IHHA WCRR

2025 JOINT CONFERENCE | RAIL RESEARCH WEEK

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO USA | NOVEMBER 17-21, 2025

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2025 | IHHA WORKSHOP	
7:00am	**MORNING COFFEE, NETWORKING & REGISTRATION**
	Session 1 - Prepare Track/Infrastructure for Environmental Impacts
8:00am	**Welcome and Opening Comments by Session Moderator** **Dr Dingqing Li**, MxV Rail, USA
8:05am	**Overview of Environmental Impacts and Sustainability Related to Rail** **Prof Andrew Quinn**, University of Birmingham, UK
8:35am	**Track Requirements Supporting Railways 4.0** **Prof Hannes Gräbe**, University of Pretoria, South Africa
9:05am	**Track Support Repair and Reinforcement** **Prof Ted Sussmann**, University of Hartford, USA
9:35am	**COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**
10:00am	**Track Buckling Due to Extreme Heat and Prevention** **Dr Steve Wilk,** MxV Rail, USA
10:30am	**Track Maintenance Methods for Stronger and More Sustainable Track from Supplier's Perspective (rails)** **Chris Lidberg**, Loram, USA
11:00am	**Track Maintenance Methods for Stronger and More Sustainable Track from Supplier's Perspective (ballast and subgrade)** **Dr Fabian Hansmann**, Plasser & Theurer, Austria
11:30am	**Track Maintenance Methods for Stronger and More Sustainable Track from Railroad Perspective** **Antonio Merheb**, MRS Logistica, Brazil
12:00pm	**LUNCH & NETWORKING**
	Session 2 - Railroads Journey of Alternative Power and Changes in Train Handling
1:00pm	**Welcome and Opening Comments by Session Moderator** **Maureen Werner**, MxV Rail, USA
1:05pm	**Power/Alternative Energy** **Anelise Salzani**, MRS Logistica, Brazil
1:45pm	**Longer Trains, DP Units** **Wynard Botha**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa
2:25pm	**AAR Interchange, NA Railroad and Economics Update** **Association of American Railroads (AAR),** USA
3:05pm	**COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**
	Session 3 - Train Control at Various Countries
3:35pm	**Welcome and Opening Comments by Session Moderator** **Joe Brosseau**, MxV Rail, USA
3:40pm	**Australia Approach to Train Control and Automation in Heavy Haul Operations** **Leland LeBreton**, Rio Tinto, Australia
4:05pm	**United States approach to Train Control and Automation in Heavy Haul Operations** **Ed Tilley**, FTW Associates at Fossil Creek, USA
4:30pm	**South Africa Approach to Train Control and Automation in Heavy Haul Operations** *Stay tuned for further announcements*
4:55pm	**Brazil Approach to Train Control and Automation in Heavy Haul Operations** **Arnaldo Soares**, MRS Logistica, Brazil
5:20pm	**Panel Session on Train Control and Automation in Heavy Haul Operations** **All + Paulo Vieira**, PxV Rail Consulting, USA
5:40pm	**IHHA WORKSHOP CONCLUSION**
5:30pm-7:30pm	**WELCOME COCKTAIL FUNCTION** *Available to sponsor*

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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2025 | OPENING SESSION	
08:00am	**MORNING COFFEE & NETWORKING**
08:30am	**OPENING CEREMONY**
	Welcome Ceremony and Address **Kari Gonzales**, Chair, IHHA + President & CEO, MxV Rail, USA **Keynote** **Ian Jefferies,** President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Railroads (AAR), USA **The Innovation Pipeline: From Discovery to Deployment** Panelists: **Eric J. Gehringer**, Executive Vice President-Operations, Union Pacific, USA **John Orr**, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Norfolk Southern, USA **Marco Caposciutti**, CEO, Trenitalia, France **Dr Jasmin Bigdon**, CTO, Deutsche Bahn, Germany **Guilherme Mello,** CEO, MRS Logística, Brazil Moderator: **William Vantuono**, Editor-in-Chief, Railway Age, USA
10:00am	**COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION NETWORKING**
10:30am	**OPENING CEREMONY**
	Keynote **Alan Beroud,** Chairman, UIC Chairman **Tech on Track: Advancing Railway Safety Through Innovation** Panelists: **James Schwichtenberg,** Vice President and Chief Safety Officer, CSX, USA **James M Derwinski,** CEO/Executive Director, Metra, USA **Dr Fuminao Okumura**, Board Member, Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSB), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan **John R. Fleps,** Vice President & Chief Safety Officer, Norfolk Southern, USA Moderator: **Hon Ronald L Batory,** Director, Amtrak Board, USA **IHHA Heavy Haul Award**
11:50am	**LUNCH, EXHIBITION NETWORKING & IHHA ePOSTERS**
12:20pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**
	Low-cost Automated, Continuous Natural Vibration Structural Analysis using AI **Graham Sutherland**, Canetia, USA **Evaluation of the Structural Behavior of the Olifants River Viaduct** **Emilia Joyce Mupwedi**, University of Cape Town, South Africa **Structural assessment of Railway Viaducts: Challenges and Solutions for Concrete Expansive Reactions** **Carolina Lourenço Santiago**, MRS Logística, Brazil **Compressor Brake Wagon Innovation Advancing Offloading Efficiency and Safety** **Tebogo Mashego**, Transnet Engineering, South Africa

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	Climate Change Impact on Water Management in Heavy Haul Railways **Israel Machado Rodrigues**, Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME), Brazil **Luiz Antônio Silveira Lopes**, Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME), Brazil **Analysis of Human Factors Involved in Rail Accidents in China** **Shang Wu**, Tongji University, China **Empowering Engineers: The Role of Skills Development and Knowledge Continuity in Advancing Intelligent Heavy Haul Technology** **Kgashane Moila**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa **Paledi Bathabile Langa**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa **Leadership Style and Attributes Necessary for Efficient Rail Transportation Services** **Khuliso Emmanuel Mulaudzi**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa

IHHA PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	BRIDGES & TUNNELS	ROLLING STOCK/WHEELS AND AXLES	VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS	RAIL OPERATIONS	TRACK/RAILS
1:00PM	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Selva Karunakaran,** UP, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Gary Fry**, Fry Technical Services, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **John Deppen,** Amsted Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Darrien Welsby,** Monash University, Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Daoxing Chen,** Transportation Safety Board, Canada	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Greg Garcia**, Rocky Mountain Steel Mills, USA
1:05PM	**Structural Integrity of Compressed Hydrogen Gas Tanks in Rail Transportation** **Dr Chris Ladubec,** National Research Council, Canada	**Evaluation of Fatigue Load Models for Railway Bridges Using Axle Load Measurements in Europe** **Stefan Verdenius**, TNO, The Netherlands	**Understanding Hot Spot Formation In Tread Braked Wheels – The Role of Residual Stress** **Lily Tran,** Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Monash University, Australia	**Automatic Driving Curve Optimization Method of Heavy-Haul Train Based on Deep Reinforcement Learning** **Xianhong Meng,** Guoneng Shuohuang Railway Development Co, China	**Railway Operations** **Puseletso More**, Transnet SOC, South Africa	**High-hardness Pearlitic Steels: Experimental Study of Wear and Rolling Contact Fatigue Damage and Rail Performance on Actual Tracks** **Kenta Watari,** Nippon Steel, Japan
1:25PM	**Interoperable Energy Management Systems and Improvements in Operational Consistency** **Shad Pate**, MxV Rail, USA	**Member-Level Redundancy in a Riveted Steel Railroad Bridge Girder** **Christopher Johnson**, MxV Rail, USA	**Prevention of Locomotive Wheel-tread Polygonisation through Traction Control Unit Software Modification** **Ndamulelo Glen Mulaudzi,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Risk Management for Geometric Maintenance Machines Based on ISO 55000** **João Nogueira**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Evolution of North American Railroads' Head-of-Train and End-of-Train System** **Bivesh Paudyal**, MxV Rail, USA	**Development of Material Parameters for Prediction of Rail Fracture** **Hesam Mortazavi,** Zachary Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Texas A&M University **Dr Yong-Rak Kim,** Zachary Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Texas A&M University

