



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Peter P. Gladis, Director of Marketing  
(860) 282-4930, ext. 357  
[ppgladis@rslfibersystems.com](mailto:ppgladis@rslfibersystems.com)

-or- Dennis Buden, DBPR  
(860) 646-6920  
[dbuden@snet.net](mailto:dbuden@snet.net)

## **Technological Advantages of Remote Source Fiber Optic Lighting Can Mean Greater Safety for Mining Operations, Search and Rescue**

*Connecticut-Based Lighting Technology Company Offers Insight at MSTC Conference*

**Daniels, W.V. (June 17, 2010)** – The scenario is tragically familiar: A mine collapse has trapped miners in a remote location, putting lives at risk. Only small holes and crevices are open to the most likely survival areas. Reaching those trapped is one challenge; another is deploying safe, portable, high-intensity light through those small openings to speed the recovery effort.

The answer: A portable, easily deployable remote source fiber optic lighting system, custom-designed for just such an emergency, so states Peter P. Gladis of East Hartford, Connecticut-based RSL Fiber Systems, LLC. Mr. Gladis detailed his company's technology and its potential to introduce a new paradigm for mine safety and operations today before a large and receptive audience of mining industry leaders at the West Virginia Mine Safety Technology Consortium's (MSTC) 2010 Miner's Celebration Conference at The Resort at Glade Springs.

Mr. Gladis was among the presenters during one of several panel discussions Thursday about emerging technologies in mine safety. Also presenting during the session were Eric Prittima of Venture Design, and Tom Bailey of Husker, Inc.

To date, fiber optic lighting has not been utilized in the mining industry, but the technology is mature and currently playing a vital role aboard U.S. Navy warships, said Mr. Gladis. The potential is unlimited: Mr. Gladis explained that RSL's remote source fiber optic lighting technology offers a variety benefits and characteristics that can solve a multitude of challenges, both for day-to-day mine operations and for search and rescue operations.

"The beauty of this technology is the combination of customizable, high-performance light delivered over long distances and utilized in the harshest environments, along with the inherent safety of di-electric, or non-electricity conducting, fiber optic cable," said Mr. Gladis. "Simply stated, the transport of reliable, high-performance light for critical, high-demand applications represents the second revolution in fiber optics."

The mine collapse scenario that Mr Gladis detailed highlighted one benefit of the technology – its ability to carry high-intensity light through thin, flexible fiber optic cable, and emit that light through tiny "luminaires" that can fit through even the smallest of openings. Mr. Gladis also talked about other potential scenarios in which remotely generated, fiber optic light could play a critical role, including when explosive gases, liquids or fumes are present; when

## **Remote Source Fiber Optic Lighting**

### **2-of-2**

highly sensitive electronic equipment or radio systems are deployed; when emergency helicopters need to make night-time landings on makeshift landing pads; and when the risk of high vibration or shock is present.

Remote source lighting carries no electricity, eliminating the risk of an electrical spark – there is no EMI (electro-magnetic interference) or RFI (radio frequency interference). Fiber optic cable can be laid in water, mud, or flammable liquids – with no risk of explosion. Systems can be stored in small, portable cases for easy deployment in the most difficult-to-reach locations, and multiple, cool luminaires can be driven from a single light engine, or illuminator.

RSL systems are rugged and shock-tested to the highest military requirements and are therefore ideal for harsh or unstable environments where reliable performance is critical. Solid state luminaires and cables can withstand high amounts of abuse for extended periods.

A division of Skyler Technologies Group, RSL Fiber Systems is the sole-source provider of remote source lighting applications for the U.S. Navy for shipboard use on the Navy experimental craft "Sea Fighter", as well as the LPD 17 and DDG 1000 class ships. RSL employs the latest technologies to custom-design the most advanced fiber optic-based solutions for the most demanding, complex military, commercial and industrial lighting challenges.

The company is presently working to expand its reach into a variety of commercial/industrial markets, as well as government segments including targeted Department of Defense elements. In addition to mining, potential markets for RSL technology include homeland security, first responders, military special operations, energy production/refining, shipbuilding and renewable energy.