



USTRANSCOM Science and Technology

Rapidly Available Interface for Trans-Loading (RAIL)

Project Summary: This project proposes to conduct Research, Development, Test, and Engineering to validate, demonstrate and deliver new capability by leveraging a proven system, recently developed for port opening/pier repair, to satisfy the requirement for expeditionary railhead operations. The Pier Over-Decking System (PODS) is comprised of interchangeable components that can be rapidly constructed in various configurations based on mission requirements, without dedicated heavy Materiel Handling Equipment (MHE). Rail movement of deploying forces, particularly in forward areas, is commonly constrained by the limited availability of railhead facilities. Typically, an open siding with a terminating end ramp that can be employed to discharge/load rail flatcars is only available in a major fixed facility, often in an urban setting. While the preferred method is to discharge/load sequentially from the end of the train, a platform placed at a lateral position adjacent to a railcar would provide the ability to accomplish an optimized expeditionary intermodal transfer. PODS is the principle hardware element and it interfaces with a range of rail cars and military vehicles/rolling stock.



RAIL Proof-of-concept
Demonstration (May 2019)

Benefit: A modular, flexible, and air-capable expeditionary railhead capability will permit US forces to project power and flow logistics at multiple- and unexpected entry points throughout denied theaters. Rail is a critical modality for the transportation of heavy platforms in theaters and has emerging potential. Existing bridging systems are not conducive to this purpose.

Duration of project: FY21 – FY23

Participants: United States European Command, United States Indo-Pacific Command J4, United States Army Corps of Engineers – Engineer Research and Development Center, United States Army Combat Capabilities Development Command – Ground Vehicle Systems Center.

Project advocacy (funding or otherwise): USINDOPACOM