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CONTENT FROM WABTEC

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Paving the Way for the Transportation Industry

Rail technology giant **Wabtec** is dedicated to continuous improvements.



Left: Rafael Santana, president and CEO, Wabtec Corporation
Below: Wabtec's industry-leading systems, solutions, and services keep rail and transit moving to get resources and people where they are most needed.

EVEN IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, THE WORLD HAS to keep moving. At Wabtec Corporation, a Pittsburgh-based global provider of equipment systems, digital solutions, and value-added services for freight and transit rail, staying operational during the COVID-19 outbreak is critical.

"A key element of our company is supporting an important societal function, which is to keep rail and transit moving," says Rafael Santana, president and CEO of Wabtec. "And that means moving resources and people to where they are needed most."

The challenges of operating during the 2020 global pandemic were preceded by a transformational year



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at Wabtec. In February 2019, the company merged with GE Transportation, creating a powerful new business that combines industry-leading technology and manufacturing capabilities with best-in-class services and digital electronics solutions to fuel the transportation sector—including freight rail, transit, mining, and more.

"We have a really strong base diversified portfolio and a significant advantage that comes with it," says Santana. "This will ultimately allow us to continue to grow profitability and strengthen our ability to serve our customers."

The year 2019 also marked Wabtec's 150th anniversary, highlighted by the opening of its new global headquarters in the Steel City. It was here, in 1869, that Wabtec's founder, George Westinghouse, invented the automatic air brake. This revolutionary technology enabled railroads to safely move passengers and products at higher speeds.

Since then, Wabtec has been applying innovative technology and more than 7,000 patents to improve the performance of its products and operations.

These technological advancements are fueling Wabtec's sustainability efforts as well. The company plans to help freight railroads reduce their environmental footprint by doubling fuel efficiency by 2028. Part of this initiative involves the launch of the world's first 100% heavy-haul battery-powered locomotive designed to operate in a hybrid consist, called FLX drive, scheduled for demonstration by the end of 2020. The company is also taking some big swings in key areas that will drive the future of transportation, including machine connectivity, artificial intelligence, additive, and enabling autonomous rail operations.

"Continuous improvement is at the core of how we operate," says Santana. "This aligns with our corporate responsibility to keep moving things in a better, safer, more efficient way." ■