



CENIC NGI Project

CIBERTIC 2025

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CENIC is a 501(c)(3) with the mission to advance education and research statewide by providing the world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration, and economic growth.



California State
University System



University of
California System



California
Community Colleges



Stanford
University



University of Southern
California System



California K-12
System



Naval Postgraduate
School



**CALIFORNIA
STATE LIBRARY**

California Public
Libraries



California Institute
of Technology

CENIC's CalREN Serves 20 million+ Californians



University of California

541,573

Students, Faculty & Staff
connected to CENIC's
CalREN (spring 2024)



Independent Universities

128,472

Students, Faculty, & Staff
connected to CENIC's
CalREN (spring 2024)



California State Univ.

517,997

Students, Faculty & Staff
connected to CENIC's
CalREN (fall 2023)



California Community Colleges

1.9 Million

on 116 campuses (fall 2023)
One of five CC students in US attends
a CCC connected to CENIC's CalREN



California K-12 Schools

5.8 Million

Students, Faculty, & Staff
58 counties, 1,018 districts
10,010 schools (2022/2023)



California Public Libraries

74.1 Million

Visitors
(in 2022/2023)
Over 85% of libraries in
participating jurisdictions are
connecting at 1 Gbps or
higher.



Hospitals & Health Care

9 hospitals

Over 10 million outpatient visits
and 2 million inpatient days
Over 50,000 employees served



Tribal Nation Partners

12 Tribal Nations

17 Reservations
13 Libraries
~550 homes
105 Tribal municipalities

- 
- Connects over 12,000 sites across all 58 counties
 - Owns or operates over 8,000 miles of optical fiber
 - Collaborates with over 800 private-sector partners
 - Has spent 28 years connecting California

California Research & Education Network (CalREN)



CENIC Network Nodes

- Optical add/drop
- Optical add/drop, Layer 3
- Optical add/drop, Layer 3, & 2



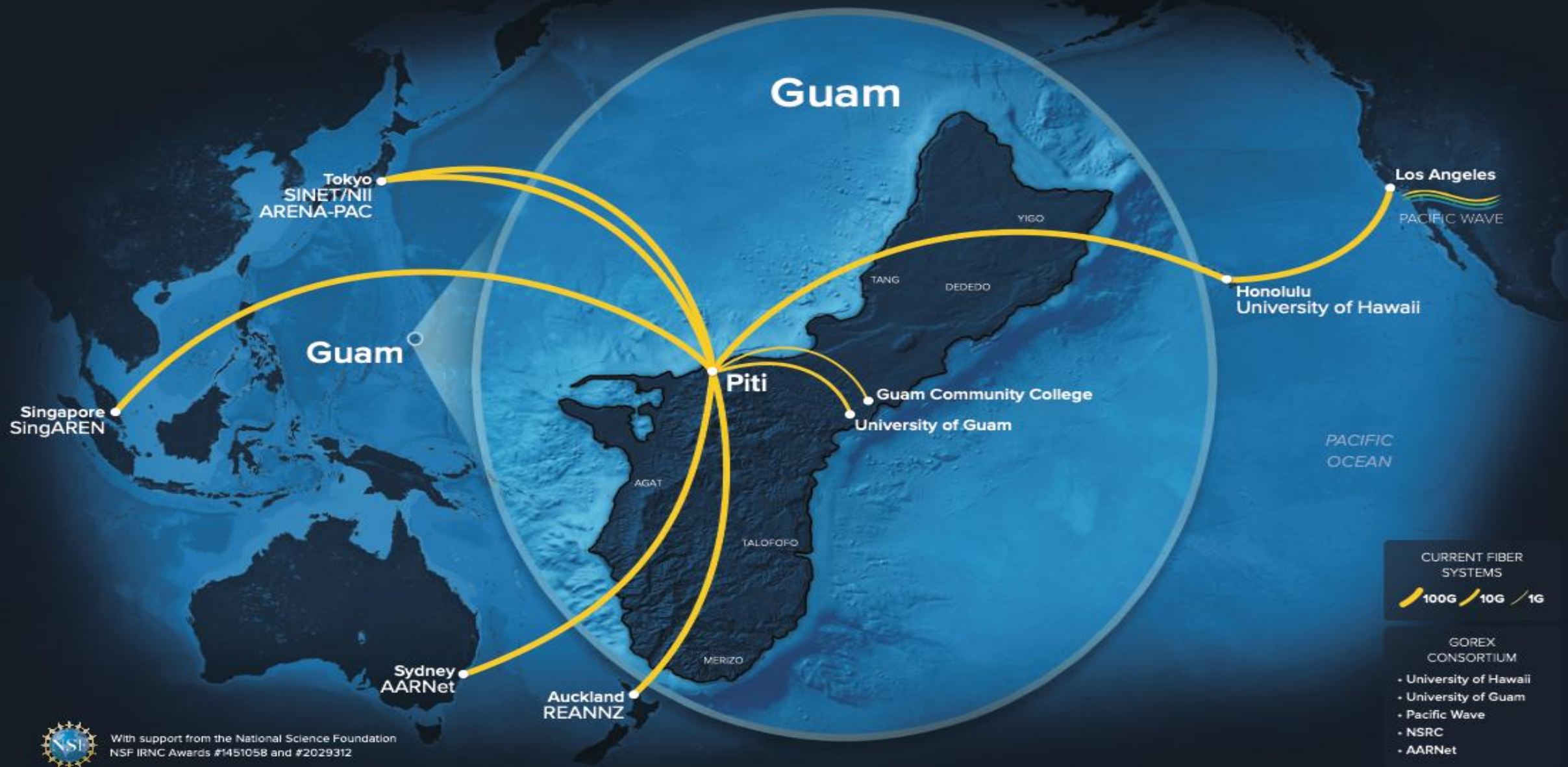
NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PEERING EXCHANGE

Pacific Wave is a project of CENIC & PNWGP





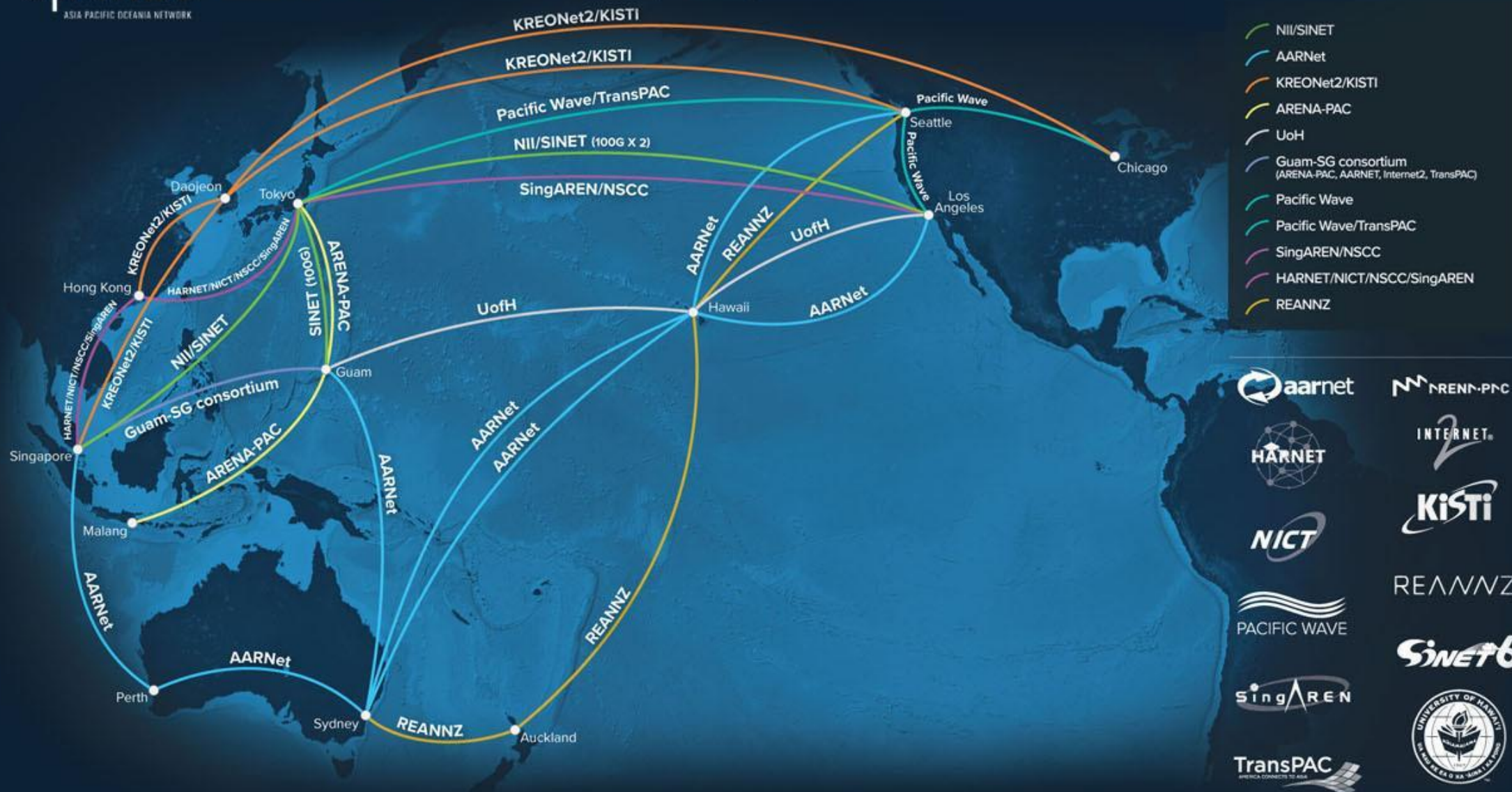
GOREX: Guam Open Research & Education eXchange



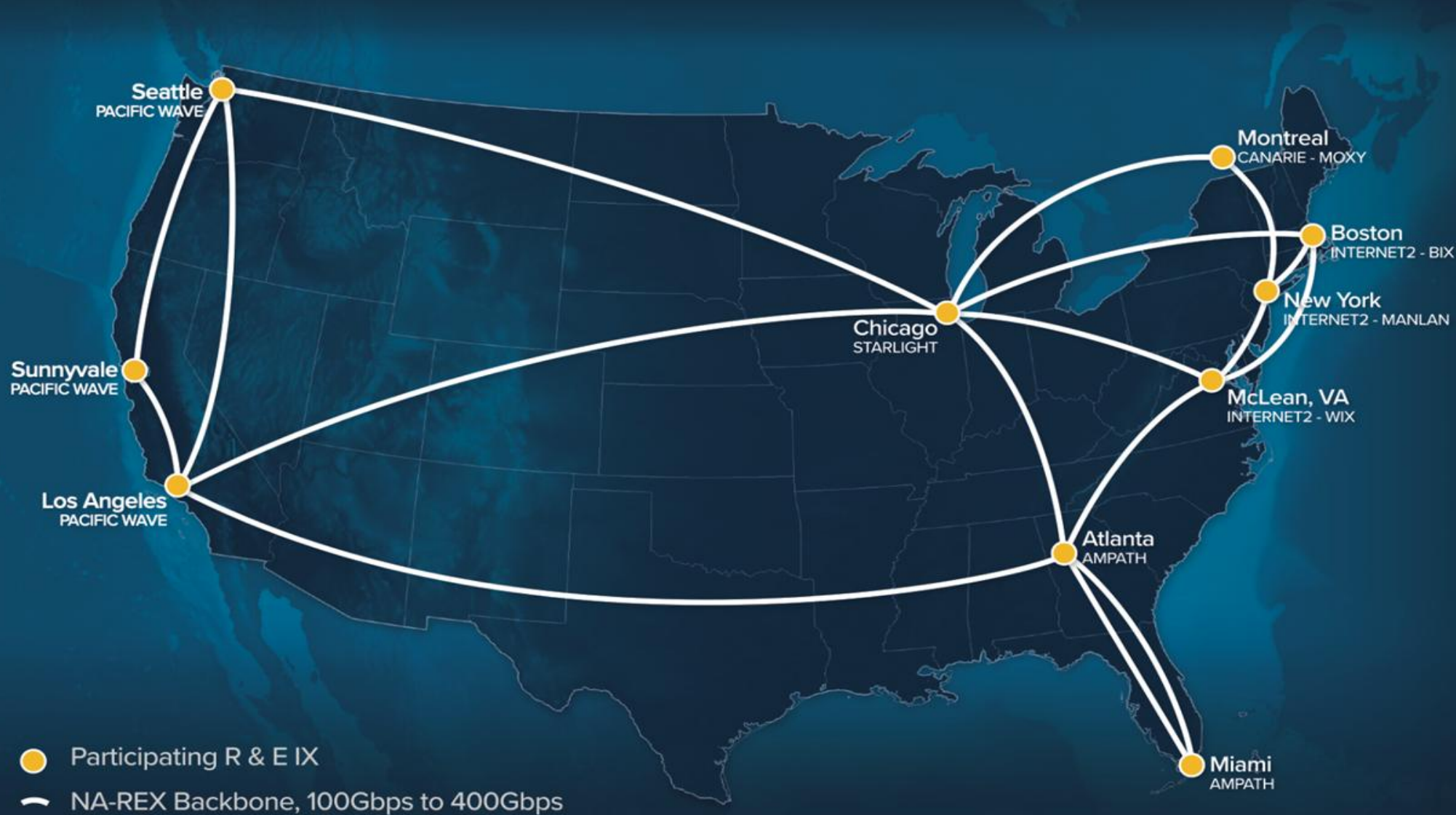
With support from the National Science Foundation
NSF IRNC Awards #1451058 and #2029312

aponet ASIA PACIFIC OCEANIA NETWORK (APOnet)

