

Finmeccanica: order to Ansaldo Signal for a smart system for managing rail traffic in US

Union Pacific adopts an innovative rail traffic planning technology

Finmeccanica company Ansaldo Signal is to build a smart system (Optimizing Traffic Planner™ [OTP] and Next Generation Computer Aided Dispatch System [CAD]) that can guide trains based on real-time information received, and react to unexpected events such as tracks going out of service or trains running more slowly than expected. Ansaldo Signal is to build this innovative security system for the US market via its subsidiary Union Switch & Signal (US&S), which today signed an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad (NYSE:UNP) to provide OTP and CAD for the company's entire rail network, stretching more than 53,000 km across the whole of North America.

The OTP system was designed especially to optimise train movement in a way that satisfies a railway's complex logistics and operating needs. Once installed, OTP can manage traffic, creating ideal routes for all trains scheduled to be travelling during a given period of time. Thanks to its ability to respond in real time, OTP can always select the best route.

OTP will also increase rail capacity significantly and enable companies to reduce their operating costs.

The system is the most recent innovation from US&S, and represents a quantum leap in rail traffic planning technology. The company built the first traffic management system for commercial use at the end of the 1980s, using Auto Routing (ART) equipment, and remains at the forefront in the development of rail transport optimisation systems.

"US&S is committed to delivering the latest technologies to the railroad industry, and we are pleased to announce the first OTP contract with the largest railroad in North America," said Roberto Gagliardi, CEO of Ansaldo Signal. "With the OTP system in place, Union Pacific will be in a position to greatly increase operational efficiency while reducing costs."

Based in Pittsburgh, USA, Union Switch & Signal Inc (US&S) is an industry leader in the design and manufacture of signalling, automation and control systems for rail networks and public transport manufacturers all over the world, and in after-sales assistance. US&S is 100% owned by the Finmeccanica subsidiary Ansaldo Signal NV. Founded in 1881, the company will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year. For further information, please visit www.switch.com.