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1:45PM	**Economic Viability of Hydrogen Fuel Cells in Brazilian Freight Railways: A Cost-Benefit Analysis** **Achila Mazini,** University of Birmingham, UK	**Tunnel Portal Front Slope Displacement Monitoring Based on Beidou Technology** **Dr Jinfei Chai,** Railway Engineering Research Institute, China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS), China	**Study and Analysis of the Mechanism of Strengthening and Toughening in Micro-alloyed Railway Freight Axles for Heavy Hau Applications** **Yi Wu**, China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation (CARS), China	**Fatigue Analysis of Railway Components in the Frequency Domain** **Bruno Mochiutti**, Rumo Logistíca, Brazi	**Strategy For 17,200-Ton Train: Addressing Operational and Maintenance Challenges** **Camila Moscibrocki**, Rumo Logistíca,, Brazil **Paula Giovanni Buba** Rumo Logistíca,, Brazil	**Ofoten Line In-Service Testing of Rail Grades R400HT and 400UHC XR In Small Radius Curves** **Svetlana** Lorentzen, The Norwegian Railway Agency, Bane NOR, Norway **Rainer Hochfellner**, voestalpine Rail Technology GmbH, Austria
2:05PM	**From Detection to Action: Locomotives Requesting Maintenance without Human Intervention** **Francisco Adilton de Oliveira**, MRS Logística, Brazil **Pedro Mageste,** MRS Logística, Brazil	**Comprehensive Maintenance Strategies for Overhead Track Equipment in the Overvaal Tunnel: Addressing Alignment, Tunnel Fittings, and Coal Dust Challenges** **Mpho Raymond Machethe,** Transnet, South Africa	**Advancement in Understanding Wheel Failures in North American Freight Railways: Following the Roadmap** **Dr Mohamad Ghodrati**, ENSCO, USA	**Measurement and Operational Considerations against Deficiencies in Curve Transitions** **Mark Montoya**, Unior Pacific Railroad, USA **Yi Wang**, Simon Fraser University, Canada	**Network Capacity and Operational Efficiency** **Vivek Mohan,** Centre for Railway Information Systems, Indian Railways, India	**Metallurgical Effects of Copper Deposition from Loose Bonding Cables on DC Traction Rails: Failure Mechanisms and Rail Integrity Implications** **Thulani Sitimela,** Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa
2:25PM	**BREAK**					
	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	**HEAVY HAUL UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS**	**ROLLING STOCK/BRAKES**	**VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK**
2:35PM	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Albert Wahba,** National Research Council, Canada	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Prof Ted Sussmann,** Volpe, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Qing Wu, CQUniversity,** Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Charity Duran,** BNSF Railway, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Sam Alibrahim,** Federal Railroad Administration, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Mike Gilliam,** Union Pacific, USA
2:40PM	**In-Field Locomotive Energy Measurement Campaign Supporting Energy Balance Modelling Validation** **Andrew Wilson,** BHP, Australia	**Mastering Maintenance in Extreme Conditions with Robotics** **Loic Ayoul,** Future Maintenance Technologies (FMT), Australia **Saad Khan,** Future Maintenance Technologies (FMT), Australia	**Investigation of Freight Railcar Air Brake Performance in Cold Temperatures** **Alok Jahagirdar,** National Research Council (NRC), Canada **Stephen Mackie,** National Research Council (NRC), Canada	**Track Geometry Measurement Dependency on Platform** **Sabri Cakdi,** Holland, L.P, USA	**Automatic Train Operation of Long and Heavy Haul Trains Considering Longitudinal Impulses** **Chongyi Chang,** China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation (CARS), China	**In-Service Evaluation of Frog Design Features** **Dr Duane Otter**, MxV Rail, USA

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3:00PM	**Heavy Haul Locomotive Path for Decarbonization and Zero Emissions** **Guilherme Martini**, Wabtec Corporation, USA **William Carnegie**, Wabtec Corporation, USA	**Geotechnologies Applied to Railways: Susceptibility to Mass Movements** **Bárbara Regina** Batista Soares, VLI Logística, Brazil **Cristiana Carneiro de Souza Cristiana Carneiro de Souza**, VLI Logística, Brazil	**Research and Application of Vehicle Automatic Parking Brake Technology** **Ox Yu,** Shanghai Allpass Railway Equipment Co, China **Shuiming Wang,** Railway Equipment Co, China	**Rail Side Wear of Switch Tip Area and Its Effect on Derailment Risk** **Riku Varis**, Research Centre Terra, Tampere University, Finland	**Improved Digital Communications in Locomotive Consists Through Locomotive Communications Cable** **David Hunter**, MxV Rail, USA	**Longitudinal Rail Force Changes from Maintenance Near Turnouts** **Dr Stephen Wilk**, MxV Rail, USA
3:20PM	**Leveraging Efficient Rail Operations for Sustainable Economic Growth African Hinterlands** **Annah Ncube,** Transnet Pipelines, South Africa	**Rehabilitation of Railway Infrastructure in Response to Natural Disasters: A Case Study on Transnet RNC's Reinstatement of the Container Corridor after the KZN Floods of 2022** **Sam Mamabolo,** Transnet Rail Network Construction (RNC), South Africa	**Effect of Brake Pipe Leakage on Brake Performance #150** **Dr Yi Wang**, MxV Rail, USA	**Axle Box Acceleration Measurements for Detecting Irregularities in the Railway Track** **Ursula Ehrhart**, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz University of Technology, Austria	**Autonomous Supervised Operation: Railway Automation in Brazil** **Gabriel Barros,** MRS Logística, Brazil **Sérgio Cassemiro,** MRS Logística, Brazil	**Evaluation of Acceptance Limits for Undesirable Microstructural Constituents in Flashbutt Welds for Heavy Haul Applications at BHP** **Lenka Kuzmikova**, BHP Australia
3:40PM	**A Study into Multi-Dimensional Monitoring Solution for Heavy Haul Locomotives and Further Discussion on Heavy Haul Wheel Polygonization Development** **Qi Xiao**, China Academy of Railway Science Corporation Limited Locomotive & Car Research Institute, China		**Dynamic-static voltage-feedback detection for traction converter of heavy-duty electric locomotive** **Hang Lu,** Locomotive & Car Research Institute, China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS), China	**Dynamic Response to Track Geometry: Ride Quality vs. Safety** **Abel Ayele,** University of Delaware, USA		**Simulating the Effect of Rail Surface Roughness on Rolling Contact Fatigue (RCF)** **Prof Andreas Almqvist**, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden **Per-Olof Larsson-Kråik**, Trafikverket and Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
4:00PM	**BREAK**					
4.10PM	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**					
4:10pm-4:50pm	**Enhancing Heavy-Haul Yard Operational Efficiency Through Lean Principles** **Nkosinathi Malinga,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Agile Introduction of an End-to-End Cargo Operation Software at SBB Cargo** **Nicki Skujat,** DXC Technology, Germany **Dr Thomas Albrecht,** DXC Technology, Germany **High-Speed Rail Inspection by Non-Contact Sensing and Advanced Processing** **Dr Francesco Lanza di Scalea,** University of California, USA **Rail Flaw 3D Imaging by Enhanced Ultrasonic Synthetic Aperture Focus Technique** **Dr Chengyang Huang,** University of California, USA **Dr Francesco Lanza di Scalea,** University of California, USA					