ASIA PACIFIC OCEANIA NETWORK



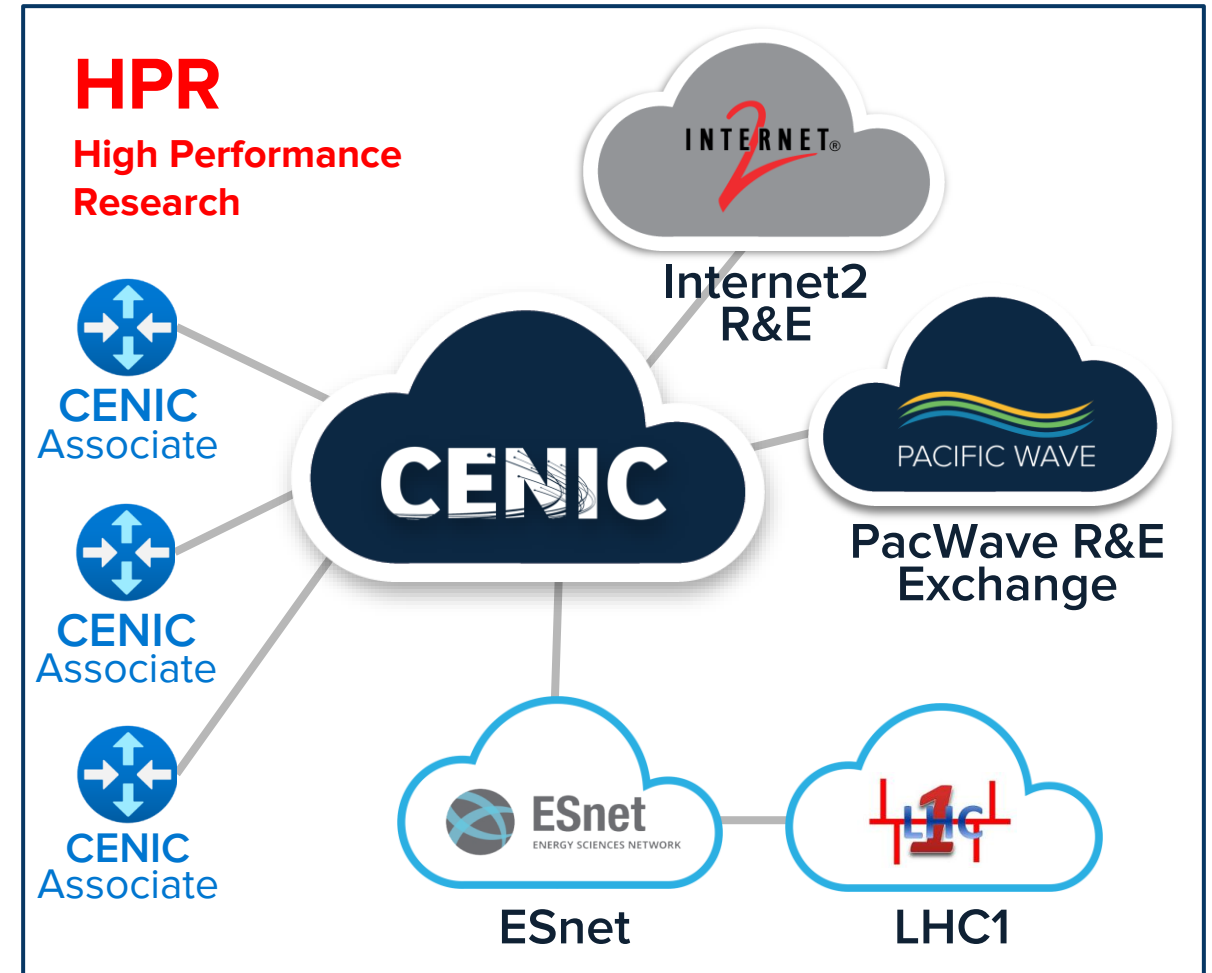
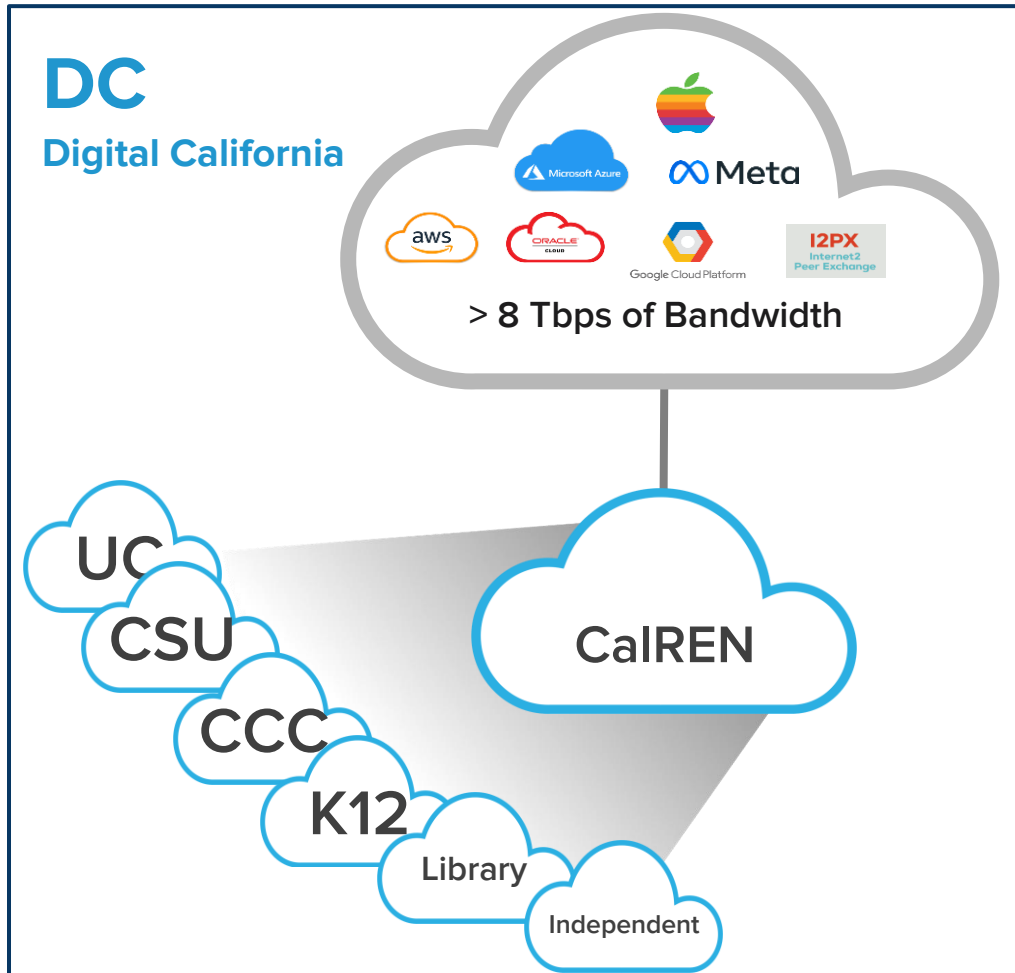
NA-REX North America Research & Education Exchange Collaboration





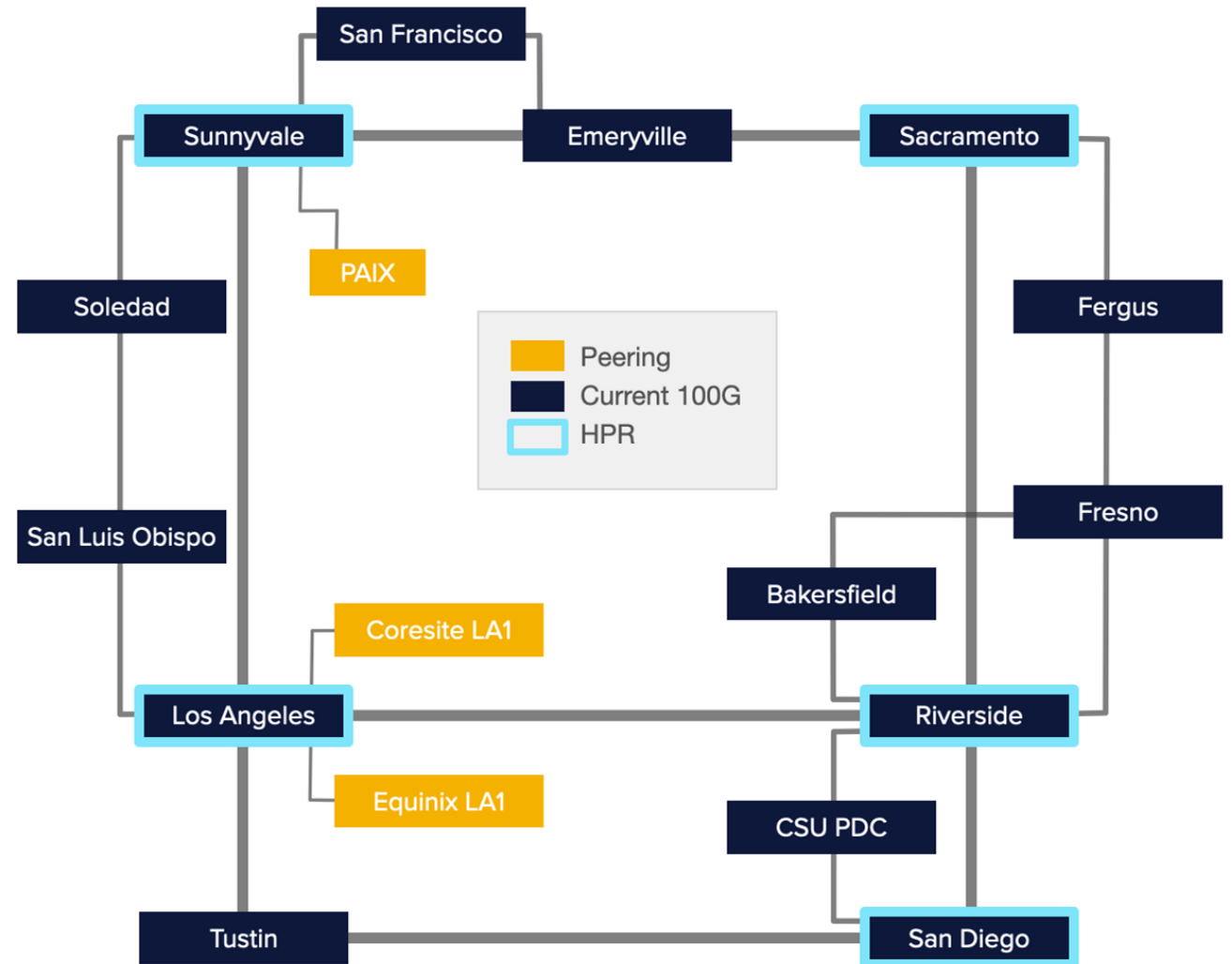
CaIREN NGI 2018 - 2025

CaIREN DC and HPR Networks



CalREN in 2018

- Native IPv4 and IPv6 Only
- IS-IS and BGP for IP Services
- Separate Ethernet Infrastructure for R&E and Layer 2 Services
- Limited HPR locations



Next-Gen Goals

Service Offerings

- DC & HPR Everywhere
- L2VPN
 - Dynamic | Explicit
 - Efficient Multicast | mLDP Replication
 - PE-CE Multihoming
 - PE-CE Significant VLANs
- L3VPN | IPVPN
 - Multicast Ready
 - Flexible PE-CE Protocols | eBGP and iBGP
- Traffic Class Specific Topologies
 - i.e. Flex-Algo - Least Delay
- HQoS

MPLS

- Segment Routing

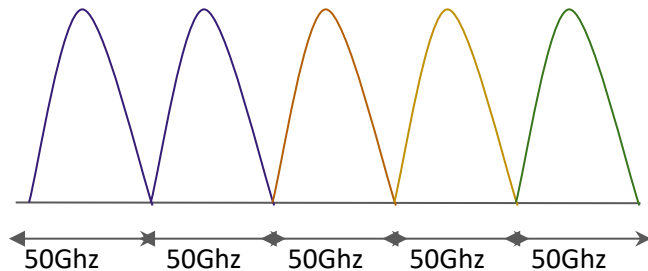
Additional Features

- Resiliency:
 - BFD | Micro BFD
 - LFA | TI-LFA
 - BGP-PIC Edge & Core
- Service Assurance:
 - CFM (Connectivity Fault Management)
- Forwarding Flexibility:
 - Shared Services Model
 - Stateless TE
 - Traffic Class-based Topologies
 - Extension of Services via PWHE
 - Logical Tunnels
- Security
 - BCP38 (Anti-Spoofing)

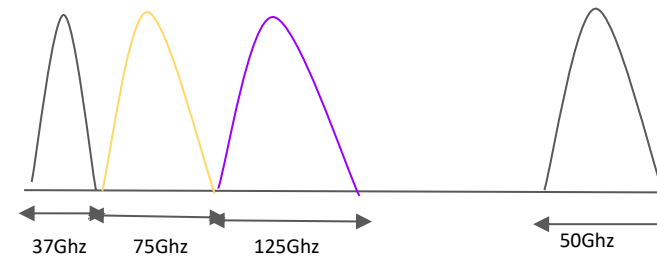
DWDM Background

- To support services above **200G**, we needed to first upgrade to a **flex-grid** optical network
 - Legacy DWDM has fixed 50Ghz channel spacing, while flex-grid is 'flexible'
- Secondly, optical hardware for above 200G requires **coherent** optics
 - Legacy optics modulate with 'on-off keying', while coherent optics modulate phase / amplitude

Fixed-Grid



Flex-Grid



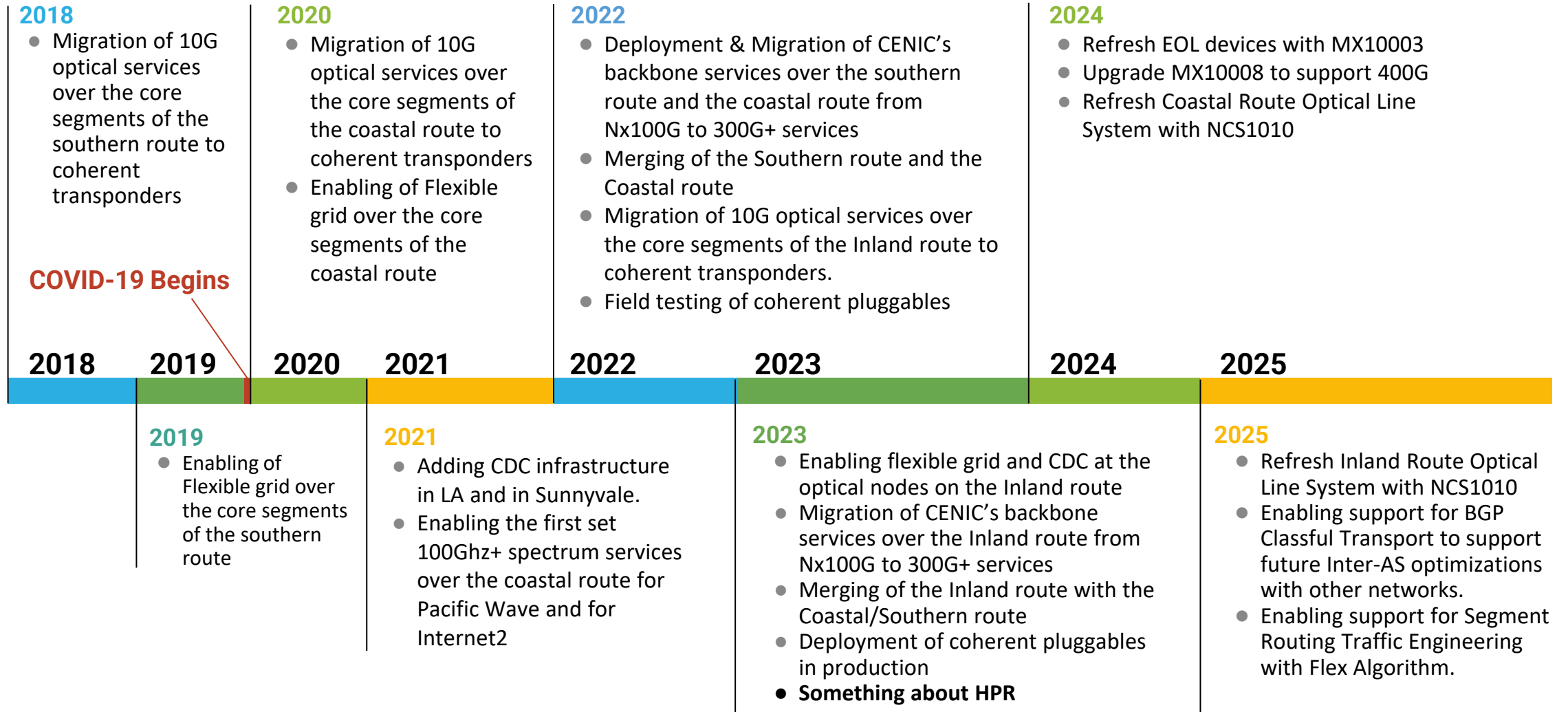
Non-Coherent
Optics



Coherent
Optics



CalREN and Next Generation Infrastructure (NGI) Timeline



CalREN in 2025

Layer 1

- Flex-grid Cisco NCS2Ks
- Cisco NCS1010 upgrades in-progress
- Cisco ONC transition in-progress
- IPoDWDM using 400G ZR+ optics

