

# Solutions That Are On Track

In the rail transport industry the keys to success depend upon the ability to keep freight (rail cars) moving, to gaining accurate weight data without stopping rail cars, and to invoice customers accurately for hauled freight. In-motion weighing provides productivity improvement and increased safety as you are weighing cars without having to uncouple them or stop them on a static scale. Static weighing requires uncoupling of railcars to meet legal for trade requirements.



■ In the southwestern portion of the United States, the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, called Cap Metro for short, operates a short line railroad, hauling stone and aggregates from multiple quarries in the area to connections further away with the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail systems. Cap Metro was interested in finding a way to track and record individual rail car weights. This information was needed to ensure that Union Pacific's maximum load limits were not being exceeded, along with being used for correct invoicing purposes. Finding a way to offer this service to their customers would be an invaluable service for Cap Metro to supply, so they turned to their local METTLER TOLEDO provider for their needs. A-1 Scale Service, Inc. was the METTLER TOLEDO Distributor in their area.

Knowing what Cap Metro was looking for, Bubba Buchhorn, Regional Manager for A-1 Scale Service, teamed up with Felix Klebe at METTLER TOLEDO

to design an inmotion rail scale to meet their need. To ensure maximum productivity, the rail scale system they configured was an unattended operation and would be installed on a newly constructed, dedicated track. The system would allow entire trains of thirty or more cars to be weighed at speeds up to 6 mph. Automatic Equipment Identification (AEI) was also included as part of the system, linking railcar identification to the weight data for each rail car. The AEI would report train number, sequence numbers, railcar numbers, gross weights, speed, date, and time and would be communicated via the host port to a host computer. This meant the Cap Metro office staff, located fifty plus miles away and linked to the AEI by modem, would be able to download specific data daily or whenever they needed the information. It would be precise, thorough, and literally at their fingertips.

For added safety, an overweight signal light was installed near the scale in

order to alert the train operator if any of the cars exceeded the 286,000 lb Union Pacific load limit. Additional signals from the system also inform the train operator if he/she is approaching the scale at a higher than recommended weighing speed and if the scale was ready for weighing. This greatly reduces weighing errors and increases productivity by not having to stop a train to reweigh rail cars whose data was not captured.

## Coupled In-Motion Railcar Controller. . .

- ✓ Weighs trains at speeds up to 9 mph
- ✓ Fully unattended operation
- ✓ Interfaces serially with AEI equipment
- ✓ Meets HB-44 Legal for Trade Requirements
- ✓ Remote data transfer and configuration via modem or Ethernet link



The solution that Bubba and Felix designed is an excellent example of the capabilities of METTLER TOLEDO products and the teamwork that exists between field sales professional and product engineers. The system ensured fast, accurate weighing with the ability to immediately invoice the transported materials, while eliminating weighing delays. The automatic identification of overloads prevented costly overweight fines, and the unattended operation with remote connectivity provided extra flexibility and cost savings to Cap Metro.

Cap Metro had a need and METTLER TOLEDO had the solution.

For additional information on products used in this application, please email [indinfo@mt.com](mailto:indinfo@mt.com) or call 1-800-523-5123 and refer to this story.



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- SQC (Statistical Quality Control) Fundamentals
- Formulation Basics
- Material Transfer Control
- Connectivity & Communication

The seminar, designed for 10-20 people, lasts approximately one hour and is scheduled during lunch so as not to consume valuable business time. Interested in this innovative new program?

If you would like to schedule a seminar, simply contact us at:

Phone: **1-800-523-5123**

E-Mail: [indinfo@mt.com](mailto:indinfo@mt.com)

Fax: **1-614-438-4518**

Specify the topic, desired date, and number of attendees, and a METTLER TOLEDO representative will contact you to confirm a date. Who said there's no such thing as a free lunch?

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