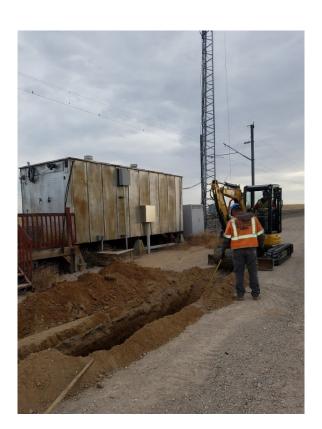


Federal Railroad Administration

Railroad Test Track (RTT) Fiber Optic Acoustic Test Bed Expansion

Office of Research, Development and Technology Washington, DC 20590



DOT/FRA/ORD-19/07 Final Report
April 2019

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The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funded an expansion of the Railroad Test Track (RTT) Fiber Optic Acoustic					
Detection (FOAD) test bed. This test bed was designed for continued research of FOAD technology applications at the					
Transportation Technology Center (TTC). The FOAD test bed is installed at the toe of the ballast shoulder around the entire 13.5 mile RTT.					
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METRIC/ENGLISH CONVERSION FACTORS

ENGLISH TO METRIC

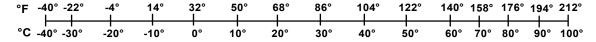
METRIC TO ENGLISH

LENGTH (APPROXIMATE)		LENGTH (APPROXIMATE)
1 inch (in)	= 2.5 centimeters (cm)	1 millimeter (mm) = 0.04 inch (in)
1 foot (ft)	= 30 centimeters (cm)	1 centimeter (cm) = 0.4 inch (in)
1 yard (yd)	= 0.9 meter (m)	1 meter (m) = 3.3 feet (ft)
1 mile (mi)	= 1.6 kilometers (km)	1 meter (m) = 1.1 yards (yd)
		1 kilometer (km) = 0.6 mile (mi)
AREA (A	PPROXIMATE)	AREA (APPROXIMATE)
1 square inch (sq in, in²)	= 6.5 square centimeters (cm²)	1 square centimeter (cm²) = 0.16 square inch (sq in, in²)
1 square foot (sq ft, ft²)	= 0.09 square meter (m ²)	1 square meter (m²) = 1.2 square yards (sq yd, yd²)
1 square yard (sq yd, yd²)	= 0.8 square meter (m²)	1 square kilometer (km²) = 0.4 square mile (sq mi, mi²)
1 square mile (sq mi, mi²)	= 2.6 square kilometers (km²)	10,000 square meters (m²) = 1 hectare (ha) = 2.5 acres
1 acre = 0.4 hectare (he)	= 4,000 square meters (m ²)	
MASS - WEIG	HT (APPROXIMATE)	MASS - WEIGHT (APPROXIMATE)
1 ounce (oz)	= 28 grams (gm)	1 gram (gm) = 0.036 ounce (oz)
1 pound (lb)	= 0.45 kilogram (kg)	1 kilogram (kg) = 2.2 pounds (lb)
1 short ton = 2,000 pounds	= 0.9 tonne (t)	1 tonne (t) = 1,000 kilograms (kg)
(lb)		= 1.1 short tons
VOLUME (APPROXIMATE)		VOLUME (APPROXIMATE)
1 teaspoon (tsp)	= 5 milliliters (ml)	1 milliliter (ml) = 0.03 fluid ounce (fl oz)
1 tablespoon (tbsp)	= 15 milliliters (ml)	1 liter (I) = 2.1 pints (pt)
1 fluid ounce (fl oz)	= 30 milliliters (ml)	1 liter (l) = 1.06 quarts (qt)
1 cup (c)	= 0.24 liter (I)	1 liter (l) = 0.26 gallon (gal)
1 pint (pt)	= 0.47 liter (I)	
1 quart (qt)	= 0.96 liter (I)	
1 gallon (gal)	= 3.8 liters (I)	
1 cubic foot (cu ft, ft³)	= 0.03 cubic meter (m ³)	1 cubic meter (m³) = 36 cubic feet (cu ft, ft³)
1 cubic yard (cu yd, yd³)	= 0.76 cubic meter (m ³)	1 cubic meter (m³) = 1.3 cubic yards (cu yd, yd³)
TEMPERATURE (EXACT)		TEMPERATURE (EXACT)
[(x-32)(5/9)]	°F = y °C	[(9/5) y + 32] °C = x °F