Layer 2/3

- Juniper MX480/10003/10008s
- DC and HPR on same hardware
- ISIS Segment Routing
- EVPN
 - ELINE
 - Dynamic & Explicit Path
 - ELAN
 - Port- or VLAN-based
- IPVPN

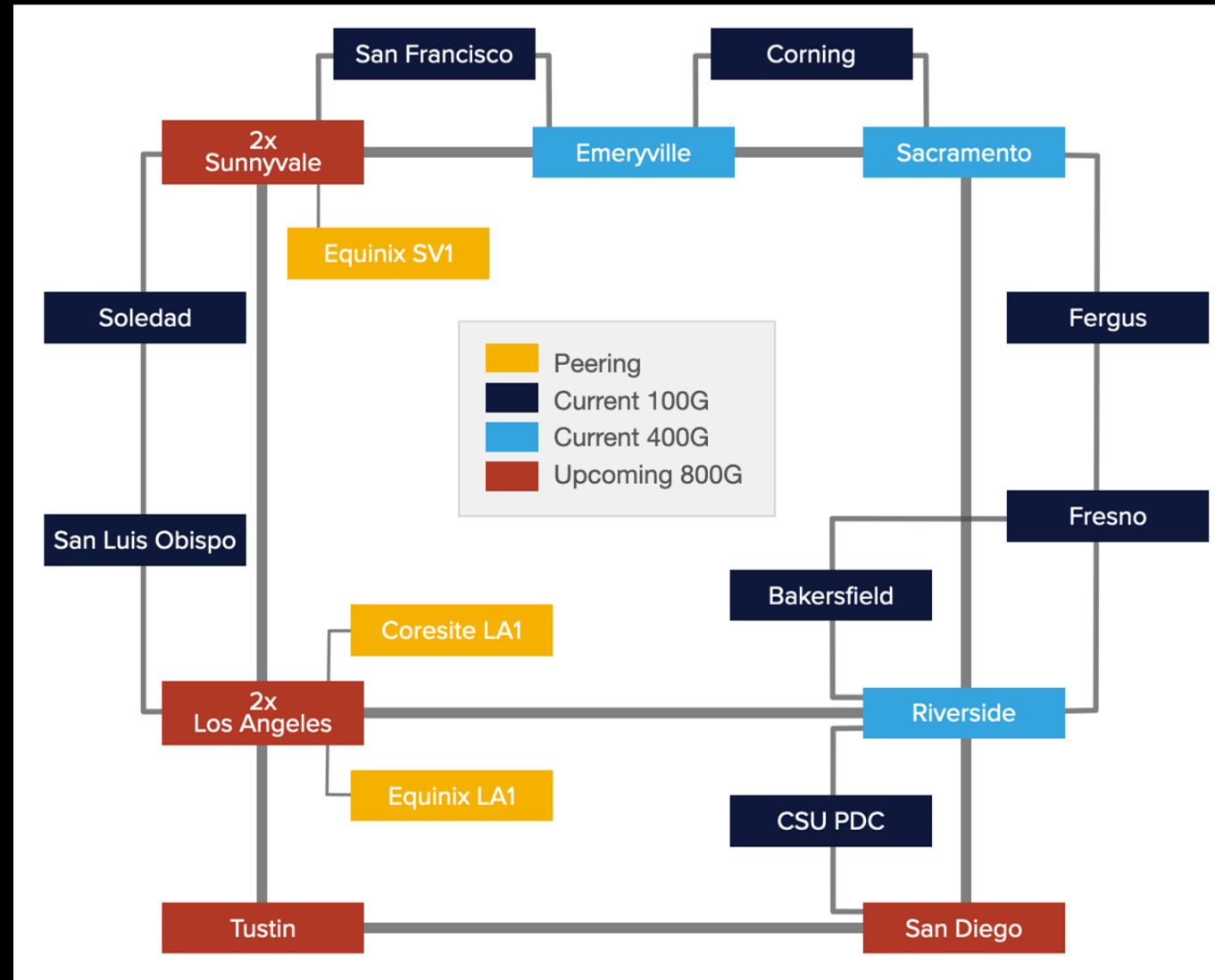
Bandwidth Availability

- 100G support at all Layer 3 locations
- 400G support on all 7 'core' locations
- 800G support in-progress using PTX10002s

Additional Features

- Resiliency:
 - BFD
 - BGP-PIC Edge & Core
 - TI-LFA
- Security
 - BCP38
 - RPKI

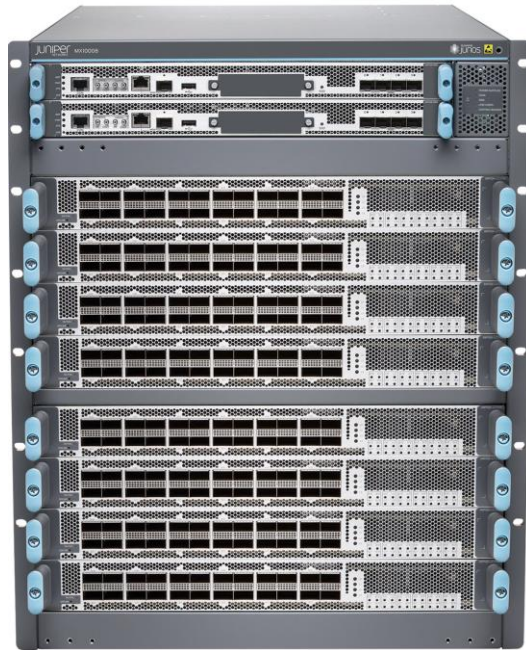
Current CalREN Network





NGI - Hardware

Aggregation Router - Juniper 400G Line Cards



Juniper MX10008



LC9600 400G Line Card

**Replace 100G Line Cards
with
High-Capacity 400G Line Cards**

High Capacity

400G card supports
9.6T/Slot
vs
100G card supports
2.4T/Slot



Future Ready

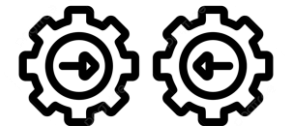
Support 400G ZR+ and
400G grey optics



400G Coherent Optics

Backward Compatibility

Support 100Gs by
using break-outs



400G tech 100G tech

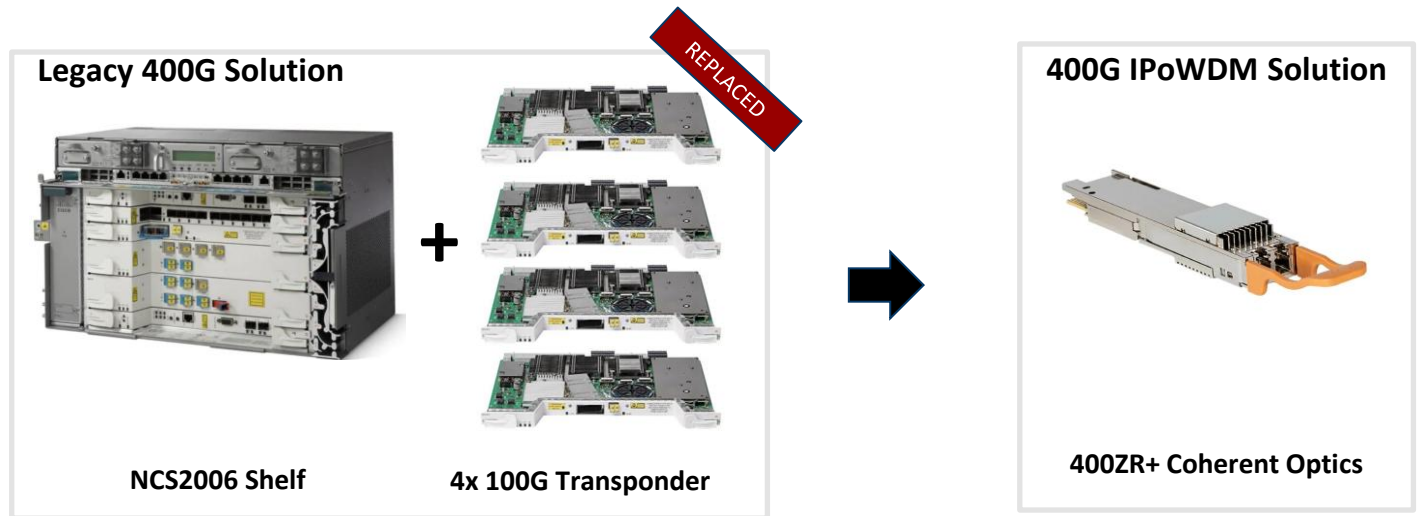
Digital Coherent Optics - 400ZR+ Optics

Using IPoWDM, 400ZR+ optics are inserted directly in Aggregation Routers to replace external 100G transponders



400ZR+ Digital Coherent Optics

OpenZR+
MULTI-SOURCE AGREEMENT



Bulky Cisco NCS2K Shelf(s) with 4x100G Transponder

400G QSFP-DD inserted directly in Agg router



- **Complex**
- **Expensive**
- **End-of-Life**

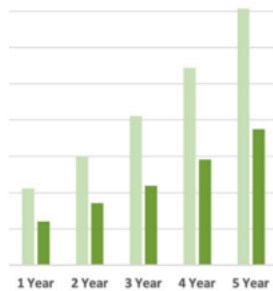


- **Simpler**
- **Economical**
- **Next-Gen Technology**

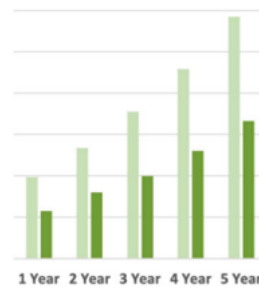
CAPEX and OPEX Savings

TCO Saving Estimates

IPoWDM Solution



Cumulative TCO



Cumulative CAPEX

45%

TCO Saving compared to Router + Transponder

40%

CAPEX Saving compared to Router + Transponder

Environmental Efficiency



54%

Power Savings

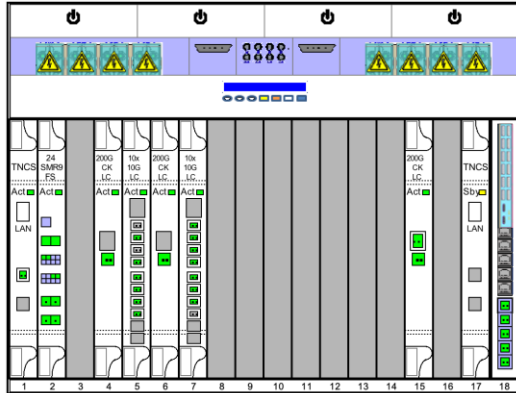
77%

Space Savings

55%

Carbon Footprint Savings

Greener - Power & Space Saving



Chassis Power Summary

Total Power Consumption: 1743 W

Max Power: 6000 W

Total Consumption: ~1740 Watts



CHASSIS LEVEL POWER INFO: 0

Total output power capacity (Group 0 + Group 1) :	1050W +	1050W
Total output power required :	700W	
Total power input :	179W	
Total power output :	135W	

Total Consumption: ~200 Watts

Power Savings of 88.5%

25RU
43.75in



NCS2K Setup

8RU
14in

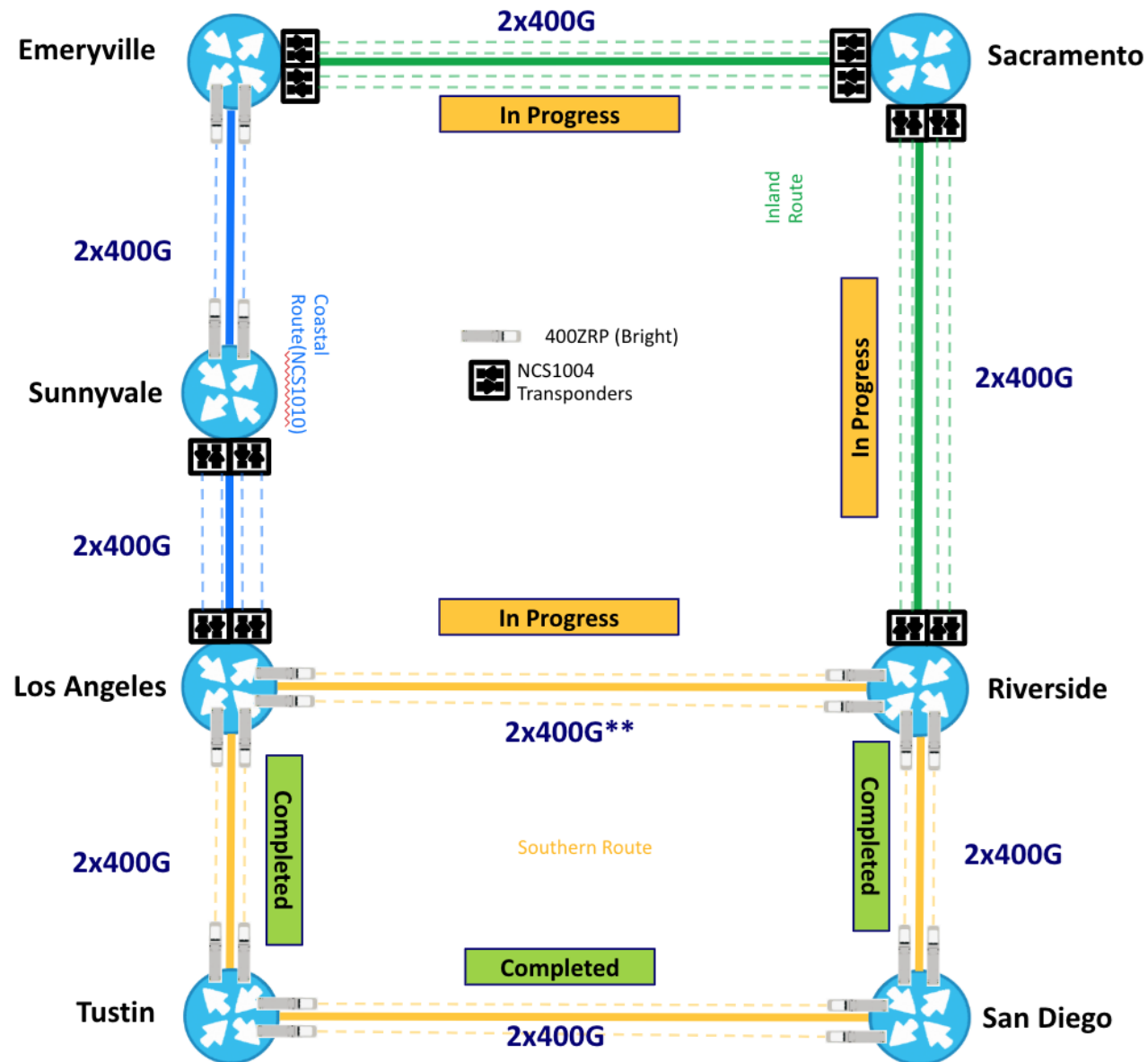


NCS1010 Setup

Space Savings of 68%

CalREN Core Ring 2025

- 400G ZR+ pluggables where possible
- Dedicated transponders for longer spans
- Upcoming 1x400G upgrades to low-demand locations using Juniper ACX7348s





