Recently, researchers from the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC) completed field tests on technology that could help turn Kansas City into an international inland port. The metro’s central location within the continent and nation and abundant transportation network make Kansas City an ideal distribution center for global goods, according to KC SmartPort. The economic development group has teamed up with KU researchers and regional industry to develop secure, efficient transportation corridors.

This winter ITTC researchers attached active electronic seals to rail container cars. A locomotive was outfitted with a system to receive signals from the seals and a communications link to the Internet. ITTC-developed hardware and software, known as the Transportation Security SensorNet (TSSN), integrated the different components.

“Our partnership with ITTC and EDS has been great. Victor [Frost] and the team bring a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience to our project...”

— Chris Gutierrez, president of Kansas City SmartPort

is concentrating on intermodal points, such as transitions from rail cars to trucks, where tampering or theft is most likely to occur. The TSSN has been integrated with another SmartPort component, the Trade Data Exchange (TDE).

Developed by EDS, an HP company, the TDE is a secure information clearinghouse for cargo. It is designed to provide real-time supply chain visibility and cargo security. TDE stakeholders will be able to access detailed, aggregated supply chain information online.

“Our partnership with ITTC and EDS has been great,” says Chris Gutierrez, president of Kansas City SmartPort. “Victor [Frost] and the team bring a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience to our project and have allowed us to move quickly on the test project.”