

# Gulf Wave A distributed NREN Exchange for the Gulf



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### **Global NREN TelePresence Community**



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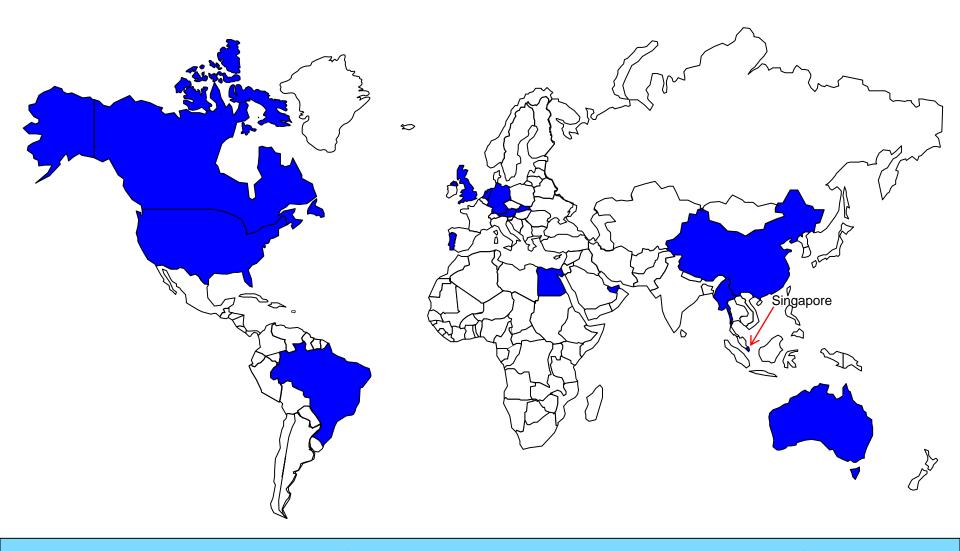
University of Michigan

University of Missouri University of South Carolina University of South Florida University of Southern California (USC) University of Texas Central Queensland University (Australia) niversity of Economics (Austria) Candido Mendes (Brazil) he North (Canada) Waag Society (Nether NATO C3 Agency (Netherla) Stenden University (Netherlands) Museu do Design e da Moda (Portug National University Singapore (Singapore) Technical University of Kosice (Slovakia) Slovak University of Technology (Slovakia) Thailand-Uninet (Thai NREN) American University of Dubai (UAE) University of Warwick (United Kingdom)

#### Connectivity to 1000+ TelePresence rooms at Cisco via TATA and AT&T

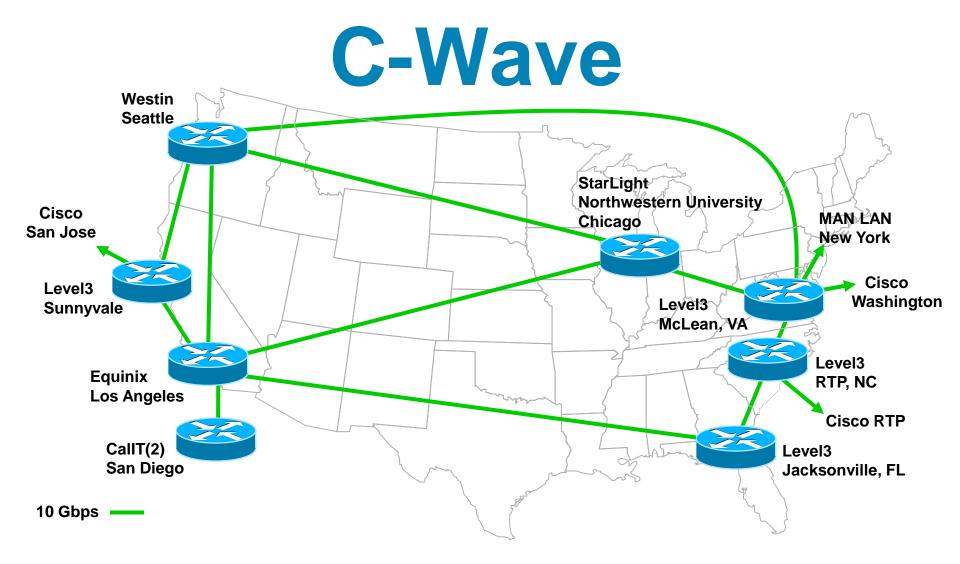
- + TATA TelePresence Customers & Public Rooms
- + some connectivity to AT&T Customers & Public Rooms

