

Tektronix Adds Testing Support for 400G Multi-carrier Superchannel Coherent Optical Systems

New Software Option for Tektronix Optical Signal Analyzers is Industry's First with Support for Automated Multi-Carrier Measurements

BEAVERTON, Ore., March. 13, 2013 - Tektronix, Inc., a leading worldwide provider of test, measurement and monitoring instrumentation, today announced a new software option for its OM4000 optical signal analyzer series that offers the industry's first automated test support for 400G multi-carrier superchannel coherent optical systems. This software option will greatly reduce test times for researchers working on 400G and faster coherent optical systems while providing the flexibility to define carrier count, carrier spacing and modulation formats. It also provides compiled carrier measurement results and multi-carrier visualization for integrated analysis.

The new software is available to Tektronix customers as Option MCS on the OM4106D Coherent Lightwave Signal Analyzer and OM1106 Coherent Lightwave Signal Analyzer Software. The OM4106D is tightly integrated with Tektronix DPO70000D Series 33 GHz oscilloscopes and uses coherent detection to acquire fiber signals carrying up to 240 Gb/sec per wavelength.

"The explosive growth of mobile and cloud computing continues to drive long-haul optical communications bandwidth demands, with the goal being to drive more data over existing infrastructure with coherent optical technology," said Brian Reich, general manager Performance Oscilloscopes, Tektronix. "We see 400G as the next big milestone and multi-carrier or superchannel technology is the most likely winner, at least in the near term. This new software will go a long way toward helping to advance 400G research and eventual adoption."

Multi-carrier 400G Gaining Support

With 100G now heading into deployment, network equipment manufacturers are investigating ways to achieve networks speeds of 400G and beyond. Instead of simply increasing the symbol rate of a single carrier, one proposal gaining momentum is to transmit in parallel by using multiple carriers at lower individual rates. Multi-carrier systems such as this have been dubbed superchannels.

There is currently no industry consensus on how to build superchannels. Vendors differ on characteristics as basic as carrier count and carrier spacing to what modulation format should be used. Therefore, a measurement system must have the flexibility to adapt to all these formats. With Option MCS, Tektronix is the first supplier of high-speed optical test instrumentation to offer multi-carrier or superchannel support.

Fast, Automated Results

Option MCS software is designed for optimum ease-of-use and flexibility. To launch tests, the user simply enters multi-carrier variables such as number of carriers, carrier spacing, and modulation format in a simple table. The automation steps through each carrier setting up the local oscillator and measurement parameters based on the information entered into the carrier information table. When all measurements are complete, the system provides the results from all carriers side-by-side for easy correlation and quick identification of problems.

Pricing & Availability

Option MCS will be available for delivery beginning May 30, 2013 for \$8,800 U.S. MSRP.

Wondering what else Tektronix is up to? Check out the Tektronix Bandwidth Banter blog and stay up to date on the latest news from Tektronix on Twitter and Facebook.

About Tektronix

For more than sixty-five years, engineers have turned to Tektronix for test, measurement and monitoring solutions to solve design challenges, improve productivity and dramatically reduce time to market. Tektronix is a leading supplier of test equipment for engineers focused on electronic design, manufacturing, and advanced technology development. Headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, Tektronix serves customers worldwide and offers award-winning service and support. Stay on the leading edge at www.tektronix.com.

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