



# Optical Networking for Data Center Interconnects Across Wide Area Networks

- Joe Berthold
- Hot Interconnects 2009
- August 27, 2009



# Overview

**Data center interconnect applications**

**Optical transmission and switching –current status**

**Optical networking economics in the WAN**

**100G – the next step in optical networking**

# Data Centers Across the Globe

an extreme example



Google data centers, as reported by Royal Pingdom  
<http://royal.pingdom.com/2008/04/11/map-of-all-google-data-center-locations/>

# Mission Critical Data Center Interconnection

## → Interconnect applications

- Data replication
  - scheduled or synchronous
- Survivability
  - Business continuity/disaster recovery
- Data center consolidation
- Economical space and power
- Virtualization

## → Key Requirements

- Deterministic performance
- Low and bounded latency
- Lossless connectivity
- High availability
- Security

# The Virtualized Data Center

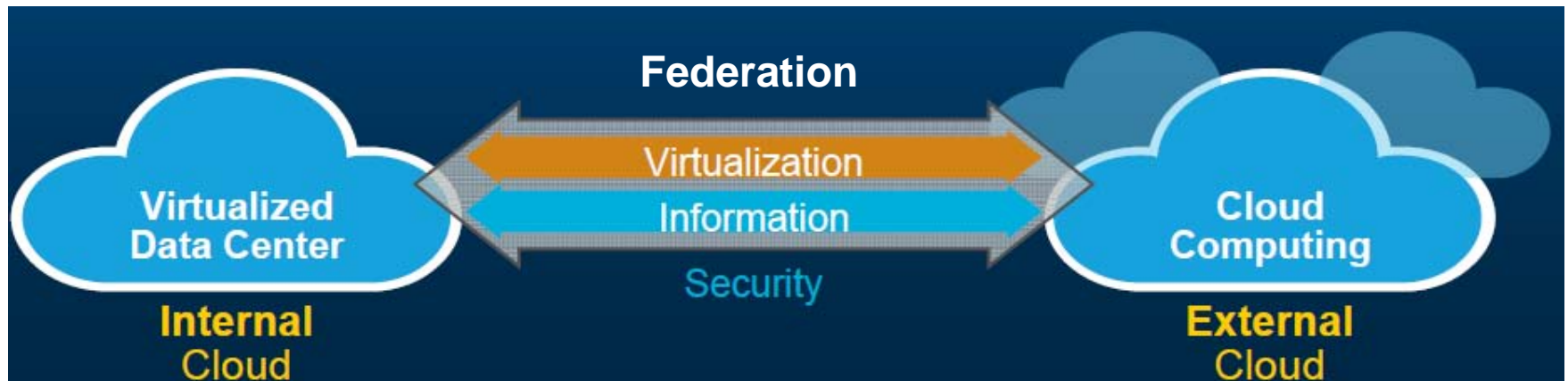
Move to private, internal clouds is now

