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DIG IT: Workers dig trenches and lay pipes for Velocity to lay cables in future.

PICTURE: Donna Paget

Net speeds moving at velocity

By **Chris Gardner**
Business editor

Net Value began saving thousands of dollars per month when it signed up with high-speed broadband offered through the partially complete Hamilton Urban Fibre Network.

Paul Willard, system administration team leader at Net Value in London St, said his business was saving at least \$4000 per month in internet charges and increased productivity since moving into the

CBD from Waikato Innovation Park at Ruakura earlier in the year. He said large files could be sent across the city as if they were in the same building, thanks to the new network, which is still under construction, and real-time business applications could run more effectively.

HUFN, a joint venture between Environment Waikato, Hamilton City Council, Waikato University and Velocity Networks Ltd, has already laid 12km of cables in the outlying

CBD and this week started working towards a further 1km in the inner CBD via Collingwood St, offering internet access through providers like WorldxChange, Kordia, Orcon, FX Networks and Lightwire.

The high-speed connection, capable of speeds of up to 1GB per second compared with the more conventional 7MB per second, allows Net Value to access data stored at its Ward St data centre much quicker.

Using conventional broadband Mr Willard said it would nor-

mally take 20 minutes to transfer a website from the server to a computer at his London St office, but that time had been axed to a minute or two using the fibre network.

"It's cheaper than the traditional internet service providers who offer a similar service," Mr Willard said.

Shane Hobson, business development manager at Velocity, said a further kilometre of cable was to be laid in Victoria St with completion due in late 2009.