



**For immediate release  
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## **ORION selects next-generation JDSU optical gear for core network upgrade**

**Toronto, Ontario** – The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) has just turned up its core network upgrade with next-generation optical gear from JDSU.

ORION, one of the world's largest and most advanced fully optical research and education networks, is expanding to 5,800 kilometres from its current 4300KM span. This first phase involves 320 kilometres of new fibre from North Bay to Peterborough and from St. Catharines to London, with JDSU's WaveReady DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing) optical gear.

JDSU was selected following a Request for Proposals for a significant core network upgrade, which includes 700 kilometres in new fibre, optical and next-generation routing equipment. The new link, completed March 15, allows ORION to break out along the route to new communities, including Orillia and Huntsville, and provides much needed backup capacity to the existing network users in the North.

"The benefits of selecting this particular technology," says ORION's Senior Director of Engineering and Network Operations, Sam Mokbel, "are that it provides support for various transport capacities ranging from 1 Gbps to 10 Gbps, and that it provides ease of installation, management and future upgrades. The new equipment's small size and low power consumption translates into lower operating and collocation costs and cost-effective capacity upgrades. Overall, such features will lower the demands on ORANO's staffing and financial resources."

The upgrade is very important to our users, says Mokbel, who notes that new links add critical back-up and resiliency to the network.

"JDSU is very pleased to be part of ORION's upgrade," says John Ostaszewski, Director of JDSU WaveReady Product Management. "This is a great opportunity to bring our product into the growing and increasingly vital global research and education community. The rapid deployment demonstrates the unique features of the product that allow for quick and easy service installation and turn-up. The compact size, multi-protocol agility and embedded management capabilities are values that are greatly appreciated by our customers."

The ORION network upgrade is made possible with financial support from CANARIE, Canada's advanced network development organization, which operates the CANet 4 national backbone network infrastructure.

### About ORION:

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), operated by a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario's next-generation, ultra high-speed research and education telecommunications network. ORION connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another and to the global grid of research and education networks. [www.orion.on.ca](http://www.orion.on.ca)

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