

Reliability to Set Your Watch By

As the “Heart of the North American Rail Network”, The Belt Railway is the largest intermediate switching terminal railroad in the United States. The Belt has 28 miles of mainline route with more than 300 miles of switching tracks, allowing it to interchange with every railroad serving the Chicago rail hub. The Belt’s clearing yard spans a 5.5-mile distance among 786 acres, supporting more than 250 miles of track. Nearly all major rail companies rely on The Belt Railway to move goods.

Busy doesn’t come close to The Belt Railway’s need for reliability and safety.

With Chicago being the largest hub of the railroad industry, very few rail cars travel trans-continently without coming through Chicago. Owner lines, as well as several other railroads, bring trains to The Belt Railway to be efficiently separated, classified, and re-blocked for cross-country departure. The Belt Railway currently dispatches more than 8,400 rail cars per day on a service-driven basis.

At Clearing Yard, employees classify between 40 and 50 miles of train loads every 24 hours. With its ability to service more than 40 industries by rail, it also offers unique industrial and intermodal options equivalent to having a location on each Chicago railroad. This environment stresses the demands of personnel and equipment – both of which need to be in top working order at all times. Reliable solutions must provide the safety and time in service to meet the demands of this unique railyard.

Laird Controls – reliable solutions for the rail industry

How does Laird Controls help? Our products are designed to provide reliable safety allowing Belt Railway workers to trust that they have the control needed to do tasks in the most efficient way. It all begins with the radio communication from the operator to the engine: a radio heartbeat that causes the engine to stop safely in the case that the heartbeat is lost for any reason. It is the redundancy of critical components, both mechanical and electrical, and the responsiveness no matter what the conditions that guarantee the signals needed to move and stop the engine. It is also the sensor technology that knows when an operator falls, stopping the engine and alerting operations. This dedication to reliability provides improved productivity, and promotes safety by allowing increased mobility and better ergonomics.

Providing real-time support and monitoring

Each engine employed at The Belt Railway works for itself. Moving more than 8,400 cars a day takes its toll on the equipment and the need for the service team to stay on top of mechanical and maintenance issues is critical. One down engine stops many loads of goods and can be very costly for The Belt Railway team. CattronConnect™, now Tasverii™ Insight for Rail, provides maintenance data for every machine monitored. The service lead has access to valuable data points that is then regularly shared with

maintenance and equipment repair teams enabling visibility into potential issues and allowing immediate resolution to avoid downtime.

Sustainable performance improves ROI

The justification for employing an engine remote control system becomes even clearer when the life span of a typical Laird Controls system is considered. Laird Controls designs our control systems to tolerate the most difficult environments, and backs up that design with world class technical support. With that in mind, it is not unusual to see Laird Controls remote equipment working reliably for decades, as in the case of The Belt Railway. Relying on our standardized controls as well as knowing that the core technology designed into Laird Controls equipment means that system support and training will remain consistent. It is upon this foundation that we add additional features to continue driving increases in productivity.

Summary

Safety, reliability, consistency, and the benefit of increased productivity has given The Belt Railway their trust in Laird Controls products for nearly two decades. Find out how you can get more traffic through your yard by using Laird Controls remote controls specifically designed for rail.

Visit our website to learn more how Laird Controls solutions can help you streamline your operations. www.lairdtech.com/controls