

Jacobsen  
Supplemental  
Declaration  
Exhibit A

May 20, 2006

JMRI Freeware



**Project DCC - Integrating Operation and Automation**

<http://jmri.sourceforge.net/>

**Re:** Digital Command Control Project Layout - "Project DCC"

Dear Bob Jacobsen,

*Model Railroad News* is embarking on an exciting multi-part article series describing the planning and implementation of an N scale Digital Command Control (DCC) project layout. Similar to the "Project Railroad" series by Stephen Priest currently being enjoyed by *Model Railroad News* readers, monthly installments of "Project DCC" will lead readers through a phased approach to create a DCC layout. Beginning with basic DCC features and building upon them through a series of logical additions, our readers will learn about wireless control, train detection, signaling, turnout control, automated routing and computer control. Commercially available "off-the-shelf" DCC products will be used, maximizing the use of plug-and-play products.

The goals of the Project DCC are:

- to introduce modelers to the operational capabilities of DCC, beyond the individual control of locomotives;
- to provide modelers with the knowledge and confidence to implement as many operational features as they desire;
- to demonstrate the ability to create a fully-featured DCC layout without the need for advanced technical skills; and
- to compare different products side-by-side to discover those best suited for use with DCC (e.g., different types of track, train detection, signal systems, etc.).

**Vendor Participation**

Ensuring the success of Project DCC requires support from the DCC and N scale vendor community by providing products and services to be used and reviewed as part of the project. Rather than target specific vendors and their products, *Model Railroad News* is using a Request for Proposal (RFP) process in which the detailed project description and specific requirements for each feature will be provided to those vendors interested in participating. In turn, they are asked to respond describing the products/services they intend to provide, and how those products/services fulfill the desired functionality/requirements listed in the RFP. *Model Railroad News* will then score each vendor's response to determine which ones best fit the requirements in order to select those vendors/products to include in the project. The scoring process provides an objective method of down-selecting vendors, giving all a chance to participate and resulting in a fair and balanced project. To the greatest extent possible, multiple vendors will be selected in each area allowing the project to compare/contrast different products and their suitability for DCC and automation.

Vendor participation is sought in the following areas:

- **Track** - A modest size/complexity layout will be chosen from a layout planning book. Track vendors will be asked to supply all required track components.
- **DCC Equipment** - Needed here is a complete DCC system (power supply, booster, command station, throttles), as well as DCC accessories in support of wireless control, detection, signaling and routing. It is preferred to use equipment from different vendors although interoperability limitations may restrict equipment to one or two vendors.
- **Signaling Equipment** - Needed here are the actual signal heads, occupancy detectors and control logic. Compatibility with DCC is a must for the signal equipment.
- **Locomotives and Decoders** - Needed here are DCC-Ready or DCC-Equipped locomotives. DCC-Ready locomotives must be designed to accept drop-in decoders. DCC decoders should support the features to be demonstrated.
- **Computer Automation** - Needed here is computer software and interface hardware designed for

automating DCC layouts.

Vendors may choose to participate in one or more areas, depending upon the breadth of their product line and interest level in the project. As is customary with traditional reviews, products and services are provided gratis in exchange for media exposure. Further, since this project involves product integration into an overall DCC layout it is possible that some product modifications may occur (e.g., soldering, drilling, gluing, etc.). Therefore, all products become the property of *Model Railroad News* and will not be returned following project completion.

***RFP Timeline***

If your company is interested in participating in Project DCC, please respond to *Model Railroad News* by **June 5, 2006**. All responses should be sent to email address [pscandura@modelrailroadnews.com](mailto:pscandura@modelrailroadnews.com) with the phrase "Project DCC" in the subject line. Responses must include the following items:

- Vendor Name, Mailing Address, Web Site
- Single Point-of-Contact (name, phone, email) of the person who will provide support during the project
- Identified Area(s) of Interest from the bullet list above

Once your response is received *Model Railroad News* will provide detailed project description, specific requirements and instructions for the area(s) of interest that you've specified. Vendors are then expected to follow the instructions provided, filling out the product selection matrix and returning their response to *Model Railroad News* for scoring. All vendors will be notified of their selection status by July 5, 2006. Shortly thereafter *Model Railroad News* will expect delivery of your product(s) so the project can begin.

The construction and testing of the Project DCC layout, along with the article write-ups, is anticipated to take six to eight months. During that time it is very important that each vendor's single point-of-contact be available to support any questions or problems that may arise. Publication of the Project DCC series in *Model Railroad News* is scheduled to begin mid 2007 issue and continue for approximately nine to twelve issues.

In summary, the *Model Railroad News* staff is very excited about Project DCC and look forward to your participation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Scandura".

Philip A. Scandura, Jr.  
Associate Editor, [pscandura@modelrailroadnews.com](mailto:pscandura@modelrailroadnews.com)  
*Model Railroad News*  
[www.modelrailroadnews.com](http://www.modelrailroadnews.com)

cc: Michael Lindsay, Publisher [mlindsay@modelrailroadnews.com](mailto:mlindsay@modelrailroadnews.com)  
John Sipple, Editor [dcc@modelrailroadnews.com](mailto:dcc@modelrailroadnews.com)