QUICK INCH - CENTIMETER LENGTH CONVERSION



QUICK FAHRENHEIT - CELSIUS TEMPERATURE CONVERSIO



For more exact and or other conversion factors, see NIST Miscellaneous Publication 286, Units of Weights and Measures. Price \$2.50 SD Catalog No. C13 10286

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Executive Summary

Fiber Optic Acoustic Detection (FOAD) is an emerging technology for use by North American railroads to track train movement as well as potentially detect a variety of wheel rail defects. Due to this, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) contracted Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) to complete a partial installation of the Railroad Test Track (RTT) FOAD test bed installed in 2013 at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC). In 2017, FRA contracted TTCI to complete the remainder of the RTT FOAD test bed installation. The completed FOAD test bed now encompasses the entirety of the RTT allowing for expanded FOAD testing capabilities in the future. The work described in this report explains the details of the fiber optic installation from 2017.

1. Introduction

The scope of this project focused on the installation of fiber optic cable around the Railroad Test Track (RTT) between defined points on the track, R14 and R46, at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC). The fiber optic cable was installed to enhance the capabilities of the current RTT Fiber Optic Acoustic Detection (FOAD) test bed. The RTT FOAD test bed now encompasses fiber optic cable around the entire RTT. These enhancements will increase the capabilities of fiber optic testing on the RTT FOAD test bed.

1.1 Background

FOAD technology detects events of interest by sensing acoustic vibrations on fiber optic cable and by analyzing the response to signals received. The potential for the application of FOAD technology in the railroad industry has resulted in several industry-, supplier-, and government-funded research and testing programs in recent years. To support the development and evaluation of these potential applications, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funded the implementation of a fiber optic test bed at the TTC. That test bed consists of fiber optic cable installed alongside certain test tracks and equipment to conduct FOAD railroad-related research. The fiber optic test beds include fiber optic cable installation that covers the High Tonnage Loop (HTL), and the RTT. Prior to the full fiber optic cable installation around the RTT, the test bed was limited in terms of being able to perform testing continuously around the entire RTT. Those limits included the speed and number of trains able to be tested while conducting FOAD railroad research.

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this project was to expand the existing fiber optic test bed to encompass the entire RTT. This expansion is designed to support FOAD technology testing at higher speeds and with multiple trains, both on the same track and on multiple tracks, and in areas where the RTT parallels other tracks.

1.3 Overall Approach

The overall approach to this project was to complete the RTT FOAD test bed by sub-contracting a professional fiber optic cable installation contractor to install and test the cable to installation speciation's defined by Transportation Technology Center, Inc.'s (TTCI) engineers.

1.4 Scope

The following describes the scope of work performed to meet the project objectives:

- TTCI engineers developed a statement of work to identify the installation details of the RTT FOAD test bed expansion.
- Fiber optic installation contractors reviewed and submitted bids to perform the installation of the fiber optic cable.
- After the fiber optic cable was installed the installation sub-contractors tested all fiber optic cable the installed and provided test results.

• TTCI managed the project.

1.5 Organization of the Report

This report is organized into three sections and an appendix:

- <u>Section 1</u> introduces the work performed as well as providing a brief background, overall approach, and scope.
- Section 2 summarizes the installation of the RTT FOAD test bed.
- <u>Section 3</u> provides the conclusion for this project.
- Appendix A, provides the fiber test results.

2. Fiber Optic Cable Installation

A 34,500-foot direct bury, 12-core, single-mode fiber optic cable was installed on the south and west sides of the RTT from R14 to R46. From R15 to approximately R19, near the 501B switch, the fiber optic cable was placed on the south side of the access track. At R19, the fiber optic cable was pulled through a 2-inch conduit directly west of the 501B switch at a depth of 36 inches, using a directional bore machine, under the access track and then placed back into the trench located on the south and west sides of the RTT.

The fiber optic cable, except for the cable pulled through the bore, was installed utilizing a direct burial method at a depth of three feet below existing grade. The fiber optic cable was placed at a maximum of 20 feet from the center of the RTT track near the toe of the ballast. Following the placement of the fiber optic cable, the trench was water puddled, compacted in 12-inch lifts, and tamped to prevent future settling. A site overview of the installation can be seen below in Figure 1. The fiber optic cable shown in yellow represents the installation of the fiber optic cable from R14 to R46. The fiber optic cable shown in green represents the previously installed fiber optic cable.