NGI - Pacific Wave

Pacific Wave - 400Gbps Online

- **Juniper PTX10001 deployed in production at all sites**



- **West Coast 400Gbps backbone upgrade complete**
- **Participant 400Gbps connections online!**
 - **SINET**
 - **PNWGP & CENIC**
 - **ESnet**



Pacific Wave in Alaska



- Node deployment in Fairbanks, AK
- Collaborating with MTA & University of Alaska
- Provide local peering and connectivity



NGI - CalREN Services

CENIC Service Overview – 2024

Primary Network Services:

- CalREN Digital California (**DC**)
- CalREN High Performance Research (**HPR**)

MPLS VPN Services:

- L2 VPN Network Service – **E-LINE**
- L2 VPN Network Service – **E-LAN**
- L3 VPN Network Service – **IP-VPN**

Layer 1 Services:

- Optical Service
- Optical Spectrum as a Service

Other Network Services:

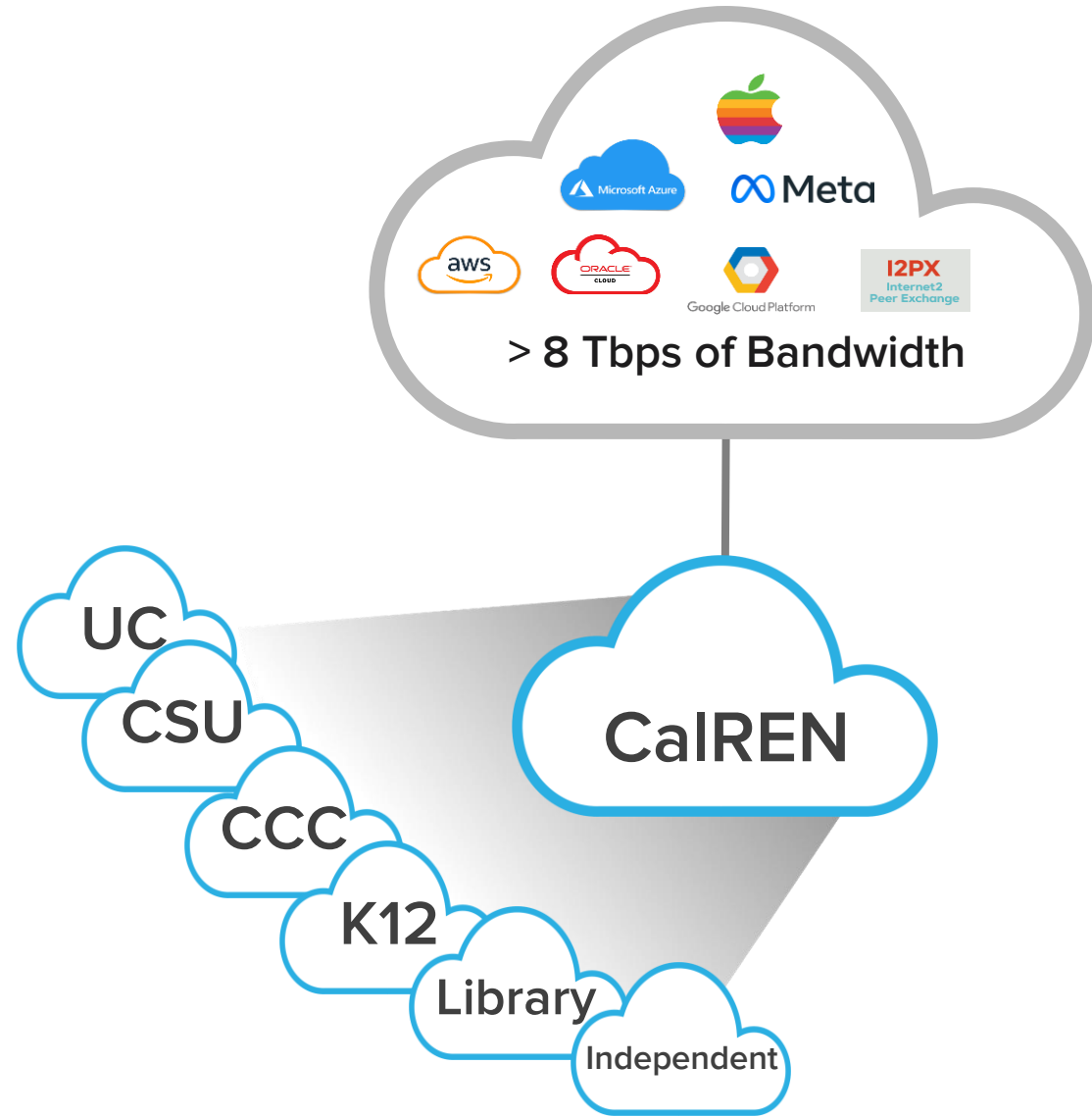
- CENIC Rapid Private Interconnect (RPI)
- CENIC DDoS Mitigation Service (DMS)
- CENIC AIR ScienceDMZ (**New!**)

Internet2 Services available via CENIC:

- Internet2 AL2S
- Internet2 Cloud Connect
- Internet2 RPI
- Internet2 InCommon & Net+ Services

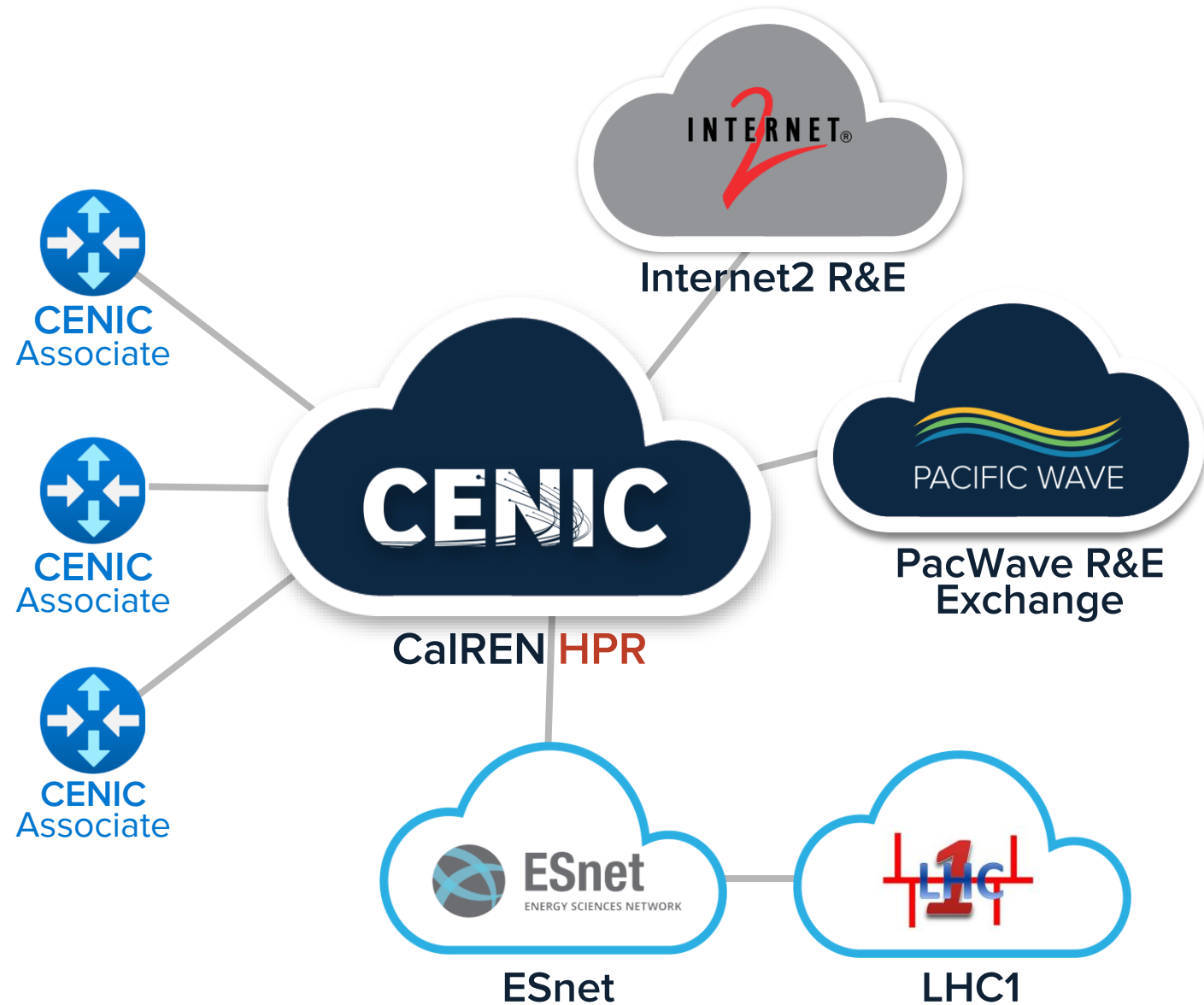
Digital California (DC)

- Used by majority of CENIC members
- Connectivity to general Internet
- Direct connectivity to other CENIC members
- Transit, peering and cloud services built in



High Performance Research (HPR)

- R&E Only
- Leading edge network for large-application users
- Connectivity to:
 - Internet2 R&E
 - ESnet/LHCONE
 - Pacific Wave Exchange
 - NA-REX
 - And more...
- VRF inside CaIREN Backbone





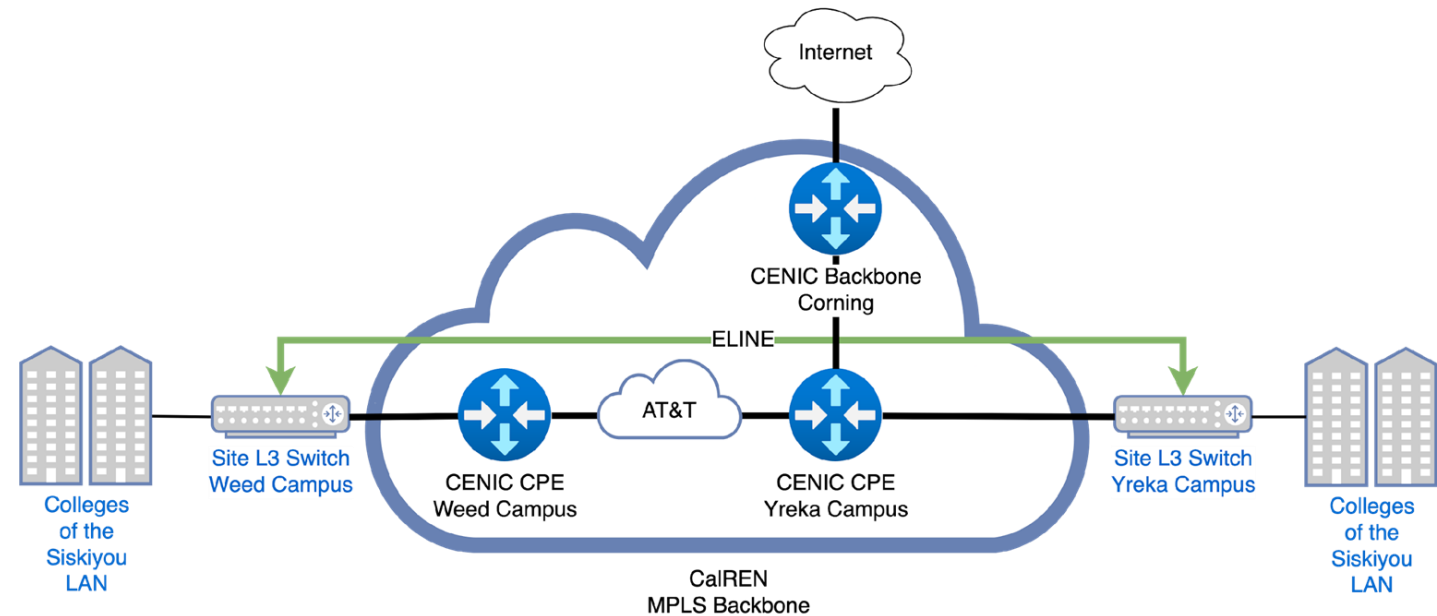
MPLS VPN Services

Layer 2 Virtual Private Networks

E-LINE

L2VPN – E-LINE

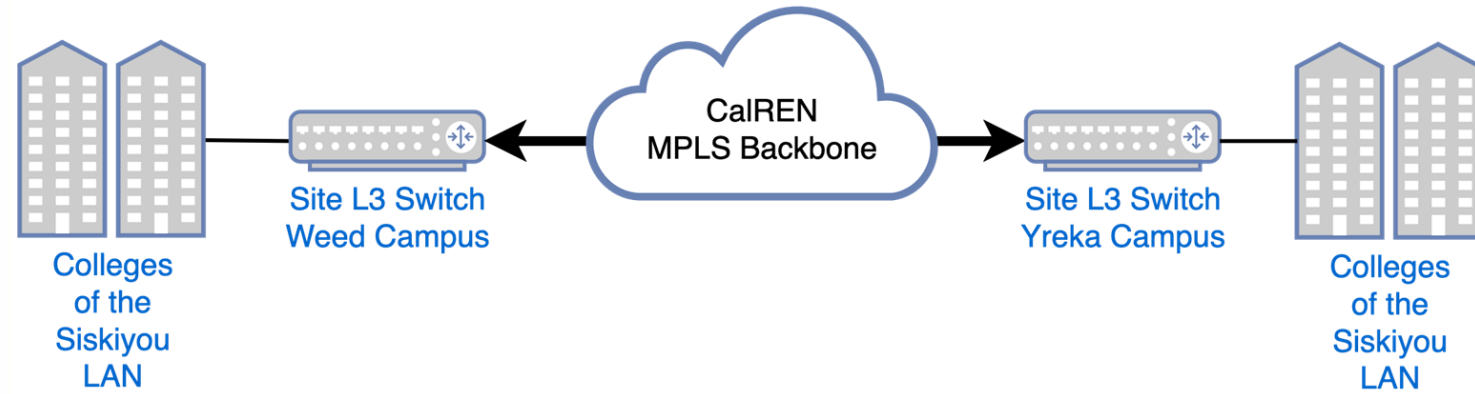
- Use to extend layer 2 networks between 2 remote locations
- Use case: Transparently connect two locations
- Fiber-like connection between locations – with less cost than dark fiber



