Sample Length	Attenuation db/km Central Core 0 850 nm 0 1300 nm	NING COFFE B 850 nm e 1300 nm Sample Length(m)	3 db/km Bandwidth Central Core P1nr Core	Sample Length(m)	Crosstalk (db) Sample Length(m)	Final Length(m)

* Fiber was given to RADC for testing.

TABLE 4. OPTICAL SUMMARY FOR ALL FIBERS (CONTINUED)

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NUMBER	
RADC	

* Fiber was given to RADC for testing.

TABLE 5. DELIVERED FIBER SUMMARY

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			(
Test Description	<u>#12</u>	d Fiber Tes #13	t Summary #17	Desired Properties
N/A. Central Core Ring Core Sample Length(m)	.226 .219 2m	.246 .248 2m	.232 .211 2m	>.2 >.2 Not specified
Attenuation db/km				
Central Core @ 850 nm @ 1300 nm Ring Core @ 850 nm @ 1300 nm Sample Length	9.74 21.37 9.70 25.61 290	5.46 21.82 6.96 14.06 300	11.83 17.85 8.80 13.85 300	<pre> 4 6 2 2 Not specified </pre>
3 db Bandwidth Central Core Sample Length(m)	28 MIZ 632	21 MHz 300	25 MHz 300	>100
Crosstalk (-db)	-40 -42.05 2m	- 30 . 4 - 30 . 3 2m	-36.2 -38.9 2n.	< 30 db(:ore to Ring)
Final Length(m)	296m 632m	296m 655m	1038m 296m	

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Finally, several lengths of concentric core optical fiber were drawn and characterized for geometrical and optical properties, and delivered for evaluation.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a relatively large number of concentric core preforms be fabricated using identical gas flow rates, and number of deposition passes. This would establish the repeatability of the fabrication process in regard to the geometrical properties in the drawn fiber. It would also allow for further testing of the repeatability in the optical characterization, i.e. numerical aperture, bandwidth, attenuation, and optical cross talk. The gas flow rates and number of deposition passes that produced the highest bandwidth characteristics should be chosen for this initial production phase, because additional correlation needs to be made between the number of deposition passes and the bandwidth of the central core. Another point to be addressed involves the high attenuation at the 1.3 micron wavelength region. It should be noted that this is near a water absorption peak and that care should be exercised to minimize the water content in the optical preforms.

APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS OF FIBER GEOMETRY



RADC #2 Concentric Core

RADC #5 Concentric Core

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RADC #7 C.C. was given to RADC for characterization

RADC #8 Concentric Core

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RADC #9 Concentric Core





RADC #10 Concentric Core

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RADC #12 Concentric Core





RADC #13 Concentric Core





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RADC #16 Concentric Core

RADC #17 Concentric Core

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APPENDIX B

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ATTENUATION GRAPHS

CC #2 Attenuation

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Wavelength in nm

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Wavelength in nm

CC #10 Attenuation Plot

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CC #12 Attenuation Flot



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CC #14 Attenuation Plot

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CC #16 Attenuation Plot Central Core -Ring Core 30 -----28____ 26 ____ 24 -----22 -----20 -----18 ____ 16 — Loss in db/km 14 -----12 -10 ----3 -6 -4 -2 -. 1100 έco£ 1000 1200 1300 900 Wavelength in nm

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CC #17 Attenuation Plot

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APPENDIX C

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PULSE DISPERSION RESULTS

Concentric Core #2

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Sample



Concentric Core #6 Ref. 1 ns

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Concentric Core #6 4.4 ns & 325m



13.2 ns/km 17 mHZ



Concentric Core #5 ℓ - 1300 μ 13 ns

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2.6 ns/km = 85 mHZ



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Ref. Concentric Core #7 1 ns

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Ref. Concentric Core #8 1 ns

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Concentric Core #8 l-325m



2.04 ns/km 107 mHZ





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Concentric Core #9 Ref. 1.7 ns





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Ref. Concentric Core #10 1.7 ns

Concentric Core #10 5.7 ns L-859 4



6.3 ns/km 35 mHZ



Concentric Core #12 &-632m 7.5 ns







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Ref. Concentric Core #13 600 ps and the statement of the statement of the

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Concentric Core #13 &-300m 5 ns



16 ns/km

Concentric Core #14



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Concentric Core #16 600 ps

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Concentric Core #16 &-300m 5 ns



16 ns/km 21 mHZ



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Concentric Core #17 4.0 ns

13.18 ns/km 25 mHZ (.33 factor)

NOTE: Reference for C.C. #17 is the same as C.C. #16.