The fiber optic cable was not on a single reel because of limitations in reel size. Two separate reels were used. One reel contained 25,000 feet of fiber optic cable and the other reel contained 10,000 feet. Since the fiber was placed on two reels, there is one splice point, near mile marker R23. The splice was completed using a fusing technique to ensure the lowest loss of decibels (dB). The fiber splice was placed in a burial rated splice box and buried at a depth of 36 inches. There is no hand hole access at this point since previous testing has shown that hand hole boxes introduce interfering acoustic signal to the fiber optic cable.

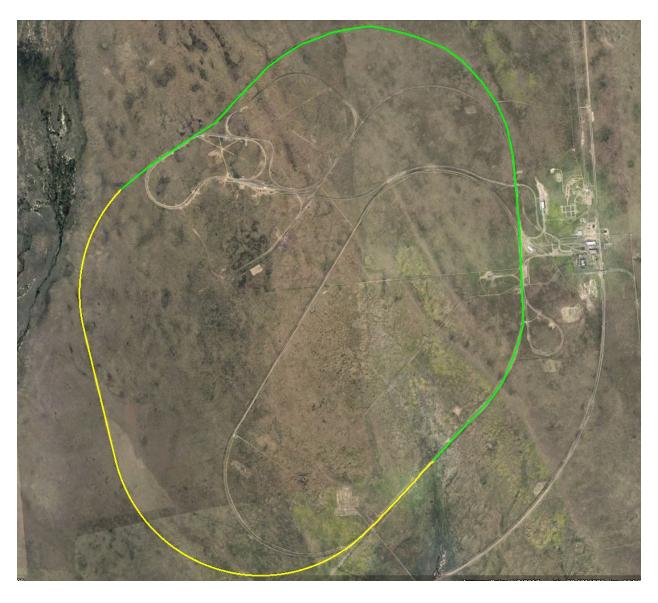


Figure 1: Map of RTT fiber optic cable

2.1 TTC Site Plan Update

Detailed installation location information was added to the TTC site plans for future reference. A high-level example of the site plan update can be seen in red in Figure 2.