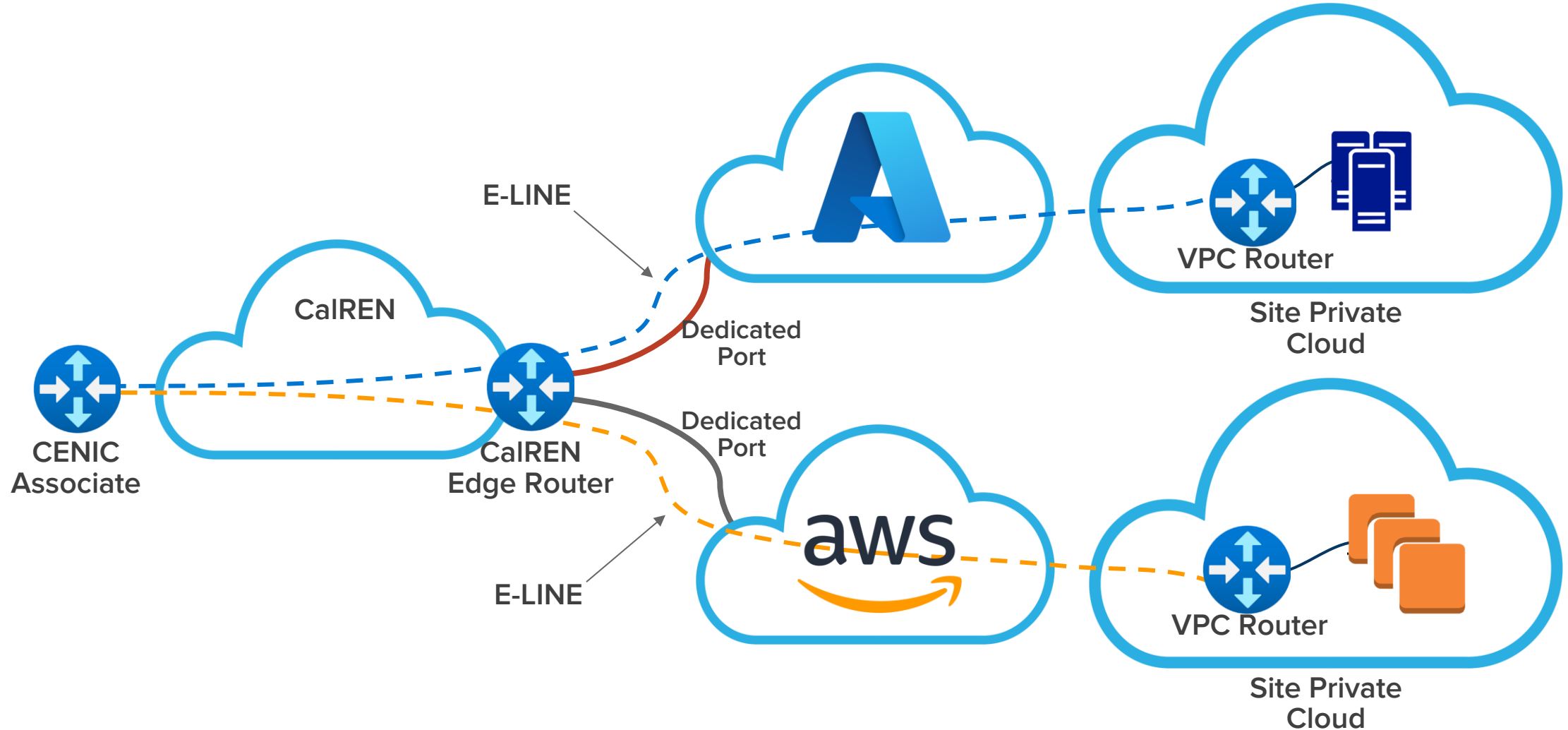
L2VPN – E-LINE

Case Study

- Connect remote campuses without routing or extra hardware
- Recently provisioned Weed Campus and Yreka Campus E-LINE for Colleges of the Siskiyou



CENIC Rapid Private Interconnect (RPI) over E-LINE





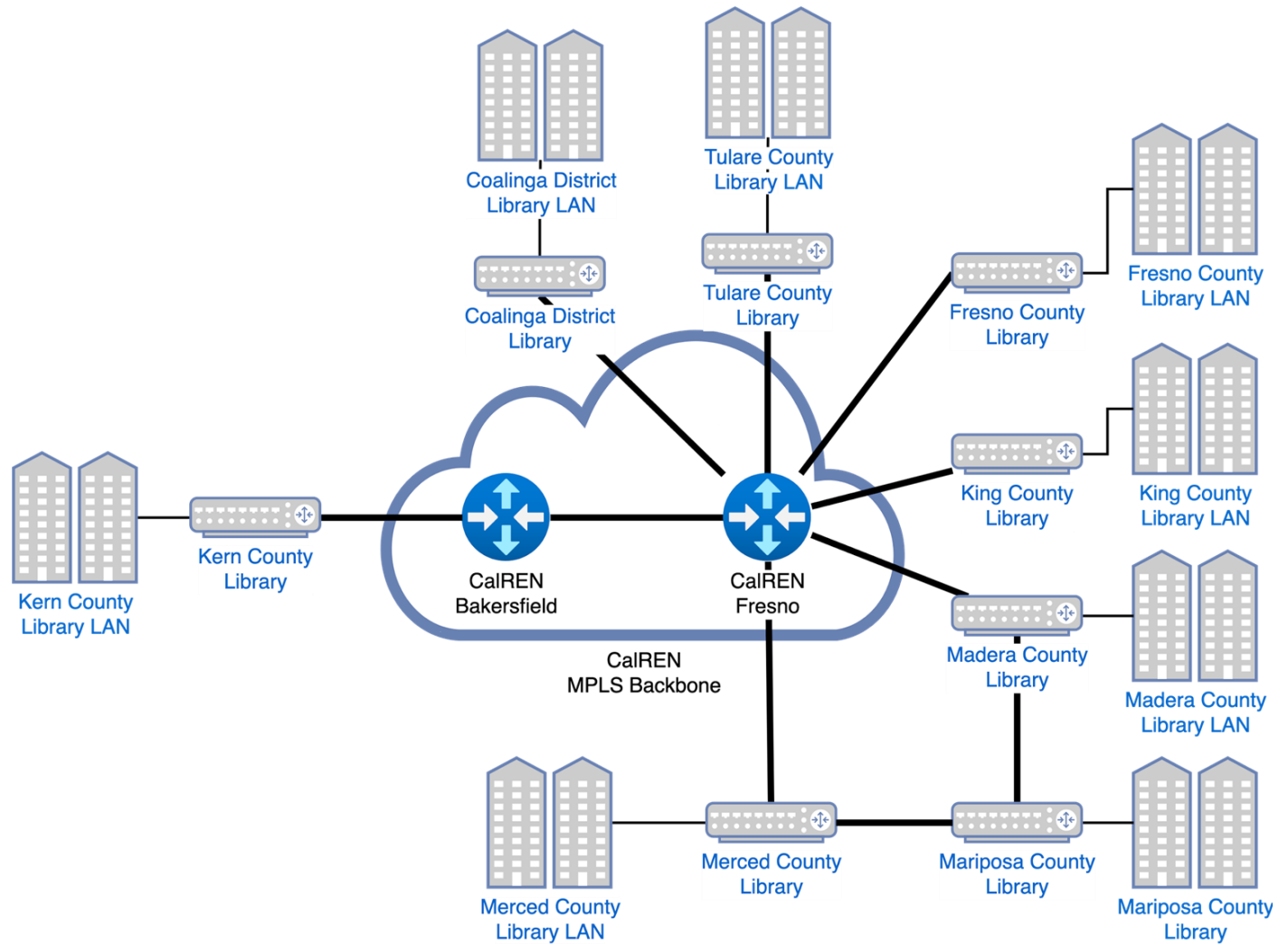
MPLS VPN Services

Layer 2 Virtual Private Networks

E-LAN

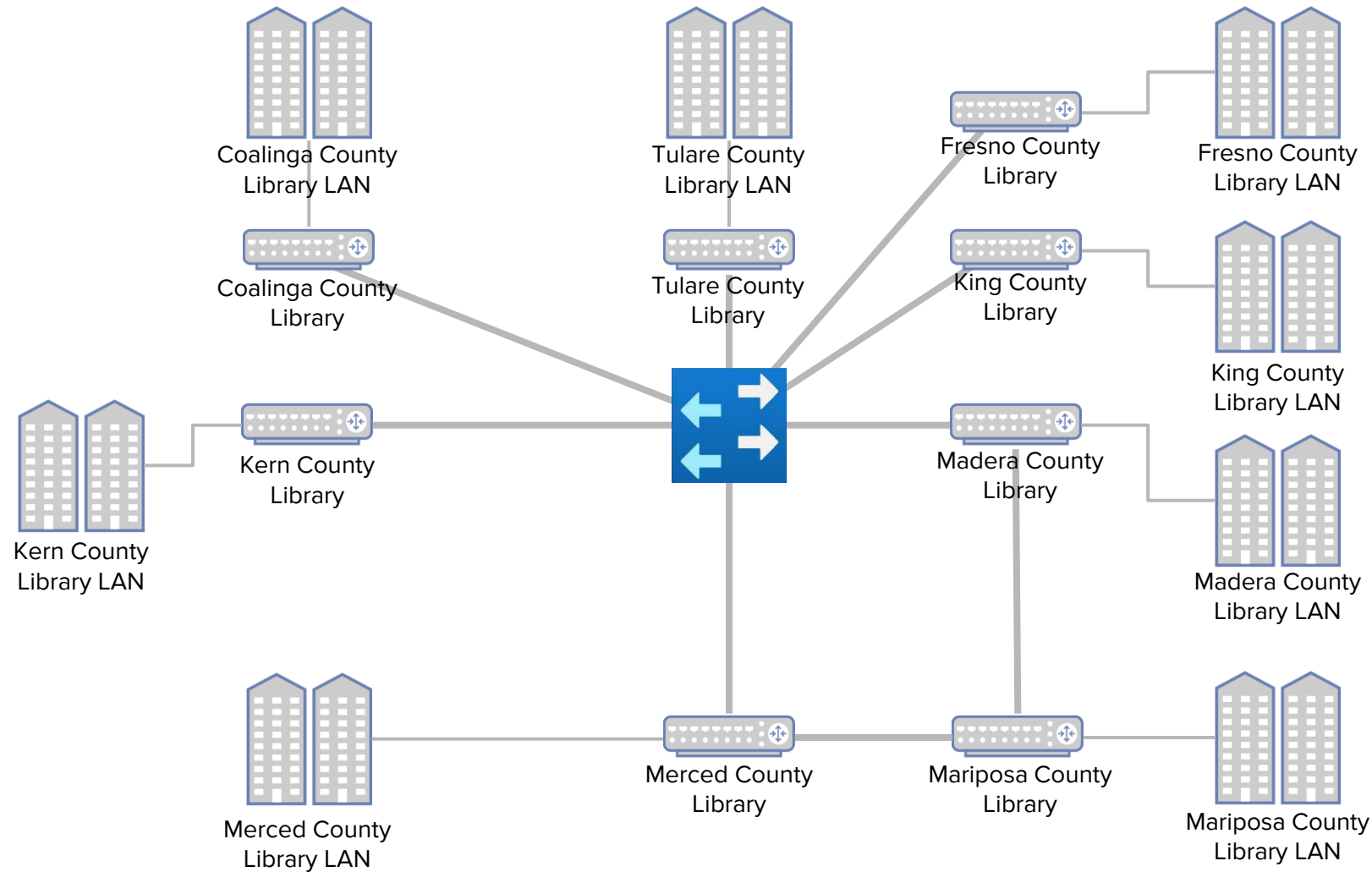
L2VPN – E-LAN

- Use to extend layer 2 networks between 2 or more remote locations
- Use case: Transparently connect three or more campuses
- Let us do the switching for you


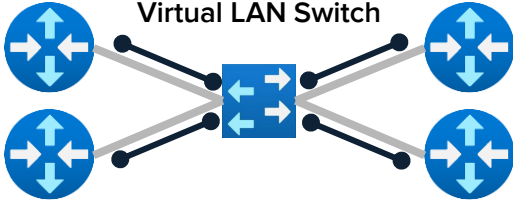
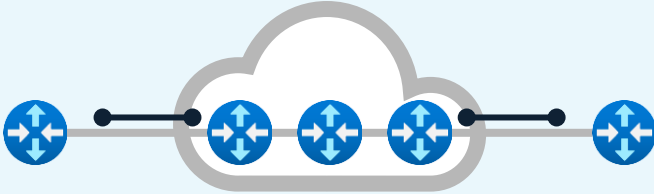
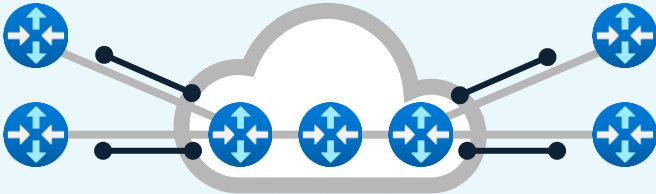