→ move to *federated internal* and *external* clouds is next

Virtualization will place new demands on the WAN

→ E.g., long-distance VMotion to migrate VMs outside the internal data centre

→ **Needing low-latency, zero-loss, high-performance WANs**



Source: Tucci Keynote EMC World 2009

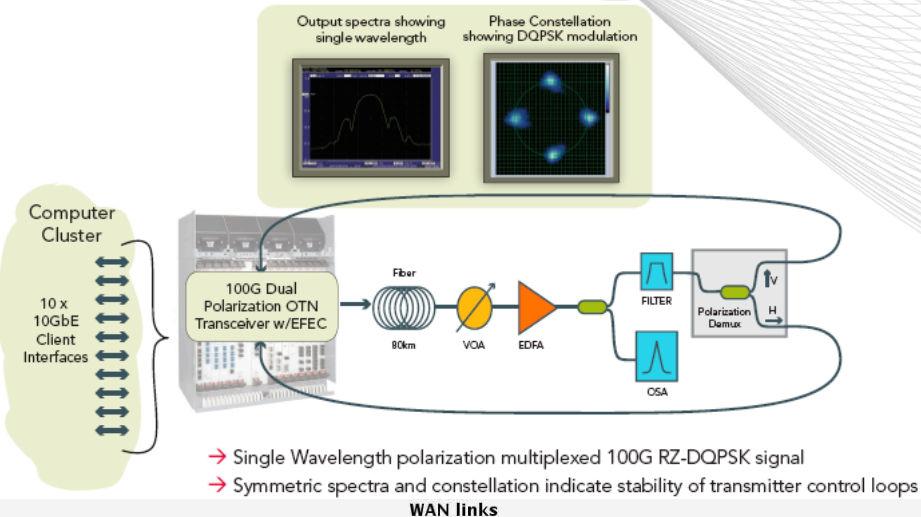


# Moving Data at on 100G Waves

## Supercomputing'08 Demo

> 8Tb/s on fiber

1 Petabyte of data transfer in 12 hours on 1 wavelength



Single Wavelength 100G @ 50Ghz Spacing  
Full C-Band Tunable, ROADM Compliant

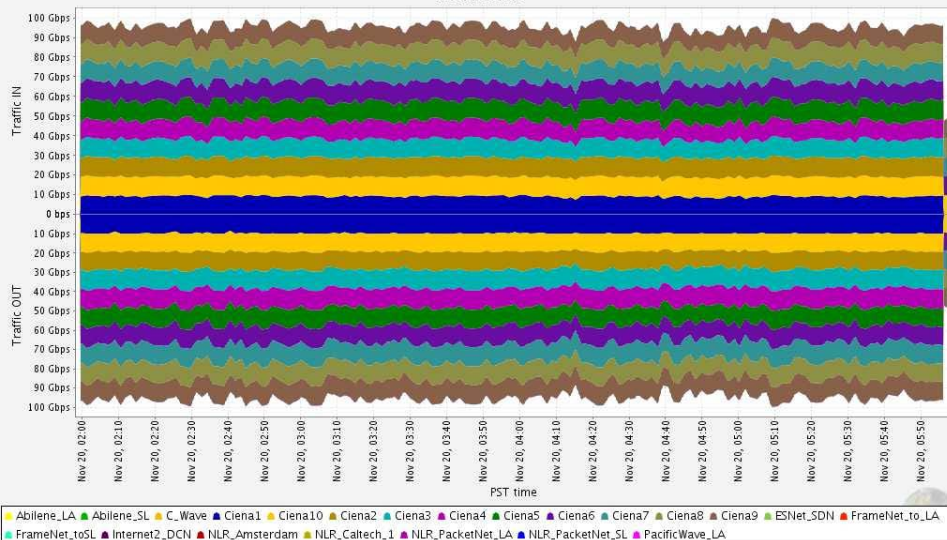
Asynchronous Multiplexing 10x10G  
Any 10G Client on Any Port

100G 8dB+ Enhanced FEC

Polarization Multiplexed  
RZ-DQPSK Modulation Format

Low Latency

Commercial Form Factor

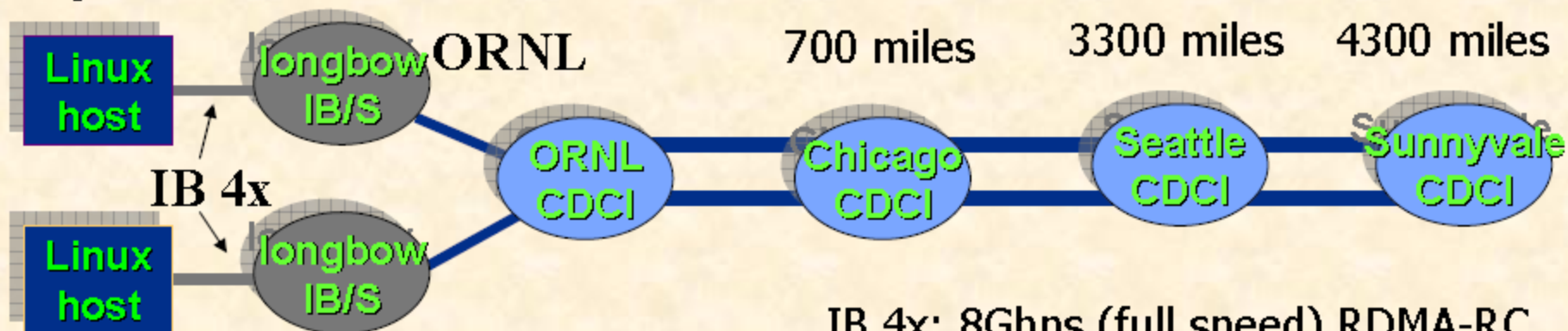


# Infiniband Over SONET – Joint with ORNL/NLCF

collaborators: Makia Minich, Steven Carter

- Infiniband is effective data transport protocol for storage networks (few meters):
- TCP is not easily extended or not optimal for such data transfers