### TelePresence in Education



> 200 TelePresence Systems at Universities in 16 Countries

#### Cisco's NREN

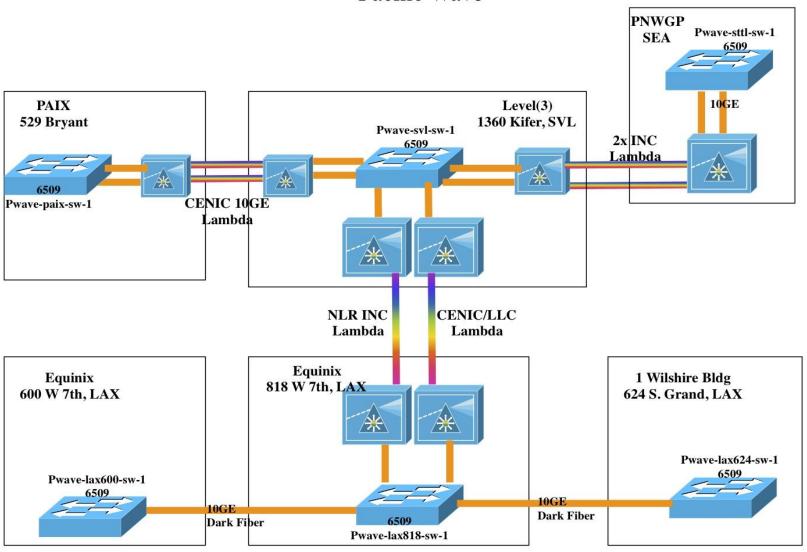


Cisco has its own Research Network!

#### **Distributed NREN Exchanges**

- NREN Exchanges follow two models:
  - Exchanges at a Point: MAN LAN (New York); STAR LIGHT (Chicago); NetherLight (Amsterdam); AMPATH (Miami)
  - Distributed Exchanges: Pacific Wave (US West Coast); Atlantic Wave (US East Coast)
- Historically the motivations behind exchange model choices have come down critical mass, which is heavily influenced by submarine cable landing points, and politics.
- Distributed Exchanges are a good fit in some situations because they allow NRENs which may not have a critical mass of either Research & Education (R&E) Institutions or submarine cable landing points to band together to create that mass.
- The motivation/business case behind building Pacific Wave was to create enough critical mass to make it a "Destination" NREN Exchange.
- NRENs throughout Asia Pacific know that landing in either Los Angeles; San Francisco; or Seattle gets them free VLAN transit to any other point and to US and other International NRENs.
- More direct connectivity among US West Coast R&E Institutions are a benefit of Pacific Wave but were not a motivation for creating the exchange.
- Pacific Wave has been a great success. It is now a destination landing point for Asian NRENs and has been a catalyst in enabling/driving collaboration between US and Asian R&E Institutions.

#### Pacific Wave





#### **New Universities Persian Gulf**

- Persian Gulf Countries are aggressively trying to diversify their economies and are building many new universities as part of that effort
- UAE: NYU Abu Dhabi
- Qatar: University Branch Campuses from: USA (6 Universities), Canada, United Kingdom; France
- Saudi Arabia: 23 New Universities being built

including KAUST



#### NRENs and Higher Education in Persian Gulf

- There are NRENs up and running in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar
- NRENs are being build in Saudi Arabia and Oman
- NRENs are being considered in Bahrain and Kuwait
- But there are no NREN Exchanges in the region!

NRENs and NREN Exchanges are as much about building collaborative research and education communities, which share resources, as they are about providing bandwidth and connectivity.



