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Cisco Announces Updated Optical Specialist Focused Certification

SAN JOSE, Calif., February 24, 2004 – Cisco Systems, Inc.® today announced that it has updated the Cisco Optical Specialist certification courses and exams, highlighting Cisco's commitment to keeping current its portfolio of market-relevant certification programs up-to-date.

The updated Cisco Optical Specialist certification provides two training paths: one that focuses on SONET technology and one that focuses on SDH. Professionals who attain the Cisco Optical Specialist certification will demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to design, provision, operate and perform basic troubleshooting using the ONS 15454, extend distances using the ONS 15216 product family and demonstrate significant and specialized knowledge of Cisco fiber optic principles and DWDM transmission. These are essential skills for both the Service Provider and Enterprise environments.

Today, many organizations are looking for ways to minimize their time to revenue and expand their customer base with scalable, highly available metro optical networks. Succeeding in this endeavor requires a competent workforce ready to design, install and support optical networks and applications.

Candidates working toward their Cisco Optical Specialist certification will satisfy the exam requirement by passing just one of the exam, either 642-311 Optical SONET or 642-321 Optical SDH. Both the 642-311 Optical SONET and 642-321 Optical SDH exams are available worldwide, and candidates may elect to take either exam, regardless of their geographic location or theater affiliation.

Training and Availability

Training may be purchased via Cisco Learning Credits which are redeemable at participating Cisco Learning Partner locations. Authorized Cisco training is available from a global network of Cisco Learning Partners and the Partner E-Learning Connection.

For training and certification information, visit www.cisco.com/go/training.

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About Cisco Systems

Cisco Systems Inc. (NASDAQ: CSCO) is a worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. News and information are available at <http://www.cisco.com>.