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	European Rail Traffic Management System for Resilient Railway Infrastructure **Iolanda De Castro,** Italferr, Italy **Serena Rosace,** Italferr, Italy **Delay and Required Infrastructure Investment to Landing and Switching Freight Trains Within Port Terminals** **Darkhan Mussanov,** DB ECO North America, USA **Fatigue Life Analysis of Railway Couplers Using Rainflow Method** **Camila Moscibrocki,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Opportunities, Challenges and Structuring Proposals for Fuel Transport to Brazil's Central West** **Prof Antonio Silveira Lopes,** Military Institute of Engineering (IME), Brazil **Robson Ferreira de Souza,** Petrobras Transportes – Transpetro, Brazil **Exploring Rail Incident Factors using Machine Learning** **Gabby Gutierrez,** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, USA **Real-Time FRACAS for Enhanced Railway Operations and Predictive Maintenance** **Adi Dhora,** Hottinger Bruel & Kjaer, USA
4:55pm- 5:35pm	**Innovative Testing of Residual Stress of Railway Wheels** **Pieter Conradie,** Stellenbosch University, South Africa **Wagon Bogie Frame Life Evaluation Using FE and MBD Coupling** **Abhishek Kumar Gautam,** Ministry of Railways, Government of India **Sanjay Kumar,** Ministry of Railways, Government of India, India **Lightweight Tubular Axle Benefit to Wheel-Rail Contact and Impact Loads** **Ronaldo de Faria Antunes,** Vallourec, Brazil **Effect of Long-Term Inactivity on Railcar Bearings: Preliminary Results** **Mia Adame,** University Transportation Center for Railway Safety (UTCRS), USA **Broken Wheels by Cracking of Wheel Webs – A Numerical Study on Combined Thermal and Mechanical Loading** **Tore Vernersson,** Railway Mechanics, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden **Innovation in Railway Safety: Application for Defect Categorization** **Pamella Franciely Silva,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Leonardo Borim de Almeida,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Optimisation of AAR M201 Grade E Properties for Cast Railway Components** **Thompson Chauke,** Transnet Engineering, South Africa **Design and Analysis of Spheribloc (Silent bloc) used in WAG9 and WAP7 Locomotives in Polymeric Elastomers Replacing Rubber** **Vinayak Mehrotra,** Mechanical & Industrial Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India

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	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	HEAVY HAUL UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS	VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS	RAIL OPERATIONS	TRACK
4:10PM	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **David Brabb,** Federal Railroad Administration, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Prof Andrew Quinn,** University of Birmingham, UK	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Maksym Spiryagin,** CQUniversity, Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Emma Molobi,** Transnet, South Africa	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Radim Bruzek,** ENSCO, USA
4:15PM	**Reducing Risk and Emissions: Challenging M/W to Develop More Sustainable Maintenance Practices** **Sarah Mueller, Union Pacific Railroad**, USA	**Study of Increased Fractures Associated with Temperature, Transported Volume and Rail Replacement Plan** **Ana Carolina Lopes de Azevedo,** MRS Logística, Brazil **Rafael Pereira**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Investigation and Prevention of Broken Wheel Derailments in Heavy Haul Operations** **Michelle Jamieson,** Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB), Canada **Robert Leblanc,** Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB), Canada	**Energy Efficiency in Long Haul Trains** **Daniel Ferreira da Fonseca**, MRS Logística, Brazil **Guilherme Augusto Schmidt da Silva**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Methodology for Selecting Optimal Rail Grades Based on Performance and Life Cycle Costs** **Adriano Magalhães Freitas**, Rumo, Brazil
4:35PM	**Non-Contact Energy Harvester for Rural Grade Crossings** **Sergio Martinez,** University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering, USA	**Influence of Temperature on the Conservation State of Rails** **Gabriel Castro Viegas**, Vale, Brazil	**Developing an Accessible Load Measuring Wheelset for South African Railways** **Rolien Rossouw,** Transnet, South Africa	**The Impacts of Highway Improvements on Railways in Steep Valleys** **Dr Chris Bunce,** BGC Engineering, Canada	**Effects Of Operational and Track Conditions on Low Rail Performance** **Dr Ananyo Banerjee,** MxV Rail, USA
4:55PM	**Incremental Diesel-Electric Freight Locomotive Conversions as a Pathway to Decarbonization** **Rydell Walthall,** University of Texas at Austin, USA	**The Impact of Climate Change on the South African Rail Network** **Mohammad Ridhaa Dien**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Optimizing Heavy Haul Wheel Maintenance: Solid Tread Friction Modifiers from Lab Tests to Simulations and Field Implementation** **Saeed Hossein-Nia**, NRC, Canada	**Analysis of the Effect of Distributed Power on Long-Train Derailments** **Xinhao Liu**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA	**Wear Resistance of Rail Coatings Using L-DED** **Paulo Machado,** Federal University of Pará, Brazil
5:15PM	**Battery Electrification of the Flash-Butt Rail Welding Process** **Shane Mayhill,** Holland, L.P, USA	**Sustainable Innovation: A Rail Fastening System Developed to Increase Productivity, Reduce Costs and Improve Track Safety** **Frédéric Delcroix,** Pandrol, France	**Rolling in the Desert: Heavy Haul wheels for Saudi Arabia** **Alberto Ronchi,** Lucchini RS, Italy	**Study on the Transportation Organization Plan of 30 000-ton Heavy-Haul Trains Running on Shuozhou-Huanghua Raiway** **L Lan,** Guoneng Shuohuang Railway Development Co, China **Xianhong Meng,** Guoneng Shuohuang Railway Development Co, China	**Rail Surface Defect Detection Using Advanced Deep Learning Techniques** **Ankit Kumar,** Centre for Railway Research, India, India
5:35PM	**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS**				
5:35PM-7:00PM	**EXHIBITION NETWORKING RECEPTION** *Available to sponsor*				

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025 | MORNING SESSION						
7:30am	**WOMEN IN RAIL BREAKFAST | Sponsored by Wabtec Corporation**					
	Global Tracks: Women Engineering the Future of Rail Panelists: **Kari Gonzales**, Chair, IHHA + President & CEO, MxV Rail, USA **Kate Holling,** General Manager Rail, BHP, Australia **Gina Trombley**, Exec. VP of Sales & Marketing, and Chief Commercial Officer – Americas, Wabtec Corporation, USA Moderator: **Tiffany Wenrich**, Education Chair, League of Railway Women, USA					
8:30am	**MORNING PLENARY**					
	Keynote **Richard Cohen,** Managing Director Rail, Port & Core Services, Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Australia **Driving Excellence: Harmonizing the Power of Research to Advance** Panelists: **Luisa Moisio,** Director of Research, RSSB, UK **Giorgio Travaini,** Executive Director, Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking **Dr Masamichi Sogabe**, Executive Director, Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), Japan **Professor Ravi Ravitharan**, Director, Monash Institute of Railway Technology, Australia **David de Almeida,** Director for Research, SNCF, France Moderator: **Scott Cummings,** AVP, Research and Innovation, MxV Rail, USA					
9:30am	**COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION NETWORKING**					
IHHA PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS						
	TRACK/ MONITORING	**HEAVY HAUL UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS**	**ROLLING STOCK/ BEARINGS**	**VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK/ COMPONENTS**
9:40am	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dimitris Rizos,** University of South Carolina, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **John Cookson,** Monash University, Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Devin Sammon,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Zili Li**, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Francesco Jacobini**, Federal Railroad Administration, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Steve Ashmore**, Union Pacific Railroads, USA
9:45am	**Case Study of Track Structure Monitoring Using Inclinometers and Piezometers** **Guilherme Santa Esteves**, TecWise Latam, Brazil	**Impact of Sub-Freezing Conditions on Ballast Strength: A Laboratory Study** **Coleman Froehlke**, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, USA	**Effects of Sidebearer & Bearing Characteristics on Angle of Attack** **Shabbir Hussain**, Wayside Inspection Devices Inc, Canada	**Enhancing Operations Resilience and Sustainability through Technological Advancements in Rail Grinding** **Richard Stock**, Plasser American Corp, USA	**Enhancing Human Factors Through Automated Risk Profiling in Heavy Haul Operations** **Nelisiwe Tembe**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**Spike Fatigue Life Based on In-Track Load Measurements** **Yin Gao**, MxV Rail, USA

