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Lambda Rail up and running

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While the highest-speed broadband networks have usually been reserved for non-commercial uses, with the new lambda network, Florida universities have allowed businesses to play, too.

Monday marks the [Florida Lambda Network](#) achieving full operation. The network is eventually to connect to the National Lambda Rail network, one of the country's fastest connecting major research universities.

For now, 10 South Florida universities are now able to swap data on genes, subatomic particles and everything else at nearly instantaneous speeds.

"FLR and the NLR allows university researchers and businesses in Broward, for the first time ever, to have secure global technology transfer with institutions of higher education and entrepreneurial business partners by tying their technology into our network," said George Hanbury, executive vice president for administration at [Nova Southeastern University](#).

Hanbury said businesses' ability to tie in with research at the university level is important in developing new technologies. Businesses needing to do research can take advantage of the network through partnerships with participating institutions - even if they are on the other side of the state.

"This new capability fundamentally eliminates the issue of 'place' for collaboration by faculty," said Larry Conrad, chairman of the [Florida Lambda Rail Board](#) and associate vice president and chief information officer at [Florida State University](#).

The network relies on 1,500 miles of existing fiber optic cables that were not yet in use. The FLR has space for a total of 32, 10-gigabit networks - those that can transport data at more than 10 gigabits per second.

Overall, this capacity represents 100 times more than what was previously available to universities.

The network has been under development for more than two years. Similar regional optical networks are underway or completed in California, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, New York and other states. But the FLR is the only one fully created, funded and controlled by a group of universities.

Member universities include: Nova Southeastern University, [Florida Atlantic University](#), [Florida International University](#) and the [University of Miami](#), all in South Florida, as well as the [Florida Institute of Technology](#), Florida State University, the [University of Central Florida](#), [University of Florida](#), [University of West Florida](#) and [University of North Florida](#).

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