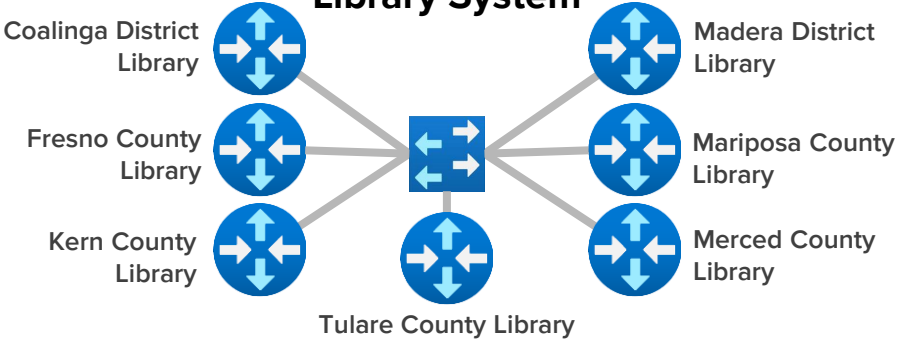


L2VPN Private Network Service – E-LAN

User View



E-LAN and E-LINE Comparison

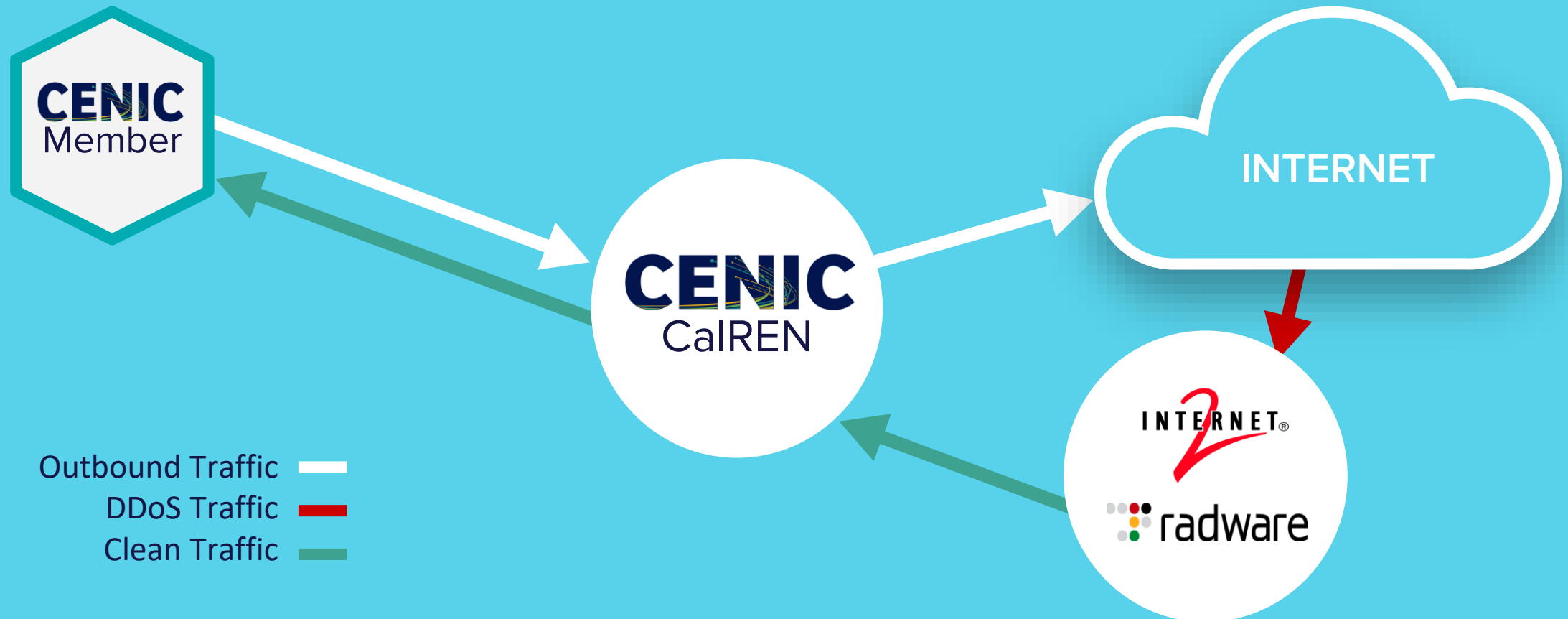
SERVICE TYPE	E-LINE	E-LAN
CONNECTION	Point-to-Point	Multipoint-to-Multipoint
ASSOCIATE VIEW		
CENIC VIEW		
EXAMPLES	<p>Los Nettos</p> 	<p>San Joaquin Valley Library System</p> 



CENIC DDoS Mitigation Service (DMS)

DDoS Mitigation Service (DMS)

DDoS Mitigation Service: A managed solution that works to clean CENIC's traffic by Internet2's Radware DDoS scrubbing infrastructure. Scrubbing centers are located in the US.



DDoS Mitigation Service (DMS) – Options

- **Operationally & Technically Identical**
- **Differing Responsibilities for Monitoring & Response Activity**

CENIC Managed Solution

- Subscriber of CENIC's DDoS Mitigation Service
- CENIC will perform the following:
 - All Technical Setup to Support Mitigation Routing
 - DDoS Detection of Volumetric Attacks
 - Activation of Mitigation Scrubbing Services - Upon Customer Approval
 - Provide Quarterly Reports of Mitigation Activity

Self-Service Solution

- Downstream Tenant of Internet2/Radware
 - Direct Access to the Service Provider Security Operations Center (SOC):
 - *Initiate Scrubbing*
 - *Portal Access to Review Mitigation Efforts and Reporting*
 - *Direct VRF*
- Responsible for Own DDoS Detection and Activation of Mitigation Scrubbing Services



Layer 1 Services Optical Service

Optical Service

- Gets you from here to there and back on top of dark fiber, with no layer 2 or layer 3 equipment in between
- Any network can be run over the top of an optical service
- Example: 400 Gigabits per second of capacity between Los Angeles and Sunnyvale





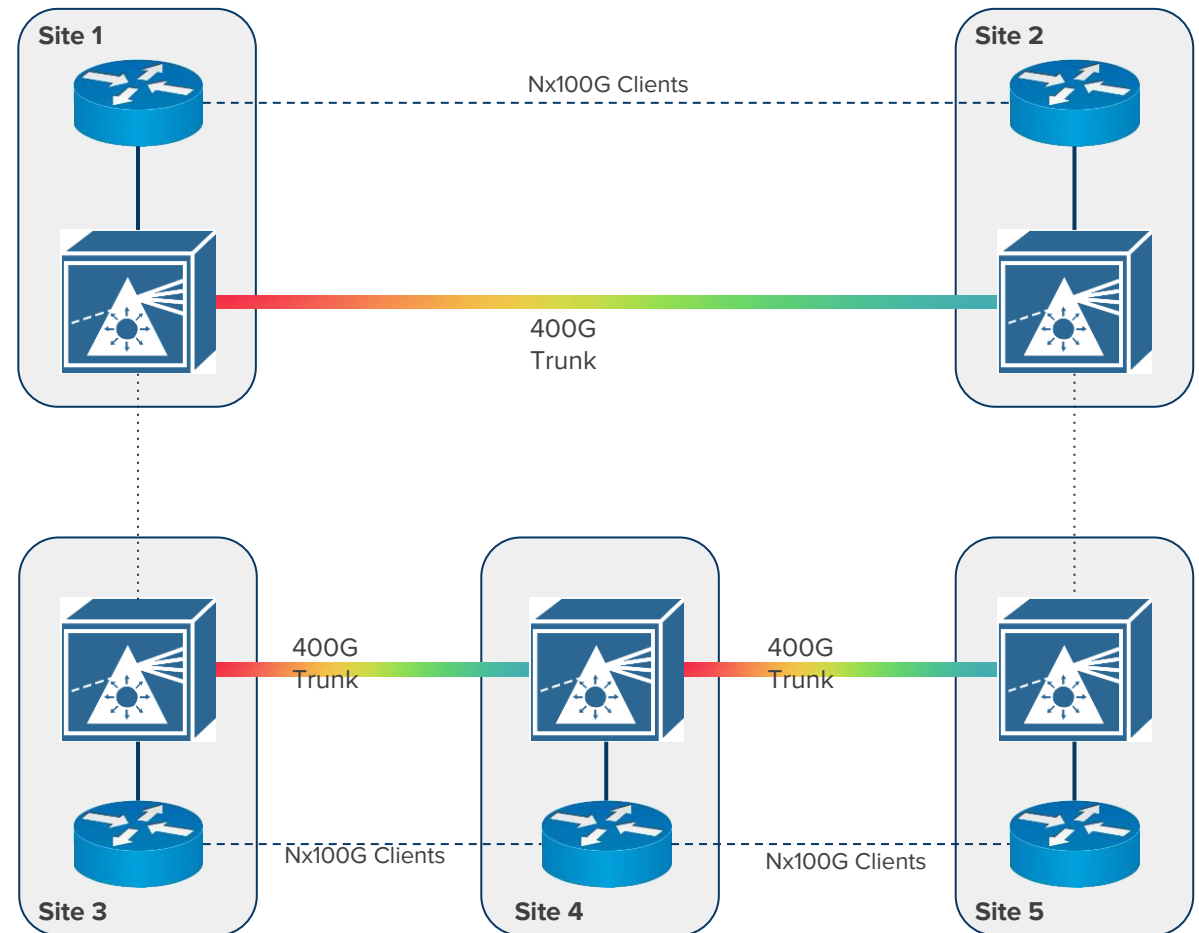
Metro Optical Services

Metro Optical Solutions

- CENIC currently manages 33 WAN optical circuits connecting associates to CalREN over dark fiber
- While optical networking is a critical component of CalREN, it is typically a lower priority for CENIC Associates
- Many associates do not have engineers with optical experience on-staff
- CENIC is now able to offer a metro optical solution, in which CENIC manages an associate's non-CalREN connecting optical network
- This design is an optional addition to WAN optical solutions
- At this time, CENIC is only able to offer metro optical services using CENIC approved hardware and software

Metro Optical Example

- Three 400G trunk circuits over dark fiber (ranging from 15-85km)
- CENIC manages the optical hardware, while the Associate manages the directly connected switches
- 2x100G client handoffs provisioned initially
- Ability to grow up to 3x400G per span (12x100G clients per optical device)





CENIC AIR

CENIC AIR is the CENIC-connected part of the [National Research Platform \(nrp.ai\)](https://nrp.ai) providing California's R&E communities a means for faculty and students to develop and refine topical AI curricula, contribute to the transformations promised by these new technologies and, collaborate extensively with colleagues nationwide over the NRP infrastructure.

It adds CENIC's network planning, engineering, and operations activities toward expanding AI resources to instructional as well as research-focused campuses.

It also adds CENIC Communications: Telling the CENIC AIR story across media channels to reach, educate, and inform multiple audiences.

“The most powerful and heavily used section of the National Research Platform (NRP)”

References:

[CENIC AIR](#)

<https://cenic.org/news/learn-what-cenic-and-our-members-accomplished-together-in-the-cenic-2022-24-community-report>

CENIC AIR consists of high-performance compute and storage infrastructure voluntarily contributed to by members of the CENIC community.

Hosted Compute Resources by Site				
The following institutions host listed compute resources for the use of all CENIC AIR participants.				
	CPU	GPU		
Cal Poly Humboldt	88	8	Sacramento State	28 8
Sunnyvale (CENIC)	191	0	UC Merced	84 14
Sunnyvale (Internet 2)	72	1	UC Riverside	216 20
UC Santa Cruz	433	27	CSU San Bernardino	196 16
Stanford U	28	0	LAX (CENIC)	48 0
CSU Monterey Bay	28	0	CSU Fullerton	572 70
UC Santa Barbara	60	17	U Southern California	12 0
UC Los Angeles	72	0	San Diego CCD	24 8
Caltech	72	0	San Diego State U	1944 172
UC Irvine	96	14	UC San Diego	7656 547
CSU Chico	28	15		





Hosted Compute Resources by Site



The following institutions host listed compute resources for the use of all CENIC AIR participants.

	CPU	GPU		CPU	GPU
● Cal Poly Humboldt	88	8	● Sacramento State	28	8
● Sunnyvale (CENIC)	191	0	● UC Merced	84	14
● Sunnyvale (Internet 2)	72	1	● UC Riverside	216	20
● UC Santa Cruz	433	27	● CSU San Bernardino	196	16
◆ Stanford U	28	0	LAX (CENIC)	48	0
● CSU Monterey Bay	28	0	● CSU Fullerton	572	70
● UC Santa Barbara	60	17	● U Southern California	12	0
● UC Los Angeles	72	0	● San Diego CCD	24	8
◆ Caltech	72	0	● San Diego State U	1944	172
● UC Irvine	96	14	● UC San Diego	7656	547
● CSU Chico	28	15			



CENICAIR

CENIC ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESOURCE

● California State Universities	23
● The University of California	10
● California Community Colleges	116
◆ Independent Universities	4
▬ CENIC AIR Network Path	
☁ Hosted Capacity and Capabilities	
• CPU Cores	11,948
• GPUs	937
• TB Storage & growing!	4561

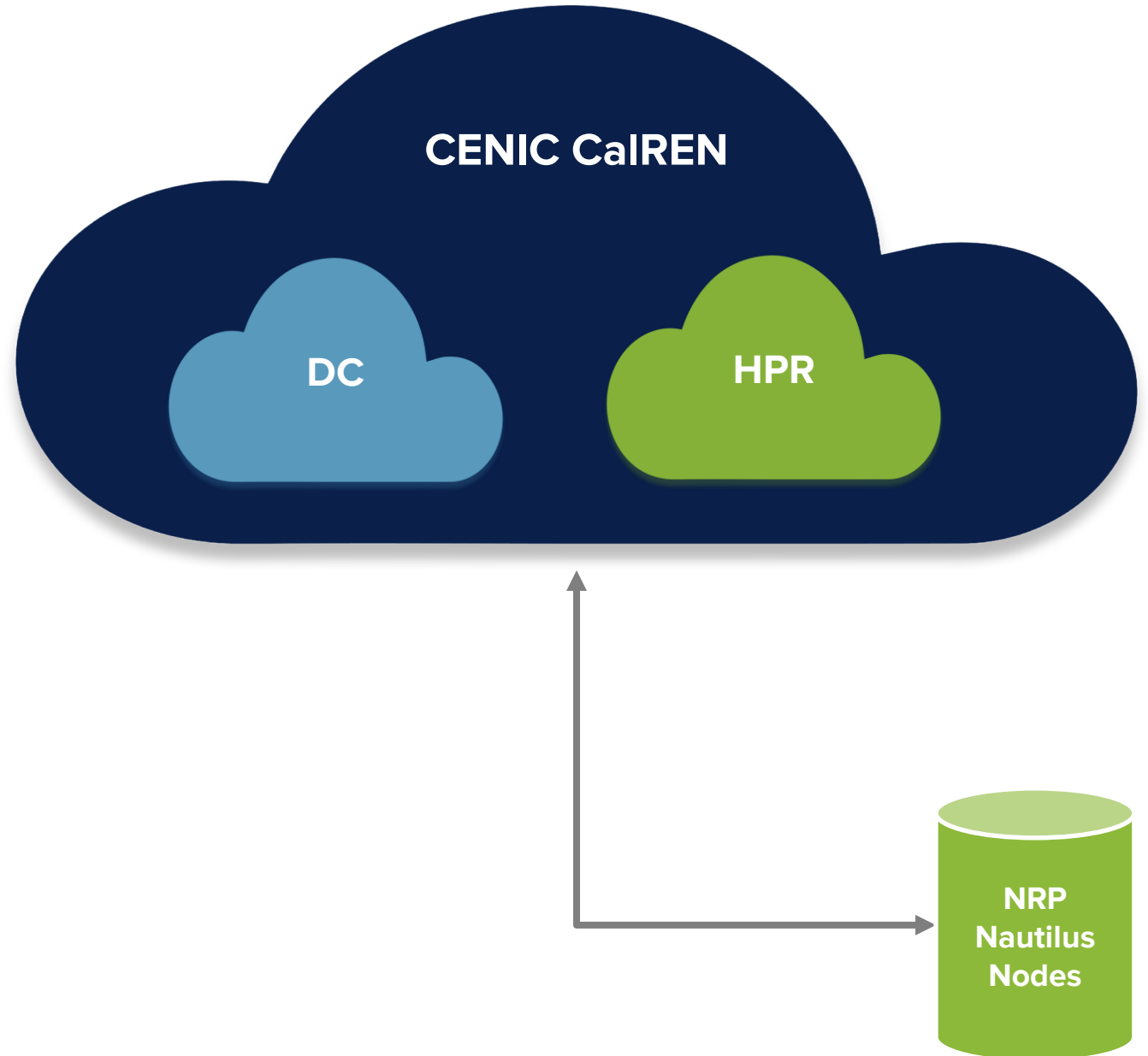
The Majority of *Nautilus* GPUs Reside in the CENIC AI Resource (CENIC AIR): Hosted by and Available to CENIC Associates



