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Newsletter

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Summer, 2005



RSSI Does It Again!

Like the Eveready bunny, the RSSI C&S Exhibition keeps going and going -- or growing and growing perhaps describes it better. A record 1612 attendees viewed the exhibits during the two day event held May 25-26 at the Qwest Convention Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Many of the 95 spouses attending also spent considerable time visiting the exhibits bringing the total attendance at the 2005 event to 1707.

The 141 exhibiting companies occupying 351 booth spaces (also a new high) were kept busy by the 691 railroad, transit and government attendees. We extend a big "thank you" to this year's co-host railroads, BNSF and UP, for their support of the Omaha event. The two railroads accounted for 468 of the 607 railroad attendees -- once again proving that holding the exhibitions in "railroad cities" is a practical approach.

A common sight over the two day event was railroad hands-on people in serious discussion with supplier design engineers. The obvious result of such discussions not only promote a better understanding of the products and services by the hands-on people but also results in products and services that more readily meet the needs of the railroad. The discussions were not limited to the exhibitors exhibit space. Many continued into the food service areas in a more relaxed atmosphere where everyone could take the load off their tired legs and feet.

The supplier to customer ratio of 1.33 to 1.0, although slightly less than our goal of 1.0 to 1.0 never the less is proof of the endorsement of the show format by both railroads and suppliers. The 2005 event can certainly be considered another C&S industry success.

AREMA C&S Technical Conference Bigger & Better

The second AREMA C&S Technical Conference was held on May 24th at the Omaha Hilton Hotel in conjunction with the RSSI Annual C&S Exhibition. The conference, dedicated to communication and signal issues attracted over 300 railroad and supplier attendees. Again, one of the highlights was the C&S Industry Leaders Panel moderated by RSSI President Jim Huntley. Many of those in attendance expressed their desire to include such panel discussions at future C&S Technical Conferences.

AREMA C&S Chairman Mike Choat (CSX) expressed his appreciation to the railroads as well as the supply industry attendees for their participation and attendance. AREMA Executive Director Chuck Emely also expressed his satisfaction with the increased participation at this year's conference.

It was the expressed hope of many of the attendees that future AREMA C&S Technical Conferences and RSSI C&S Exhibitions be held in conjunction with each other.

NEW RSSI MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the twenty-one new members who have joined RSSI since the 2004 Exhibition. The new members who exhibited at the 2005 Exhibition in Omaha are shown in italics.

ABB Inc.
Ahead Communications
ARNCO Corporation
Battery Zone Inc.
Buck Company Inc.
CT Systems, LLC
Divane Brothers Electric Co.
Earth Tech, Inc.
Enidine Inc.
Genesis Technologies, Inc.
Harting Inc. of North America
Henkels & McCoy, Inc.
Huntington Electric, Inc.
ICOM America, Inc.
IP Design Group
Midwest Industrial Supply Inc.
Miller Felpax Corporation
Phillips Communications & Equipment
Railcomm, Inc.
Robotics & Automation One, Inc.
Superior Signal Design, Inc.
Tranergy Corporation
Vertex Standard U.S.A.
Wardrop Applied Systems Inc.

AREMA C&S Conference a Big Hit in Omaha

By: N. Michael, Choat, CSX Transportation
AREMA C&S Functional Group Vice President

The AREMA 2005 C&S Technical Conference was held on May 24, 2005 in Omaha, NE in conjunction with the RSSI C&S Exhibition. By all accounts, the Conference was a great success! With over 300 attendees, including a sizeable group from the Union Pacific Railroad, the C&S Technical Conference topped all projections and generated a successful momentum that flowed into the RSSI C&S Exhibition.

With a theme of "C&S Leveraging Technology", this one-day program format was popular with attendees by offering a wide variety of presentations, discussions and topics.

The eight presentations sparked lively discussions throughout the day. Some of the more popular presentations were "Leveraging the Power of the Web for BNSF Signals" and the "Update on the FRA 236 Rule".

The Best Practice Forum allowed railroads to discuss some of their best practices as they related to "Engineering Process & Procedures".

Once again, the C&S Industry Leaders Panel Discussion, moderated by RSSI President James Huntley from ERICO, Inc., was a highlight of the Conference.

AREMA is looking forward to working with RSSI again next year as we announce the 2006 C&S Technical Conference on May 23, 2006 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY, in conjunction with the 2006 RSSI C&S Exhibition. A Call for Papers will be available this Fall on the AREMA website, www.arena.org.



