What is the Asset Health Strategic Initiative?

The Asset Health Strategic Initiative (AHSI) is a multi-year, multi-phase railroad industry program that will apply information technology solutions and processes to address the rail industry's asset health challenges. The program seeks to reduce mechanical service interruptions, improve the quality of railcar inspections, and increase rail yard and repair shop efficiency. This will result in significant safety improvements and cost savings over the life of the program.

What is AHSI's scope?

AHSI will consider the entire rolling stock health cycle, which incorporates prevention, detection, planning, movement, repair and settlement.

How will AHSI leverage recent industry investments in asset health?

Railroad industry investments over the past decade have made an impact on asset health issues, but a broader strategic focus at the network level will provide significant returns and greater efficiencies. AHSI builds on existing local investments in detectors and systems and existing industry capabilities such as Umler® (Equipment Registry), CEPM (Component Registry), CRB (Car Repair Billing), EHMS/InteRRIS (Detector Alerts), and DDCT (Damaged and Defective Car Tracking) to build a bridge to information collaboration. One recent example of this is CEPM, which enables component-performance management to occur in a more comprehensive way than a single railroad or car owner could achieve.

What AHSI work is under way?

In 2013, Railinc initiated with railroads key foundational work in architecture and design, prototype development and testing of initial data sharing capabilities. Key foundational work continues in architecture and design, along with production deployment of the initial data sharing capabilities with railroads.

This foundational work includes development of the following projects:

- *Asset Information Repository* — a comprehensive equipment level view of asset health and characteristic data;
- *E-Train* — a centralized database of train information that enables real-time visibility and analysis of consist data to reduce manual work, improve efficiency and enable better decision making around maintenance and repair tasks;
- *Inspection Quality (Detector Repository)* — a comprehensive database of detector reads to enable more effective health monitoring of equipment and improve repair-work efficiency; and
- *Mechanical Reference Repository* — a common repository for current and historical operational reference data and an automated means for their use.

Are the Asset Information Repository, E-Train, Inspection Quality and the Mechanical Reference Repository new products?

No. These projects focus on equipment, trains and detectors and build capabilities in a common platform to drive improvements in asset health. Related work supports existing products and could provide the basis for new products.

What products will be created or enhanced as a result of AHSI?
Currently, project teams are developing capabilities to centralize and share data that help to address asset health issues. These new capabilities may provide specific customer segments with the ability to increase the efficient handling of issues related to asset health within their operations. After Railinc completes initial foundational work, communications in 2015 will highlight benefits related to leveraging these new capabilities, which may be deployed as new products.

How are the initial investments in AHSI paid for?
Class I railroads share the cost of design and development of the foundational AHSI capabilities at Railinc and within their own railroads.

Who is working on AHSI?
The Asset Health Strategy Committee (formerly known as the Asset Health Task Force) and related project teams include representatives from the Class I railroads, Amtrak, private car owners, leasing companies, the AAR, TTCI and Railinc.

What involvement will other stakeholders have in AHSI?
Requirements from other stakeholders will begin to be prioritized related to equipment, detector and reference data in 2015.

What benefits will AHSI deliver?

Examples of AHSI benefits include:

- Network-level line of road failure analysis, which enables more effective identification of railcars that have repeated mechanical issues. This will improve safety and reduce the number of line of road failures by enabling issues to be more quickly addressed.
- The capability to monitor and determine brake effectiveness for a group of cars based on detector information, which improves the quality of braking information available on equipment and supports Class 1A brake test exemptions.
- Improved and enhanced individual equipment health information, which enables more detailed equipment-level analysis based on all available health indicators.

How can I get more information about AHSI?
Railinc will post additional information about AHSI, including how to participate, to https://www.railinc.com/rportal/asset-health-strategic-initiative as it becomes available.