NRP Nautilus

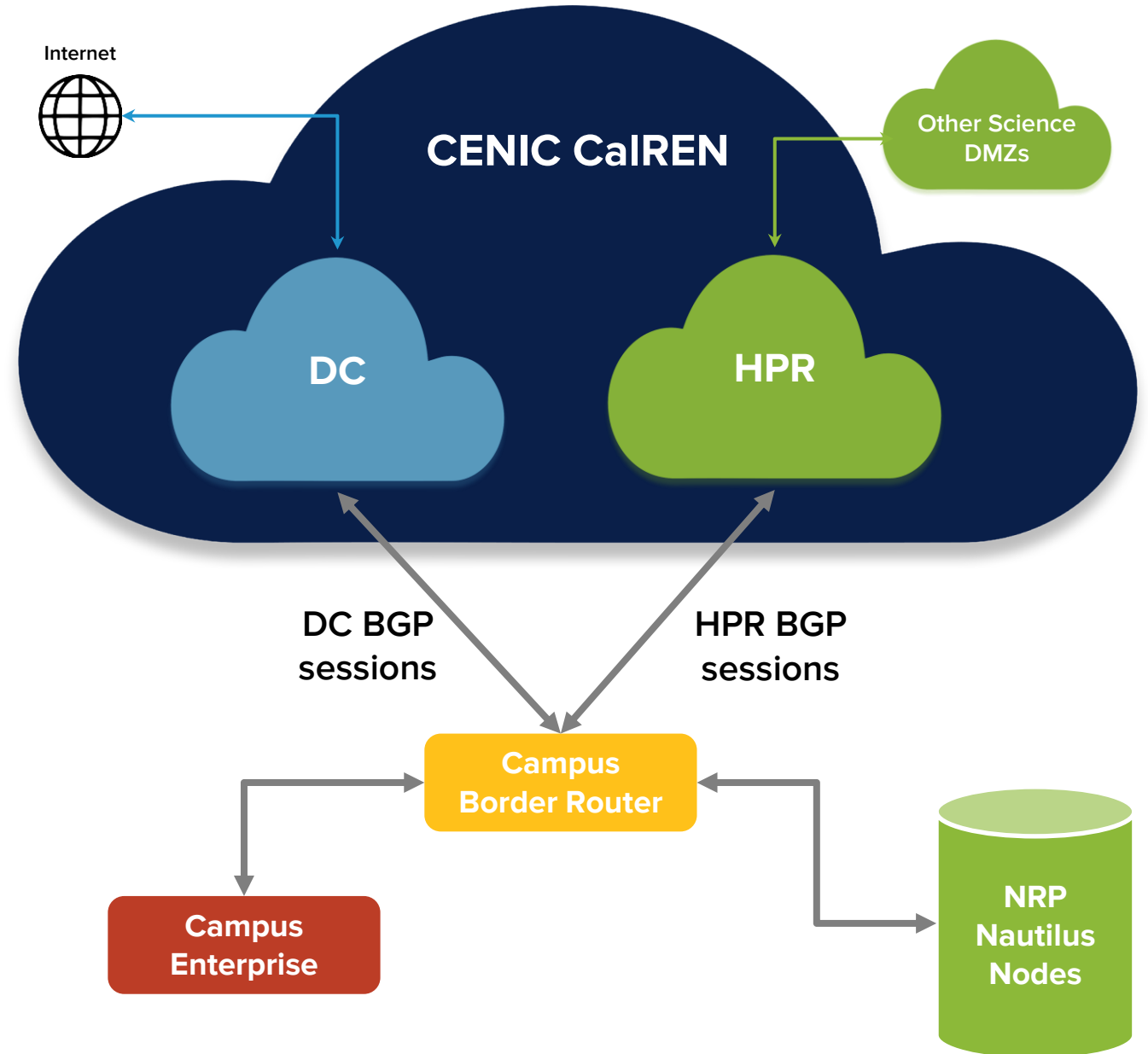
What resources do Nautilus nodes need?

- CaIREN DC (Digital California)
 - Internet access
 - OS and software updates
 - DNS/NTP/etc.
 - Standard MTU (1500 bytes)
- CaIREN HPR (High Performance Research)
 - Nautilus infrastructure and other nodes
 - Jumbo MTU (9000 bytes)
- ***DC and HPR are separate networks with separate routing tables.***



Science DMZ Design Options - Traditional Model

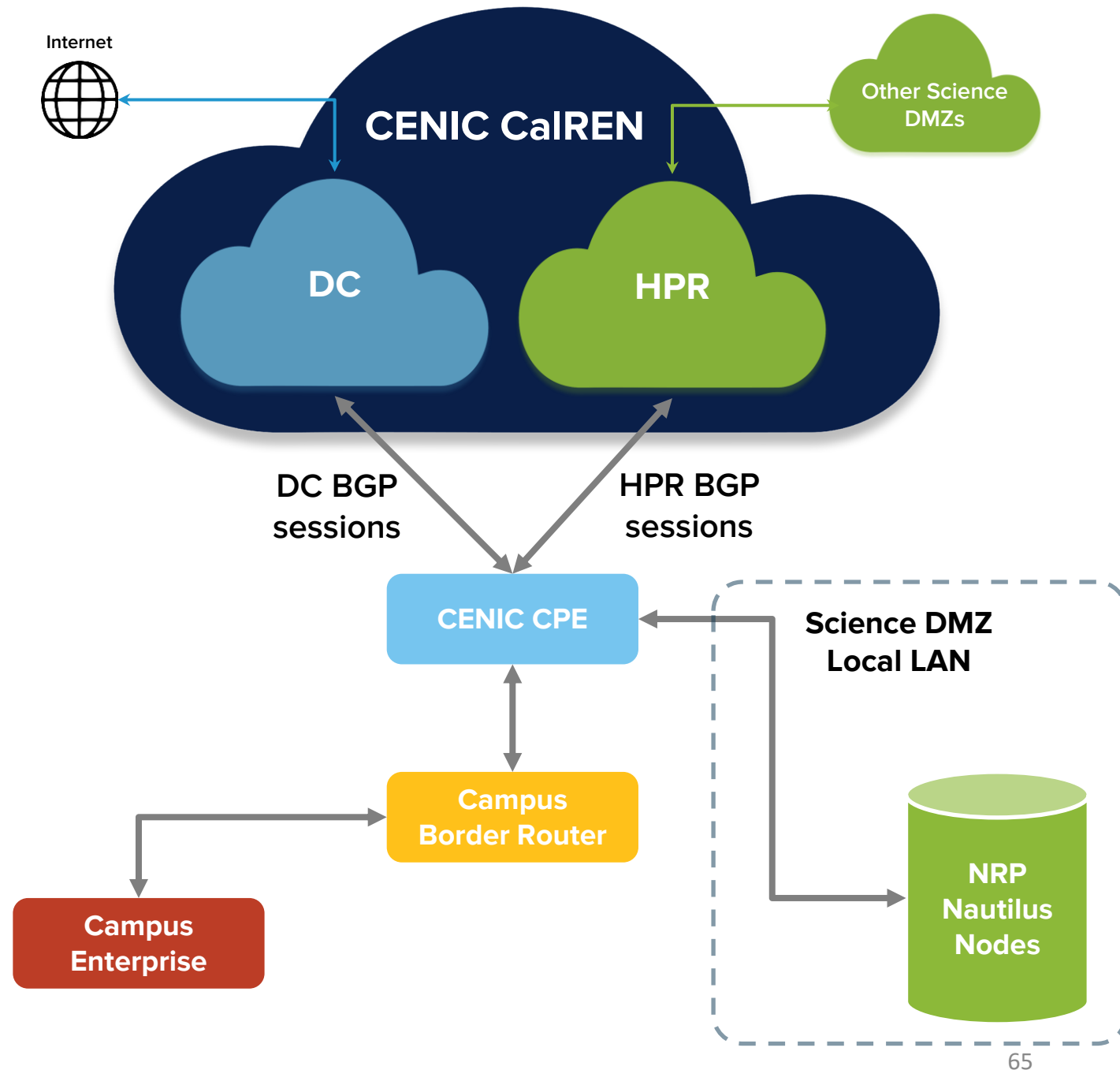
- Campus maintains separate BGP sessions for DC and HPR
- Science DMZ routing for Nautilus is the campus's responsibility.
- Many campuses still use and prefer this model:
 - Fine-tuned control over routing policy, bandwidth/QoS, and firewall rules.
 - No CENIC involvement needed in Science DMZ config.
- May be complicated to set up from scratch and requires campus network staff to be confident in BGP knowledge.



Science DMZ Design Options

CENIC-managed routing

- CENIC now offers a dedicated Science DMZ handoff option.
- CENIC handles the routing internally.
- Handoff from the CPE is simply a local LAN for the Science DMZ with a static default gateway.
- No BGP configuration needed.





2x800G Backbone Final NGL Phase

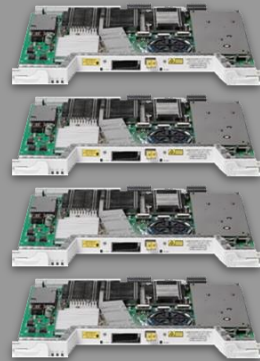
NGI Optical - Overview

Legacy Optical Platform



NCS2006 Shelf

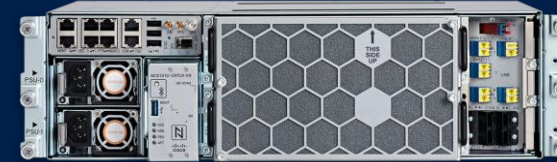
+



4x 100G Transponder



NCS1010 Next-Gen Line System



CISCO NCS1010 ROADM Node

+



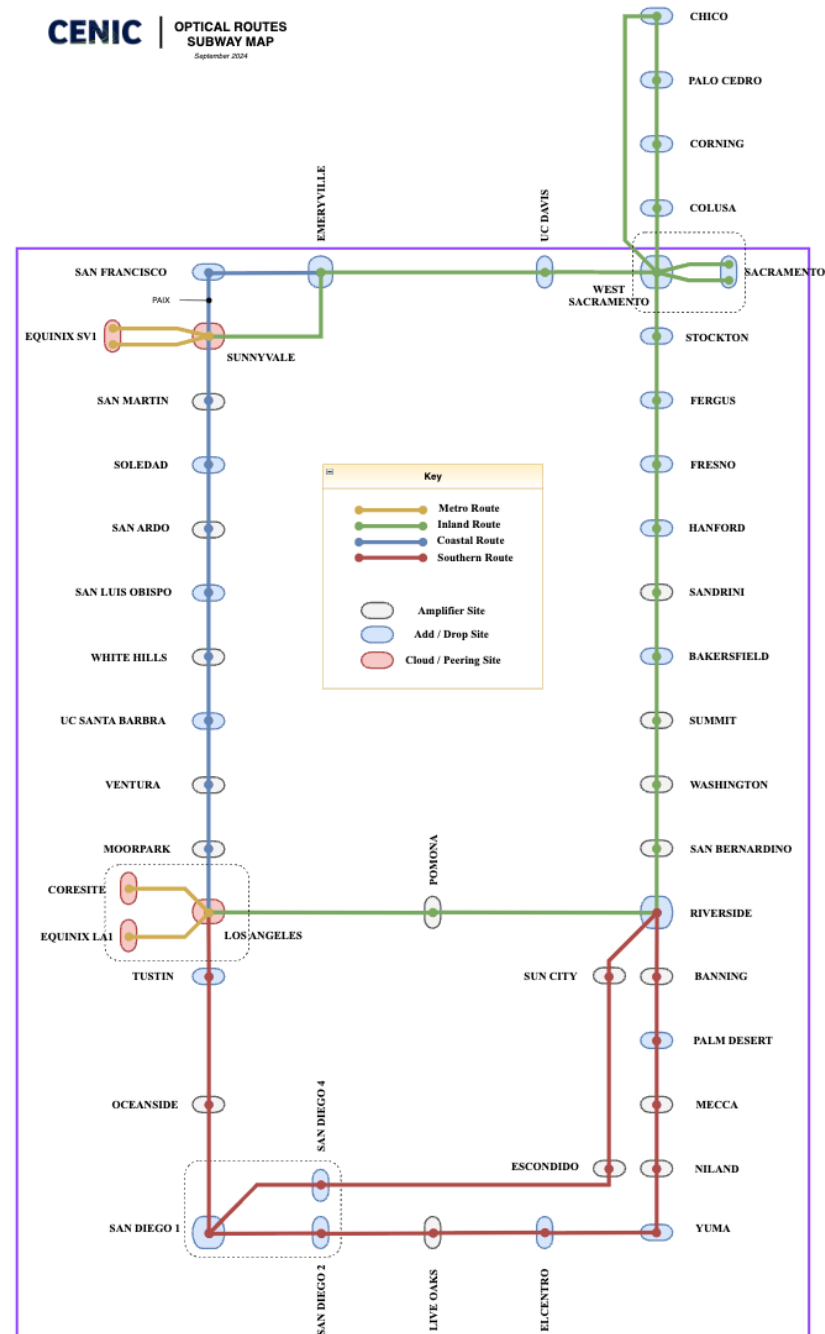
400ZRP Coherent Optics

Refresh all legacy optical platforms with the NCS1010 next-gen line system

- Improvement of 400G and 800G member optical service deployments
- Estimated reductions of **54%** and **77%** for colocation space and power
- Estimated Cisco maintenance spend reduction of **60%**
- Increase operational visibility and capability, reducing mean time-to-repair (MTTR)
- Total fiber capacity of **51.2 Tbps**, or **64** 800G optical services

NGI Optical Project Plan

- Foundation of all CENIC services
 - Methodical planning required to mitigate risks
- Initially projected to require **four** years to complete
 - **26** Add/Drop sites
 - **63** fiber paths total
 - **17** Amplifier sites
 - **236** backbone & member optical services
- First year nearing completion



NGI Optical Initial 4-Year Roadmap



Coastal Route

- 7 Add/Drop & 5 Amplifier sites
- 50+ Optical Services
- Projected Start: July 2024
- **Actual Start: July 2024**
- Projected End: June 2026

