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Network Core

The CWDM arrives to the enterprise

Less expensive that the DWDM, the CWDM targets the large accounts, more so since the new generation of equipment manages up to 16 wavelengths.

After stagnation period during 2002-2003, the worldwide market of the xWDM equipment is expected to start growing again in 2004, to reach 634 millions of dollars in 2006…

The new thing is that the latest xWDM equipment have started to invade the metro networks when before, they were used mainly by operators of long distance networks…

The CWDM seems to be the best positioned WDM technology to seduce the enterprise market because it is less expensive than the DWDM by about 25%….

Most of the CWDM suppliers, such as Cisco, Atrica, Riverstone or Extreme have CWDM products that can multiplex only up to 4 or 8 wavelengths…

However, some manufacturers such as MRV (and LuxN) have products capable of multiplexing up to 16 lambdas (wavelengths)…

MRV’s LambdaDriver 1600 is based on Luminent’s components and we have an edge over other companies, Luminent being the only company to produce 16 lambdas components and being our sister company…

Patrick Choukroun, MRV’s Southern Europe manager, explains that 2 thirds of banks and insurances companies are already issued projects in this domain. This is why the LambdaDriver line, recently launched in France, includes 4 ESCON ports and/or 2Gigabit Ethernet ports and/or 2 Fibre Channel ports on each CWDM wavelength.

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CWDM versus DWDM

	No. of protected lambdas	Space between wavelength	Necessary cooling	Applications
DWDM	32	100-200 GHz	Yes	Necessary bandwidth superior to 16 lambdas or distance superior to 80 km
CWDM	16	2,500 GHz	No	Necessary bandwidth superior to 16 lambdas or distance superior to 80 km