Question: Is IB effective over wide-area? - Yes



IB 4x: 8Gbps (full speed) RDMA-RC  
Host-to-host local switch: 7.5Gbps

ORNL loop -0.2 mile: **7.5Gbps**

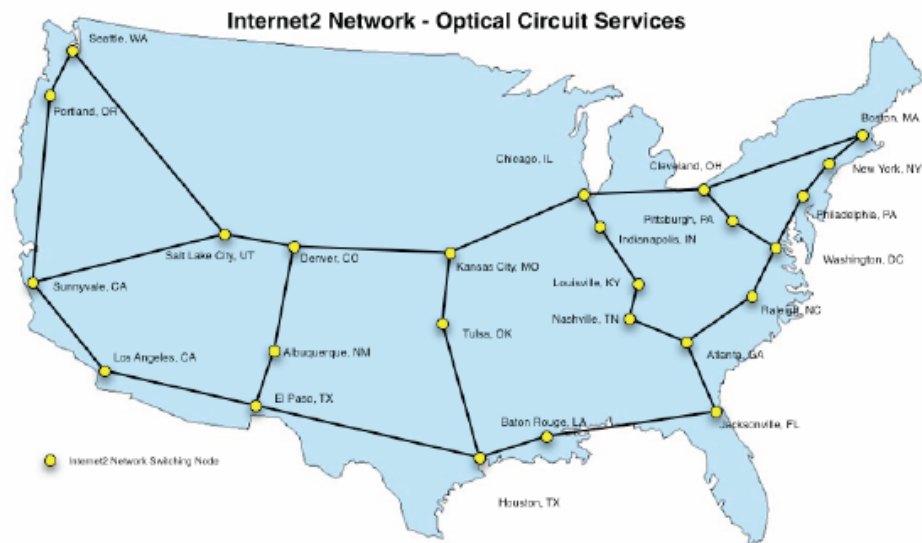
ORNL-Chicago loop – 1400 miles: **7.46Gbps**