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10:05am	**Innovative Track Monitoring Using FBG Sensors: Sensor Placement Optimization** **Deb Mishra** Oklahoma State University, USA	**Railway Vulnerability Assessment To Rain-Induced Hydrogeological Instability Under Climate Change** **Elena Conigliaro**, Italferr, Italy **Stefania Vagnozzi**, Italferr, Italy	**Journal Bearing Optimization for Heavy Haul Applications** **Daniel Blasko**, The Timken Company, USA **Malayil Suresh** Kumar, Timken Engineering & Research India, India	**Using Simulation and In-Field Monitoring to Improve Rail Performance** **Darrien Welsby,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia	**Human Factors Management Program for Railway Operators: Applying Aviation Techniques to Improve Performance and Safety in Rail Operation** **Joubert Costa**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Improved Fishplate and Clamping System Requirements for Heavy Haul Railways** **Dr Cong Qiu,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia
10:25am	**Enhancing the Range of Electrical Pulse Response Track Monitoring and Condition Diagnostics** **Tian Kunneke**, HisWay Labs, South Africa	**Optimization of the Maintenance Plan for Geotechnical Assets through a Susceptibility Map** **Camilly Tostes Pinto da Silva,** MRS Logística, Brazil **Nielsen Armando** Barguini, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Multisource Fatigue Fracture Analysis and Maintenance Intervals Realignment of Bearings in the Gearbox of Heavy-haul Locomotive** **Zhewei Zhang**, China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation (CARS), China	**Track Defect Detection Using Data Collected from Instrumented Railway Vehicles** **Arthur Cancellieri**, University of Campinas (Unicamp), Brazil **Leonardo Tadeu Lima Franco**, University of Campinas (Unicamp), Brazil	**Interoperability and Harmonisation of a National Rail Signalling System across Australia** **Teck Lee**, Bluefin3, Australia	**An Innovative Insulated Rail Joint for Heavy Haul Applications** **Dr Andrea Bracciali,** University of Florence Italy **Dr Gianluca Megna**, University of Pisa, Italy
10:45am	**BREAK**					
10:55am	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**					
	Reliability analysis and maintenance strategy for D31 traction motor **Gustavo Grzybowski da Silva,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Glayson Carlos Ramos**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Automated System for Professional Development in Railway Traction Power Supply: From Simulation to Real-World Application** **Nikita Gorshkov,** JSC VNIIHZT (Railway Research Institute), Russia **Alternative Fuels** **Ashish Kumar Gupta,** Research Design Standard Organisation (RDSO), Ministry of Railways, Government of India **Kamlesh Tomar,** Research Design Standard Organisation (RDSO), Ministry of Railways, Government of India **Building Digital Worlds: Computational Design Tools for Emulating Battery-Electric Locomotives** **Dr André Broekman,** Aurecon, South Africa **Energy Balance Modelling for Guiding the Transition to Battery-Electric Locomotives** **Dr Rick Vandoorne,** Aurecon, South Africa **Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Heavy Haul Rail Operations Through On-Track Measurement of Wheel Defects** **Dietmar Maicz,** Hottinger Brüel & Kjaer, Austria **Updates on Locomotive Decarbonization Initiatives** **Luis Deltregia,** MRS Logística, Brazil				
	TRACK/CWR	**HEAVY HAUL UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS**	**VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK/ WELDING**	
10:55am	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Robert Wilson**, Federal Railroad Administration, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Jim Hyslip,** HNTB, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Joshua McBain**, BNSF Railway, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Adam Klopp,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Kerry Jones**, MxV Rail, USA	

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11:00am	**Optimizing Longitudinal Stress Management Through 4.0 Technologies to Improve Safety** **Darshani Nalesa Govender**, Transnet, South Africa **Kgosietsile Mokwena**, Transnet, South Africa	**A Retrospective on Ten Years of Geohazard Risk Management along the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway: Geohazards in a Changing Climate** **Natalia Skomorowski**, BGC Engineering, Canada	**Automated Track Inspection System Delivers Preventative Maintenance Gains** **Peter Hermann**, Aurizon, Australia	**Power Generation for Heavy Haul Wagons** **Marc Listmangof,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia	**Semi-automated aluminothermic Rail Welding as a Model for the Future in Track Construction and Maintenance** **Frédéric Delcroix**, Pandrol, France **Nicolas Demond**, Pandrol, France
11:20am	**Preventive Maintenance Prioritization for Track Assets at Risk of Buckling** **Guilherme Candido Cavalheri**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Larissa Padilha Lacerda**, Rumo Logistica Brazil	**Investigating the Effectiveness of Lightning Protection of Railway Signaling Systems During Summer** **Vhutshilo Kharivhe**, Transnet, South Africa	**Evolution of Automated Track Condition Monitoring: A Decade of Innovation and Safety Improvements** **John Furlong**, CPKC, USA **Rafael Maldonado**, ENSCO, USA	**Plasma-Transfer Welding as a Tool for Life Extension of Railroad Wheels** **Cameron Lonsdale,** Vice President, Government Affairs, Amsted Rail, USA	**Case Study - First Evaluating Flash-Butt Welding for Different Rail Profiles** **Rodolfo Vilela Amaral**, Loram South America, Brazil
11:40am	**Track Superstructure Design Considerations to Increase Buckling Resistance** **Brandon Van Dyk**, Vossloh Fastening Systems America Corporation, USA	**Railway Embankment Management Plan** **Camilly Tostes Pinto da Silva**, MRS Logística, Brazil **Nielsen Armando Barguini**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**AI-Based Real Time Video Analytics System for Detecting Railway Defects** **Dr Nithurshan Nadarajah**, Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia	**Improving Durability of Railway Wheel Using Laser Cladding** **Makoto Akama**, Faculty of Systems Engineering and Department of Systems Engineering, Osaka Sangyo University, Japan	**TIG Arc Refusion Treatment of the Rail Welding** **Paulo Machado,** Federal University of Pará, Brazil
12:00pm	**LUNCH, EXHIBITION NETWORKING & IHHA ePOSTERS**				
12:20pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**				

Computer Vision Applied to Turnout Inspection with Drone
Marcelo Augusto, MRS Logística, Brazil

Improving aluminothermic weld behavior through micro-structure and mold geometry modification
Clément Meresse, Pandrol, France
Lionel Winiar, Pandrol, France

Field-Based Assessment of Rail Fixations Behaviour Under Torsional Loads
Francesco Marangon, TU Graz, Austria

Uninterrupted Track Geometry Parameter Measurement with Zero Speed Track Geometry Measurement System
Bernhard Karl Metzger, ENSCO, USA

Experimental Assessment of Fracture in Rails Due to Cyclic Loading
Özant Özümert Bulguoğlu, Texas A&M University, USA

The condition monitoring practice on the Iron Ore Line, Malmbanan
Dr Matthias Asplund, Trafikverket, Swedish Transport Administration, Sweden

Development Of Damage Function for Heavy Haul Rails
Xin Zhao, State Key Laboratory of Rail Transit Vehicle System, Southwest Jiaotong University, China

Study of Railway Subgrade Solutions for Weak Subsoil
Thayse Balarotti Pedrazzi, University of Campinas, Brazil

Leveraging AI and Image Processing for Predictive Track Maintenance
Kagiso Letlala, AECOM. South Africa

Extending the Life and Performance Life Extension of Turnouts, Bridge Decks and Plain Line Timber Ties
Stephen Atherton, Rhomberg Sersa North America, USA

