

MEDIA RELEASE

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Super fast research-only network announced

A new high speed network for New Zealand universities and research organisations, known as KAREN, which was launched today, has been described as a “bullet train for ideas”.

Donald Clark, Chief Executive of REANNZ (Research and Education Advanced Network of New Zealand), the organisation established to operate KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network), said the network will allow incredibly high amounts of data to be exchanged quickly and easily.

“The network is like a bullet train for ideas. It will carry incredible amounts of information at 10 Gigabits a second between researchers within New Zealand, and, to the outside world.

“The research-dedicated network will enable a new breed of collaborative work between New Zealand institutions and those overseas, on research projects requiring processing and sharing huge amounts of computer data.”

The launch of KAREN is the culmination of extensive work and commitment by Ministry of Research Science and Technology (MORST), other government departments, Next Generation Internet NZ (NGI-NZ) and the 18 members comprised of Crown Research Institutes, Universities, and the National Library.

“We are very excited about continuing with the development of KAREN and the opportunities presented by its use. Following the launch our priority will be building the KAREN community. We need to assist researchers and educators to exploit fully the network’s capabilities.” Donald Clark says.

The KAREN network is a \$43m government investment carrying data 200,000 times faster than dial up internet and 10,000 times faster than a household broadband connection. Nationally REANNZ has leased a wavelength of light from TelstraClear to carry data traffic between dedicated KAREN switches and routers in each region. Internationally, REANNZ uses capacity from Verizon Business.

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