

Byte Size Theater Schedule



Monday			
8:00 PM	Not All Transceivers Are Equal: Make the Choice That Pays Off	Tom Hurley	Not all transceivers are created equal—and where you buy them could be the smartest or costliest decision you make. This session highlights how these choices impact network performance, warranty compliance, and total cost of ownership.
8:30 PM	Flat Top vs. Finned: How to Find Your Way in the Transceiver Jungle	Ray Hagen	From flat tops to fins and everything in between—if transceiver form factors feel like a jungle, this session hands you the map. This session demystifies the evolving world of transceiver form factors, helping you navigate the shift toward next-generation optics. We'll break down what terms like "flat top" vs. "finned" really mean, and how these physical designs impact thermal performance and deployment decisions. You'll also learn how parallel series optics are reshaping network architecture and what that means for your future planning.
Tuesday			
11:00 AM	Decision Points: AOC or Transceiver	Ray Hagen	When every port counts and every meter matters, the choice between AOCs and transceivers isn't just technical—it's strategic. This session will compare performance, cost, flexibility, and operational tradeoffs to help guide optimal infrastructure decisions. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for selecting the right solution based on application needs, scalability, and total cost of ownership.
12:00 PM	Not All Transceivers Are Equal: Make the Choice That Pays Off	Tom Hurley	Not all transceivers are created equal—and where you buy them could be the smartest or costliest decision you make. This session highlights how these choices impact network performance, warranty compliance, and total cost of ownership.
1:00 PM	Strategies to Reduce Power Consumption	Ray Hagen	In AI networks, power isn't just a cost—it's a constraint on scale. This session explores how emerging optical transceiver technologies like LPO (linear pluggable optics) and TRO/LRO (transmit/linear receive optics) help reduce power consumption in high-performance environments. Attendees will learn about the tradeoffs between LPO, LRO/TRO, and traditional re-timed (DSP-based) transceivers to make informed decisions for energy-efficient infrastructure.
3:00 PM	Optical Strategies for Ultra-Low Latency Networks	Rick Mitchell	This session dives into the specialized world of ultra-low latency optical networks, where every nanosecond counts—especially for high-frequency trading and other time-sensitive applications. We'll explore how to minimize latency through smart optical design choices while also reducing power consumption. Attendees will gain insights into the tradeoffs and technologies that enable lightning-fast, energy-efficient connectivity.
5:00 PM	Simplifying Multi-Vendor Networks	Ray Hagen	When your network speaks multiple vendor languages, multi-coded cables and optics are the universal translator you didn't know you needed. This session explores how multi-coded cables and optics can streamline operations in multi-vendor environments by ensuring seamless interoperability. Attendees will learn how these solutions reduce complexity, minimize inventory requirements, and improve network agility. The session offers practical strategies for simplifying procurement and deployment without sacrificing performance or vendor flexibility.

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Wednesday			
11:00 AM	Lessons Learned from Large AI Clusters	Ray Hagen	Building AI clusters at scale isn't just about GPUs—it's about getting everything else right, fast. This session shares real-world lessons from deploying large-scale AI infrastructure, focusing on the hidden challenges that can derail timelines and budgets. Key topics include pre-sale validation, strategies to reduce "standing army" costs, and optimizing the burn-in phase to accelerate time-to-revenue.
12:00 PM	Not All Transceivers Are Equal: Make the Choice That Pays Off	Tom Hurley	Not all transceivers are created equal—and where you buy them could be the smartest or costliest decision you make. This session highlights how these choices impact network performance, warranty compliance, and total cost of ownership.
1:00 PM	Crossing the Terabit Threshold: What 224G Lanes Mean for Your Network	Ray Hagen	As network speeds surge toward 1.6T and beyond, the rules of interoperability are being rewritten. This session explores the impact of rising per-lane data rates—like 224G—on system design, signal integrity, and cross-platform compatibility. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of the challenges and innovations shaping the next generation of high-speed optical networks.
3:00 PM	Harnessing Order: Why Cable Design Matters in High-Density AI Environments	Andrew Milburn	In AI racks, messy cables aren't just an eyesore—they're a deployment delay waiting to happen. This session highlights how purpose-built cable harness assemblies are ideal for AI rack elevations, streamlining in-cabinet organization. Attendees will learn how these assemblies reduce deployment time, lower costs, and improve airflow and serviceability in high-density environments.
5:00 PM	Stop Monitoring and Start Observing your Cluster	Ray Hagen	In AI-driven networks, surface-level monitoring won't cut it—observation is the new superpower. This session explores how the intense demands of AI workloads expose hidden stress points in hardware, especially optical transceivers. Attendees will learn how deep observability enables faster root cause analysis, better performance tuning, and more resilient infrastructure at scale.
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