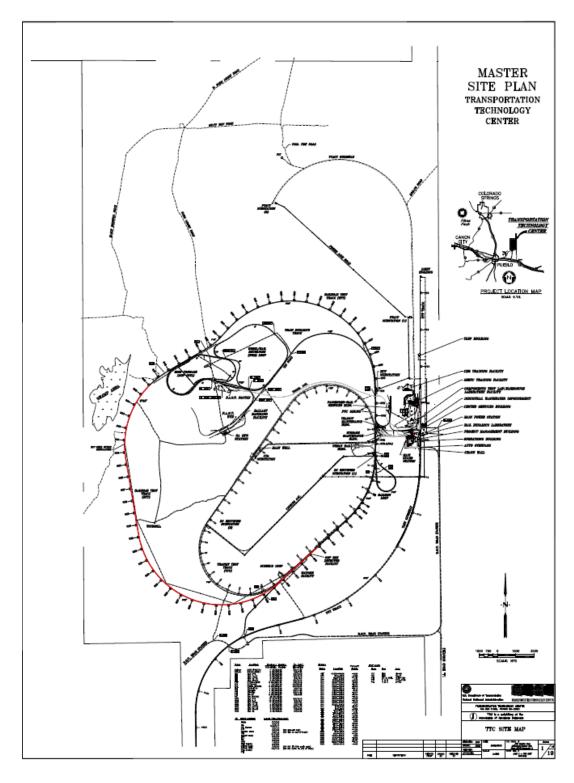


Figure 2: TTC site plan update

2.2 Fiber Optic Cable Testing

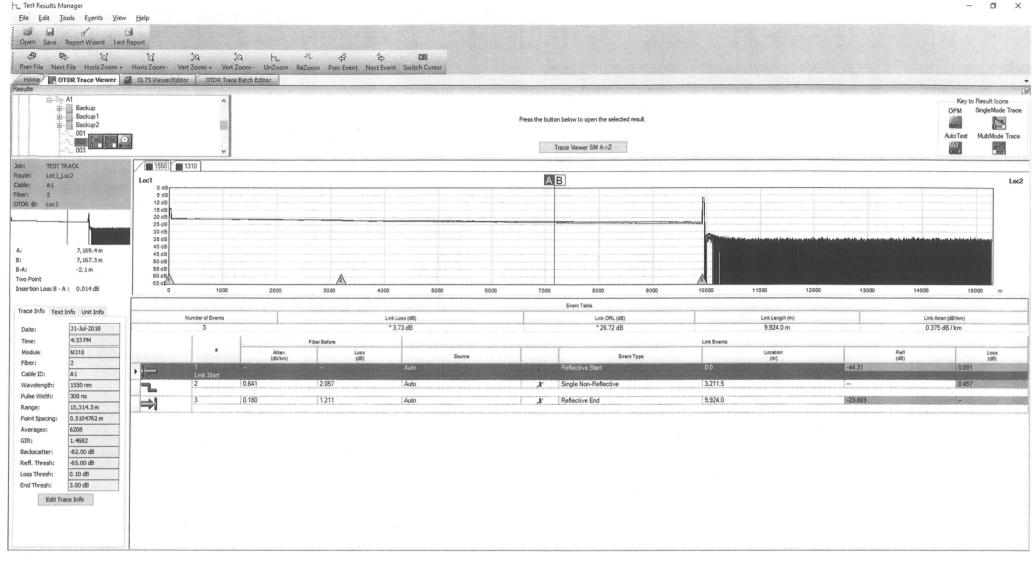
The fiber optic cable was tested post-installation via the use of an optical time domain reflectometer (OTDR) to ensure the integrity of each of the fibers. Each of the 12 fiber optic cables was tested individually from R46 counterclockwise to R14. The tested fibers showed less than 1 dB of loss at the splice point as recommended by FOAD suppliers. The test results are provided in Appendix A.

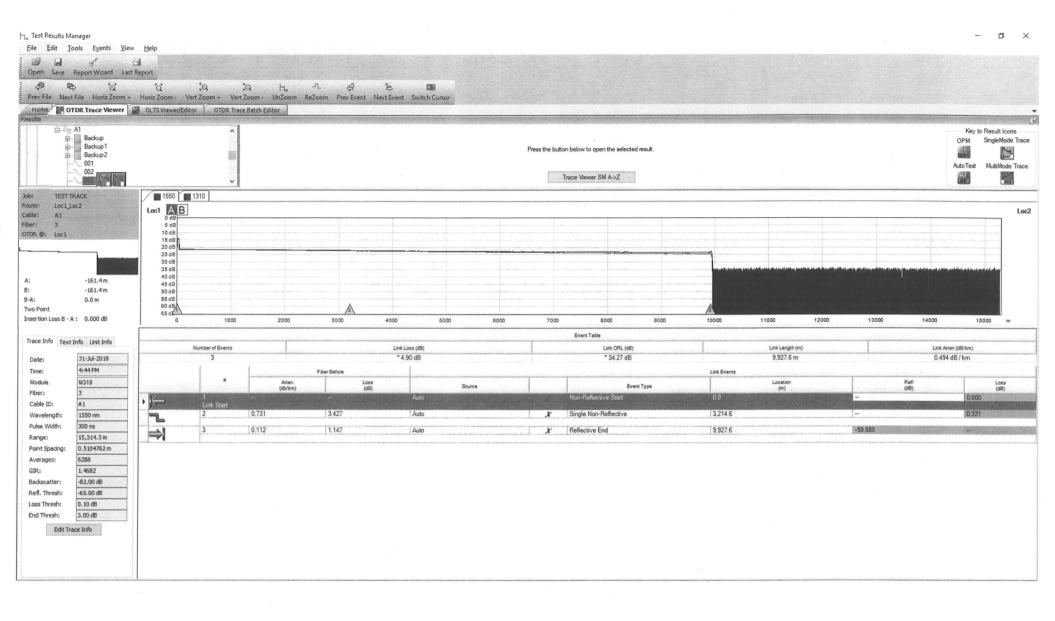
3. Conclusion

Potential application of FOAD technology in the railroad industry has been, and will continue to be, evaluated using the fiber optic test bed at the TTC. The expansion of the fiber optic test bed conducted under this project will allow for additional testing capabilities, including testing at higher speeds continuously around the RTT, as well as testing with multiple trains.

Appendix A. Fiber Test Results

Appendix A. Fiber Test Results, raw data. Federal Railroad Administration.





