



# ANNUAL RAIL SAFETY CONFERENCE

*"RAIL RENAISSANCE"*

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Hazendal, Stellenbosch, Western Cape



# Using Innovative Track Monitoring and Condition Diagnostics to Enhance Rail Safety Management in South Africa

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**IMPROVING RAIL SAFETY SYSTEM AVAILABILITY THROUGH INNOVATION**

*Sub-theme 5: Evolution of Traditional Rail Safety Management Systems*





# INTRODUCTION: THE WHY?

## Why improve Track Condition Monitoring & Train Detection systems?

... to Reduce Risk, Save Lives, and Improve Reliability

- **Theft & Vandalism**
  - “3877 incidents of cable theft in 22/23 costing SA’s economy close to R47-billion a year”
- **Loss of Life**
- **Economic Impact**
- **Operational Inefficiency**



We need **AFRICAN solutions** to tackle uniquely **AFRICAN problems!**



# THE CONTEXT: THE PROBLEM

What does the current technology address?

Four empty rectangular boxes arranged horizontally, intended for user input.

Loss in **Power Availability**



Loss in **Cable Availability**

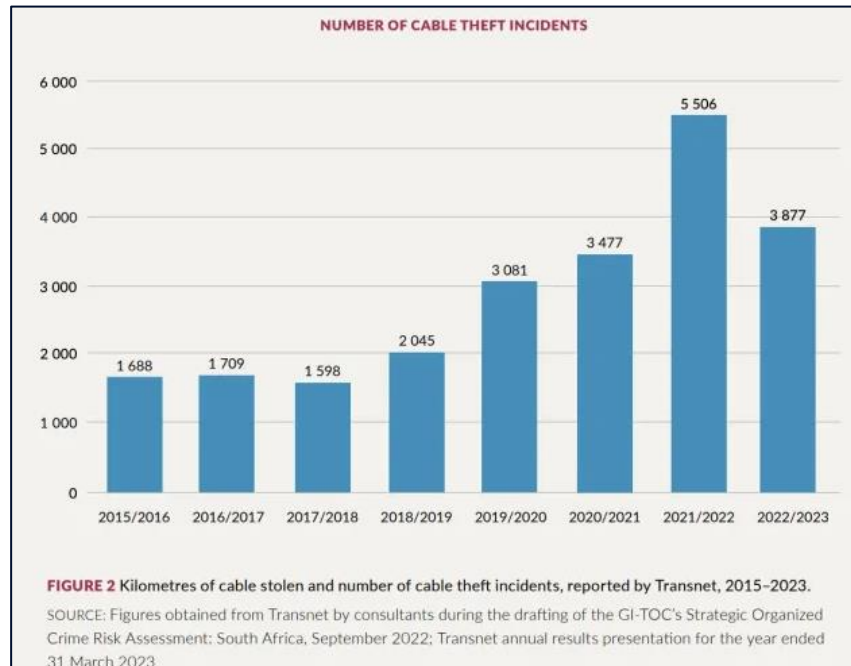




# THE CHALLENGE: A TECH SOLUTION

## The Requirement

- Detect Trains
- Theft & Vandal Resistant
  - No Copper Cables, No Resale Value, Low power



## The Patented Solution

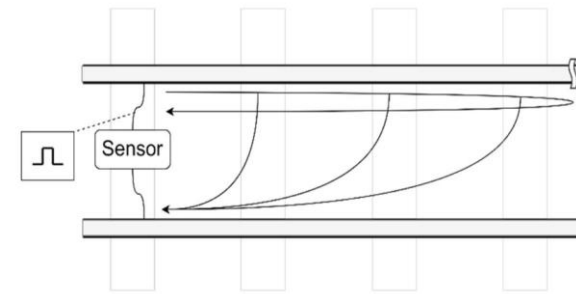


Figure 1. Contextualised illustration of the combined effect of TLCA and TDR for TrackView

- Broken rail detection (with location)
- Detects trains (with location)
- No resale value
- No Copper cables
- Low power
- Ballast Condition / Washouts / Weld Anomalies

