Tests Prove Belden® is the Best Choice for Industrial Ethernet Network Applications
Achieving a goal of 99.999% reliability demands products with a proven reputation for reliability – products from Belden.

Belden’s Complete Industrial Solutions increase the reliability factor at every critical stage of your process.
Can Commercial Ethernet Hardware and Cables Really Meet the Network Needs of an Industrial Environment?  
The Answer is “No.”

The office and the industrial environment couldn’t differ more — especially when you consider the level of stress they place on Ethernet cabling systems or how environmental conditions can adversely affect active devices.

An office-grade environment offers switches, hubs and cabling systems a relatively safe harbor, but the industrial world presents a far more harsh and hazardous environment. Bringing commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) cabling products and switches into the industrial landscape carries high risks for industrial and mission-critical applications.

**Consider the Costs of Network Failure**

If a commercial Ethernet switch or cabling system fails in an industrial environment, the real cost to the manufacturer is typically much more than just the replacement cost of the components. In fact, the cost of the parts themselves are typically only a fraction of the cost involved. The real cost may be much broader:

- **Downtime in an automotive assembly plant** capable of producing one vehicle per minute could equate to a $2,000 to $3,000 per minute loss of profits for small car production and up to $8,000 per minute for SUV and pick-up truck production!
- **A greater need for repetitive repairs**, if the cable or switch performance is intermittent.
- **A loss of worker or environmental safety.**

What costs would your company incur, in terms of liability, if a poorly chosen switch or cable fails in a safety-critical application?

**Belden Leads the Way in Providing System Reliability, Maximum Uptime**

Belden is a long-standing leader in industrial Ethernet signal transmissions, offering products and systems that provide 99.999% reliability – even considering the following environmental circumstances:

- Temperatures that can range from 
  -40°C to +85°C
- Exposure to solvents, lubricants and other strong chemicals
- Exposure to UV radiation
- Humidity conditions up to 99%
- Exposure to dust and oil
- Exposure to vibration and shock

In addition, the cables in an industrial environment are more likely to experience pulling forces far beyond those of the initial installation process as equipment is rearranged on the plant floor. Most Belden DataTuff® cables, however, feature Bonded-Pair technology: Belden’s patented unshielded twisted pair construction that affixes the conductor insulation of the cable pairs along their longitudinal axes to ensure that no performance-robbing gaps develop between the conductor pairs. Since no gaps can occur, and the conductor-to-conductor spacing, or centricity, is always uniform, the cable offers excellent and consistently reliable electrical performance. Belden calls this unique capability Installable Performance®.

**Belden Means Peace of Mind**

Peace of mind is at-hand with Belden leading-edge, zero-downtime networking hardware, cabling and connectivity products. In fact, only Belden offers fully integrated, end-to-end Ethernet systems for your mission-critical or environmentally-challenged facility. **Belden is your Ethernet Solution.**
Comparing Commercial and Industrial Switches

Belden's Hirschmann industrial-grade products have undergone extensive testing to ensure they operate in the many applications they have been deployed to meet. In addition, after many years in the field, these active devices have held up and continue to operate reliably.

The commercial counterparts of the Hirschmann line have been analyzed and evaluated for direct comparison to our industrial-grade components. The table to the right provides a useful guide to review the differences between commercial-grade and industrial-grade active devices.