ORNL- Chicago - Seattle loop – 6600 miles: **7.23Gbps**

ORNL – Chicago – Seattle - Sunnyvale loop – 8600 miles: **7.20Gbps**

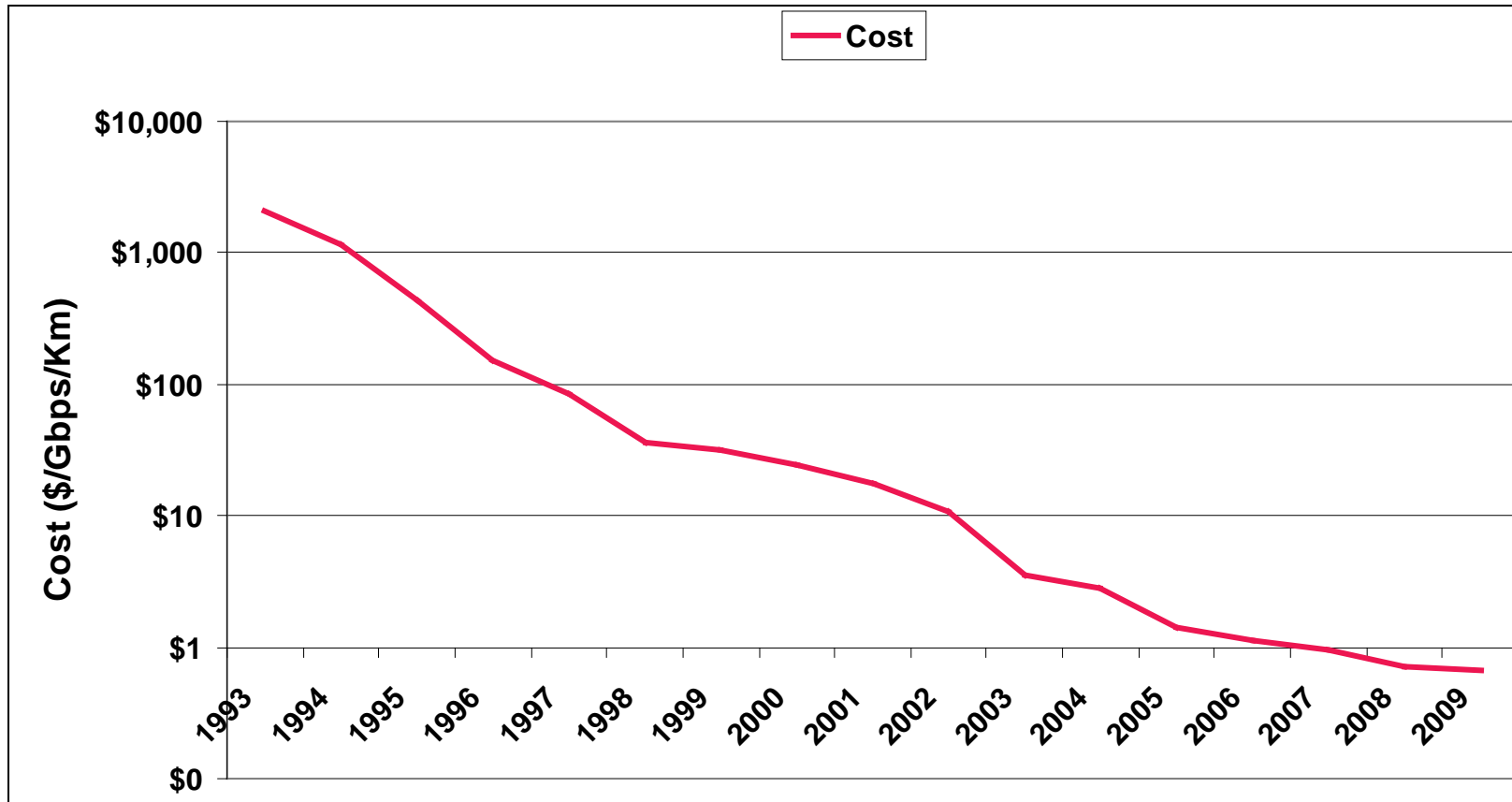
# Internet2 Dynamic Circuit Network

## Intelligent Optical Switching Nodes



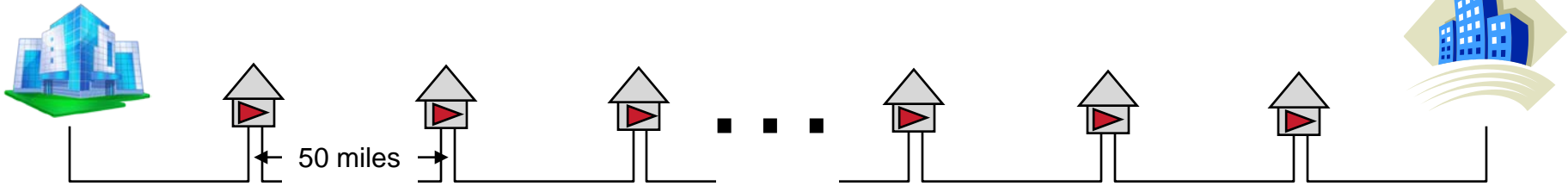
# Optical Networking Cost Improvement Curve

