



RailComm Completes Cutover of Yard Control and Mainline Dispatch Systems at U.S. Sugar



Photo courtesy of U.S. Sugar

December 1st, 2015 – RailComm has completed the installation of both a yard automation solution and a computer-aided dispatch system at U.S. Sugar, in Clewiston, FL.

As the largest sugar cane producer in the United States, U.S. Sugar also owns and operates the largest private agricultural railroad in the country that runs 24 hours a day for just-in-time processing. Its 120 miles of mainline connects with South Central Florida Express which connects with Florida East Coast and CSX. U.S. Sugar also has the most

automated, integrated sugar manufacturing facility in the world with state-of-the-art technology to process 42,000 tons of cane per day.

Following recent improvement initiatives in both sugar agricultural and manufacturing operations utilizing technology and automation, U.S. Sugar turned their attention the railroad portion of the business. U.S. Sugar identified opportunities for performance improvement, particularly around safety, and brought in RailComm to help identify potential solutions. After a site assessment in 2014, RailComm identified several solutions in U.S. Sugar's manufacturing rail yard and with its mainline dispatch method, where automation and technology could add significant safety to its workers, while improving efficiency and productivity.

With a very well defined deadline to implement our solutions in time for harvesting season, RailComm successfully implemented both a yard solution for the automation of 32 switches, and a computer-aided dispatch system for its entire mainline, in October 2015.

"Part of what initially impressed us with RailComm was their commitment to thoroughly understand our business objectives and assess our operation before jumping into the proposal process. Once we awarded the project to RailComm, they aggressively resourced the project and developed a comprehensive project plan," said Bob Lawson, General Manager of Harvesting and Railroad Operations. He added: "RailComm met our expectations on implementation and, as a result, we entered the start of our harvest season with several new solutions to enhance productivity, efficiency, and especially safety performance."

The yard control system provides entrance/exit routing and remote control of powered switch machines for its Clewiston yard. The system is controlled from a central location within the control tower. Communications from and to the field are powered by RailComm's communications platform RailComm RADiANT™ that uses wireless radios over a 2.4 GHz spread spectrum data network.



With RailComm's yard solution, authorized personnel can safely route trains through the yard and onto the mainline from a remote location, without the need to manually throw switches that can cause injuries. The DOC® software also offers the yard controllers a user friendly graphical interface that provides flexibility, speed and efficiency to their operation.

The mainline dispatch system uses a DTC block dispatching operation. U.S. Sugar takes advantage of DOC system's standard components such as Daily Operating Bulletins, Track Bulletins, Delivery Bulletins, GCOR Protection forms, Railroad Manager, and reporting services.

With RailComm's dispatch system U.S. Sugar dispatchers replace their paper train sheet with an electronic form that enhances their ability to move trains with increased safety and productivity. From a single user interface, the dispatcher can add and access train consist information, as well as keep track of the train resources during its route.

About U.S. Sugar

U.S. Sugar is one of the country's largest privately-held agricultural firms. The Company farms over 215,000 acres of the most productive farmland in the United States. In 2008, its newly consolidated and automated milling and refining facility at Clewiston became the world's largest vertically integrated sugar cane milling and refining operation capable of processing 42,000 tons of sugar cane per day and producing ~800,000 tons of refined sugar per year. In addition to sugar and citrus farming and processing, the Company also grows sweet corn and owns and operates both the largest private agricultural railroad in the country and an independent short line railroad, South Central Florida Express.

For more information, visit www.ussugar.com.

About RailComm

RailComm provides railroads and rail-served industrials with software-based solutions that are focused on train control and railroad management. Our state-of-the-art solutions automate an ever-expanding network of connected devices that generate real-time information which we then collect and analyze to coordinate and optimize the rail infrastructure. Our software solutions can be deployed on-site, or through an industry leading cloud/SaaS program. RailComm's solutions are installed on Class I railroads throughout North America, as well as on many Passenger Rail, Short Line and Regional railroads, Ports and Industrials. Our solutions have been instrumental in providing sustainable operating efficiencies and safety performance around the globe. To learn more, visit www.railcomm.com.

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