



Rail Car Management

Automating and streamlining the fuel supply chain

Overview

Organizations that generate electricity, manufacture industrial products, or provide large volume transportation services are among the most fuel-intensive businesses. In fact, fuels are the largest direct cost in generating electricity and managing those costs helps consumers, suppliers and fuel transporters to operate more efficiently.

With fuel costs accounting for between 50 and 70% of annual operating expenses, reducing the cost of procuring, transporting, or consuming fuel by even a few pennies per unit can result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings over time. Coal accounts for roughly 50% of the fuel used in electricity generation globally and 65% of all coal is shipped with railcars. Oil and gas companies also rely heavily on rail car shipping.

Given these volumes, many fuel-intensive businesses lease or own their own fleet of railcars. With the lease or ownership of railcar fleets, come maintenance cycles, repairs, and location tracking needs that make railcar management an important component of fuels management. Railcar management systems can help to manage the many aspects of fuel delivery costs and support the tracking of in-transit fuels inventories. As part of an overall fuels management solution, railcar management helps tie the real-time tracking of rail-born inventory and equipment to internal planning and execution systems.

Real-time Information and Cost Effective Rail Delivery

Railcar fleets that are not fully utilized due to a lack of visibility or process integration can be very costly for the business. Aligné Rail Car Management is an additional module to Aligné Fuels Management and provides the real-time links to railway tracking information needed to identify the location of railcars, issue alerts if cars are out-of-route, and haven't moved in a specified timeframe. This information helps users to manage rail car utilization rates and the availability of transportation to meet demand. SunGard's solution provides a repository of all railcar fleet information to help manage the maintenance and repair cycles and the costs associated with them.

Aligné Rail Car Management – Management Control for Railcar Fleets

Many fuel-intensive businesses lease or own their own fleet of railcars. With railcar fleets, there is a need for maintenance schedules and cycles, routine and emergency repairs, and location tracking of cars, which make effective railcar management an important component of fuels management. Further, railcar management systems help to track in-transit fuels inventories and can tie real-time tracking of rail-born inventory and equipment to internal planning and execution systems.

For companies that own or lease rail cars, Aligné Rail Car Management helps track and manage fleet costs. It can help to manage the cycle times, repair and maintenance costs, fleet performance and mileage by maintaining a record of each car's history, location, inspection results, maintenance schedule and costs. Aligné Rail Car Management supports the import of car repair data from third party repair facilities, which then can be used to analyze rail car component wear and costs.

Aligné Rail Car Management provides the real-time links to railway tracking information needed to identify the location of railcars, issue alerts if cars are out-of-route, sitting idle or Bad-Ordered by the railroad. This information helps users to manage rail car utilization rates and the availability of transportation to meet demand.

It maintains railcar fleet information that includes financial, physical and status information including:

- Purchase or lease details such as cost or contract terms
- Physical characteristics such as capacity, weight, dimensions, and clearance
- Identifying information such as manufacturer, vehicle ID, car type
- In-service or inactive status

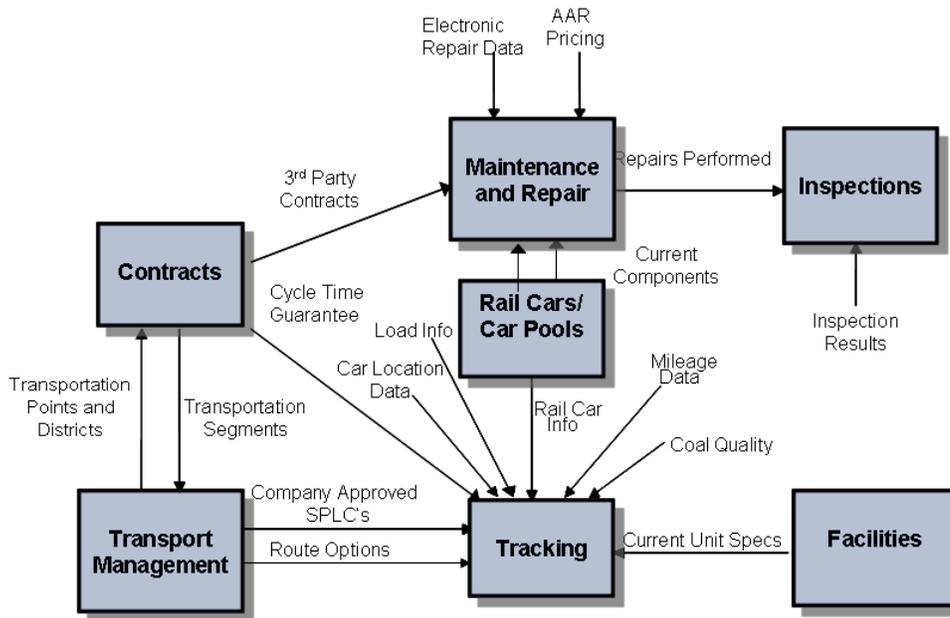
Additionally, to help track cars throughout the delivery journey, Aligné Rail Car Management supports car location messages (CLMs) supplied by reporting agencies such as the American Association of Railroads (AAR). It establishes and maintains points associated to transportation routes and issues alerts when a car is outside of its defined service territory.



Furthermore, Align Rail Car Management not only helps to manage costs and fleet utilization by tracking repairs and mechanical components but it also audits the costs associated with them:

- Managing maintenance schedules to minimize regulator imposed repairs that would pull railcars out of service
- Maintaining inspection results for the cars in the fleet
- Capturing and validating railcar repair against AAR standards
- Using repair data to analyze/forecast railcar component wear and cost

The following diagram illustrates the flow of information within Align Rail Car Management:



ABOUT SUNGARD ENERGY SOLUTIONS

SunGard's energy solutions help energy companies, industrials and financial services, to efficiently compete in global energy markets by streamlining and integrating the trading, risk management and operations of physical commodities and their associated financial instruments. These solutions provide front to back-office support for capturing deals, delivering market data for valuation, clearing and reconciliation of transactions, invoicing and accounting for transactions, analysis and management of risk, and physical transmission or delivery of commodities. SunGard Energy Solutions also support the logistics and inventory of fuels used in producing power and industrial products.

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