One of the greatest values in using a Hirschmann Ethernet networking device in harsh and mission-critical environments is not only the ability to provide maximum network availability, but to also meet the stringent industry standard, protocol and certification requirements. Hirschmann devices utilize (redundant) low-power inputs and circuitry/components that permit these devices to meet the requirements of Class 1 Division 2.
## Characteristics Comparison
**Hirschmann Industrial Ethernet Hardware vs. Typical Office-grade Ethernet Hardware**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics (Hub / Switch / Fiber Interfaces)</th>
<th>Hirschmann Industrial Ethernet Hardware</th>
<th>Typical Office-grade Ethernet Hardware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Temperature</strong></td>
<td>0°C to +60°C standard, with extended temp of -40°C to +85°C and conformal coating available</td>
<td>0°C to +40°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humidity</strong></td>
<td>99% (non-condensing); 100% using IP67 (waterproof) switches</td>
<td>Typically 10-85% (non-condensing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMC</strong></td>
<td>EN60082-2</td>
<td>EN50082-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Voltage</strong></td>
<td>Variety of voltages, but 24 V (redundant) being the most common/standard No internal Power Supply</td>
<td>120 / 240 V Internal Power Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Redundancy</strong></td>
<td>Media ring reconfg time &lt; 30ms and as low as 10 ms.</td>
<td>Depending upon topology, possibly significantly more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Link Media</strong></td>
<td>Multimode / Single-mode / UTP/STP</td>
<td>Multimode / Single-mode / UTP/STP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication Distances</strong></td>
<td>Up to 68 miles longhaul single-mode</td>
<td>Up to 68 miles longhaul single-mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management</strong></td>
<td>SNMP (Simple Networking Management Protocol) WEB-Based Management Serial (RS232) CLI (command line interface) EtherNet / IP™ and PROFINET profiles for integration of management into PLC/HMI</td>
<td>SNMP (Simple Networking Management Protocol) WEB-Based Management Serial (RS232) CLI (command line interface)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnostics</strong></td>
<td>Fault relay output(s) e.g., to PLC I/O Port LED (visual information) SNMP trap to OPC server</td>
<td>LED (visual information)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chassis</strong></td>
<td>Plastic / Metal</td>
<td>Plastic / Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>- Dimensions</strong></td>
<td>Small (e.g. 80x140x85 mm)</td>
<td>Medium (e.g. 440x70x380 mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>- Mounting</strong></td>
<td>DIN rail / Rack</td>
<td>Desktop / Rack</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approvals</strong></td>
<td>CE, cUL 1950, UL508, FCC Part 15, Germanic Lloyd, Class 1 DIV 2, IEC 61850-3, IEEE 1613, NEMA TS2, EN 50121-4, EN 50155</td>
<td>CE, cUL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vibration</strong></td>
<td>2g (IEC 60068-2-6 FC)</td>
<td>Typically not rated/tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shock</strong></td>
<td>15g+ (IEC 60068-2-27)</td>
<td>Typically not rated/tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cooling System</strong></td>
<td>Fan-less operation</td>
<td>Fan Operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resistance</strong></td>
<td>RF/V/EMI, dust, oil (even IP67)</td>
<td>Dust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Throughput</strong></td>
<td>10Mb, 100Mb, 1Gb, 10Gb</td>
<td>10Mb, 100Mb, 1Gb, 10Gb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Switches</strong></td>
<td>Yes (DIN rail, 19” rack and hard mount)</td>
<td>Yes (19” rack or tabletop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hubs</strong></td>
<td>Yes (DIN rail)</td>
<td>Yes (19” rack or tabletop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transceiver</strong></td>
<td>Yes (DIN rail)</td>
<td>Yes (19” rack or tabletop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firewall</strong></td>
<td>Yes (DIN rail)</td>
<td>Yes (19” rack or tabletop)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Belden has done extensive testing to compare both the physical and electrical performance of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) cables versus industrial cables. The results of each test (shown on the following pages) clearly indicate why a commercial-grade cable is never suitable for the wide variety of extreme conditions that can be at play in an industrial environment.

To conduct these tests, Belden used their state-of-the-art test equipment and proprietary test software. It’s important to note that all the cables in this study initially tested as fully compliant to the TIA/EIA Category 5e standards — i.e., they were validated to be “good” when the test began.

Here, the cables are being connected to a switching mechanism that allows the interconnections to be made automatically. Above the switching mechanism, a network analyzer makes swept frequency measurements. Above that, a DC resistance and capacitance meter.
Nine Important Tests

Abrasión

Description of test:
In this ambient temperature test, the surface of a fixed drum was covered with rough sandpaper and the cables stretched across a portion of its circumference then moved back and forth cyclically, with the cable driven on one end by a reciprocating arm, while a suspended weight on the other end applied tension. A counter logged the cycle count.