Backscatter:

Refi. Thresh:

Loss Thresh:

End Thresh:

-82.00 dB

0.10 dB

3.00 dB

Edit Trace Info

Number of Events Link ORL (dB) Link Length (m) Link Atten (dB/km) Link Loss (dB) * 3.59 dB * 33.46 dB 9,926.5 m 0.362 dB / km Fiber Before Link Events Event Type Saurce -43.044 0.001 2.230 0.203 Auto 3,212.0 ✓ Single Non-Reflective 0.192 1.150 Auto 9,926.5 -48.979 = Reflective End

Link ORL (dB)

* 33.06 dB

X Reflective End

Event Type

Link Length (m)

9,932.7 m

9,932.7

-42 305

Link Atten (dB/km)

0.281 dB / km

0.001

Link Loss (dB)

*2.79 dB

Auto

Source

Number of Events

0.281

2.792

 \Rightarrow

GIR:

Backscatter:

Refi. Thresh: Loss Thresh:

End Thresh:

1,4682

-82.00 dB

-65.00 dB

0.10 dB

3.00 dB

Edit Trace Info

* 33.52 dB

Non-Reflective Start

✓ Single Non-Reflective

Reflective End

Event Type

9,925.5 m

Location (m)

-42.605

Link Events

3,212.5

9,925.5

0.225 dB / km

0.000

* 2.23 dB

Auto

Auto

Fiber Before

3.480

-1.370

0.653

-82.00 dB

-65.00 dB

0.10 dB

3.00 dB

Edit Trace Info

Backscatter: Refl. Thresh:

Loss Thresh:

End Thresh:

Point Spacing:

Averages:

Backscatter: Refi. Thresh:

Loss Thresh:

End Thresh:

GIR:

0.5104762 m

1,4682

-82.00 dB

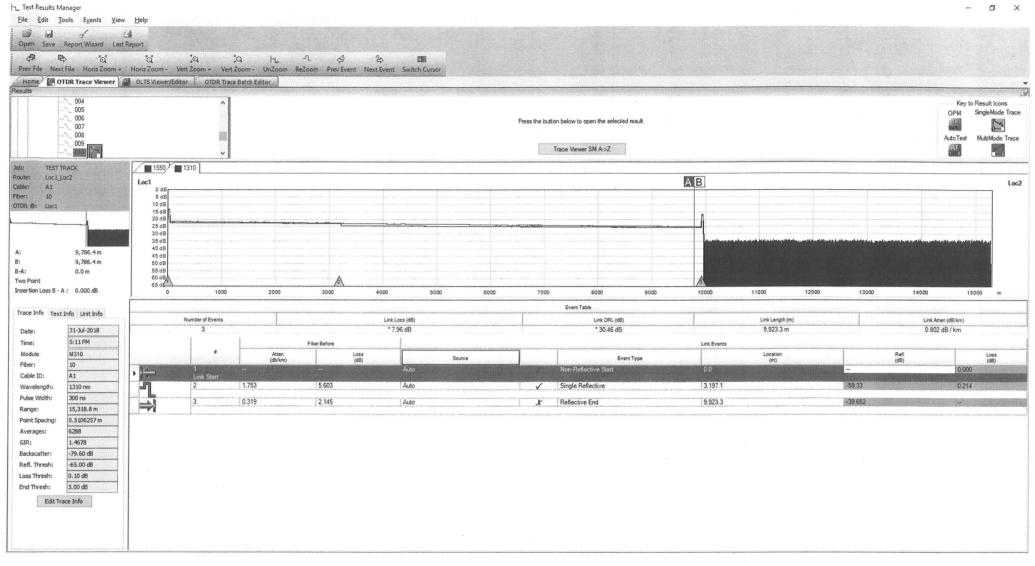
-65.00 dB

0.10 dB

3.00 dB

Edit Trace Info

Event Table Number of Events Link Loss (dB) Link ORL (dB) Link Length (m) Link Atten (dB/km) * 5.50 dB * 32.28 dB 9,921.9 m 0.554 dB/km Fiber Before Link Events Location (m) Source Event Type Non-Reflective Start 0.000 0.802 3.961 Auto ✗ Single Non-Reflective 3,212.0 0.170 1.142 Reflective End 9,921.9 -30.91 Auto



GIR:

Backscatter:

Refi. Thresh:

Loss Thresh:

End Thresh:

