FRA | RPD Human Factors
TEAM UPDATES!
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Human Factors Division of the FRA Developing New Locomotive Crewstation Concept

A new locomotive engineer crewstation for freight locomotives and possibly passenger operations is unfolding at the Cab Technology Integration Lab (CTIL) at the Volpe Center in Cambridge Massachusetts. According to Mike Jones, CTIL program manager, "It's a departure from the standard freight AAR-105 control stand in that it removes the control stand but preserves and moves all of the functionality of the 105-stand onto a seat or chair configuration. The new concept is experimental and we are not sure if human performance and safety will be improved but it does attempt to address crew space and display ergonomic issues in the locomotive cab". Two immediate capabilities added to this new concept allow (1) for the crewmember to stand while operating (which may help alleviate fatigue) and (2) the entire crewstation can be rotated 180 degrees for rearward operations in yards, for example.

Using a human factors engineering design approach, we are attempting to help resolve the dated stove-piped systems approach to crewstation design and issues of adding new displays and capabilities inherent in current locomotive crewstation designs.
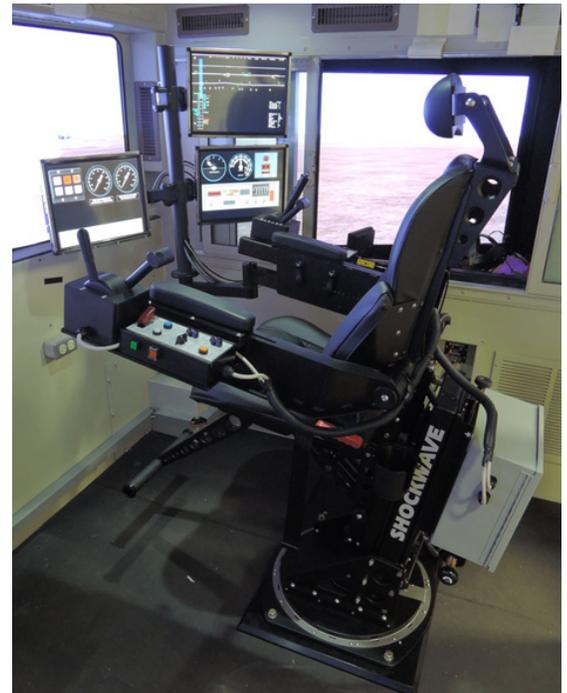
Human performance evaluation of this new concept will likely begin in October, 2014, and we will be looking for interested railroads and locomotive crew to help in operational experimental simulations in the CTIL.