Commercial cable:
After 25 cycles, the conductors of a commercial Cat 5e cable could be seen through breaks in the jacket. In other words, due to abrasion damage from 25 cycles on the drum, this cable began to lose mechanical and electrical integrity.

Industrial cable:
Belden’s DataTuff Industrial Ethernet cable 121700A — an armored cable — was tested. The mechanical and electrical integrity of the cable was never compromised.

What the test results say:
If a COTS cable’s jacket is compromised by abrasion the cable might still be capable of communication, but it certainly won’t be stable on a long-term basis. Eventually, a catastrophic short circuit becomes likely; arcing could occur — which would be a safety issue. Belden’s DataTuff cables last much longer than COTS cable in an environment where cable jacket abrasion is a risk.
Nine Important Tests (continued)

Cold Bend

Description of test:
In this test, carried out per UL 444, samples of cables were left in a controlled temperature and humidity environment chamber called a cold box. They remained that way for one hour to get them conditioned to the temperature of the test (three temperatures were looked at: -80°C, -60°C and -40°C). The cables were then partially wound around a 3-inch diameter horizontal mandrel with one end of the cables under tension from an aluminum weight (a cold bend test). They were then immediately unrolled and visually inspected to look for cracks in the jacket.

Commercial cable:
The commercial-grade cables became brittle and cracked by the exposure to these cold temperatures.

Industrial cable:
The 7928A DataTuff Industrial Ethernet cable was taken down to -80°C, and bent without cracking the jacket.

What the test results say:
Commercial-grade Ethernet cables are fine for the climate-controlled environment of the office but will fail as they become embrittled by exposure to cold temperatures. In the test described here, Belden's engineers couldn’t get this industrial cable cold enough to crack its jacket!

Cold Impact

Description of test:
In this test, conducted per UL 444, an aluminum weight was dropped down a hollow guide-tube to smash against a segment of cable under test; the cable had been previously cooled. The impact force delivered 24 in-lbs or 2.7 joules of impact energy. Ten samples were inspected at a series of increasingly lower temperatures.

The failure mechanism here was similar to that experienced in the abrasion test, or the cold bend test, wherein jacket integrity is lost, allowing the ingress of chemicals or moisture. This could lead to a conductor-to-conductor short, plus the cable could short to any other metallic object it makes contact with. There could also be catastrophic failure in electrical performance.

Commercial cable:
The commercial cable failed at -20°C.

Industrial cable:
The 7928A high/low temp DataTuff cable jacket did not crack until impacted at -70°C.

What the test results say:
In an industrial arena, cold temperatures can sometimes combine with mechanical shock or collision to damage a cable's jacket. Commercial Ethernet cable, designed for relatively light stresses in benign environments, is simply not built to withstand cold impact as it becomes susceptible to cracking.
Crushing

Description of test:
In this test, an Instron machine head brings a 2"x2" plate down on a segment of cable to crush it — with failure defined as the point at which the cable would no longer support Cat 5e applications reliably. To perform the test, the cables were electrically connected to test equipment to measure their electrical characteristics, i.e., return loss and impedance, as the crush pressures were increasingly applied. The test failure criteria for this test, performed at ambient temperature, were in accordance with TIA/EIA Category 5e standard.

Commercial cable:
The blue COTS cable with a PVC jacket is smashed flat; it will not spring back to its original shape. It failed at 400 lbs applied force.

Industrial cable:
By contrast, the failure value for the Belden DataTuff 121700A black-jacketed, armored industrial cable was over a ton (2,250 lbs).

What the test results say:
Sometimes workers will step on a cable, run over it with a vehicle, or accidentally apply a crushing force in some way. If the cable is a COTS, its performance will likely be degraded or fail. By contrast, an industrial cable, especially an armored product, can sustain significantly more crushing force and keep working.

