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# State-run broadband network to get 10 times faster – Kasich

**Business First by Carrie Ghose, Staff reporter**

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The state will spend more than \$10 million on upgrades that will increase speeds ten-fold on a state-run broadband network used by universities, schools governments and private businesses, Ohio Gov. [John Kasich](#) announced in Tuesday's State of the State address.

The deal with **Cisco Systems Inc.** (NASDAQ: CSCO) and **Juniper Networks Inc.** (NYSE:JNPR) will open up more capacity on [OARnet](#), a more than 1,800-mile fiber optic cable web across the state, increasing speeds to 100 gigabits per second from the current 10 Gbps.

Last fall Hilliard-based GoldTech of Ohio LLC won a \$2 million contract [to improve connections between links of the network](#), helping make way for the new upgrade.

**OARnet**, short for Ohio Academic Resources Network, since 2003 has been acquiring fiber-optic cable that had been laid by telecommunications companies.

The deal includes \$8.1 million on hardware upgrades connecting Columbus and four other cities by June to the national Internet2 high-speed research network, and Athens and two other cities by October. Another \$2.3 million including private investment goes to establish a research center at **Ohio State University**.

Download a [fact sheet on the project here](#).

Carrie Ghose covers health care and medicine, higher education, technology and business services for Business First.