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	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	MOTIVE POWER, TRACTION & EFFICIENCY	ROLLING STOCK	VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS	RAIL OPERATIONS	TRACK/ INSPECTION
1:00pm	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Alejansro Alvarez-Reyes**, ENSCO, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **James Petty,** Aurizon Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Jay Monaco,** Amsted Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Richard Stock,** Plasser, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Prof Ravi Ravitharan** Monash University, Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Silvia Galvan-Nunes,** MxV Rail, USA
1:05pm	**Solving Energy Issues in Zero Emissions Battery Electric Rollingstock** **Brian Gallagher**, Fortescue Zero, Australia	**Investigation of Intelligent Algorithms and Control Strategies for Battery Management System in Heavy Haul Locomotives: Digital Twin Design Approach** **Maksym Spiryagin**, CQUniversity, Australia	**Conditional Maintenance Strategy for Wagon Wheelsets through Hollow Depth Control** **Leandro Rocha Lopes**, Vale, Brazil	**A Comprehensive Operation Safety Performance Evaluation Framework for Heavy-Haul Trains** **Zhichao Zhang**, China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS), China	**Control of Vehicle Stability for Dangerous and Fragile Goods** **Chris Bosomworth**, Insyte Solutions, Australia	**Machine Vision Systems for Track Inspection: A Management Perspective** **Arthur Bilheri**, BNSF Railway, USA
1:25pm	**Validating Heavy Haul Fuel Savings with Advanced Statistical Analysis** **Marco Santoro**, LB Foster Rail Technologies, USA **Robert Stevens**, First Analytics, USA	**Exploration and Implementation of Railway Catenary System Advanced Intelligent Monitoring Technology** **Yin Yanhong,** China Academy of Railway Science Corporation Limited Locomotive & Car Research Institute, China	**Development and Creation of Tank Car Test Plates for Non-destructive Evaluation Assessments** **Stephen Mackie**, National Research Council (NRC), Canada	**North American Rail Profile Grinding Templates' RCF and Wear Performance** **Ulrich Spangenberg**, MxV Rail, USA	**Untapped Potential of Mass-collected Rail Profiles** **Gustavo Dias Silva**, Global Rail North America, Canada	**Update on Canadian Research to Develop a 3D Laser and AI Based Approach for Automated Switch and Frog Inspection** **Richard Fox-Ivey**, Railmetrics, Canada
1:45pm	**Railway Axle Metallization: Innovation in Axle Recovery and Regulatory Framework Development** **Raidam Fernandes**, Vale, Brazil	**Enhancing Sustainable Energy Efficiency Through Solar Photovoltaic Intergration in Locomotives** **Adrian Chinnarajulu**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**Draft Gears: Design, Selection and Maintenance to Maximize Rolling Stock Reliability** **Ross Hartley**, Miner Enterprises, USA	**Performance Evaluation of AAR-2A Wheel Profile for Freight Cars** **Nilton de Freitas**, Rumo Logistica, Brazi **Samuel Carlos Winiarski**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil	**Strengthening Safety in Constant Warning Time Grade Crossing Signaling Applications** **Guilherme Brito Rodrigues**, MRS Logística, Brazil **Conrado Nunes**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Correlation Between Degradation of Geometric and Anomalies in Railway Turnouts** **Jean Carlos Santos**, Rumo Logistica, Brazi
2:05pm	**Enhancing Fault Response Time and Substation Performances in Heavy Haul Railway** **Buyisile Zwe Phoswa,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**A Greater Role for Batteries** **Scott Swenson,** Progress Rail, A Caterpillar Company, USA	**Developing Additional Safety Functionality for Air Brake Telemeters** **Nikheil Bryan Singh,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Train Vehicle Number Recognition and Consist Counting Using Deep Learning** **Sihle Ntuli,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa		**Case Study: Statistics Correlation Between GBFI And Geometry Readings** **Amanda Conradt,** Loram South America, Brazil **Leonardo Soares,** Loram South America, Brazil

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2:25pm	BREAK					
	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	**MOTIVE POWER, TRACTION & EFFICIENCY**	**ROLLING STOCK**	**VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK**
2:35pm	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Heikki Luomala,** Tampere University, Finland	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Makoto Akama,** Osaka Sangyo University, Japan	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Alberto Ronchi,** Luccini, Italy	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Alfredo Nunex** Vicencio, TU Delft, The Netherlands	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Andrea Berry**, CN, Canada	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Prof Hannes Gräbe,** University of Pretoria, South Africa
2:40pm	**Addressing Challenges and Opportunities in Rail Maintenance for Enhanced Sustainability in the Pit-to-Port System: A Systems Dynamics Approach** **Shunturi Govender**, BHP, Australia	**Aurizon's Keystone - The Future of Asset Management** **James Petty**, Aurizon, Australia **Jared Chiesa**, Aurizon, Australia	**High Performance Wheel Testing** **Kerry Jones**, MxV Rail, USA	**Heavy-Haul Railway's Track Geometric Irregularity Experiment and Classification Management Criteria** **Dr Jianjun Qu,** China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS), China	**Forward-Facing Camera System Using Artificial Intelligence-Based Image Processing for Train Protection** **Derel Wust,** 4AI Systems, USA **Mark Wood,** 4AI Systems, Australia	**Optimization of Track Stiffness Transitions Using Specialty Concrete Sleepers and Fastener systems** **Matheus Trizotto**, voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, USA **Ricardo Quiros-Orozco**, voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, USA
3:00pm	**Proactive Condition Assessment and Maintenance Strategies for Coal-line Track Formation** **Portia Thuso Mhlanga**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**A Practical Approach to Determining the Economic Benefits of Converting from 3kV DC to 25kV AC Electrification Systems in South Africa** **Theolen Chetty,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Kaid Rendall**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Validation Of Wheel Flat Detection and Characterisation Using Wayside Data** **Wolfgang Birk,** Predge AB, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden	**Canadian National Autonomous Track Inspection Program (CN ATIP)** **Tarek Shalaby,** ENSCO, USA **Daniel Leeb,** Canadian National Railroad, Canada	**Deep Reinforcement Learning Applied to Flat Yard Shunting Optimization** **Rael Andretto**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Field Experimentation Quantifying Rail Creep in a Steep-Grade Curve** **Jose Gustavo Venancio da Silva Ramos**, Rail Transportation and Engineering Center – RailTEC, USA
3:20pm	**The Impact of Rail Grinding on Fuel Efficiency at Rumo** **Christopher Lidberg,** Loram Maintenance of Way, USA	**Investigating Substation Power Trips in the Heavy Haul Railway Line** **Akhona Jaca,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Increase in Wheel Consumption Rate after Rail Grinding** **Amanda Conradt**, Loram South America, Brazil **Leonardo Soares**, Loram South America, Brazil	**Case Studies Using Vehicle-Track Interaction Digital Twins for Maintenance Decisions** **Dr Ankur Ashtekar**, Loram Technologies, USA	**Simulation of Wheel-Rail Friction Identification Using Instrumented Revenue Vehicles (IRVs)** **Kevin David Oldknow,** Simon Fraser University, Canada	**Implementation of Infrequent Overload 44.05 TAL Limit on Existing Track Infrastructure** **Ksenija Stanic-Colic,** Roy Hill Holdings, Australia