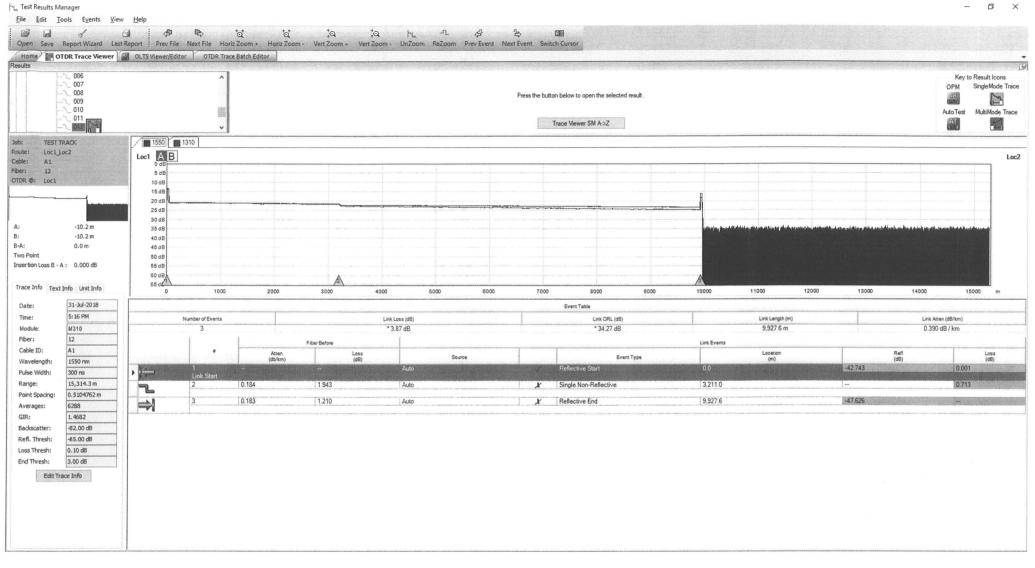
1,4682

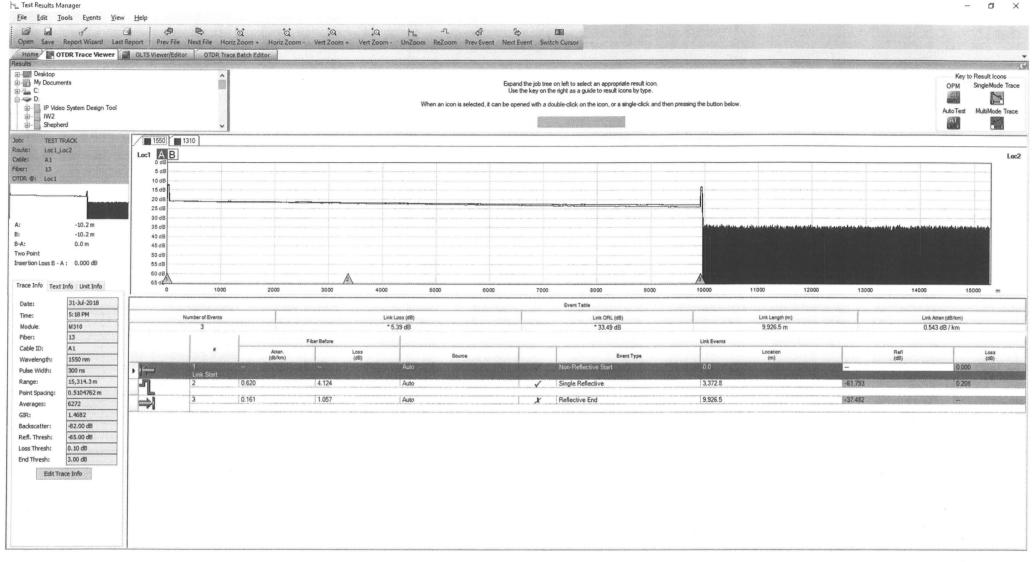
-82.00 dB

-65.00 dB

0.10 dB

3.00 dB Edit Trace Info





Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviations & Acronyms	Definition
dB	Decibel
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FOAD	Fiber Optic Acoustic Detection
HTL	High Tonnage Loop
OTDR	Optical Time Domain Reflectometer
RTT	Railroad Test Track
TTC	Transportation Technology Center
TTCI	Transportation Technology Center, Inc.