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Metro Rail Team Finishes Second at APTA International Event

A Metro Rail team of mechanics and operators took second place in the 13th Annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo, which measures rail transit system operating skills throughout North America.

The competition, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2-6, tested professional customer service and rail system operating skills, including knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, wayside rules, regulations and procedures. A maintenance competition judged operators' ability to troubleshoot rail maintenance problems.

Metro Rail Fleet Services Specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo took second among the teams of competing mechanics. In the operator's competition, Metro's team of Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez placed third.

"This is another demonstration of the professionalism of Metro's rail staff," said John Catoe, Deputy CEO of Metro. "Considering the competition they faced from rail transit agencies around the country, this is an excellent score. I think they're Number One."

"This goes to show you the level of talent that exists within Metro Rail Operations," said Gerald Francis, General Manager of Metro Rail Operations. "Finishing among the top two transit agencies in the nation says a lot about the caliber of Metro Rail personnel."

Top overall honors went to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) operator and maintenance team. A total of 18 rail transit systems, with 31 operators and 38 maintainers, participated.

The APTA International Rail Rodeo tests the "best of the best" rail personnel who keep North America's rail transit systems on the move.

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