

## Mid-Atlantic Crossroads Selects Ciena for Advanced Optical Switching

*CoreDirector to Support Optical Network Automation in Research Networks*

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Ciena® Corporation (NASDAQ: CIEN), the network specialist, has announced that Mid-Atlantic Crossroads (MAX) has selected the CoreDirector® Multiservice Switch for use in the organization's production and research networking efforts. Ciena's CoreDirector will support MAX's operation and management of the Next Generation Internet Exchange (NGIX) and Dynamic Resource Allocation over GMPLS Optical Network (DRAGON) research test bed to further collaboration between networks in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and national and international research and education initiatives.

MAX is a Regional Optical Network consortium founded by Georgetown University, George Washington University, the University of Maryland, and Virginia Tech, and serves as the regional aggregation organization for the architectural design, engineering, and operation of advanced internetworking services and initiatives in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. MAX provides interconnectivity with the Internet2 and National LambdaRail networks as well as commodity networking providers for its members. The DRAGON project, a collaboration among Mid-Atlantic Crossroads, the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute East and George Mason University, conducts research and develops technologies to enable dynamic provisioning of network resources on an inter-domain basis across heterogeneous network technologies.

In this multiservice environment, Ciena's CoreDirector switching system is integral to enabling interconnection within the global research networking community and supporting distributed scientific computing and research between member institutions. The platform will also contribute to the advancement of intelligent control plane-based automation for optical networks, including dynamic lightpath signaling and routing capabilities.

'Advancements in our research on optical network automation are dependent upon the dynamic interconnection between our network and other sophisticated research networks around the world,' said Jerry Sobieski, director of research initiatives at Mid-Atlantic Crossroads. 'The flexibility and intelligence provided by Ciena's CoreDirector enables that collaboration with the ability to automate bandwidth provisioning and improve reliability by using proven, intelligent control plane technology.'

MAX production and research efforts will also leverage CoreDirector's Ethernet capabilities offered by the platform's Ethernet Services Line Module (ESLM) to ensure interoperability of its GFP-encapsulated data with third-party platforms. MAX will employ the ESLM 10-Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) LAN PHY over SONET/SDH capability to provide 10 GbE lightpaths between institutions in the region and collaborators worldwide. The ESLM Layer 2 switching functionality is also being evaluated by MAX for future applications.

'Ciena's experience with research networks, including the U.S. Department of Energy and other government agencies, attests to our expertise in advanced optical network technologies as well as our aim of partnering with this community for its unique needs,' said Steve Alexander, chief technology officer at Ciena. 'Our work with MAX and DRAGON is another example of that commitment and ability to team in researching new technologies that advance today's networks for

the applications of tomorrow.'

The partnership with MAX builds on Ciena's success in deploying flexible, high-bandwidth optical networks with research and education institutions worldwide. With support for dynamic provisioning of high-bandwidth connectivity, Ciena's platforms are ideal for enabling computing-intensive research between geographically separate locations in support of supercomputing applications, cluster processing and transfers of large data sets, often in excess of one terabyte.

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### **About Ciena's CoreDirector**

The CoreDirector® Multiservice Switch is an element of Ciena's FlexSelect™ Architecture, a standards-based, service-oriented approach to building next-generation network infrastructures made possible by flexible hardware and intelligent software. The platform offers the ability to rapidly deliver end-to-end optical services and efficiently transport GbE and 10 GbE services over highly-reliable SONET/SDH infrastructure, utilizing Generic Framing Procedure (GFP), Virtual Concatenation (VCAT), and Link Capacity Adjustment Scheme (LCAS), with advanced Layer 2 switching functionality and MEF-based Ethernet traffic management.

For additional information on Ciena's government solutions and support of the research and education community, please visit <http://www.ciena.com/government>.

### **About Ciena**

Ciena Corporation is the network specialist, focused on expanding the possibilities for its customers' networks while reducing their cost of ownership. The Company's systems, software and services target and cure specific network pain points so that telcos, cable operators, governments and enterprises can best exploit the new applications that are driving their businesses forward. For more information, visit <http://www.ciena.com/>.

### **About Mid-Atlantic Crossroads (MAX)**

Mid-Atlantic Crossroads (MAX) is a Regional Optical Network consortium founded by Georgetown University, George Washington University, the University of Maryland, and Virginia Tech. The proximity of the MAX to Washington, D.C. places it in an advantageous location to serve and partner with federal agencies, post-secondary institutions, and the private sector community in DC, Maryland and Virginia. For more information, visit <http://www.maxgigapop.net/>.

### **Note to Ciena Investors**

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements based on current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on information available to the Company as of the date hereof; and Ciena's actual results could differ materially from those stated or implied, due to risks and uncertainties associated with its business, which include the risk factors disclosed in its Report on Form 10-Q, which Ciena filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 2, 2007. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding Ciena's expectations, beliefs, intentions or strategies regarding the future and

can be identified by forward-looking 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.

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