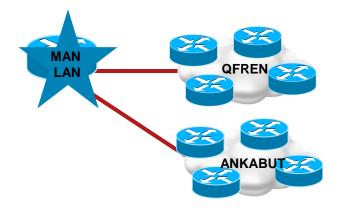
#### A Distributed Exchange for the Gulf

- Currently NRENs and individual universities in the Gulf are running their own circuits to Amsterdam, New York and Los Angeles with no cost sharing from the US or Europe and no savings from multi-customer bulk bandwidth pricing.
- A Distributed NREN Exchange in the Gulf would create a "Destination" Exchange that NRENs in the US and Europe might be willing to cost share to get to.
- Gulf NRENs could form purchasing alliances to get group pricing for circuits they could still purchase separately.
- ISPs connecting to an exchange in the Gulf might offer discounted rates and a distributed exchange has the potential to create a regional ISP market that would be more competitive than existing national markets.
- If Gulf Wave grows large enough it might attract transit connectivity from NRENs in countries further East like India and Pakistan and may be able to provide an NREN path directly to NRENs in China and Japan for its members.

#### Gulf Wave (in 3 baby steps\*)

Eventually a Distributed Exchange requires dedicated bandwidth and equipment but it is possible to start taking baby steps toward building the Exchange and its collaborative research community

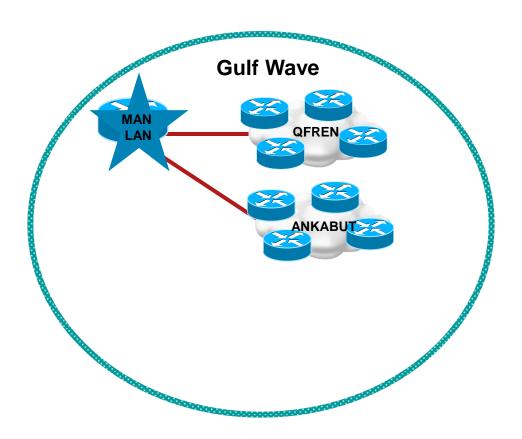
Today: QFREN and ANKABUT both connect to NYC but do not peer



<sup>\*</sup> Politics are some of the biggest challenge is building NREN Exchanges. One of the benefits of baby steps is that if you accidently step on someone toes it does not hurt that much and you can apologize and work on a course correction.

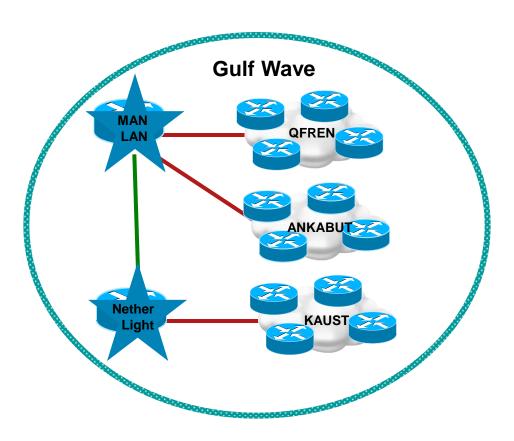
#### Gulf Wave (in 3 baby steps)

Step 1: QFREN and ANKABUT peer in NYC



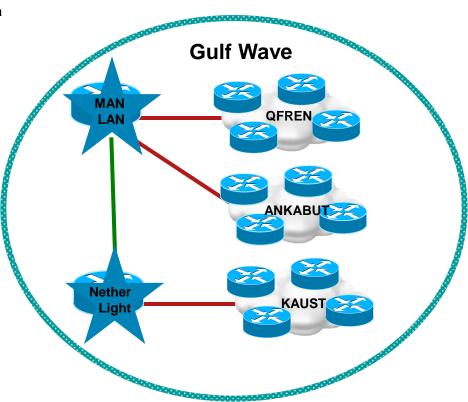
#### Gulf Wave (in 3 baby steps)

Step 2: QFREN and ANKABUT both peer with KAUST via GLORIAD



#### Gulf Wave (in 3 baby steps)

Step 3: Gulf Wave participants expand beyond peering to running jointly managed infrastructure to enable a VLAN service



## **GLIF**



**Global Lambda Integrated Facility** 

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**Global Lambda Integrated Facility** 

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