A battery of rigorous tests conducted at Belden show commercial cables will not perform as well as their industrial-grade counterparts in factories or other harsh environments.
**Nine Important Tests** (continued)

### Cut-through

**Description of test:**

In this test, based on CSA standard # 22.2, a chisel-point mandrel on an Instron machine was lowered onto a segment of cable. This test reveals the susceptibility of a cable to having its conductor exposed after being cut; which directly relates to a cable’s vulnerability to short circuits, and therefore safety. In practice, the cable was cut through by the chisel to the point where a short circuit was sensed across the conductors (by means of a lead attached from the cable to the fixture) — i.e., a simple continuity test was carried out.

**Commercial cable:**

Cables examined in this test included the COTS product which shorted out at 92 lbs applied force.

**Industrial cable:**

Unarmored DataTuff cables showed the following results: 7923A took 205 lbs applied force to short; 11700A took 346 lbs to short. And, Belden’s 121700A armored industrial cable took 346 lbs applied to pierce the armor; however, the conductors themselves did not short until a force of 1,048 lbs was applied.

**What the test results say:**

It takes considerably more applied force to puncture an armored industrial cable than a commercial off-the-shelf product. If a commercial-grade Ethernet cable is tightly wrapped around a sharp cutting edge, or is run into by, say, the sharp corner of the blade on a forklift truck, it only takes a force on the order of 90 lbs or less to functionally damage the cable. Once it’s out of commission, the entire network may go with it.

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### High Temperature

**Description of test:**

In this test, three spools of cable were suspended from a mandrel in a high temperature oven; the blue cable in the middle is a COTS cable with a standard Cat 5e PVC jacket and the other black-jacketed cables are industrial-grade Belden DataTuff 7928A cable with an FEP jacket and 7922A cable with a PVC jacket. These cables were first tested for signal attenuation at an ambient temperature (20°C) and were then tested again after being exposed to a high temperature over time (60°C).

In the chart to the right, the solid black line represents a performance specification for an ideal Cat 5e cable. Signal attenuation curves must lie on or above this target line for the cables to be considered to be working properly.

**Commercial cable:**

The COTS cable functioned acceptably at 20°C, but — over time — at 60°C, attenuation increased to where the cable would not support a run distance of 100 meters.

**Industrial cable:**

Even after exposure to 60°C over time, the industrial-grade cable continued to support the maximum run distance.

**What the test results say:**

In environments where your Ethernet cable will be located in an area with a very high ambient temperature, or located near a high temperature source, a commercial off-the-shelf cable will simply not be able to maintain an acceptable level of performance.
Oil Resistance

Description of test:
In this test, conducted per UL 1277, lengths of cable were immersed in containers of oil, which in turn were immersed in a water bath that was put into a chamber held at 125°C for 60 days. The blue cable in the photo is a commercial-grade product, and the black one is an industrial-grade DataTuff cable. After the 60-day test period, the cable segments were removed and their jackets evaluated for tensile and elongation properties.

Commercial cable:
Exposure to oil can make the jacket of a commercial-grade cable brittle and fragile, even at room temperature, with a resulting loss in mechanical properties like tensile strength and elongation. In other words, the service life of a COTS cable can be diminished by oil exposure— even in “normal” heat conditions. Things get worse from there. If a commercial cable is exposed to oil long enough and at high enough temperatures, its jacket can swell and blister and, eventually, fall apart. In the process, the geometry of the cable is changed, and along with it the dielectric constant and related electrical properties.

Industrial cable:
The jacket materials and jacket thicknesses on Belden DataTuff cables are appropriate for exposure to oil at elevated temperatures, such as lubricants or cutting fluids.

What the test results say:
With a COTS cable, short circuits and catastrophic failure are possible, with a resulting loss in communication. When the weakness in a cable jacket induced by oil exposure is combined with a crushing force or an impact— events that are not at all unlikely in an industrial environment— a brittle cable will offer essentially no resistance to damage.

