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## **Ontario, Michigan research nets sign agreement**

Globe and Mail Update

TORONTO, April 6 — [ORION](#) and [Merit Network](#), the Ontario and Michigan Research and Education networks respectively, have signed an agreement to collaborate on advanced networking technologies to facilitate research in the Great Lakes region.

The two networks plan to connect across the Canada-U.S. border at Windsor and Detroit later in 2004, and at Sault Ste. Marie at a later date.

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) is owned and operated by the Optical Regional Advanced Network of Ontario (ORANO). ORION is a high-speed, optical network that brings broadband access and connectivity to research and educational institutions in Ontario. Merit Network, Inc., a non-profit corporation governed by Michigan's public universities, owns and operates the first regional research and education network in the United States. Founded in 1966, Merit supports the high-performance networking needs of Michigan's universities, colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, state government, health care and other non-profit organizations.