Backbone DWDM per-bit, per-km cost improvements over time



Source: Ovum

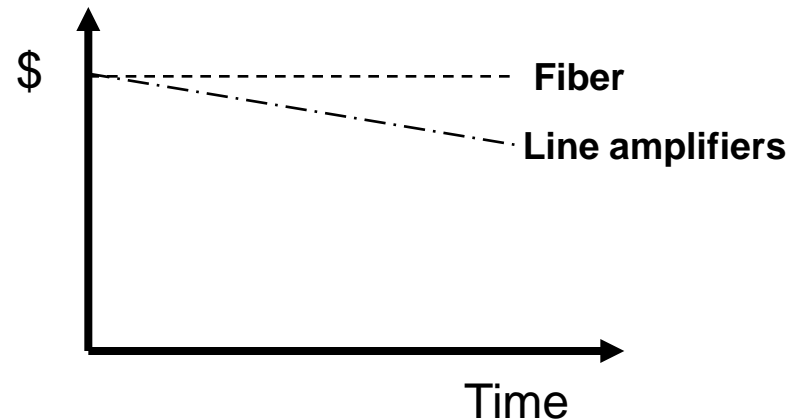
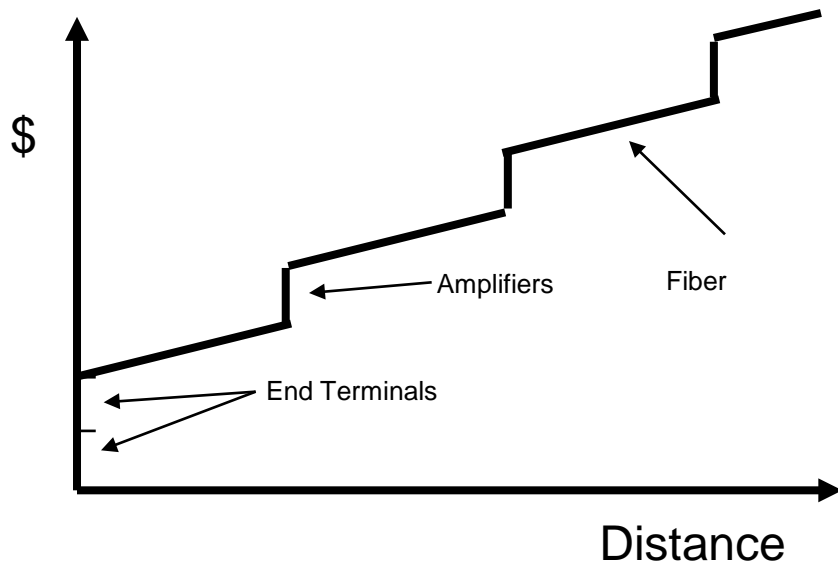
# Economic Metrics for the Optical WAN



Optical Line System - transmission medium

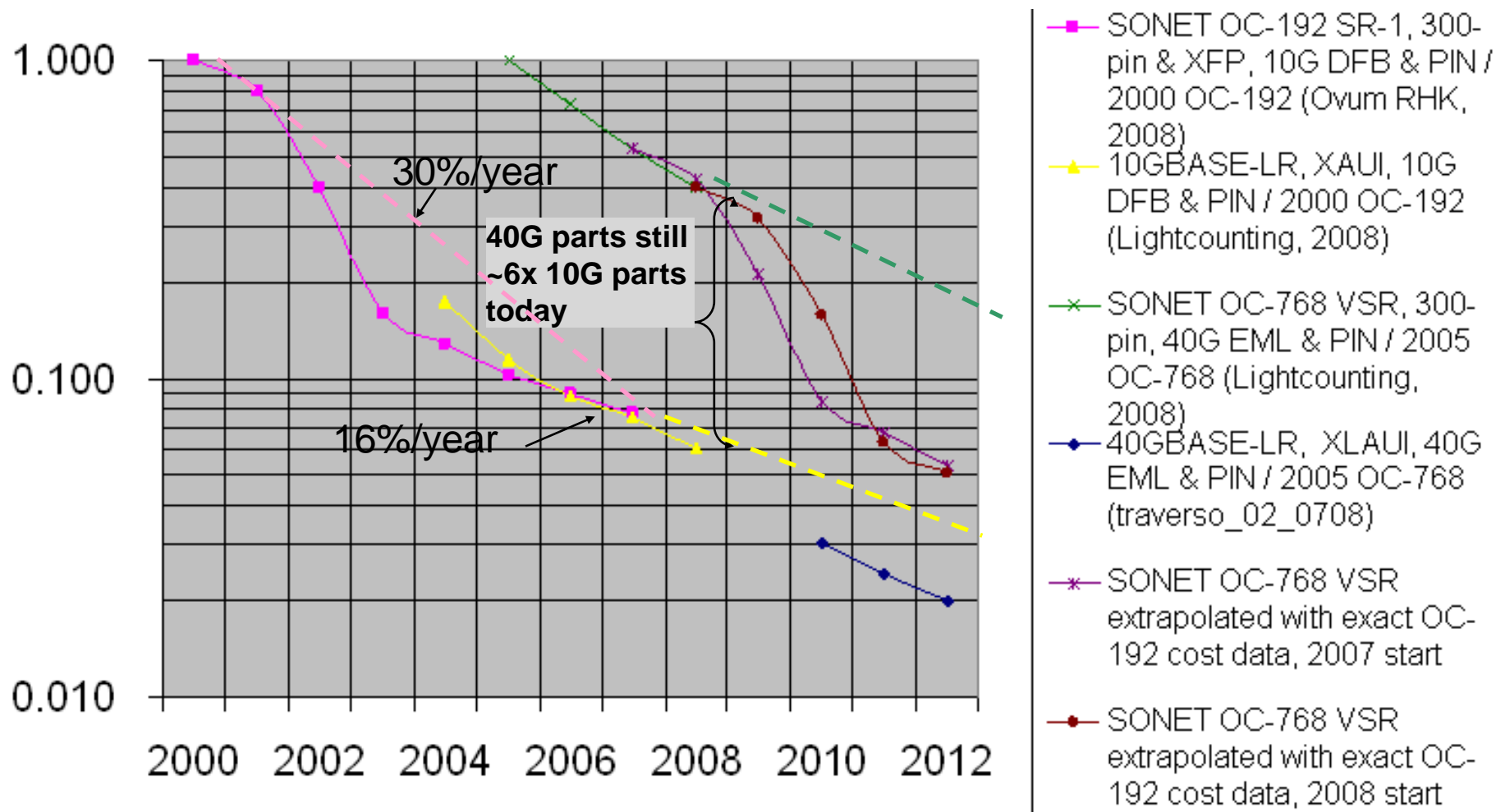
- Optical fiber cost - \$/mile
- Optical amplifiers - \$/unit