UV Exposure

Description of test:
In this ASTM procedure-based test (ASTM G 154: Standard Practices for Operating Fluorescent Light Apparatus for UV Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials), segments of various cables were affixed to panels that were mounted so that the cable segments faced inward toward a fluorescent UV light source (whose output range was adjusted to match that of solar radiation levels). The circular artifacts shown are retaining springs. The samples were exposed to the light for 720 hours – 30 days. When the cable segments were removed they were visually checked for discoloration and then the jacket was checked for tensile strength and elongation.

Commercial cable:
Like most commercial-grade cables, this cable’s jacket was not sunlight-resistant. Therefore, the light-colored COTS cable in the photo (at right), shows the first symptom of excessive exposure to UV: discoloration. Color degradation is also a precursor of the degradation of the plastic material of the jacket. When the jacket begins to decompose, its mechanical properties are likely being compromised too, including elongation and tensile strength. As the jacket falls apart, the cable becomes susceptible to water or moisture permeation and the situation is only worsened when the UV-weakened jacket is simultaneously stressed by effects like abrasion, cut-through, etc.

Industrial cable:
Belden’s DataTuff cables have a broad range of UV-resistant jackets.

What the test results say:
In an industrial environment with UV present, it’s important to use a cable with a jacket that resists damage to radiation. This is especially critical when the cable will see application outdoors, or be located near a window or other UV sources.
Nine Important Tests (continued)

Water Immersion

Description of test:
Here, the electrical properties of the cables (primarily signal strength) were measured as the cables were received, then they were coiled up into a dry container and water was added to submerge them. To determine electrical performance, the cables were tested over time (up to six months immersed in water).

The graphs plot signal attenuation over a range of frequencies — with data taken when the cables were first placed in water, and six months later. The solid black line shows the Category 5e performance requirement — a kind of ideal reference standard.

Commercial cable:
After half a year it’s evident the commercial-grade Cat 5e cable is failing to meet its expected performance level. In fact, remarkably, as soon as the cable was placed in water it showed increased attenuation; after six months the attenuation continued to degrade.

Industrial cable:
The DataTuff® 7934A chart shows that the performance requirement (solid black line) was not only met but initially exceeded. After six months, there was only slight attenuation increase, and the cable still exceeded the Cat 5e requirements.

What the test results say:
Water can breech the jacket of a commercial-grade cable by permeating areas of the jacket material or by seeping through pinholes. Once that happens, the dielectric constant can change enough to degrade the attenuation performance. In some cases, the cable’s conductors can short out — though before that occurs you’d likely have a loss of communication. The effect is insidious in that it can build up over time, even though the cable worked fine initially.

In the controlled environment of an office, moisture exposure is not a concern. That’s not true in many industrial applications however, like those where the cable is submerged in a tank, placed in troughs or below-grade trays, or exposed to rain or water on a continual basis. There, an industrial-grade cable is essential. In addition, industrial-grade — not commercial-grade — cables are called for in applications where a cable is to be buried underground. There might be a situation where remote outdoor consoles send signals back to a master location via a buried cable. Ethernet cables are common in many transportation scenarios, as well, such as in railways and subways. Moisture is a concern in all of these situations and only an industrial-grade burial flooded cable is acceptable.

The water bath test is a six-month long test, with the cables fully submerged in water.

A six-month long test, fully submerged in water: top chart depicts the extensive attenuation degradation of the COTS cable; the bottom chart shows the superior performance of Belden DataTuff 7934A.
# DataTuff® Industrial Ethernet Cable Selection Guide

This chart is meant to help the user in proper cable selection.

## Category 5e Cable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>Category 5e Cable</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Environmental Issues</th>
<th>Industrial Grade Jacket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unshielded</td>
<td>Solid</td>
<td>Stranded</td>
<td>Shielded*</td>
<td>Stranded **</td>
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<tr>
<td>7932A</td>
<td>2</td>
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- High Flex

## Category 6 Cable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>Category 6 Cable</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Environmental Issues</th>
<th>Industrial Grade Jacket</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unshielded</td>
<td>Solid</td>
<td>Stranded</td>
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<td>Stranded **</td>
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</table>

* Shielded products are recommended for high-noise environments.

