The Cisco DWDM Xenpak is the first 10 GbE transceiver ever to support Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM). DWDM is an optical transmission technique to transmit on the same fiber strand multiple channels. DWDM Xenpak supports 32 different channels for transmissions up to 320 Gbps and about 200 km with the aid of optical amplifiers known as EDFAs.

What is really unique about the Cisco DWDM Xenpak is that it enables 10 GbE over DWDM without the need of dedicated external equipment known as transponder which operates the wavelength conversion from say 1310 nm to the DWDM channel. The sophisticated DWDM function is squeezed into a Xenpak module which is equivalent from a L2 and above perspective to any other Xenpak available on the Catalyst 6500, Cisco 7600 or CRS-1.

Why DWDM Optics?
Cisco metropolitan DWDM optical solution with Xenpaks and ONS products allows customers to deploy metropolitan applications with the ability to scale the bandwidth up to 320 Gbps. Users can begin a deployment with just one channel (no need for extra DWDM equipment) and gradually scale the bandwidth using the same pair of fiber. Cisco DWDM solution also allows to scale the reach of these networks well beyond any traditional optics up to over 200 km by means of optical amplifiers.