## Cost Relationships for Optical Line System



Cost ~ independent of capacity

# DWDM Transceiver Cost Trends



From IEEE 802.3ba Task Force

# Economic Metrics for the Optical WAN



## Optical Line System - transmission medium

- Optical fiber cost - \$/mile
- Optical amplifiers - \$/unit

## DWDM transceivers

- Cost per bit per second
- System capacity - Spectral efficiency
  - bits per second per Hertz
- Maximum unregenerated reach – miles

## Key Metrics

**\$/bits per second**

Low bandwidth needs

**\$/bits per second per mile**

**\$/bits per second per Hertz**

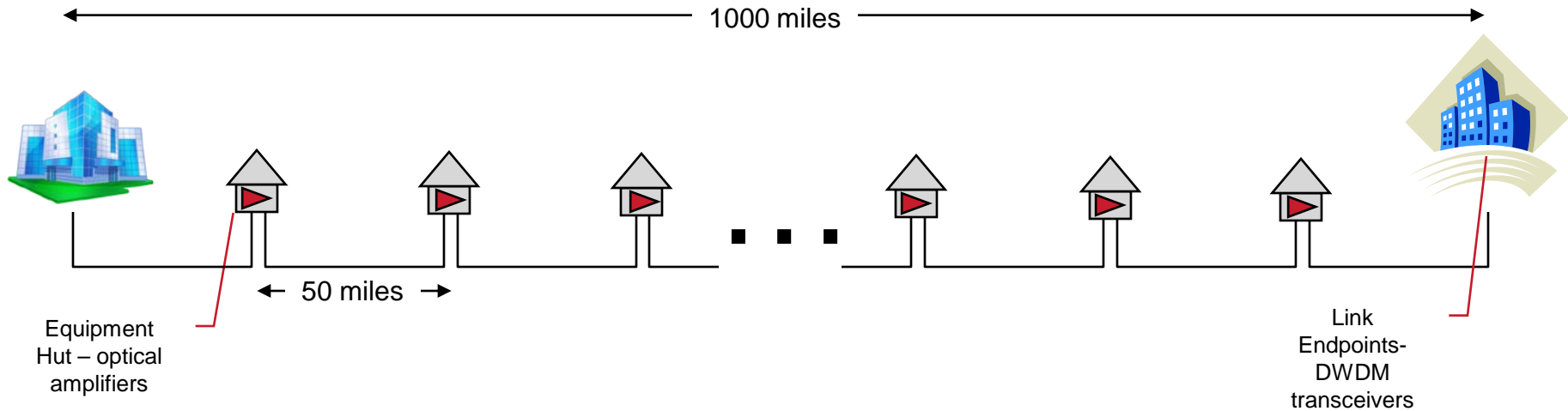
High bandwidth needs

**\$/bits per second per Hertz per mile**

← Metro ————— Regional ————— Long Haul →

# Optical WAN

## Cost Elements



### Capital Cost Assumptions

- Optical Fiber \$1,000/mile
- Optical amplifiers \$50,000/unit
- DWDM transceivers \$1000/Gbps

