



# Plastic Optical Fiber for Automobiles POFTO **POF** DEC 8 **AUTODAY**

The Westin  
Southfield Detroit  
Detroit, Michigan  
December 8, 2004

## POF 2004 - 13th Annual International POF Conference

Updated October 12, 2004

*POFTO Member and CEO of Luceat S.p.A., Alessandro Nocivelli  
sent in the following report on POF 2004:*

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Luceat exhibit at POF 2004

The choice of the city for this year's POF Conference was almost obvious. Nuremberg is the home city of the POF-Application Center, Europe's most prestigious research institution in the field; and it's only 160km north of Munich, home of BMW - the leader for POF usage in the automotive market.

No wonder that this year's attendance was particularly high. Germany was obviously the most represented country, followed by Far East countries and other European nations.

For the first time, it was apparent to anyone that Far East is going to become a "hot" area for POF and POF-based applications. While Japan still leads the race in terms of R&D and innovation, other countries like Korea, China and Taiwan show muscle with new PMMA-based GI-POF and POF-based devices.

After years spent talking about perfluorinated GI-POF, many showed off awesome results obtained with plain vanilla SI-POF. The Fraunhofer Institute demonstrated transmission at Gbps rates over 10m, while an European firm (Luceat, actually) introduced commercially available modules for transmitting data at up to 400m - with standard POF!

A recurrent topic at every POF Conference has been the quest for the "killer application". Automotive is of course a booming market, with BMW planning to wire 1.4 million vehicles in 2005. Few benefit of this market though, with Infineon (active devices) and Gebauer & Griller (MOST cable) leading the lot.

This year, the most pronounced word at the conference has been "1394", or

FireWire as Apple calls it. Domestic applications actually are a promising market, although some technical issues have yet to be fully addressed before we can see a fully-fledged "POF house" based on this standard.

Most importantly, nobody knows whether in the end Ethernet, the standard which nobody likes and everybody uses, will win in the domestic market as well. And that has nothing to do with technical performances: it's just marketing.

POF is getting stronger, and this year's conference proved it: but the pace of growth and penetration in new markets has to increase, if we all want to succeed. It's no more the time to address technical issues, but to focus on creating working devices and proposing them to the market.

*Please also see Alessandro's [report on flamability testing](#).*

## POF 2004 - Preliminary Photos

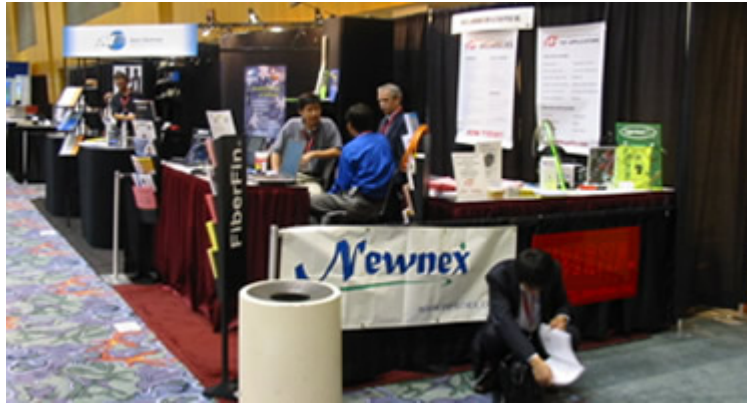
Posted October 7, 2004

The first reports are back in from POF 2004 for in Nuremburg, and we will have a full review soon. For now here are some photo highlights:



The view from outside the conference center

Posted September 15, 2004



The POFTO had a booth at CEDIA 2004 with six member companies participating

1. Fiberfin
2. Firecomms, Ltd.
3. Mitsubishi Rayon
4. Newnex
5. Information Gatekeepers Inc
6. Senko

Other literature available at the booth:

1. Asahi Glass
2. Luceat

This year's show had 25,000 attendees, up from 20,000 last year. The place was busting out at the seams with exhibitors in hallways and for the first time a substantial waiting list developed which could not be accommodated. Cedia 2005 will be in Indianapolis next year but will move to Denver for the next two years and then to Atlanta.

