



NEWS RELEASE

Lumen Recognized in Gartner® Report, AI Vendor Race: Lumen Is the Company to Beat in Enterprise WAN and Connectivity Services for AI

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DENVER--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Gartner® recognized **Lumen Technologies** (NYSE: LUMN) in its June 25, 2026, report, AI Vendor Race: Lumen Is the Company to Beat in Enterprise WAN and Connectivity Services for AI. The report states by combining Lumen's fiber footprint, dense metro infrastructure and edge capabilities with Alkira's cloud-native control plane, the company strengthens its ability to extend its leadership into enterprise AI WAN and connectivity services.

"AI is changing how businesses operate, and it's raising the bar for enterprise networking," said Jim Fowler, chief technology and product officer for Lumen. "With Alkira now part of Lumen, we are bringing together world-class network infrastructure and cloud networking innovation in a programmable platform that not only connects environments, but also simplifies the deployment of security, networking, and operational services from across the technology ecosystem. The result is a more automated, visible, and adaptable foundation for hybrid and multi-cloud operations."

Enterprise AI is redefining what networks must do. As organizations move AI from pilots into production, workloads are becoming more distributed across data centers, edge locations, and multiple clouds. That shift increases the need for low-latency data movement, workload-aware routing, embedded security, and consistent, SLA-backed performance. The AI connectivity market will not be defined by scale alone; it will be defined by providers that can deliver secure, programmable, end-to-end connectivity as an enterprise service.

The report states, "Lumen leads because it aligns most closely with how enterprise AI is actually deployed:

distributed, hybrid across compute environments and latency sensitive. Its advantage comes from integrating three elements that are typically fragmented, focusing on building a unified service platform rather than solely on underlying technology.”

According to the report:

- **Deterministic infrastructure control** — While many providers own fiber, Lumen differentiates through its ability to tightly engineer and control data center interconnect (DCI) and metro routing paths to deliver more predictable, deterministic latency at scale.
- **Programmable control plane integration** — By integrating a cloud-native networking control plane, Lumen will move beyond infrastructure into on-demand network provisioning, centralized policy and visibility, and control across enterprise, cloud and edge.
- **Unified enterprise service model**— Lumen will soon deliver networking as a cohesive enterprise service, combining WAN-to-edge-to-cloud connectivity, orchestration and automation, and SLA-driven performance.

These capabilities are already generating demand where AI workloads are most concentrated — including data center interconnect, hyperscaler connectivity, and high-capacity routes designed to move large volumes of data between enterprise, cloud, and edge environments. As of July 2026, Lumen has 17 million intercity fiber miles, with 58 million intercity fiber miles expected by the end of 2031. Lumen’s fiber backbone, metro reach, and cloud networking capabilities give customers a simple path to connect critical AI workloads with the performance, control, and security they require.

Lumen and Alkira help create a faster, simpler way to securely connect clouds, sites, partners, and AI workloads — expanding the technology ecosystem available through its platform, extending Lumen’s leadership into cloud networking, and strengthening its role as the trusted network for AI.

To learn more about how Lumen and Alkira are bringing cloud-native networking and automation to enterprise environments, visit **Lumen + Alkira cloud networking control-plane | Lumen Technologies**.

Source: Gartner, AI Vendor Race: Lumen Is the Company to Beat in Enterprise WAN and Connectivity Services for AI, Kameron Chao, Susan Welsh de Grimaldo, Karen Brown, 25 June 2026.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements contained in this press release that do not relate to matters of historical fact should be considered forward-looking statements, including statements regarding management's expectations with respect to our business, strategy, and operations as well as statements identified by words such as "estimates," "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "plans," "intends," "will," and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are not promises nor guarantees of future results, are based on our current expectations only, and are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including those described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as updated in our other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated by us in these statements due to several factors, including those referenced in our filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

About Lumen Technologies

Lumen is unleashing the world's AI potential. As the trusted network for AI, we ignite business growth by connecting people, data, and applications — quickly, securely, and effortlessly. Lumen's physical infrastructure, programmable network, and connected ecosystem give enterprises a simpler way to move data from virtually anywhere to anywhere in real-time to support their AI needs. Together, Lumen's owned fiber backbone and cloud-native control plane provide a differentiated platform for connecting, securing, and operating modern enterprise environments at global scale. From metro connectivity and long-haul data transport to cloud networking, security services, digital platform capabilities, and connectivity orchestration, Lumen meets customers' needs today and as they build for tomorrow. Lumen and Lumen Technologies are registered trademarks of Lumen Technologies, Inc. in the United States.

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