### Operational Cost Assumptions

- Fiber route maintenance \$100/mile/year
- Equipment space/power \$10,000/site/year
- Equipment maintenance 10% of capital cost

### Line costs: Fiber/amps

- 200 mile example \$ 450,000
- 1000 mile example \$2,050,000

### Transceiver costs – fully populated DWDM link

- 10G transceivers 0.8Tbps \$ 1,600,000
- 40G transceivers 3.2Tbps \$ 6,400,000
- 100G transceivers 8Tbps \$16,000,000

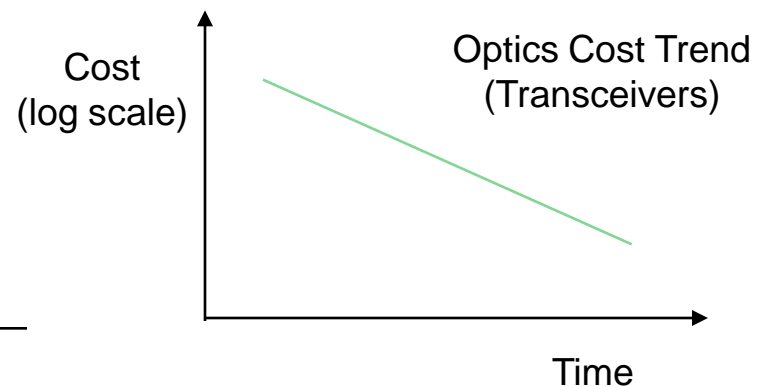
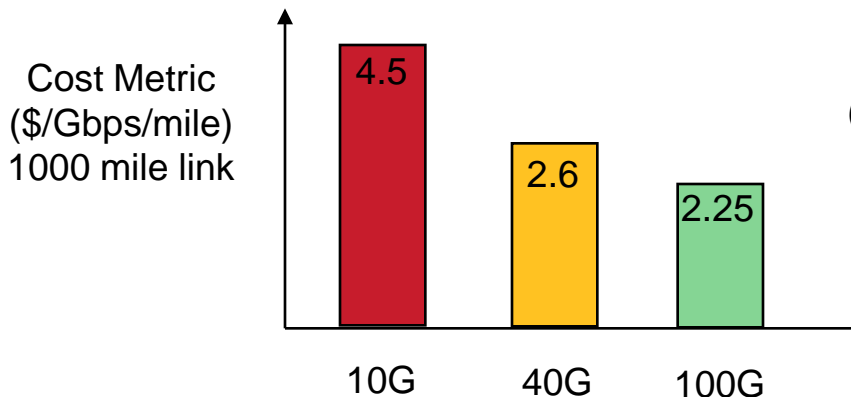
# Key Observations on LD Transmission Costs

Fibers and amplifiers represent a fixed cost that is only slowly improving

→ Increasing fiber bandwidth spreads this cost

At 10G costs for transceivers and fiber paths are similar for LD links

→ Even at constant cost/bit for 100G transceivers, total cost/bit/mile declines



# 100G DWDM Transceivers – Today's Technology

10 X 10G multiplexed to 100 G on a single wavelength

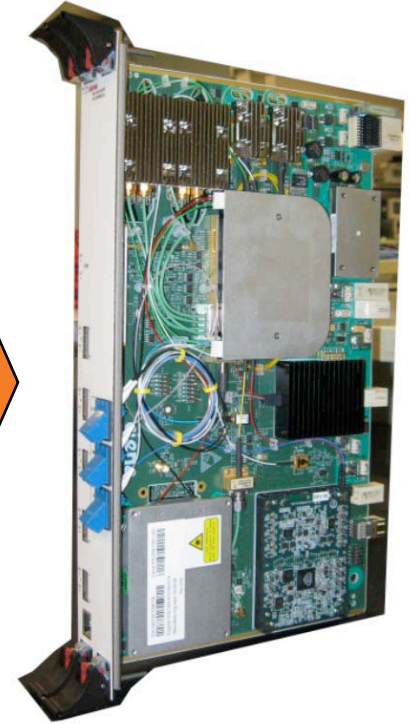
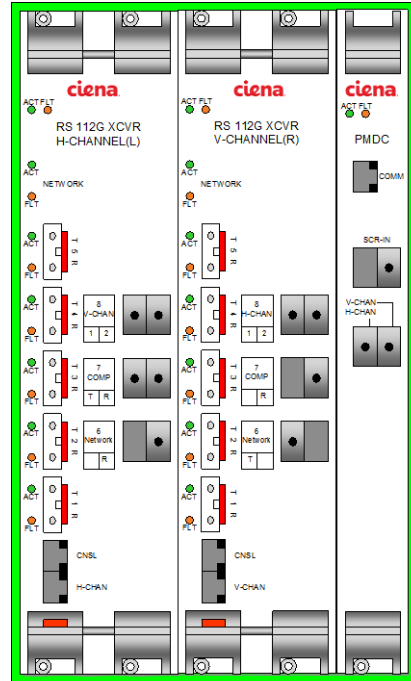
Muxceiver

