

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



September 23, 2013

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bob Coakley  
Director Sales and Marketing  
Nordco Inc.  
245 W. Forest Hill Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154  
414-766-2182  
[bcoakley@nordco.com](mailto:bcoakley@nordco.com)

**NORDCO ANNOUNCES NEW HITCH-MOUNTED RAIL FLAW DETECTION SYSTEM**



Nordco's is pleased to announce the new Flex rail flaw detection, featuring a hitch-mounted inspection carriage with patented XL9-11 wheel probes (including 11 inspection transducers), digital signal processing, and on-board Run-on-Run software.

According to Pat Graham, President of Nordco Rail Services and Inspection Technologies, “the Flex incorporates the latest technology for pattern recognition and defect analysis, including pattern recognition defect classification and on-board Run-on-Run.”

Pattern recognition defect classification incorporates artificial intelligence to recognize common rail conditions, as well as recognize and classify defects. It is an adaptive learning system that adds new defects to the library as they are analyzed, allowing the system to recognize new defects automatically.

On-board Run-on-Run is a comparative analytical tool that compares prior test results to current test results for the same portion of the rail. The system alerts the operator of a match to a prior indication and allows for real-time comparison and the opportunity to identify any changes in the rail’s health.

While the Flex system is normally configured for standard gauge track, it can be customized to handle any gauge size. Easily maneuverable due to its smaller footprint, the system is ideal for yard tracks, sidings, and turnouts, as well as accommodating clearance envelope constraints.

In addition, the Flex uses Nordco’s exclusive, XL9-11 wheel probe technology designed specifically to perform ultrasound testing on rail, including eleven inspection transducers:

- One zero-degree crystal for both **web coverage** and **base detection**
- One 45-degree forward-facing crystal and one 45-degree rear-facing crystal for **full rail web coverage**
- Three 70-degree forward-facing crystals (field, center, and gage) and three 70-degree rear-facing crystals, (field, center, and gage) for **full head coverage**
- One side-looking field crystal and one side-looking gage crystal for **longitudinal cross-rail coverage**

Finally, the optional tracer wheel locates gage corner fractures that are not detectable by conventional methods, locating an average of 30% more defects.

## ABOUT NORDCO

The Nordco family of companies provides an extensive selection of products and services that make it possible for rail-related industries to build, improve, maintain and inspect their track infrastructure and move rolling stock. Nordco, headquartered in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, has a long history as a manufacturer of new and rebuilt railroad Maintenance-of-Way Machinery. Today the

company's product line includes in-house and on-site machinery inspection and repair; reconditioned machinery rental; mobile railcar movers; ultrasonic rail flaw testing equipment and services for railroads and other industries; and replacement parts.

Nordco operates manufacturing facilities in Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Ridgefield, Connecticut; Grandview, Missouri; and Arcola, Illinois.

###