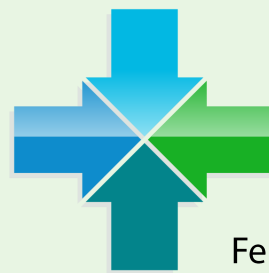




GigE+



February 2013

NETWORK NEWS

New Span Lit in GigE+ Fiber-Optic Network

In a recent press release, CNI publicly announced that a new span of its core fiber network has been lit between north Kenton, Ohio and Findlay, Ohio, as well as between Van Wert, Ohio and Antwerp, Ohio.

Earlier in 2012, several spans were lit that included Van Wert, Ohio and Lima, Ohio; Lima, Ohio and north Kenton, Ohio; north Kenton, Ohio and Scherers Court, Columbus, Ohio; Scherers Court, Columbus, Ohio and 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio; north Findlay, Ohio and 1946 N 13th St., Toledo, Ohio; 1946 N. 13th St., Toledo, Ohio and 3035 Moffat St. Toledo, Ohio.

During the first quarter of 2013, additional spans are planned to be lit across the GigE Plus Fiber-Optic Network that include Findlay, Ohio and Bowling Green, Ohio; Lima, Ohio and the Indiana Lake Region (Russells Point); and lastly, between Antwerp, Ohio and Archbold, Ohio.

Since construction first began in June 2011 on the GigE Plus project, work has progressed to the point where the GigE Plus expansion project is now over 60% complete. The next phase is to launch market development activities in order to allow communities, located in the area of the new facilities, to leverage the broadband infrastructure to spur economic development and job growth.

GigE+ Updates

On December 28, 2012, the GigE Plus Fiber-Optic Network was expanded to include a point-of-presence at the Equinix and Telx data-centers at 350 E. Cermak Street, Chicago, Illinois. This point-of-presence is connected back to the GigE Plus network at diverse, redundant points-

interconnect in Toledo, Oh and Columbus, OH. This direct connectivity to Chicago provides for direct peering with Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) through INDATEL Services' value-add offering to its members. This peering arrangement allows for improved video streaming performance with Netflix, YouTube and others.

During the third quarter of 2012, the GigE Plus Fiber-Optic Network:

- Added 3 new PoP sites
- Augmented an existing PoP
- Added 6 chassis for turn-up preparation
- Cut into service city-pairs to avoid single point-of-failure
- Ensured that adequate facilities are in place to eliminate interruptions

Currently, CAI introductory period discounts are being extended for services installed on or before the construction deadline of June 30, 2013. To view the coverage map or inquire about services to a specific location, visit www.gigepac.com.

What's Next ...

- Expansion of the network in and around Springfield, Ohio and Fairborn, Ohio through strategic partnerships with local entities owning fiber-optic route assets
- Expansion of the network to a fiber-optic mid-span meet-point (MSMP) interconnect with OneCommunity in the Woodville, Ohio area
- Execute three additional agreements with Broadband Wholesalers and Last Mile Providers in order to reach identified CAIs.
- Expand the lit points-of-presence on the GigE Plus Network to include West Milton, Ohio and Springfield, Ohio
- Provide a GigE Plus Network status update at the Connect Ohio January meeting

GigE Plus is a product of CNI
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A “Brand” New Look

As of December 2012, CNI’s wholly owned subsidiary, Independents Fiber Network (Independents) is starting the early phases of a re-branding project. As part of Independents re-branding, the GigE Plus project product will also be taking on a new look and adopting the new design name of GigE+. Prior to the GigE Plus award period ending date of June 30, 2013, CNI is planning to have new logos, new print materials, portfolios and updated websites for both Independents and the GigE Plus project.

With the launch of new marketing materials later this year, Independents is positioning itself to be the provider of choice for services over the GigE Plus Network. Independents will pursue public organizations and commercial businesses reaching from Monroe, Michigan to Dayton, Ohio and from Richmond, Indiana to Columbus, Ohio. Our ability to provide Ethernet Transport Services to these entities is a huge opportunity for Independents, especially if we can significantly impact the public through future marketing efforts with the new “brand” features of both GigE Plus Network and Independents Ethernet Transport Services.



Ethernet over the
Fiber-Optic Network
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Connect Ohio Released New State Figures

Connect Ohio is a public entity funded by the State of Ohio to help promote broadband adoptions by residents and businesses.

On December 12, 2012, Connect Ohio released new State broadband availability figures. This new data reported that the gap between broadband availability and non-availability to households was continuing to shrink. Connect Ohio believes that this will make way for more adoption

and technology use throughout the State of Ohio. The statistics to prove this showed that 97.55% of Ohio residents have access to fixed broadband. Another statistic revealed that the number of households with no access to fixed broadband services is currently at 64,800 compared to last April when statistics showed that 73,856 households had no access to broadband services.

FCC’s Healthcare Connect Fund

On January 7, 2013, Chairman Genachowski announced that annual funding will be made available to healthcare providers. In fact, up to \$400 million could be made available as part of the FCC’s new Healthcare Connect Fund. Chairman Genachowski added that they are hoping the Healthcare Connect Fund will spur development of broadband networks to support modern telemedicine.

The main goal of the Healthcare Connect Fund is to link urban medical centers to rural clinics or provide instant access to health records, and to allow thousands of new providers across the country to share in the benefits of connectivity. The Connect Fund should dramatically cut costs for both hospitals and the Universal Service Funds. The FCC also announced they will begin accepting applications for the Healthcare Connect Fund in late summer 2013.

So what does this mean for the GigE Plus project? While our project has stimulated some hospitals along our fiber-optic network footprint to take advantage of connectivity opportunity, it has left several other healthcare centers wanting it, but not finding it monetarily feasible. With this Healthcare Connect Fund, healthcare centers around our fiber-optic network may now have the option of joining our transport connectivity services.

Upcoming Events

- February 11-13, 2013: Ohio E-Tech Conference — Columbus, Ohio
- March 8, 2013: Ohio Medical Group Management Association Winter Conference — Columbus, Ohio
- March 10-13, 2013: Comptel Spring Showcase — Las Vegas, Nevada
- April 18, 2013: LRITA Annual Conference — Lima, Ohio

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