NEWS RELEASE

Ciena and Internet2 Reach Industry Record for Longest Terrestrial 800 Gb/s Coherent Pluggable Link

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Successful 2,104 km trial powered by Ciena’s coherent optical technology

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **Ciena** (NYSE: CIEN) and **Internet2**, the United States’ national research and education (R&E) network and advanced technology nonprofit, set an industry record for the longest terrestrial 800 Gb/s coherent pluggable connection over a live production network.

Ciena’s **WaveLogic 6 Nano** (WL6n) coherent pluggables delivered 800 Gb/s across 2,104 kilometers from the **SC26** show floor in Chicago, across Internet2’s backbone to its point of presence in Kansas City, Mo. and back.

The live demonstration is leveraging Ciena's higher performance 135 GBaud PKT-MAX transmission mode to extend 800G reach, enabling the use of coherent pluggables across more network links. Additionally, it is using a Ciena photonic line system with EDFA-only amplification, showing how a simpler, more cost-effective optical network design can deliver the reach, capacity, and performance Internet2 needs to enable science at scale and build AI-ready infrastructure to support the R&E community.

As demands for AI and high-capacity data center interconnects grow, R&E networks need greater efficiency, lower power consumption, and reduced cost-per-bit. The collaborative trial demonstrates how 800 Gb/s pluggables can be a key technology enabling Internet2 to evolve its national backbone and deliver more bandwidth with less space and power.

Executive Comments:

- Rodney Wilson, Chief Technologist, Research Networks, Ciena: “High-performance research networks like Internet2 carry computationally intense data flows for scientific applications. This technology milestone is another example of Ciena’s continuous optical innovation, proving we can deliver long-haul capacity using compact 800 Gb/s pluggables while helping our customers scale their networks in a more sustainable and power efficient way.”
- Tripti Sinha, President and CEO, Internet2: “The high-performance Internet2 network backbone connects U.S. research and education to the data, computing resources, and collaborators that drive discovery. The next era of science demands the capacity to move massive datasets across the nation and around the globe with exceptional speed and reliability. Working with industry members like Ciena, we can validate next-generation optical technologies under real-world conditions, expand network capacity, and build the AI-ready infrastructure our community needs to pursue breakthroughs at unprecedented scales.”

Ciena’s booth (#5035) at the SC26 event will also showcase innovations with research and industry collaborators highlighting quantum-secure communications powered by Waveserver, quantum entanglement distribution alongside C&L-band signals over deployed fiber, cryogenic electron microscopy over Ciena FABRIC nodes, privacy-preserving federated learning, Kubernetes-native security, and Data Center Out-of-Band Management (DCOM).

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

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