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3:40pm	**Optimization of Rail Lubricators on the Vitória a Minas Railway to Increase Performance and Reduce Grease Consumption** **Eric Pretti**, Vale, Brazil	**Alternative Propulsion Systems for a Specific Locomotive** **Iaan Rossouw**, Transnet Engineering, Research and Development, South Africa **Sanet Smit**, Transnet Engineering, Research and Development, South Africa		**Development of an Algorithm for Mitigating Hunting Instability and Predicting Railhead Wear in South African Heavy Haul Wagons** **Tumisang Legodi,** Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**Measuring Freight Throughput for Locomotive Forecasting Needs** **Sakshna Sivnarain,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**SILETIE: Heavy Haul Crossties Mechanical Monitoring, A Study of Case** **Geiza Oliveira**, Sileto Technology, USA
4:00pm	**BREAK**					
	SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION	**TRACK/ WELDING**	**ROLLING STOCK**	**VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK/SLEEPERS & FASTENERS**
4:10pm	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Chris Lidberg,** Loram, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Joe Kristan**, Rocky Mountain Steel Mills, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Yi Wang**, MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Anders Ekberg,** Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Joe Brosseau,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Yin Gao**, MxV Rail, USA
4:15pm	**Action Priority Matrix and Technology Roadmap for Machine-Learning Predictive Maintenance** **Lindelani Nethamba,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Novel Approach to Qualification of Mobile Flashbutt Welder Fleet at BHP** **Jack Rankcom**, RW Equipment and Consulting, Australia	**Welding Flux Optimization Ensuring Integrity and Success of Heavy Haul Wagons** **Naeema Kharsany,** Transnet Engineering, South Africa	**Wheel-Rail Profile Design to Mitigate Low Rail Damage in Wide-Gauge Curves** **Marie-Chantale** Genest, ArcelorMittal Infrastructure Canada, Canada **Rob Caldwell,** National Research Council (NRC), Canada	**Enhancing Railway Operations Safety Through Innovative Hazard Detection with Distributed Acoustic Sensing** **Dr Milad Salemi,** Sensonic, USA	**Union Pacific's EPC Tie Journey** **Michael Gilliam**, Union Pacific Railroad, USA
4:35pm	**Climate Resilience and Geohazard Assessment of Heavy Haul Corridors Using Space Technology** **Skevi Perdikou,** Geofem, Cyprus	**Mobile Heat Treatment of Aluminothermic Welds: Improving Mechanical Properties, Service life, and Reliability** **Dr Luiz Henrique** Dias Alves, Institute of Technology Vale (ITV), Brazil	**Defect Prediction of Bearings Using Ultrasonic and Eddy Current Inspections** **Prince Mensah,** University Transportation Center for Railway Safety (UTCRS), USA	**A Robust Scientific Approach to Optimizing Heavy Haul Turnouts** **Darrien Welsby,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia	**Dynamic Simulation of Risky Train Movement Exceeding Limits of Authority** **Dr Daoxing Chen,** Transportation Safety Board of Canada, Canada	**Comparative Evaluation of Under Tie Pads on Railroad Track Maintenance** **Arthur de O.Lima,** RailTEC, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
4:55pm	**Chracterisation of As Cast and Heat-Treated Grade B Castings Microstrctures Using Ultrasonic Testing** **Austin Ndhambi,** Transnet Engineering, South Africa	**Causes and Resolution of Low Strength in Flashbutt Welds in Premium Rails** **John Cookson,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia	**Management of Coupling Forces Via Mathematical Modeling and Machine Learning** **Camila Moscibrocki,** Rumo Logistica, Brazi	**Development of Magnetostrictive EMAT Technology for In-Motion Wheel Inspection** **Dr Anish Poudel,** MxV Rail, USA	**Digital Automatic Coupler for Freight - Full Digital Freight Train Operations - EU Rail project** **Frédéric Henon,** UIC, France	**Same Static Stiffness Leads to Same Performance? - Not When It Comes to Under Sleeper Pads** **Michael Sehner,** Getzner Werkstoffe, Austria **Raphael Marotta**, Getzner Werkstoffe, Austria

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5:15pm	**Evaluation of Operational Safety Increase due to Implementation of Automated Rain Gauges along the Carajás Railway in Brazil** **Juliana Tanabe Assad dos Santos,** Vale, Brazil **Thiago Cezar Oliveira**, Vale, Brazil	**Weld Battering: A Comparative Study of Thermite and Flash-butt Welding** **Dr Markus Loidolt,** Graz University of Technology, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Austria	**Effect of Outer Raceway Indexing on the Measured Vibration Response of Defective Railway Tapered-Roller Bearings** **Dr Constantine Tarawneh,** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, USA	**Digital Transformation in Rail: Business Intelligence Application for Advanced Analytics** **Nikheil Singh,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Nthabiseng Maake,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Cost-Benefit Analysis of Traditional and Semi-Mechanized Ballast Track Construction Using Discrete Event Simulation** **Hossein Taheri, Georgia Southern University, USA**	**Machine Learning for Predictive Modeling of Crosstie Degradation: Key Factors in Forecasting Remaining Service Life** **Dr Kenza Soufiane,** Loram, USA
5:35pm	**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS**					
6:30pm- 9:30pm	**GALA DINNER | Sponsored by Plasser & Theurer**					

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025 | MORNING SESSION

IHHA PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

	TRACK/CWR	BRIDGES	ROLLING STOCK	TRACK/BALLAST& SUBGRADE	TRACK/ TURNOUTS
8:30am	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Feancisco di Scalea,** UCSD, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Duane Otter**, MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Ulrich Spangenberg,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dustin Lange,** Norfolk Southern, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Elias Kassa**, Monash University, Australia
8:35am	**A New Paradigm for Non-Contact Measurement of the in-Track State of Stress in Continuously Welded Steel Railway Rail** **Dr B. Terry Beck**, Kansas State University, USA **Veeshal Modi,** Kansas State University, USA	**Integrated Vibration-Based Bridge Monitoring Approach For Freight Dominated Lines** **Alfredo Núñez,** Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands **Prof Zili Li**, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands	**Hopper Wagon Optimization for Soybean and Corn Transportation in Brazil** **Danilo Martelli,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil	**Concrete Tie Behavior In Different Ballast Support Conditions** **Adam Bankston,** BNSF Railway, USA **Dr Stephen Wilk,** MxV Rail, USA	**Next Generation of Heavy Haul Turnouts** **Stacey L. Schmidt**, voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Canada **Uwe Ossberger,** voestalpine Railway Systems, Austria
8:55am	**Development of Method for Track Buckle Hotspot Identification Using Geometry and Laser Based Data** **Arthur de Oliveira Lima**, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, USA **J. Riley Edwards,** University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, USA	**Railway Bridge Failures World Directory, New Indices for Safety Management** **Éric Auzolles,** Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, Canada	**Numerical Assessments of Air-Drags for Current and Modified Designs of Australian Freight Wagons** **Dr Qing Wu**, Centre for Railway Engineering, CQUniversity, Australia	**Continuous Measurement of Ballast Cleaning Quality** **Franco Fanucci**, Loram Maintenance of Way, USA	**Railroad Turnout Elasticity Optimization Using Revenue Service Wheel Profiles,** **Jaeik Lee**, RailTEC, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
9:15am	**Factors Affecting Lateral Resistance and Track Buckling**	**Short-Span Steel Railway Bridge Concepts for Heavy-Haul Systems** **Dr Gary Fry**, Fry Technical Services, Inc., USA	**A New Approach to Transnet's HS MK V Bogies: Transitioning from Casting to Fabrication**	**Non-Destructive Methods to Assess Subgrade and Track Construction Quality**	**Comparative Analysis of Operational Performances Between Fixed and Movable Frog Turnouts**