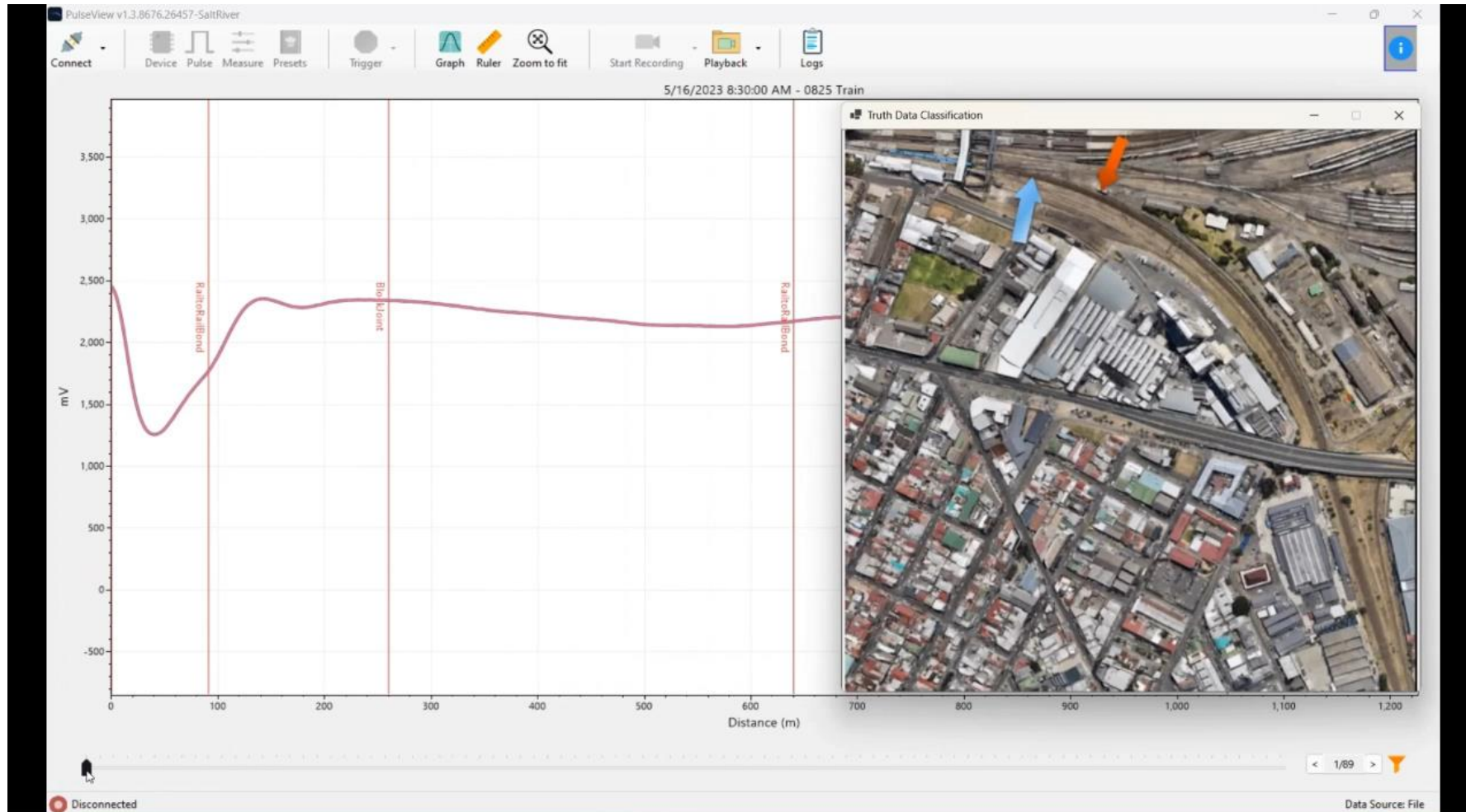


# THE TECHNOLOGY: PULSE RESPONSE



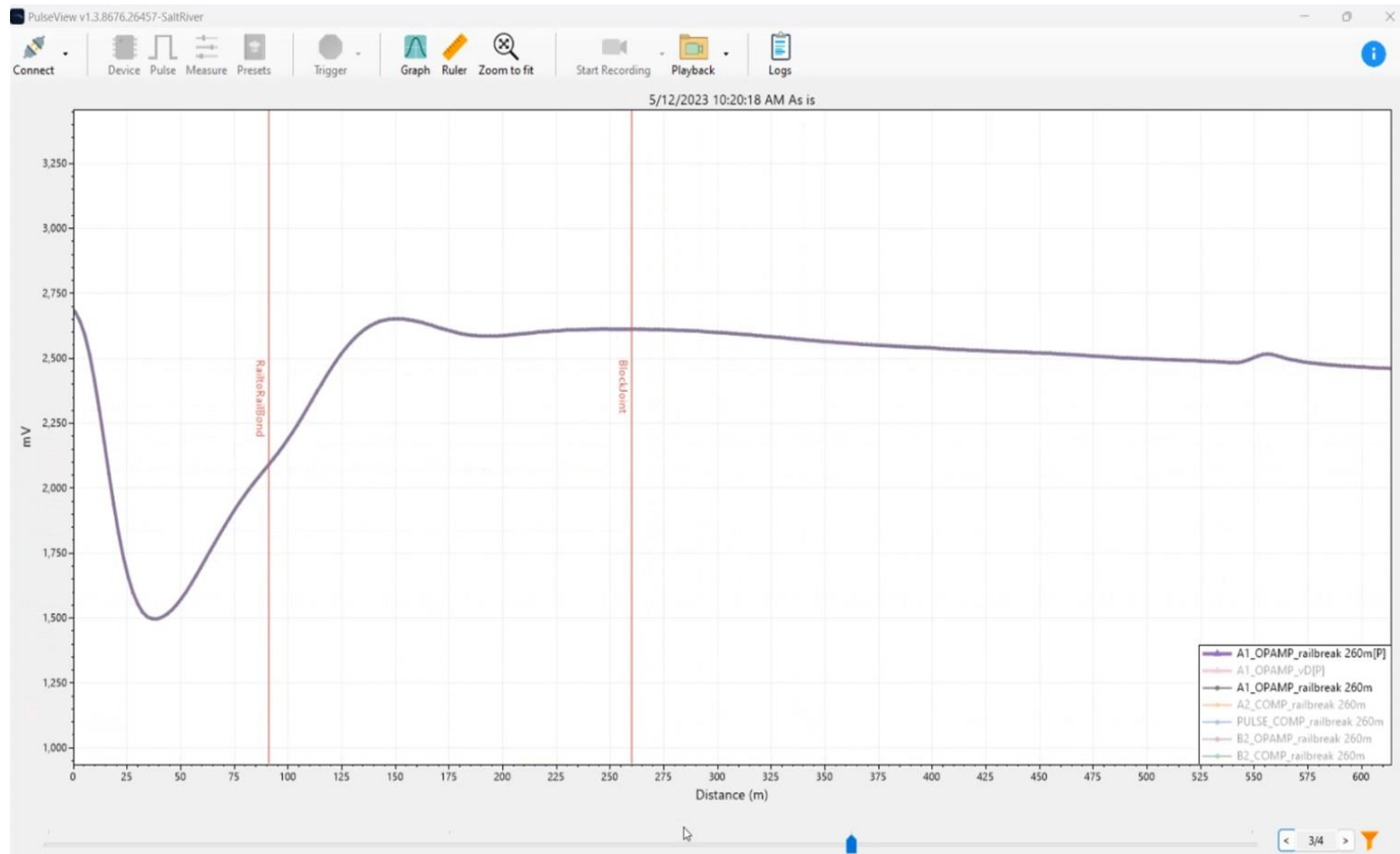


# THE TECHNOLOGY: PULSE RESPONSE





# THE TECHNOLOGY: **BASELINE**



## Legend

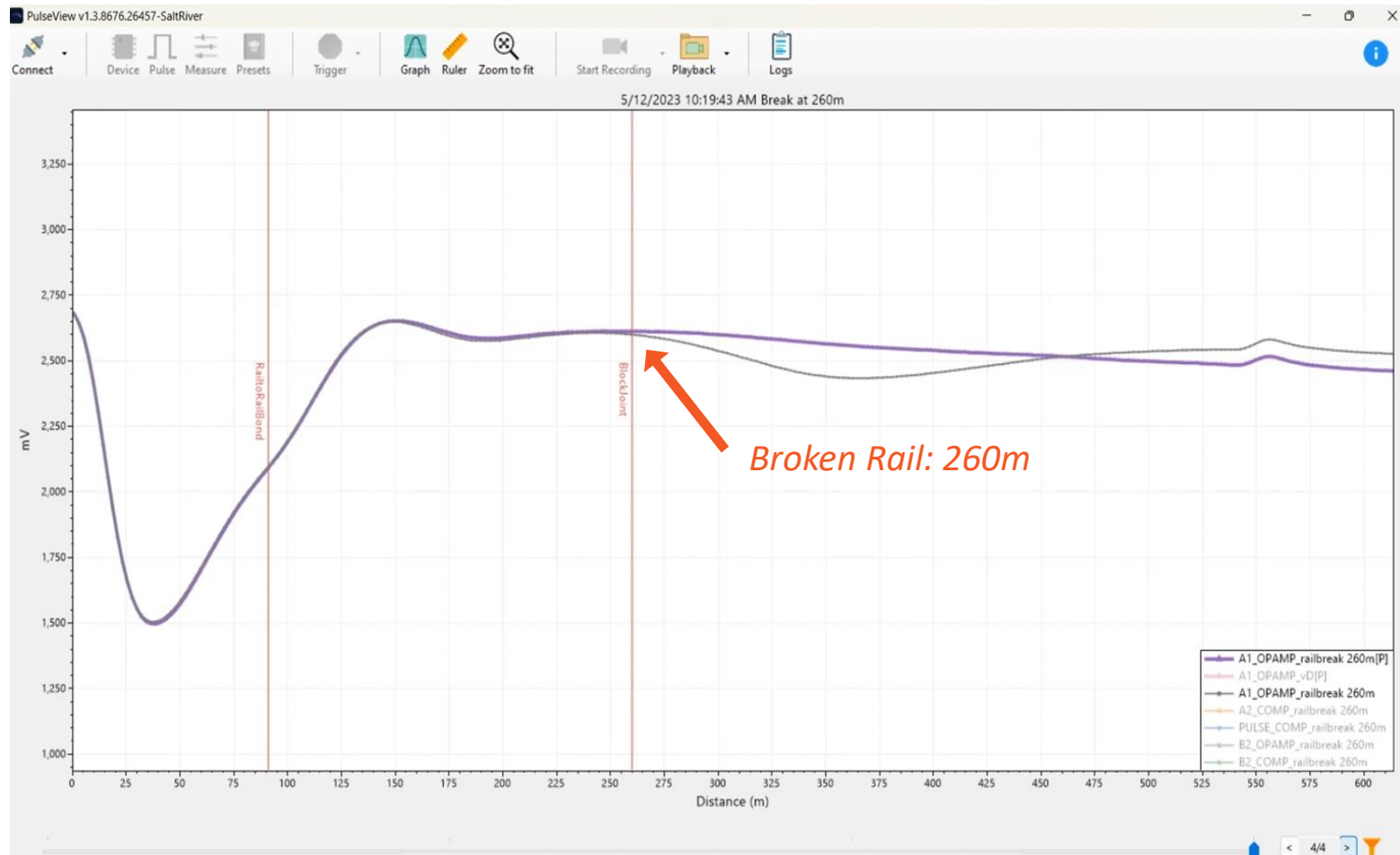
— Rail A - Processed

Figure 1. Baseline measurement





# THE TECHNOLOGY: **BROKEN RAIL**



## Legend

- Baseline