** Stranded products are recommended where more flexibility is needed.

†† Products with Bonded-Pair technology provide Installable Performance® advantages — refer to Belden’s Bonded-Pair Capabilities Bulletin #CB006.
For Reliable Performance in Tough Environments

Unparalleled Networking Hardware

The Hirschmann line of industrial networking devices manages virtually every communication connection requirement among the various layers of the network: information, control and device. And the line includes products that support both copper and optical fiber media, with data speeds as high as 10 Gigabits per second.

These networking devices will also ensure hassle-free and secure data communication under the toughest conditions. Key active components include Fieldbus communication hardware and the following industrial Ethernet products:

- Hirschmann Backbone Switches
- Hirschmann Managed Rack-mount Switches
- Hirschmann Managed DIN Rail-mount Switches
- Hirschmann Unmanaged DIN Rail-mount Switches
- Hirschmann Hard-mount/IP67 Switches
- Hirschmann Layer 3/Routing/Firewall Switches
- Hirschmann Wireless Solutions
- Hirschmann Office/Enterprise Switches
- Hirschmann Network Management Software

Uncompromising Media

To ensure optimum industrial plant performance, the DataTuff line of copper cables and connectivity provides the performance you are looking for, the reliability you need. And our DataTuff product range is outstanding, including:

- DataTuff Category 5e and Enhanced Category 5e Twisted Pair Cables (unshielded and shielded with heavy-duty oil- and UV-resistant jackets)
- DataTuff Category 6 Twisted Pair Cables (unshielded with heavy-duty oil- and UV-resistant jackets)
- DataTuff Upjacketed and Armored Cables for the more extreme environments
- DataTuff Category 5e Continuous Flex Cable rated to 10 million cycles and featuring weldspatter-resistant TPE jackets
- DataTuff IP67 and IP20 RJ45 Cordsets
- DataTuff IP67 Modular Jacks (RJ45 – UTP or FTP)
- DataTuff Plug Kits (IP67/RJ45 – UTP or FTP)
- DataTuff Surface Mount Boxes (IP67 with stainless steel covers)
- DataTuff Stainless Steel Faceplates (IP67)
To complete the cabling system, you’ll need the reliability inherent in the following copper connectivity products:

- RJ45 and Micro (M12) Cordsets for EtherNet/IP, PROFINET or MODBUS/TCP
- Hirschmann Field-attachable Connectors for EtherNet/IP
- Hirschmann Panel-mount Adaptors and Receptacles for EtherNet/IP and MODBUS/TCP

And, if you are looking for an optical fiber system solution, consider the following Belden products:

- TrayOptic® Heavy-duty Indoor/Outdoor Laser-optimized Optical Fiber Cables – suitable for use in both risers and trays and available in 2- to 72-fiber constructions.
- FiberExpress® 2- or 6-fiber cables in tight-buffered 62.5 µm (FX300) and 50 µm (FX600) multimode constructions suitable for use in plenums. Or, single-mode constructions featuring either 2- or 6-fiber constructions.

For the utmost in connectivity, FiberExpress Duplex patch cords are offered in:

- Single-mode versions
- 62.5 µm (FX300) and 50 µm (FX600) multimode versions, suitable for use in riser applications

These patch cords are to be used in conjunction with the following connector types: ST-ST, SC-SC, LC-LC, and LC-ST.

The FiberExpress line also includes:

- Rack-mount Patch Panels
- Wall-mount Patch Panels
- Single-mode and Multimode Universal Optical Adapter Strips
- FiberExpress Brilliance®, the industry’s most innovative simple to use and reliable field-installable optical fiber connector

Visit our web site at [www.belden.com/industrial](http://www.belden.com/industrial) for more product information or to find a Belden sales associate or a distributor near you.
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