

VERNet company overview

Purpose

- VERNet Pty Ltd (VERNet) has been established to design, deploy and manage the Victorian Education and Research Network (VERN).
- VERN will be an advanced optic fibre infrastructure network deployed across metropolitan and regional Victoria.
- VERN will provide infrastructure to help meet the accelerating bandwidth needs of the Victorian tertiary education and research sectors for the next two decades and beyond.

Company structure

- Established in December 2004.
- Not-for-profit company with Board of Directors.
- Nine Victorian universities and CSIRO as shareholders.

Assets

- VERNet major assets will be optic fibre built or leased under long-term contracts, and associated electronic equipment.
- Network infrastructure is being rolled out from 2005 to early 2008.
- Some 120 key sites are being connected to the infrastructure.
- More than \$24M has been raised from or pledged by shareholders or government.
- Additional assets, in the form of optic fibre infrastructure and other assets are being secured under strategic alliances.

Customers and revenue

- The Victorian universities and CSIRO are VERNet's immediate customers.
- Access to the VERN infrastructure will be provided in return for annual fees and governed by an access agreement.
- Access to the network infrastructure by other research and education organisations is anticipated

Architecture and technical

- VERN is being designed with "thin" fibre (e.g. 2 fibre pairs) for regional routes and "thick" fibre (e.g. 120 fibre pairs) in more densely populated metropolitan and regional areas.
- The infrastructure will be deployed in "loops" wherever possible in order to promote network resilience.
- The infrastructure will be deployed near the boundary of designated customer institutions. VERNet's customers will then connect their site's local network to it.
- VERNet will be providing optical transmission services ("passive" network). "Active" network functions will be undertaken by its customers.