- New Measure

Figure 2. Rail break causing deviation from baseline



# THE TECHNOLOGY: COMPATIBILITY

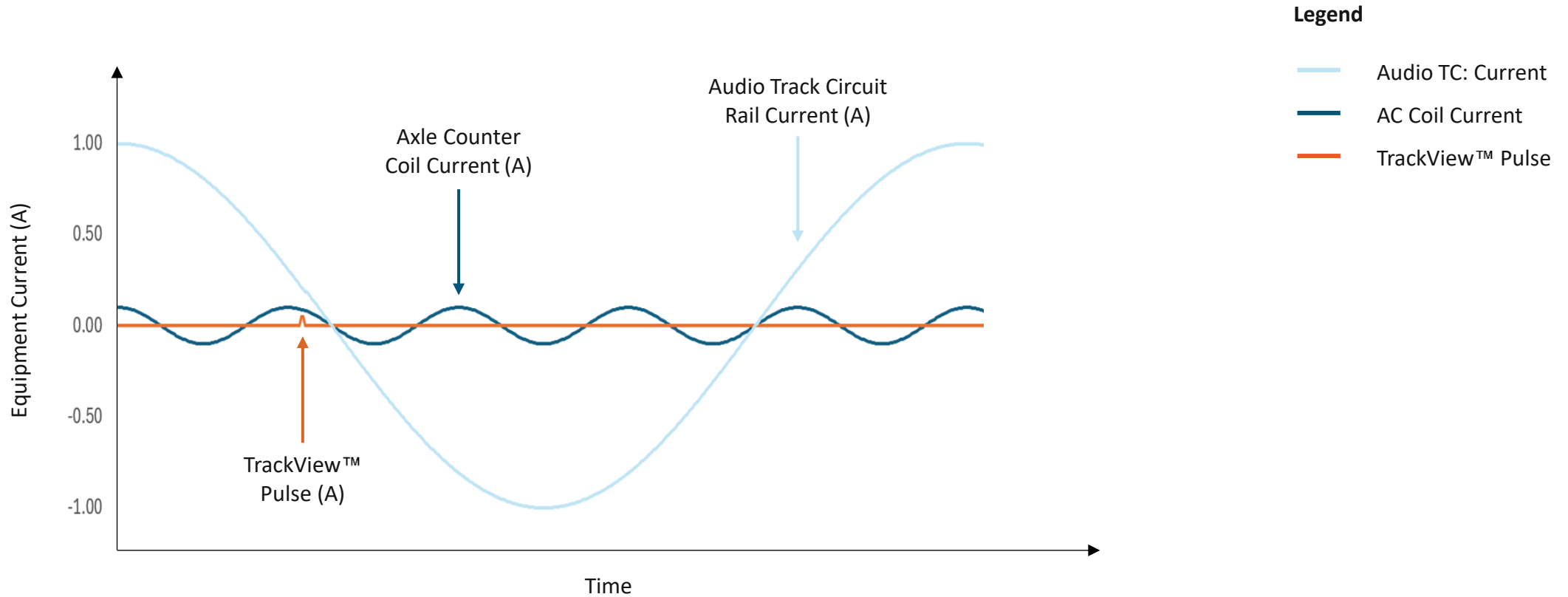


Figure 3. Current duration of various technologies on track



# APPLICATIONS: **CONDITION MONITORING**

## Track Condition Monitoring Systems

**Broken Rails** | Washout | Flooding | Ballast Conditions | Flat Wheels

### **BROKEN RAILS**

*"the leading cause of train derailments"*





# APPLICATIONS: TRAIN DETECTION



## Train Detection & Integrity Systems

Train Position | Train Length | Average Speed | Ballast Conditions

### FALL-BACK TRAIN CONFIRMATION SYSTEMS

*"helping train controllers see during manual authorisations"*





# APPLICATIONS: LEVEL CROSSING



## Train Detection & Alarm Systems

Train Detection | Signals & Sirens | Alarms & Warnings

### 30 SECOND WARNINGS CAN SAVE LIVES

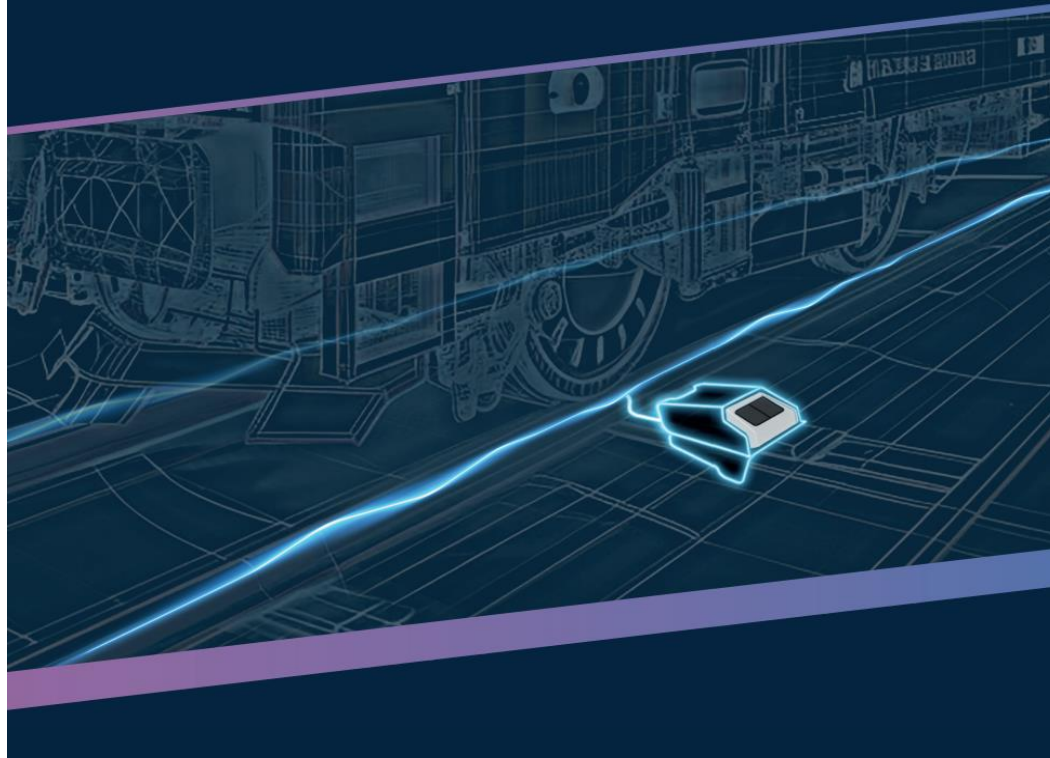
*"helping communities stay safe around railway tracks"*





## THE TECHNOLOGY: TRACKVIEW™

# SMART RAIL MONITORING



**01**

### Rail Break Detection

- With location in near real-time
- Self powered

**02**

### Vandal & Theft Resistant

- No resale value (no copper cables or batteries)
- Tamper detection with alarms & security dashboard

**03**

### No System Disruption

- Rapid installation between trains
- Easy maintenance (rapid device swap out < 15 min)

