

For Immediate Release

## **3M Redesigns Splicing Rig**

**Austin, Texas – July 23, 2003** – 3M (NYSE:MMM) has redesigned its 710 25-pair Splicing Rig with new features for faster, easier use in the field and greater consistency in making high-quality copper-cable splices.

Field calibration is no longer necessary. The newly designed rig is factory-calibrated to ensure precision operation and the housing modifications keep the calibration intact, even with the rigors of field use.

Crimping and cut-off are easier and more accurate because of an improved stuffer assembly and a redesigned bridge module support that locates the bridge module for optimum wire insertion. Cut-off is also more consistent because of a new two-piece blade and holder assembly, incorporating a metal holder that keeps the blade rigid when a cut is made. The new blade is stronger and sharper so as to last longer under heavy field use. Replacement blades and metal holders can be ordered separately for the rig.

A new ergonomic handle at the top of the tool ensures a steady hand grip while performing the splice. The new handle can also be used to hang the tool, providing easier storage and transport.

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3M offers an upgrade on old equipment. To arrange a replacement, call the 3M Telecommunications Repair Center at 1-800-426-8688 and select option 2. Staff will assist in replacing an old unit with a new 710 splicing rig within 48 hours.

### **About 3M Telecommunications**

3M Telecommunications products, technologies and services allow the world's service providers to offer high bandwidth connectivity from the central office to the customer premise with complete network solutions. The company's focus consists of technologies and services in telecom access, enterprise networks and optical transport systems and components for telecommunications OEMs. With a 40-year history in the telecommunications industry, 3M serves customers that include every major telecommunications service provider in the world.

### **About 3M**

3M is a \$16 billion diversified technology company with leading positions in telecommunications, electronics, industrial, consumer and office, health care, safety and other markets. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, the company has operations in more than 60 countries and serves customers in nearly 200 countries. 3M businesses share technologies, manufacturing operations, brands, marketing channels and other important resources. 3M is one of the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones Industrial Average and also is a component of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index. Additional information about the company is available on the Internet at <http://www.3M.com>.

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