RSSI MEMBERS RATIFY NEW BYLAWS

The membership unanimously ratified revisions to the RSSI Bylaws at the Annual Membership Meeting on May 24, 2005.

The new Bylaws establish two (2) membership classes - Active (exhibiting) and Associate (non-exhibiting) as well as other minor updates. Copies of the new Bylaws will be distributed to all RSSI member company Contact Officers (formerly called Voting Representatives) as soon as they are printed. The new Bylaws will become effective on January 1, 2006.

Both Active and Associate members will be listed on the RSSI website (www.rssi.org).

PLANS FOR 2006 RSSI C&S EXHIBITION

Plans are underway for the 46th annual RSSI C&S Exhibition. The 2006 event will be held May 24th & 25th at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. RSSI co-hosts for the 2006 will be CSX and Norfolk Southern.

AREMA will hold their C&S Technical Conference in conjunction with the RSSI exhibition. The AREMA technical conference will take place on Tuesday, May 23rd with the RSSI exhibition open on Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th. The RSSI opening reception and dinner is planned for Tuesday evening May 23rd.

The hotel for the 2006 event will be The Galt House which will have completed their \$62 million renovation program by 2006.

Exhibit space rental information will be mailed in late November or early December.

2006 REGISTRATION On-Line or On-Site

The new registration/lead retrieval system unveiled at the 2005 C&S Exhibition in Omaha, Nebraska was a huge success and well received by everyone who attended. The registration lines were short and moved very well, and almost everyone smiled when their photo was taken. Those exhibitors who utilized the lead retrieval system were pleased, not only with the information provided by scanning the bar code on the badges, but especially by the ability to enter additional information via their laptop as opposed to having to had write information on a cash register tape as was necessary with the system used in previous years. The disc provided at the close of the exhibition included information on all show attendees.

Following the exhibition the task force that developed the system held a debriefing meeting to resolve some minor problems (unnoticed by most attendees) and consider some modifications and improvements. These will be incorporated into the system for use in 2006. As a result of the success and acceptance of the first use of the system, the paper registration form will no longer be used for advance registration. Beginning with the 2006 exhibition, registration will be available on-line or on-site only. The RSSI website will be updated to be more user friendly and will include complete registration information for both railroad and supplier registrants. Information regarding the 2006 C&S Exhibition to be held in Louisville, Kentucky May 24-25, 2006 will appear on the RSSI website (www.rssi.org) in early December 2005.

2005 RSSI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are proud to announce the winners of the 2005 RSSI scholarship contest. Three (3) scholarships are being awarded from the 56 applications received. The \$8,000 scholarships (\$1,000 per semester) are awarded to the following:

Mark I. Koch

Sponsor: Father, Kevin Koch employed by
Transportation Technology Center
Attending: Texas Tech University
Major: Undeclared



Sriram Rajan

Sponsor: Father, Ranganathan Rajan employed
by GETS Global Signaling
Attending: University of Pennsylvania
Major: Undeclared



Josh Z. Tan

Sponsor: Father, Kevin Tan employed by
GE Transportation
Attending: Unknown
Major: Undeclared



In addition to the three new scholarships, the following are also active:

Roman R. Barinas / Safetran Systems Corp. / Cornell University
Johanna W. Chung / GE Transportation Rail / Grove City College
Nathan A. Edwards / PHW Inc. / Northwestern University
Michael P. Hart / Alstom Signaling / St. Lawrence University
Adam A. Vukovic / ERICO Products, Inc. / University of Cincinnati
Antony Vydrin / Union Switch & Signal / Carnegie Mellon University
Hanhan Wang / Union Switch & Signal / Massachusetts Inst. of Technology



FIVE RSSI DIRECTORS REELECTED

The RSSI Annual Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at the Qwest Convention Center prior to the opening of the RSSI C&S Exhibition. Five (5) Directors whose terms were expiring were reelected to serve three (3) year terms expiring in 2008:

Robert P. DeMarco - Railway Age
Phil Hess - Rails Company
James R. Higginbottom - The Okonite Company
Joseph Noffsinger - GE Transportation Rail
Thomas Ulrich - Arthur N. Ulrich Company

PRELIMINARY FLOOR PLAN 2006 RSSI C&S Exhibition Louisville, Kentucky

This is the preliminary floor plan for the 2006 RSSI C&S Exhibition being held May 24th and 25th at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Considerable effort has been made to provide convenient booth locations for all exhibitors. Mark your calendars now to watch for the 2006 Exhibit portfolio. Booth reservations for Active (exhibiting) members will be accepted as of November 27, 2005.