PolTracker

10GbE Client



56Gbps Line

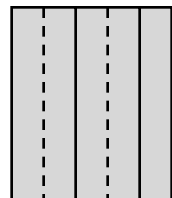
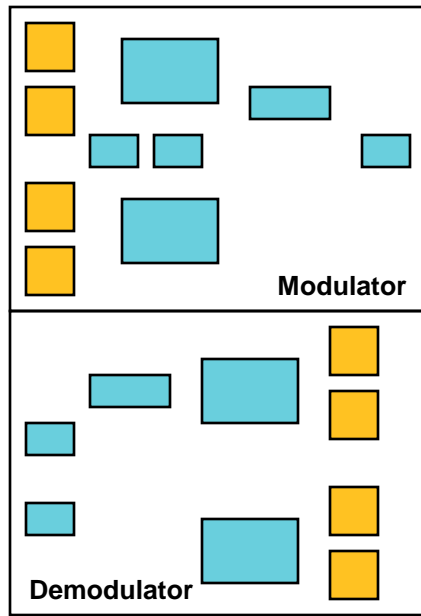


# 100G Technology Direction

Integrated photonic components for modulator and demodulator

Today  
Separate  
Components

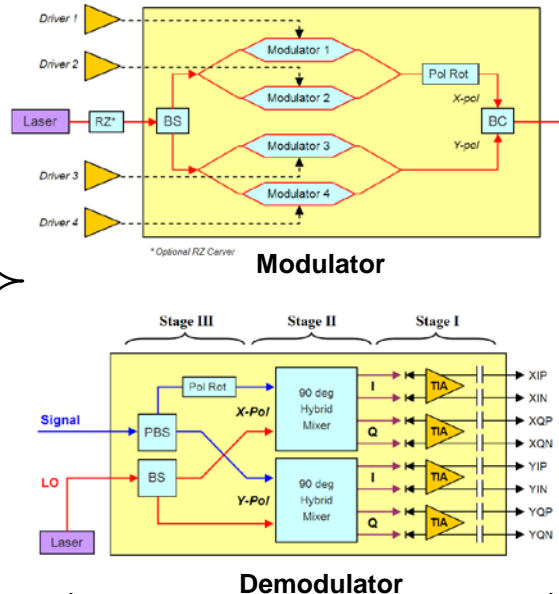
Ciena Direct Detection Transceiver



5 card slots  
(two for clients, two for DWDM)

Near Future  
Module  
Integration

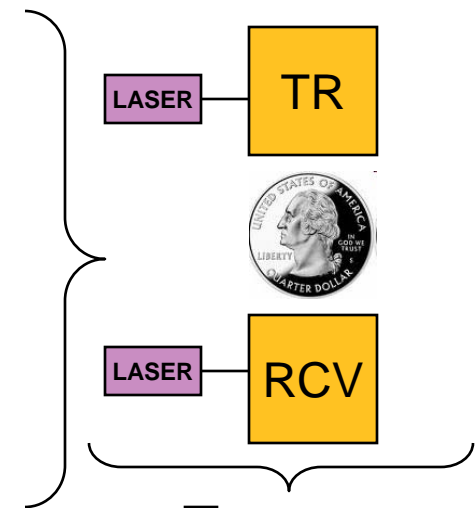
Current phase of OIF 100G project



2 card slots  
(one for clients, one for DWDM)

Long Term Target  
Monolithic  
Integration

InP or Silicon Photonics



Future  
Multiple 100Gs  
Per line module

# Summary

**100G Transmission is here today!**

**Optical transmission systems capacity will scale 10X with 100G**

**Initial high cost of 10G will improve with new technologies**

**High capacity optical transmission and switching can enable rapid data movement among distributed data centers**