



**OFFICE *of* INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Better Identifying and Tracking Operational Technology Assets  
Across the Company Would Improve Cybersecurity

**OIG-A-2023-002 (Summary) | November 7, 2022**

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## Memorandum

**To:** Christian Zacariassen  
Executive Vice President/Digital Technology and Innovation

Laura Mason  
Executive Vice President/Capital Delivery

Gerhard Williams  
Executive Vice President/Service Delivery and Operations

**From:** Jim Morrison   
Assistant Inspector General, Audits

**Date:** November 7, 2022

**Subject:** *Information Technology: Better Identifying and Tracking Operational Technology Assets Across the Company Would Improve Cybersecurity (OIG-A-2023-002)*

Cyber-related breaches of operational technology (OT) systems—which manage the nation’s critical infrastructure—are increasing. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of Amtrak’s (the company) practices for identifying and tracking assets used in its OT systems. The company relies on its OT systems to dispatch trains, monitor train movements, manage the flow of electricity to locomotives, and control train signals and other communications equipment. If compromised, these systems could pose a serious safety and operational risk. Accordingly, our audit objective was to assess the effectiveness of the company’s practices for identifying and tracking its OT assets to facilitate its ability to protect them from cybersecurity threats.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

We identified opportunities for the company to improve its practices for identifying and tracking its OT assets for cybersecurity purposes and made four recommendations. Given the sensitive nature of the report’s information, we have summarized the results in this public version of the report.

### MANAGEMENT COMMENTS AND OIG ANALYSIS

In commenting on a draft of this report, company executives agreed with our recommendations and identified actions that the company is taking to address them.

*Amtrak Office of Inspector General*  
**Information Technology: Better Identifying and Tracking Operational Technology Assets  
Across the Company Would Improve Cybersecurity**  
OIG-A-2023-002 (Summary), November 7, 2022

## **SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

We performed our audit work from March 2022 through August 2022. During this time, we interviewed company officials, reviewed company policies and procedures, inspected inventories of OT assets, and identified certain cybersecurity challenges for OT assets. We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

## **OIG TEAM MEMBERS**

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# OIG MISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

## Mission

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The Amtrak OIG's mission is to provide independent, objective oversight of Amtrak's programs and operations through audits and investigations focused on recommending improvements to Amtrak's economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse; and providing Congress, Amtrak management, and Amtrak's Board of Directors with timely information about problems and deficiencies relating to Amtrak's programs and operations.

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