

Lexent Metro Connect Corporate Timeline

- **1946** Hugh O’Kane establishes Hugh O’Kane Electric Co., Inc. as an electrical company specializing in services to the graphic arts and printing industries.

- **1973** Hugh O’Kane Sr.’s eldest son, Hugh Jr., joins Hugh O’Kane Electric.
- **1976** Brothers Kevin and Denis join Hugh Jr. as second generation electrical contractors. Together, the O’Kane brothers work to shift focus of the business from graphic arts and printing industries to the commercial Electrical Contracting market.

- **1985** Hugh O’Kane Electric is awarded first contracts with Teleport Communications Group (currently AT&T Local Services) to install underground fiber throughout New York City. TCG contract commences 25 years of continuous construction and maintenance of fiber networks in NYC.
- **1986** Hugh O’Kane Electric is awarded contracts with Metropolitan Fiber Systems (MFS) to install fiber-optic networks in New York City.

- **1993** First World Trade Center bombing. Hugh O’Kane Electric is awarded contract to rebuild damaged fiber-optic network and facilities.
- **1996** Congress passes the Telecommunications Deregulation Act. First major overhaul of the industry in over 60 years. The Deregulation Act creates an opportunity for new communications businesses to compete with established phone companies in all markets.

The O’Kane brothers establish a fiber network design-engineering firm, National Network Technologies, as an offshoot of their electrical contracting company to meet the needs of existing customers.
- **1999** Lexent Inc. is established as the parent company of Hugh O’Kane Electric and National Network Technologies. Lexent provides services to 74 telecommunications companies (more than double the 26 serviced in 1998).

- **2000** Lexent Inc. is awarded contract with Level 3 Communications to build a northeast regional fiber-optic network to connect to a national fiber network.
- **2001** In response to the September 11th World Trade Center terrorists attacks, Hugh O’Kane Electric and National Network Technologies partner to provide immediate emergency support to AT&T and others, as well as 24-hour electric and fiber maintenance support to New York City Police and Fire Department rescue operations.
- **2002** In March, Lexent Metro Connect LLC is formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Lexent Inc. In August, Lexent Metro Connect is awarded the NYC High Capacity Telecommunications Franchise giving Lexent Metro Connect the non-exclusive right to construct, operate and maintain local high capacity telecommunications networks and services in the New York City metro market.
- **2003** In May, Lexent Inc. enters a 20-year agreement with NYSErNet to lease dark fiber installed throughout NYC as a way to connect to various educational and research institutions through New York City.

By the end of the year, the first phase of Lexent Metro Connect Dark Fiber Network is complete and running in New York City.
- **2006** Lexent Metro Connect builds the first dark fiber Hudson River Crossing through a non-commuter tunnel. This river crossing offers a new option for NY/NJ route diversity and is a direct response to Wall Street’s requests for more secure telecommunications routes between New York and New Jersey.
- **2007** Lexent Metro Connect is awarded contracts by two of the largest US wireless carriers to build the world’s largest Wireless/Cellular Distributed Antenna System.
- **2008** In March, Lexent Metro Connect is awarded a New York Mobile Franchise, giving access to install telecommunications equipment and facilities on City street light poles, traffic lights, and highway sign supports as well as the ability to sell access to the system to other companies interested in using the wireless service and equipment.

In June, Lexent Metro Connect begins development of an East River Crossing to supplement its Hudson River Crossing and NYC fiber network backbone.