The POFTO booth had adequate traffic despite its location. Over 100 highly qualified leads were distributed to the participants. at the booth Fiberfin provided hands-on demonstrations of connectorization, Mitsubishi showed a video POF link using 1394 and announced a HCS DVI link, Newnex had a demonstration of a POF repeater for 1394 operating at 200Mbps, and Senko had a DVI link over glass with transmitters and receivers built into the standard DVI connectors.

**Other POF activity at the show included:**

1. 1394 had a booth with a demonstration of a "Home Network" using both POF and Cat 5.
2. Fuji Film had a demonstration of a POF DVI link using graded index POF over 30 meters. It was in the Pioneer Corp. booth and used Pioneer plasma displays and electronics to interconnect.

In summary, this is the right show for POF. POFTO should have had some POF courses to offer. Certainly, they should be proposed to CEDIA for 2005. As in other shows, there was a widespread lack of knowledge about POF.

**POF Auto Day In Detroit**

posted: August 4, 2004

The Plastic Optical fiber trade organization(POFTO) IS planning a one-day review of the present state of POF in automobiles directed at the major auto manufacturers in Detroit this Fall. Plans are now underway to select a date, location and put a program together. This should be done by mid-August. cooperation with the Automotive Section of SAE and the IDB Forum are being explored. The amount of interest expressed by POFTO and NON-POFTO members has been encouraging.

A full day conference program is planned from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Speakers will include automakers with real life experiences in implementing POF data buses, suppliers, and technical organizations such as MOST and IDB-1394. This is the first of several such events planned by POFTO in the Detroit area over the next 9 months. Sponsorships will be available which will include a table top for exhibition for each sponsor.

For further details, see [pofautoday.com](http://pofautoday.com).

## **POFWorld 2004 Largest Yet!**

posted: June 28, 2004

POFWorld 2004 was the largest POFWorld event to date. Over 150 attendees were treated to an information packed program on POF in Autos, POF in Home networking, POF and 1394, POF Standards, applications, and markets. Exhibits featured hands on demonstrations of connectorization by PM Manufacturing.

Tutorials included POF Market overview, 1394 and POF, POF in Automobiles, and an Installers workshop." In-house versions of these tutorials are being offered to companies already in or planning to enter the POF field. Copies of the [conference proceedings and tutorial notes](#) are available from IGI.

[Read Full Story](#)

## **POF Tackles Automotive Requirements**

posted: May 11, 2004

A featured article by Dr. Tami Freeman,  
Deputy Editor [FibreSystems Europe](#)  
In association with [LIGHTWAVE Europe](#)

Car makers looking to implement in-vehicle plastic fibre networks require high-bandwidth links, low costs and complete reliability, especially as they begin to exploit this optical infrastructure for safety-critical applications. Tami Freeman takes a look at some of the latest developments in the world of wired-up cars.

[Read the Full Article](#)

## **POFTO Mission Statement**

The POFTO is an organization that has been established to promote the common business interests of its members and the POF industry. POFTO is an alternative to glass optical fiber that has been specifically designed to be a practical, low cost solution for high bandwidth data communications. The POFTO welcomes those whose interest and support can contribute to the success of this endeavor.

The mission of the POFTO is to actively promote the proliferation of high bandwidth POF systems serving the data communications and illumination markets and to coordinate and seek out new market opportunities. The members are individually and collectively committed to open competition in the

development of products, technology and services

### **Primary Goals**

- Promote industry awareness, acceptance and advancement of POF
- Accelerate the adoption and usage of POF products and services
- Encourage the application of POF and component systems.
- Promote the advancement and acceptance of POF standards

### **Some Benefits of Membership**

- Voting Rights at POFTO Meetings
- Company Announcements, product releases, etc. posted on [pofto.com](http://pofto.com)
- Free subscription to POF Newsletter
- 20% discount on POF Publications, seminars and POFTO announcements
- Company logo & listing on [FiberOpticYP.com](http://FiberOpticYP.com)
- 2 free hours of consulting from Information Gatekeepers, Inc.

[TOP](#)