

# YARD SWITCH HEATER & REMOTE CONTROL

## AMTRAK CHICAGO



## OVERVIEW

The primary objective of this project was to modernize Chicago's Union Station, a facility that was dated in technology and struggled to manage the traffic volumes that were required. RailComm provided a comprehensive solution to remotely control over 200 assets, including switches, derails, blue flags, and heaters, from multiple control locations, allowing the yard to improve fluidity.

RailComm modified its DOC<sup>®</sup> control platform to suit the unique needs of the facility, and designed and commissioned a field system that overcame clearance and other track layout challenges.

RailComm solution is used exclusively to manage all traffic routing in and out of the facility, as well as the Blue Flag Protection for car and train inspection. In addition, remote heater control is managed through a centralized location allowing for groups of heaters to be controlled at any time, without the need of personnel traveling to the locations.

The DOC System is a commercially available, off-the-shelf control system, engineered to provide railroads the flexibility to remotely control their yard assets. It provides remote control to power switches, derails, blue flag operators, manual switch point indicators, switch heaters, alarms, gates, and doors, for a totally integrated approach to yard automation.

In collaboration with different companies, RailComm provided a yard automation system to control a combination of 83 powered switches, 24 powered derails, 91 blue flag indicators, 14 heater cases, and 2 diesel generator locations.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### FIRMS

Kiewit Corporation  
Mass Electric Construction  
RailComm, LLC

### CUSTOMER

Amtrak Chicago, Illinois.

### CUSTOMER CONTACT

Franklin DeVries  
Tel. 312-655-2443

### PROJECT SIZE

Over \$5 million  
(RailComm Control System)

### TOTAL PROJECT SIZE

Over \$105 million

### COMPLETION DATE

May 2011



## RAILCOMM

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