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	Dr Heikki Luomala, Research Centre Terra, Tampere University, Finland		**Cherise Rachel Govender**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Sheraton Singh**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Asger Eriksen**, Zetica Limited, UK	**Fábio Fredi Ribeiro de Melo**, Companhia do Metropolitano de São Paulo Brazil **Helder José Ribeiro Soares**, Companhia do Metropolitano de São Paulo Brazil
9:35am	**A Mobile System for Reference-Free Non-Destructive Neutral Temperature and Rail Stress Measurements** **Dr Dimitrios Rizos**, University Transportation Center for Railway Safety, USA **Brennan Gedney**, University of South Carolina, USA	**Multi-temporal InSAR for long-term monitoring of railway bridge structural behavior** **Changgil Lee**, Korea Railroad Research Institute, Republic of Korea	**RCM as a Methodology for Defining Locomotive Maintenance Strategy** **Gustavo Grzybowski da Silva**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Lucas Alves Dias Oliveira**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil	**Development of a Formulation to Calculate Railway Subgrades Allowable Stress** **Dalila Carvalho de Almeida Filippetto Pires**, Vale, Brazil **Raiane da Costa Virgílio**, Vale, Brazil	**Gauge-Based Sleeper Condition Analysis in Turnouts** **Andrea Katharina Korenjak**, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz University of Technology, Austria **Markus Loidolt**, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz University of Technology, Austria
9:55am	**BREAK**				
	TRACK/CWR	**SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS**	**TRACK/ SUBGRADE**	**RAIL, WHEEL & AXLE INSPECTIONS**	**TRACK MAINTENANCE**
10:05am	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Jonathan Leung,** KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Antonio Merheb**, MRS Logistica, Brazil	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Deb Mishra**, Virginia Tech, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Ananyo Banerjee,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Franco Fanucci**, Loram, USA
10:10am	**Prevention of Buckling through Autonomous Track Geometry Measurement System Inspections** **Rafael Pereira Kox**, MRS Logística, Brazil	**Renewable Energy Integration for Heavy Haul Traction Loads** **Patrick Croucamp**, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**Union Pacific Railroad's Integrated Strategies for Roadbed Maintenance and Geohazard Management** **Rachel Beck**, Union Pacific Railroad, USA	**Manufacture of Rail-Nondestructive Testing for Acceptance and Characterization** **Greg Garcia**, Rocky Mountain Steel Mills, USA	**Research on Intelligent Perception Framework and Maintenance Decision-making of Heavy Haul Railway Track Infrastructure** **Ma Zhangguo**, China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation (CARS), China
10:30am	**Latest advancements in FRA CWR and Track Buckling Research** **Radim Bruzek**, ENSCO, USA	**An Intelligent Condition Monitoring System for Viable Railway Neutral Sections** **Kennedy Phala,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Track Settlement Mitigation of Degraded Ballast through a Rubber-Bitumen Coating** **Prof Hannes Gräbe**, University of Pretoria, South Africa	**Latest Developments in Surface Inspection Technology for Railway Axles in Production** **Angelique Raude**, Evident Scientific, USA **Daly Souissi,** Evident Scientific, USA	**Automation in Track Maintenance: A Solution to Workforce Shortages** **Dr Fabian Hansmann,** Plasser & Theurer, Austria **Hakan Uzuner,** Plasser American, USA
10:50am	**Rail Break and Track Buckling Risk Assessment after Derailment Reconstruction** **Dr Anders Ekberg**, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden	**Railway Efficiency and Sustainability through Condition-Based Maintenance** **Glauber Sterdi Luiz**, VLI Logística, Brazil **Indira Soier de Oliveira**, VLI Logística, Brazil	**Soil-Binder Mixtures** **Dr Abdoul Aziz Diene**, Vale, USA	**A Comprehensive Solution for Railway Wheelset Inspection** **Angelique Raude**, Evident Scientific, USA **Daly Souissi,** Evident Scientific, USA	**Detection of Executed Maintenance Work Based on Longitudinal Level Characteristics** **Jan Schatzl**, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz

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					University of Technology, Austria **Markus Loidolt,** Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz University of Technology, Austria
11:10am	**BREAK**				
11:20am-12:20pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**				
	Implementing Advanced Track Geometry Measurement Systems to Achieve over 80% reduction in Derailments **Saluza Almeida de Oliveira,** Eramet, Setrag, France **Effect of Fixed Structures: Analytical Modeling and a Pilot Field Study** **Kamyar Kosarneshan,** Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA **Robust Track Following for UAV based Inspection** **Toma Sucin,** Unmanned Systems & Robotics Laboratory, University of South Carolina, USA **Lidar – The Ultimate Purpose Tool for Track Inspection** **Thomas Lee,** Zetica, UK **Broken Rail - Risk Management for the Future** **Roy Leslie,** Siemens Mobility, Australia **Financial & Economic Impact on Heavy Haul Maintenance Crisis & Well Engineered Solutions Through Basic Condition Assessment Philosophy** **Katlego Lekala,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Analysis of Tamping Cycles Based on the Conditions of Railways Components** **Dr Nithurshan Nadarajah,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia **Track Stiffness Variation Detection through Onboard Dynamic Response Analysis and Hybrid Signal Processing Techniques** **Reza Naseri Motlagh,** Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing, University of South Carolina, USA **Accounting for Spatially Varying Track Conditions in Derailment Risk Assessment** **Brennan Gedney,** University of South Carolina, USA				
	TRACK/RAILS	**TRACK/ CONCRETE SLEEPERS**	**ROLLING STOCK**	**RAIL OPERATIONS**	**TRACK INSPECTION**
11:20am	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Uwe Ossberger,** voestalpine, Austria	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Adam Bankston,** BNSF Railway, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Maureen Werner,** MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Hai Huang,** University of Penn State, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Fabian Hansmann,** Plasser & Theurer, Austria
11:25am	**Computational Analysis of Subsurface Crack Growth in Railway Rails Under Cyclic Loading** **Sina Saberi**, Texas A&M University, USA	**Experimental Study on the Vibration Damping Performance of Concrete Sleeper with under Sleeper Pad for Ballasted Track in Heavy Haul Railway** **Dr Ruilin You**, China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation (CARS), China	**Safetruck: Detecting Wagon Damping Inefficiencies Using a Laser-Based Detection System** **Caroline Martins Masso**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Mauro de Lara Filho**, Rumo Logistica, Brazil	**Long Term Track Intrusion Detection Data Evaluation and Technical Consequences** **Dr Sven Scholz**, TUD University of Technology Dresden, Germany	**The DNA of Track Defects: Using String Sequencing Techniques to Identify Early-Stage Sinusoidal Rail Gauge Side Wear** **Astrid Lambrechs**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Mohammad Ridhaa Dien**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa

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11:45am	**Induction Tempering of WEL Formed by Grinding on TR68 Rail** **Dr Julio Neves**, Universidade Técnologica Federal do Paraná, Brazil	**Under Sleeper Pads as a Countermeasure to The Low Frequency Vibration in Soft Soil Areas** **Antti Pelho,** Research Centre Terra, Tampere University, Finland	**Evaluation of Electric Return Current Distribution in AC Rail Networks to Mitigate System Failures in Heavy Haul Trains** **Itumeleng Fanampe**, Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa	**Safety Simulation Analysis and Experimental Study on Track and Bridge Structure Under 30,000-Ton Heavy Haul Train** **Dr Zhen Pan**, China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS), China	**A New Methodology for Track Quality Assessment Incorporating Defect Shape** **Dr Elias Kassa,** Institute of Railway Technology, Monash University, Australia
12:05pm	**Crack Growth Guidelines for Magic Wear Rate – Swedish Case Study** **Jonathan Leung,** Department of Engineering Mechanics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden	**Factors Affecting Mechanical Strength Loss of Concrete Ties in Brazil** **Dr Eliane Betânia Carvalho Costa,** Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil **Maria Euarda Guedes Coutinho,** Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil	**Implementation of Infrequent Overload 44.05 TAL Limit on Existing Rolling Stock** **Ksenija Stanic-Colic**, Roy Hill Holdings, Australia	**Integration of Wayside Defect Detectors and Train Control Systems** **David Khasenye**, MxV Rail, USA **Chase Askins**, MxV Rail, USA	**Innovative Track Structural Inspection Strategy to Improve Detection of High-Risk Conditions** **Prof Ted Sussmann,** University of Hartford, USA
12:25pm	**LUNCH, EXHIBITION NETWORKING & IHHA ePOSTERS**				
12:20pm-1:35pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**				
	Assessment of Hazardous Materials Train Derailment in Multimodal Freight Terminals **Mohammad Mehdi,** University of Alberta, USA **Enhancing Railway Safety and Maintenance Through Advanced Distributed Fiber Optic Acoustic Sensing** **Dr Bernd Drapp,** AP Sensing, Germany **Tensor Mining of Public Railroad Accident Reports** **Evangelos Papalexakis,** University of California Riverside, USA **Jia Chen**, University of California Riverside, USA **Application of Machine Learning and Accoustics in Wheel Crack Detection** **Petrus Schalk van der Walt,** Transet, South Africa **Michael Maseko**, Transet, South Africa **Integrated Analysis Methodology for Predictions of Maintenance Services in Insulating Joints Applied on the Carajás Railway** **Allan James Ferreira Maciel,** Vale, Brazil **Static and Dynamic Stiffness in Railway Bogies: Evolution of Dynamic Models** **Raidam Pereira Fernandes,** Vale, Brazil **Methodology Validation for Evaluating Friction Modifiers in Laboratory and Field** **Eric Pretti,** Vale, Brazil **Pedro Del Negro Tayer,** Vale, Brazil **Development of a Laboratory-Based Protocol for the Pre-Selection of Heavy Haul Railway Lubricating Greases** **Bruno Pereira Ferrer,** Vale, Brazil **Eric Pretti,** Vale, Brazil				
1:35pm-2:20pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**				
	Apredictive Modeling Approach to Reduce Railway Level Crossing Incidents **Dr Katleho R.M Mafokosi,** Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa **Predictive Detection of Embankment Failures due to Fly-Ash Material** **Sinegugu Mkhize,** Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa **Enhancing the Safety and Reliability of Railroad Corridors Prone to Geohazards Using a Decision Support System** **Colin N. Brooks,** Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI), **USA**				

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2025 JOINT CONFERENCE | RAIL RESEARCH WEEK

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO USA | NOVEMBER 17-21, 2025

	Assessing Climate Impact of Infrastructural Works **Paola Reali, I**talferr, Italy **Gianluca Petrangeli Papini,** Italferr, Italy **Francesco Valerio Catania,**Italferr, Italy **Developing Methodology to Estimate WTW Impacts in Heavy Haul Transportation** **Vinod Bhatia,** Ministry of Railways, Government of India
2:20pm-2:40pm	**IHHA ePOSTER SESSIONS | LOCATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL**
	A Deep Neural Network for Broken Rail Prediction Using Multi-Source Data **Dr Xiang Liu,** Rutgers University, USA **Dr Xin Wang**, Tongji University, China **The Quality of the Substructure as the Key to Success** **Julian A. Sigmund,** TU Wien, Austria **Advanced Imaging System for Railway Ballast Quality on South African Oreline** **Gculisile Mvelase,** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa **Material and Structural Performance Characteristics of Cementless Concrete-Based PSC Ties** **Nahyun Yi,** Korea Railroad Research Institute, KRRI, Republic of Korea **Younghoon Bae,** Korea Railroad Research Institute, KRRI, Republic of Korea **The Influence of Under Sleeper Pads in Railway Foundation Stress Reduction** **André Fardin Rosa,** Rumo Logistica, Brazil **Comparison of Ballast Drainage Improvement Between Shoulder Cleaning and Cribbing Through Laboratory Flume Test** **Yufeng Gong,** University of South Carolina, USA

	TRACK/ RAILS & WELDS	TRACK/BALLAST & SUBGRADE	ROLLING STOCK/ MODELLING	VEHICLE TRACK SYSTEMS	TRACK MAINTENANCE
1:35pm	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Dr Cong Qiu,** Monash University, Australia	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Yao Shan**, Tonji University, China	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Stan Gurule**, MxV Rail, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Sabri Cakdi,** Holland LP, USA	**Opening Comments by Session Chair** **Kenza Soufiane**, Loram, USA
1:40pm	**Influence of Ferrous and Ferric Oxides in Aluminothermic Rail Welding on Weld Metallurgical Properties and Heat-Affected Zone Characteristics** **Matimba Shihambi,** Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), South Africa	**Evaluating Particle Breakage in Geogrid Stabilized Ballast** **Phuriwit Jaikaew,** University of South Carolina, USA	**Mathematical Modeling and Simulation Techniques for Improved Heavy Haul Freight Operations** John Deppen, Amsted Rail, USA	**Bogie-Mounted Load Cells: A New Approach to Wheel Force Measurement** **Darren James**, Transnet, South Africa	**Track Surfacing Cycle for Heavy Haul Lanes with High Degradation Rates** **Rafael Pereira Kox,** MRS Logística, Brazil
2:00pm	**Using High Flow Preheater Device for Improvement in Mechanical Properties of Aluminothermic Welds** **Frédéric Delcroix**, Pandrol, France	**Stabilisation Tamping: An Early Intervention to Improve Track Quality Behaviour** **Florian Gerhold**, Institute of Railway Engineering and Transport Economy, Graz University of Technology, Austria	**Using AI Model for Constant Monitoring of Life Prediction of a Railcar Structure** **Matheus Lima Silva**, Greenbrier Maxion, Brazil **Rodrigo Muniz de Farias Cordeiro**, Greenbrier Maxion, Brazil	**Teleoperation System for Track Maintenance: Case Study of a Heavy Legacy Machine** **Guilherme Santa Esteves**, TecWise Latam, Brazil	**Hot Spot Milling as Cost-Effective Alternative to Rail Replacement** **Rahel Reinhardt**, Vossloh Rail Services North America, Canada

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2:20pm	**Effects and Degradation of Rails under Dynamic Gauge Widening** **Charles Rudeen**, Loram, USA **Tiago Tepedino**, Loram South America, Brazil	**Significance of Unsaturated Railway Foundation Materials for Increased Axle Loading** **GD (David) Mpye**, University of Pretoria, South Africa	**Unsupervised ML Techniques for Detecting Imbalances in Freight Railway Vehicles** **Cássio Bragança**, Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo, Brazil	**Low-Cost Angle-Of-Attack Monitoring Using Existing Wim Data** **Eduard Reitmann**, Transnet, South Africa	**Impact of Rail Grinding in India's Dedicated Freight Corridors** **Sandesh Shrivastava**, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL), India
2:40pm		**Assessing Track Stability Using Ballast Bulk Stress as a New Safety Indicator** **Dr Hai Huang**, Penn State Altoona, USA **Qifeng Yang**, Penn State University Park, USA		**Cross-Correlation Based Railway Change Detection: A Novel Approach** **J. Riley Edwards**, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, USA **Jose Augusto V.S. Ramos**, Visiostack Inc, USA	**Track Maintenance Strategies for Single-Line Heavy Haul Rail Freight Track: the MRS Experience** **Josué Cesar Bastos**, MRS Logística, Brazil
3:00pm	**BREAK & EXHIBITION NETWORKING**				
CLOSING CEREMONY					
3:30pm	**Turning Ideas into Impact: How Supplier Leadership is Shaping the Rail Industry's Future** *Stay tuned for more details* **Next IHHA + WCRR Conference Announcements** **Awards and Closing Remarks**				
5:35pm	**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS**				

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2025 | OFFICIAL TECHNICAL SITE TOUR	
7:30am	**MxV Rail PuebloPlex Tour and Track Walk at FAST®**
7:30am	Safety Briefing Depart The Broadmoor for MxV Rail, PuebloPlex
10:00am	FAST® Loop Track Walk Demonstrations at Impact Wall/Track and Security and Emergency Response Training Center's (SERTC) AFFIRM scenario Tour MxV Rail Laboratory Building Lunch and Networking
3:30pm	Return to The Broadmoor

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