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ACS Railroad Solutions Initiates Pilot Program with Norfolk Southern to Deploy Next Generation in Idle Reduction Technology

(Dunwoody GA, October 8, 2024) – ACS Railroad Solutions (ACRSRS), a leading supplier of Locomotive aftermarket communication and technology products has initiated a pilot project to deploy a ground-breaking Idle Reduction System on Norfolk Southern Corporation low horsepower locomotives.

The ACRSRS Electrolyte Idle Reduction System performs all the functions of a typical Automated Engine Start/Stop (AESS) system but also leverages a 33 kWh Lithium-Ion based energy module to keep key locomotive systems operational when the engine is shutdown. “The potential fuel saving and emission reduction benefits of a typical AESS are often never realized due to the binary nature of these systems fully shutting down the locomotive” said Dave Fox, Chief Solutions Officer for ACRSRS. With our new system, HVAC, Heat, Lighting and Analytic systems can stay fully functioning, eliminating the motivation for crews and other operations personnel to override the system and reengage the engine.”

Beside human override of the system, a drop in air pressure due to leakage is a common cause of the Locomotive engine having to reengage and idle. The ACRSRS Electrolyte system monitors air pressure and controls a make-up air compressor, also powered by the energy module, that will ensure the pressure stays above mandated levels. The energy module can also maintain charge of the lead acid batteries, and if necessary be automatically activated to assist when the engine does restart.

“The ACRSRS Electrolyte system looks to be a real game changer and will be a key element in Norfolk Southern leading the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy” said Ryan Stege, Norfolk Southern Senior Director of Locomotive Operations & Maintenance. “The design of this system effectively addresses many of the challenges we’ve experienced with legacy AESS systems, and we’re confident the additional reduction in fuel consumption and GHG emission will have a large impact on our efforts”, added Stege.

Knoxville Locomotive Works (KLW), has played a key role in this project, being responsible for ensuring the ACRSRS Electrolyte systems are deployed and fully operational as well as capturing essential data to verify the efficacy of the system. “So far we’ve recorded multiple examples of locomotive ancillary systems being powered from the L-I energy module for up to 8 hours” says Todd Burchette, President KLW, “which can translate very quickly to significant reduction in fuel usage”

Trains are already 7X more fuel efficient than trucks and produce on average 75% less GHG emissions. “This program is another way for us to even further extend that advantage”, concluded Stege.



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About ACS Railroad Solutions

Over the last decade ACS Railroad Solutions has been a key supplier to Class I Railroads of cabling and communication devices that were instrumental in the implementation of Positive Train Control. We continued to evolve and modernize our PTC offerings and have introduced an array of new locomotive aftermarket products and diagnostic tools that can positively impact your operational efficiency and support your Sustainability and Safety Initiatives. Visit us at www.acsrail.com

About Norfolk Southern

Since 1827, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) and its predecessor companies have safely moved the goods and materials that drive the U.S. economy. Today, it operates a customer-centric and operations-driven freight transportation network. Committed to furthering sustainability, Norfolk Southern helps its customers avoid approximately 15 million tons of yearly carbon emissions by shipping via rail. Its dedicated team members deliver more than 7 million carloads annually, from agriculture to consumer goods, and Norfolk Southern originates more automotive traffic than any other Class I Railroad. Norfolk Southern also has the most extensive intermodal network in the eastern U.S. It serves a majority of the country's population and manufacturing base, with connections to every major container port on the Atlantic coast as well as major ports in the Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes. Learn more by visiting www.NorfolkSouthern.com.

About Knoxville Locomotive Works

Established in 1998, Knoxville Locomotive Works (KLW) has repowered, upgraded, repaired and remanufactured approximately 1,000 locomotives ranging from DC/AC modernizations to low horsepower switchers and high horsepower line-haul units. Currently, KLW manufactures both low and high horsepower locomotives that are EPA Tier 4 Certified and CARB Verified. With an employee base totaling over 300 years of combined railroad experience, our focus is building reliable, sustainable, and adaptable locomotives that meet our world's ever changing environmental needs and technological advancements. Learn more at www.goklw.com