Inland Route

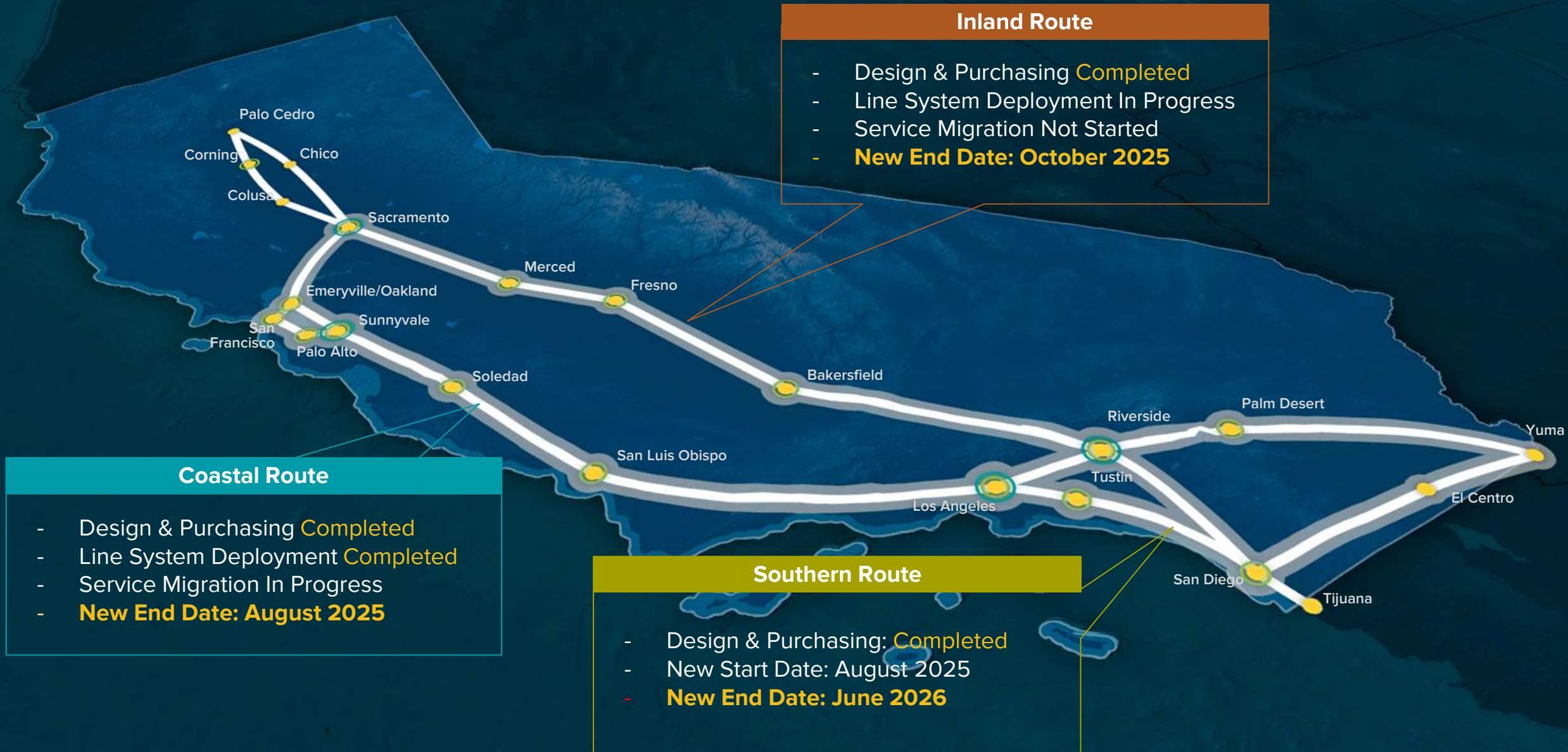
- 16 Add/Drop & 4 Amplifier sites
- 80+ Optical Services
- Projected Start: July 2025
- **Actual Start: January 2025**
- Projected End: June 2027

Southern Route

- 9 Add/Drop & 8 Amplifier sites
- 90+ Optical Services
- Projected Start: July 2026
- Projected End: June 2028



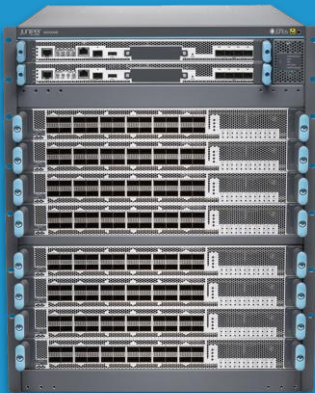
NGI Optical Roadmap Improvements



NGI Routers - Overview & Status

- Current 400G-Based Backbone Router: Juniper MX10008
 - Does not support 800G services today
- Next-Gen 800G-Based Backbone Router: **Juniper PTX10002**
 - Native 800G support
 - Distributed design offers greater flexibility and cost-effective upgrade cycles
 - Automation leveraged to offset the more complex topology

400G-Based Platform



Juniper MX10008

- Native 100G / 400G Support
- Modular Linecards and Routing Engines
- Monolithic Design

800G-Based Platform



Juniper PTX10002

- Native 100G / 400G / 800G Support
- Chassis-based System
- Distributed Design

NGI DWDM Solutions

- Two options
 - Transponder
 - DWDM optic
- Transponders
 - Higher **cost**, more **capable**
 - Best for longer fiber spans
- DWDM Optics
 - **Cost-effective**
 - Perfect for most of the CalREN fiber spans

OPTION 1 - Transponder

NCS1004 Transponder Shelf

400G+ Transponder



800G-capable Juniper
PTX10002

OPTION 2 - DWDM Optics

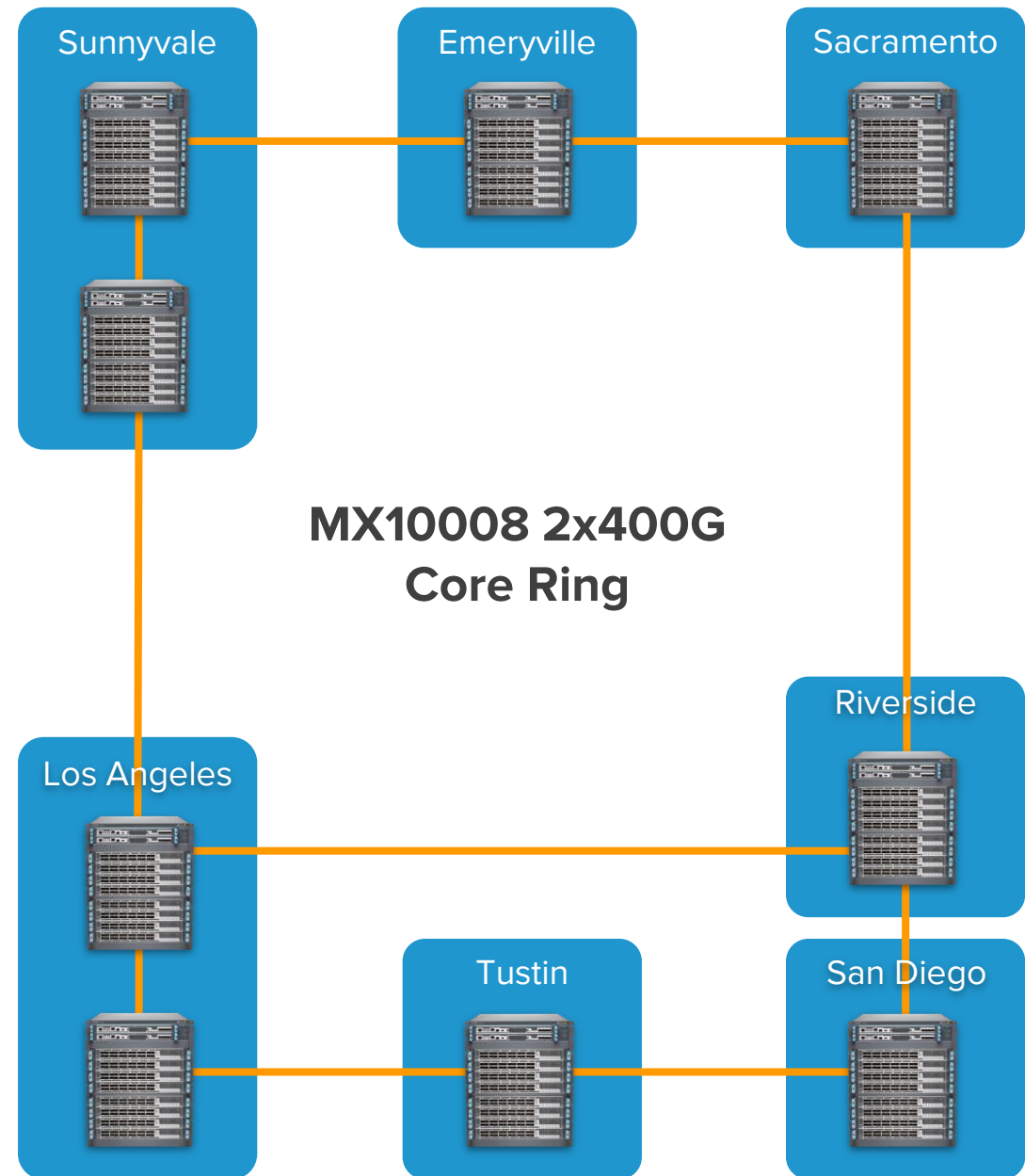


800G DWDM Optic

(No Transponder Shelf
Needed)

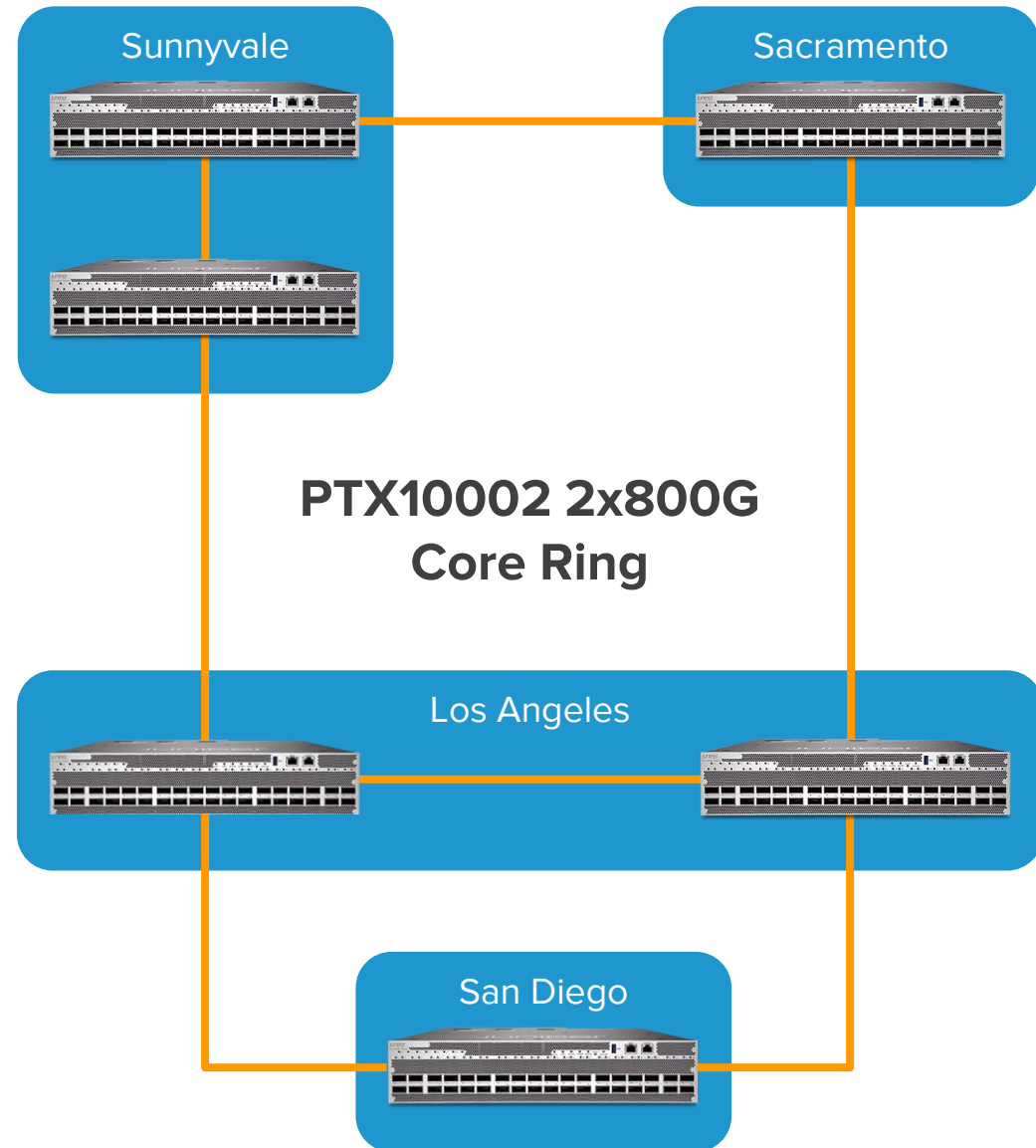
Current Backbone: 400G-Based

- All spans except two are at 2x400G today
- The remaining spans will be completed June 2025
- Current design uses MX10008 routers with 400G-based line cards



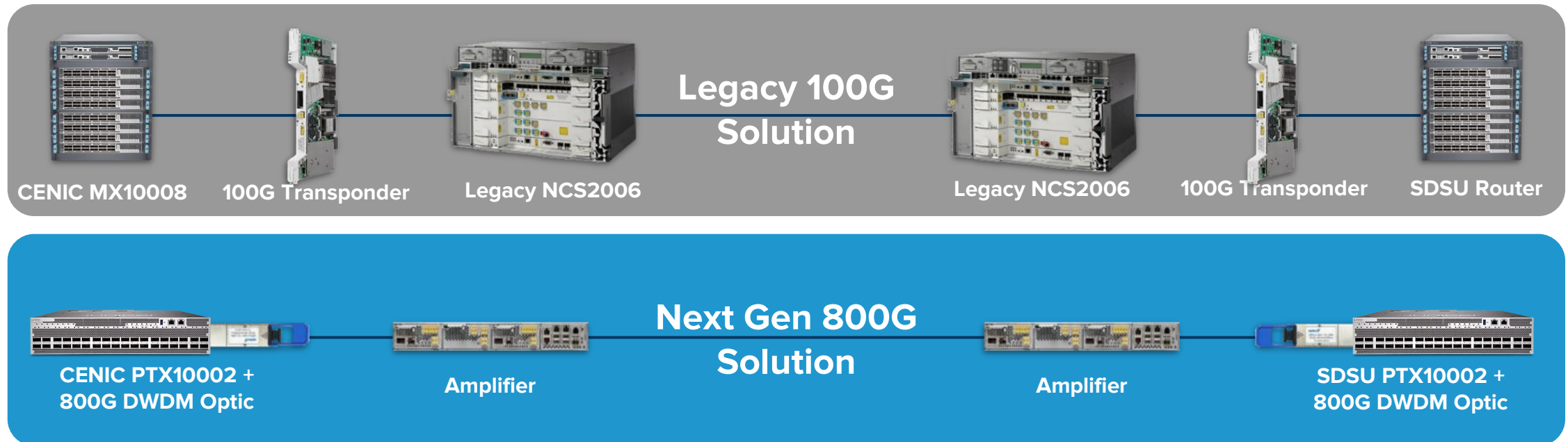
Future Backbone: 800G-Based

- Cost-optimized design
 - PTX10002 800G Routers
 - DWDM Optics
- Improved upgrade cycles
 - Faster adoption of newer speeds and technologies
- Initial 800G locations:
 - LA, Sunnyvale, Sacramento, and San Diego
 - Additional locations will be upgraded as demand requires
 - All other locations can still use 800G optical services



NGI 800G - Member Benefits

- Upgraded from 100G to 800G, **skipping 400G**, reducing lifecycle costs and **doubling** the capacity for similar costs as 400G
- The strategies, designs, and lessons learned through the NGI project made for a smooth transition to 800G for SDSU





Thank you!