Polatis unveils programmable shutter feature for line fault simulation on DirectLight optical matrix switches

Polatis of Cambridge, England and Andover, Massachusetts, a supplier of all-optical switch technology for optical layer connectivity, has announced the addition of a programmable shutter to the software features available on its ultra-low loss DirectLight optical matrix switches.

Used globally for remote fibre-layer provisioning, protection, monitoring, reconfiguration and test, the Polatis optical matrix switch technology scales from 4x4 to 96x96 ports based on the company's patented DirectLight piezoelectric beam-steering technology.

The programmable shutter feature allows users to introduce repeatable, precisely-timed disconnections on multiple fibre paths through the optical switch with individually programmable shutter intervals between 10 ms to 10,000 ms.

This will enable equipment suppliers and service providers to precisely characterise network responses to routine line faults and major outages at line rates up to 100 Gbit/s and beyond.

Nick Parsons, Polatis CTO and VP of Engineering, noted:

- "Previously, it has been difficult, expensive and time consuming to generate multiple simultaneous outages in today's complex optical networks".

- "The programmable shutter feature greatly simplifies the generation of both hard and transient fibre faults to automate testing of network fault detection, reconfiguration and recovery".

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