FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dan Smith Named Railway Age Railroader of the Year

PITTSBURG, Kan. (November 23, 2026) – Watco CEO and Executive Chairman Dan Smith has been named 2027 Railroader of the Year by Railway Age magazine. Smith said he was honored to have been selected, but he was quick to share the recognition with the entire Watco team.

“I’m incredibly humbled to receive this award on behalf of our Watco team,” Smith said, “because it further demonstrates the amazing strength and spirit of our people. I do not deserve this, but I will accept it as an honor to the thousands of men and women at Watco who have been so committed to our customers over the last 43 years.”

Railway Age made the announcement in late November. Smith will be featured in the January issue of Railway Age and honored March 9 during a dinner in Chicago, where he will receive the award at the 2027 Next-Gen Freight Rail conference.

Smith joined Watco in 2009. He was named chief operating officer in 2014 and CEO in 2018. On January 1, 2026, he assumed the additional role of executive chairman of the Watco board of directors.

The Railroader of the Year award dates to 1964, when it was established by Modern Railroads as its “Man of the Year” award. Railway Age acquired Modern Railroads in 1991 and has presented the award since 1992.

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About Watco

Watco is a leading transportation services and logistics company. Meeting customer needs on a day-to-day basis has enabled Watco to continually grow throughout our more than 40-year history. Today, Watco provides transportation, material handling and warehousing, logistics, and railcar repair and maintenance for customers throughout North America and Australia. For more information, visit watco.com.