**04**

### Train & Rail Condition Monitoring

- Train position & speed
- Flat-wheel, drag-wheel & flooding

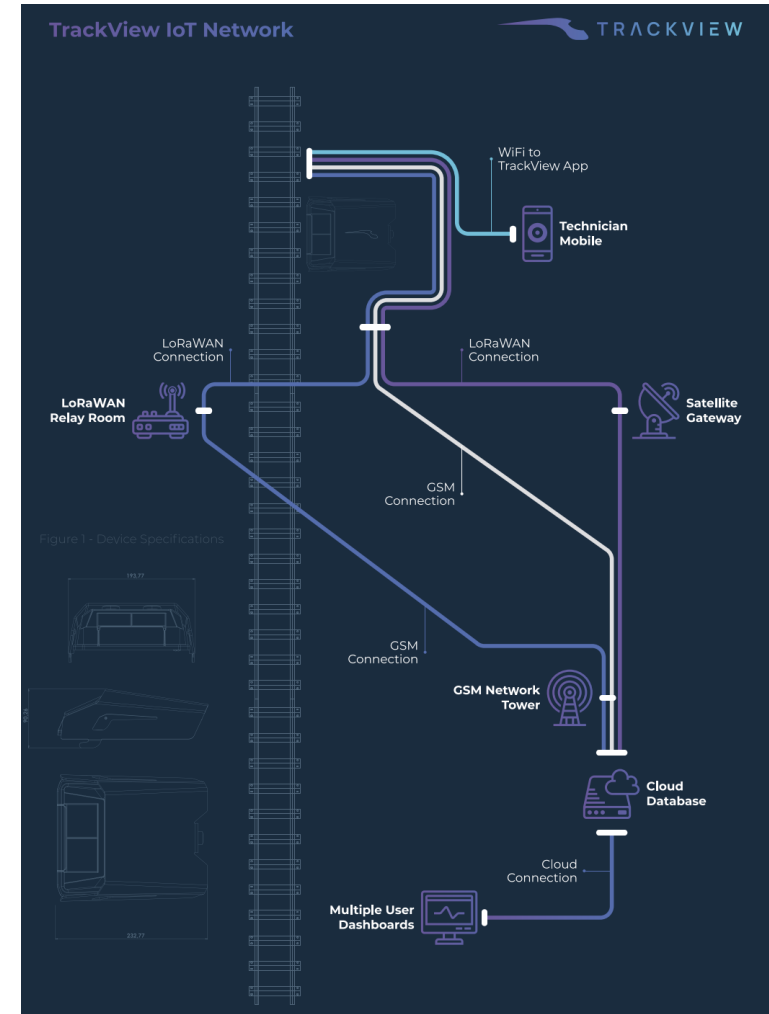
**05**

### Advanced IoT

- GSM / LoRaWAN / WiFi / Satellite Connection
- Cloud Managed
- Alarms, Reporting, & Trending Dashboards
- Device self-diagnostics with mobile app



# THE TECHNOLOGY: TRACKVIEW™





# THE TECHNOLOGY: TRACKVIEW™ ON TRACK

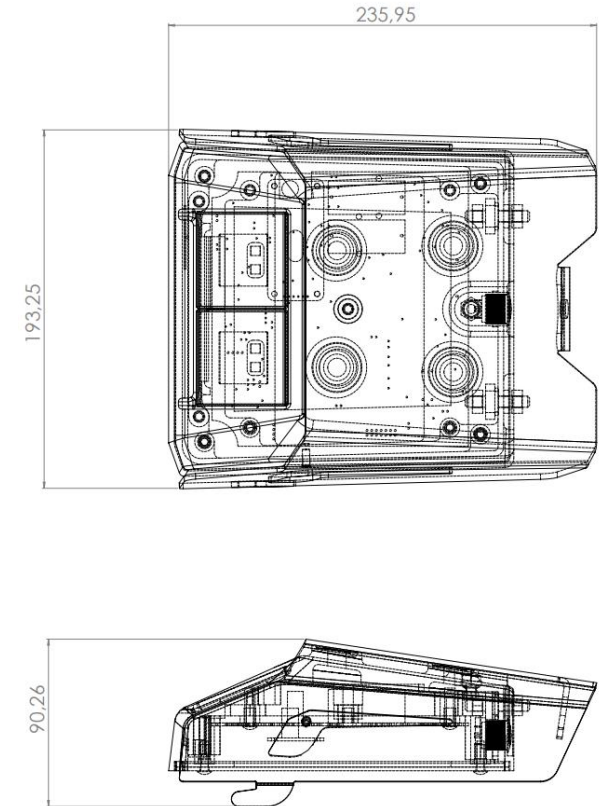


Figure 1. TrackView™ Dimensions (cm)





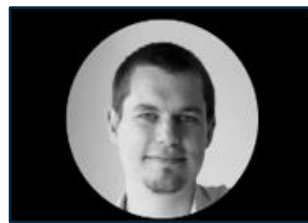
# THE TEAM



## Core Team



**Franz Struwig**  
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*Founder*



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Senior Rail Engineer  
*Founder*



**Danie Marais**  
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Software Engineer

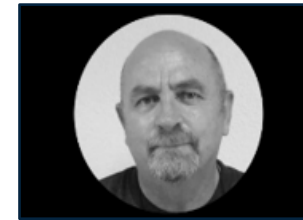


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## Partners



**Dr. Bennie Steyn**  
Consultant



**Prof. Hannes Grabe**  
Advisory Board Member

## Funded by



