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**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS**

November 3, 2004

**CIRCULAR LETTER
(c-9952)**

**Subject: Equipment Health Management System (EHMS) 2005 Industry Project
TO MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS**

File Number: ATSI:EHMS

Implementation of the Equipment Health Management System (EHMS) industry system was announced in Circular Letter c-9907 dated August 26, 2004.

The EHMS was successfully implemented, as planned, at 12:01 AM on October 1, 2004. The system provides both daily e-mail and real-time Maintenance Advisory notifications of Wheel Impact Load Detector (WILD) alerts at four (4) different alert/severity levels. The system also allows the Early Warning System Maintenance Advisory alerts to be removed once a wheel repair is reported to the new central Car Repair History (CRH) reporting system, which was developed as part of the EHMS industry system implementation. Registration of car repair facilities/reporters is required to use the new EHMS system.

If you have not responded to the request for maintenance responsibility information contained in Circular Letter c-9907 or if you have not yet registered to use the EHMS system, please do so as soon as possible so you can participate in this important railroad industry initiative. If you have any questions regarding the EHMS system or registration requirements, please contact Railinc Customer Service at (800) 544-7245 or CSC@Railinc.com.

As many of you already know, the EHMS project is one of the most significant railroad industry initiatives undertaken in the last several years. The Advanced Technology Safety Initiative (ATSI) EHMS Industry Core Working Committee has been meeting over the last few months to define the business requirements for the 2005 EHMS industry project deliverables. We have completed the high level definition for the 2005 project and outlined the scope.

Since the 2005 deliverables for the project are extensive, the committee feels the project should be split into several components, with separate Focus Groups assigned to develop and refine the project details for each component. This strategy will make the definition of the various components easier, allow the project detail definition to be completed in a shorter time frame, and spread the component development over quarterly 2005 deliverables. This, in turn, will allow the significant EHMS project benefits to be realized as early as practical in 2005.

The RAILINC staff has assisted the ATSI Core Working Committee in formulating the 2005 project scope definition, the project component definition and recommendations for Focus group industry participation. The five Focus Groups are:

- 1) Car Owner Notification: Alarm Routing, Methods, Auto Response, Maintenance Advisory Numbering
- 2) Technology Sharing: Car Repair Billing & History Integration
- 3) Interchange Processing: RAMP-ED Interface, Dispositioning, Car Location, Alert & Interchange

Responses

- 4) Detector Calibration Data/Records
- 5) Data Warehousing: Decision Support

The plan is to start the Focus Group work this month. Starting the work of the various Focus Groups now will allow the project details to be completed for several of the components of the 2005 EHMS industry project and a RAILINC programming start early in 2005.

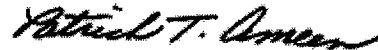
If you are interested in participating in one or more of the Focus Groups please contact one of the following individuals at Railinc:

terri.waldron@railinc.com
michael.gaeta@railinc.com
alan.mcdonald@railinc.com

If you are selected to participate on one of the EHMS Focus Groups, you can anticipate a 10% to 15% time commitment during the balance of 2004 and 1st quarter 2005 time frame. The majority of Focus Group work will be accomplished via conference calls and e-mail.

I thank you in advance for your continuing support in this important industry strategic initiative.

Sincerely,



Patrick T. Ameen

Executive Director