D009 – 2

To: Senior Management
From: Senior Design Class
Date: February 10, 2008
Subject: Weekly Status Letter II

STATUS REPORT

This past week the whole group's main plan of action was preparing for the PDR report and the presentation. We completed some tasks from last week such as deciding what hardware to use and organizing tasks for each person. For the PDR, we completed the tasks needed such as the ethics report, WBS, test strategy, etc. We also completed a presentation for the PDR. Also a basic web-site and another forum were created for more efficient management and communication.

With the PDR completed, each group will start doing their business by performing the tasks in the WBS.

MEETING MINUTES

See attached for meeting minutes

ACTION ITEMS

The principal action item for the whole group was completing the requirements for PDR, which included documentation and PowerPoint slides for each sub-group. Also a couple of action items related to the PDR and the deliverables got completed, such as the ethics report (Kelly, Alex, and Emily); a starting web-site is up on the Lafayette server (http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~trainspotting/) (Jimmy and Hasan); and the compiled WBS (Taha). Another action item that was completed not part of any deliverable was creating a new forum (http://lug.lafayette.edu/trainspotting) (Jimmy, Hasan and John) so as for better management and communication.

For the low-level group, other than the PDR, the other action item that was closed from last week was that the group got familiar with components of the track. An action item that was discussed this week was whether to use PWM or DC voltage to control speed of the trains and it was at the end decided that they will use PWM (Serdar, Tom, and Jeff).
The next week's open action items basically include the commencement of the circuit designs. The group will be split up and each pair or so would work on train power (Dan and Evan), switch control (Jeff), and train detection (John and Alex) designs.

For the networking group, other than the PDR, the other action item that was closed from last week was the group decided which hardware would we use and they

decided on the PIC microcontroller, without using Ethernet and using RS-232 (whole group). Other action items that got completed were finalizing the frame structure for the packets from and to the PC (Serdar, Emily, and Eric); deciding to use 4 PWMs (Serdar); ordering sample PICs (whole group); and using another PIC for powering rails (whole group).

The next week's open action items include starting coding and testing the PICs for communication and also the interrupts; also gaining familiarity with the PIC software and programming (Serdar will be teaching people).

For the software group, other than the PDR, the other action item that was completed was a basic design of the UI (Jimmy, Hasan and Shrijan); in addition, the group discussed what additional was needed for the complete packet (such as an error byte) and what programming language should be used (JAVA).

The next week's open action items include the start of the building process of the UI and the control logic for the manual control (Jimmy and Hasan); also the start of the code for sending building/decoding the packets (Austin, Kelly, and Shrijan).

LABOR HOUR REPORTS

Labor was broken down between the groups. The networking group spent 17 hours on designing packets and deciding use of PICs and PDR. The software group spent 18 hours designing interface and PDR. The low-level hardware group spent 19 hours gaining familiarity, research and PDR.

Total Hours / Individual:

Taha:	17 hours
Eric:	15 hours
Shrijan:	17 hours
Serdar:	16 hours
Emily:	19 hours
Tom:	15 hours
Evan:	15 hours
Mumo:	15 hours
Dan:	13 hours
Jeff:	12 hours
Alex:	15 hours
Jimmy:	17 hours
Hasan:	18 hours
Kelly:	13 hours
Austin:	12 hours