NEWS RELEASE

Ciena Appoints Greg Friesen as Executive Vice President and Chief Product Officer

2026-11-16

FULTON, Md.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **Ciena** (NYSE: CIEN) announced the appointment of Greg Friesen as Executive Vice President and Chief Product Officer, effective today. He reports to President and CEO Gary Smith and serves on the company's Executive Leadership Team.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: **https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20261116451812/en/**

Ciena Appoints Greg Friesen as Executive Vice President and Chief Product Officer

In this role, Friesen leads Ciena's global product organization, with responsibility for product line management, solutions engineering and introduction (SE&I), and quality, working closely with the company's R&D organization to advance Ciena's product strategy.

"AI is driving strong demand for our optical products and creating significant opportunities across our business," said Gary Smith, president and CEO of Ciena. "Greg brings a unique combination of deep product expertise and firsthand customer perspective that will help us advance our portfolio, accelerate innovation, and continue delivering differentiated solutions for our customers."

Friesen has more than 25 years of experience across product management, network design, planning, and engineering. Most recently, he served as Ciena's Vice President and General Manager of Global Services and

Support, with responsibility for customer support, deployment, training, managed services, and transformation capabilities. He previously served as Vice President of Product Line Management, leading the development and introduction of several of Ciena's market-leading optical networking platforms.

Before joining Ciena in 2017, Friesen served as Vice President of Product Management and Marketing at DragonWave and previously held product management and network planning roles at Innovance Networks and Nortel Networks. He holds a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and four granted patents in optical networking.

"We have a tremendous opportunity ahead of us, driven by strong demand for our technology and the increasingly critical role our customers' networks play in the AI era," said Greg Friesen, Ciena's new Chief Product Officer. "I'm looking forward to leading our product team to build on Ciena's technology leadership, deliver even greater value for our customers, and help drive the company's continued success."

About Ciena

Ciena is the global leader in high-speed connectivity. With a focus on optical networking, we deliver an AI advantage built on decades of expertise and innovation shaped by customer co-creation. Our portfolio is designed to address rapidly evolving requirements with proven end-to-end capabilities across systems, interconnects, automation software, and services. We provide a reliable path forward to support AI-ready networks at scale. For updates on Ciena, follow us on **LinkedIn** or visit the **Ciena website**.

Note to Ciena Investors

You are encouraged to review the **Investors section** of our website, where we routinely post press releases, SEC filings, recent news, financial results, and other announcements. From time to time we exclusively post material information to this website along with other disclosure channels that we use. This press release contains certain forward-looking statements that are based on our current expectations, forecasts, information and assumptions. These statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results or outcomes may differ materially from those stated or implied, because of risks and uncertainties, including those detailed in our most recent annual and quarterly reports filed with the SEC. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions or strategies and can be identified by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "should," "will," and "would" or similar words. Ciena assumes no obligation to update the information included in this press release, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

View source version on businesswire.com: **https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20261116451812/en/**

Press Contact:
Jamie Moody
Ciena Corporation
+1 (410) 694-5761
pr@ciena.com

Investor Contact:
Gregg Lampf
Ciena Corporation
+1 (410) 694-5700
ir@ciena.com

Source: Ciena Corporation