



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX REACHES PRODUCTION MILESTONES

ACROSS MULTIPLE PRODUCT LINES

Market Demand and Production Growth Drive Highest-Ever Numbers for Remanufactured Brake Shoes, Air Disc Brakes, Actuators, and Dampers

ELYRIA, Ohio – Aug. 7, 2017 – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems manufacturing facilities are humming with work, the company reports, as it has achieved production milestones across four product lines to meet increasing market demand. In a testament to production growth, Bendix is setting new company benchmarks for numbers of remanufactured brake shoes, air disc brakes, actuators, and vibration engine dampers produced.

The company makes brake shoes at its Huntington, Indiana, campus; air disc brakes in Bowling Green, Kentucky; actuators in Acuña, Mexico; and dampers in North Aurora, Illinois.

“Reaching production milestones can happen only when employees work as highly unified teams. At Bendix, team members from every facet of the operation join in the name of accomplishing our safety and quality standards, while meeting our production goals,” said Carlos Hungria, Bendix chief operating officer. “In this environment of increasing truck build and market growth, it’s as important as ever for everyone across the organization – including purchasing, quality, materials, maintenance, packaging and shipping, finance, engineering, and many more – to work with shared purpose and commitment. It is our ‘One Plant’ approach that makes the difference.”

New Brake Shoe Standard

Bendix, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety and braking solutions for commercial vehicles, began serial production of remanufactured brake shoes at its 74,000-square-foot Huntington, Indiana, facility in the fall of 2012. Since then, the rate of production at the brake shoe operation has steadily increased to meet growing demand from fleets and owner-operators wishing to maintain the quality, performance, and compliance of their Reduced Stopping Distance (RSD) brakes when replacing shoes, while optimizing value.

Today, the center is producing upwards of 7,000 brake shoes per day, up from a previous high of 6,321 in July of 2016. Bendix is on target to produce 1.64 million shoes in 2017, an increase of nearly 30 percent over the former record of 1.28 million shoes manufactured in 2016. The company has produced nearly 5.8 million shoes since the operation's start in 2012.

The Huntington facility handles the complete salvage, coining, and assembly processes that make up start-to-finish brake shoe remanufacturing.

"Demand continues to grow for reman brake shoes that maximize safety and performance, and provide full service life by resisting premature lining wear and rustjacking," said Mike Pogorelc, Huntington plant manager. "Our focus is squarely on increasing production growth to meet this market need."

The Air Disc Brake Trajectory

Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC (BSFB), a joint venture between Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC and Dana Commercial Vehicle Products, LLC, introduced the Bendix® ADB22X™ air disc brake in 2005 – a first for the North American marketplace. Since 2009, annual production levels have risen significantly.

BSFB is forecast to produce an average of over 1,800 air disc brakes (ADB) per day for 2017. In 2016, the company averaged 1,181 per day, with a peak of 1,320. Thanks to the growing market demand, Year over Year growth is nearly 50 percent, and Quarter over Quarter, 22 percent.

"Our production growth is noteworthy because it signals an increasing adoption of air disc brakes in the North American market – and of the Bendix air disc brake specifically," said Fred Stevens, plant manager at the Bowling Green facility, which produces the brake. "We've seen a number of large line haul fleets converting to all-wheel ADB on their tractors and trailers, as well as OEMs improving how the air disc brake is positioned in their data books. As the production requirements go up, the Bowling Green team will continue rising to the occasion."

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Stevens cites ADB growth in the trailer market as another key contributor to customer demand. Overall, because of increasing market adoption by fleets and owner-operators, the brake now accounts for more than 1.7 million wheel-ends on the road. Today, more than 20 percent of North American Class 6-8 air-braked wheel-ends are equipped with ADBs. That is a 50 percent increase in overall market share since 2013.

The Bendix air disc brake production numbers include the Bendix® ADB22X™ -LT trailer air disc brake, launched in September 2016. The industry's lightest weight trailer ADB system, the ADB22X-LT is specifically designed for trailer use, and is based on the same proven, successful platform as the ADB22X™ tractor brake.

BSFB expects the upward trajectory to continue. The latest evidence came on June 15, when the ADB22X began coming standard on all axles of International® Truck's flagship LT Series, making the LT Series the first Class 8 tractor in North America to equip air disc brakes in standard position on all wheel-ends.

Actuator Benchmark

Growing demand for air disc brakes is spurring production growth of actuators as well. This growth is contributing to what is expected to be the highest volume year for actuators since they began production in Bendix's Acuña, Mexico, manufacturing facility in December 2010. The operation is on pace to produce an average of 8,300 actuators per day, a 10 percent increase over the 2016 number of 7,600.

"With Bendix being the leading producer of air disc brakes for commercial vehicles in North America, the increasing market adoption of ADB translates into production growth for Bendix air disc brake actuators," said Jackie Perez, plant manager of the Acuña operation. "The concerted effort of every team member is the reason our production facility can answer the market's call for more and more actuators."

In addition, Perez noted, increasing numbers of aftermarket customers are also turning to the Bendix® EverSure® Spring Brake, as they seek better performing foundation drum brake products at competitive prices.

"So often, an aftermarket user of a spring brake will look for the lowest cost option," she said, "but the lowest cost option in a spring brake almost always equals the lowest performance and life."

Bendix expects its actuator production growth to endure, as the take-rate of air disc brakes and the number of customers turning to Bendix EverSure continue to increase, and the company acts on other major opportunities across all actuator product lines.

High Bar for Dampers

Vibration engine dampers are used to reduce torsional vibration on engine crankshafts to prevent shaft failure and reduce noise. Month by month, Bendix is reaching new milestones in damper production, as the last three months demonstrate.

In June, the company produced 23,163, a 58 percent increase over the June 2016 number of 14,635. The increased production mirrors the 88 percent Year over Year and 41 percent Year over Year experienced in May and April, respectively.

The growth reflects the overall expansion of truck build, along with increased demands by key OEM customers, according to Steffen Daberkow, plant manager of the North Aurora, Illinois, facility, where Bendix produces dampers.

Another driver of growth is the role dampers play in improved fuel efficiency. “We went through engineering changes and updates of the dampers for newer generations of engines,” Daberkow said. “As the dampers are specifically designed for each engine, we are part of the development at the engine builders for better fuel economy. The team here continually looks for ways to elevate our OEM partnerships, from the development side to increasing production growth.”

For more information about Bendix reman brake shoes, air disc brakes, actuators, or engine dampers, call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE, or visit www.bendix.com or www.foundationbrakes.com.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 3,200 people, Bendix is driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit bendix.com. Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at knowledge-dock.com. Follow Bendix on Twitter at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at brake-school.com. And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit bendix.com/careers.

About Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC

Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC combines and expands the complementary wheel-end foundation brake technologies of two global leaders – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC and Dana Commercial Vehicle Products, LLC. The joint venture, formed in July 2004, is a single, complete source for OEM brake system design, manufacturing, hardware, and support for all foundation brake components and actuation systems, as well as all-makes coverage of nearly 50,000 medium- and heavy-duty aftermarket parts. Contact us at 1-866-610-9709 or visit foundationbrakes.com. Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at knowledge-dock.com. Follow Bendix on Twitter at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at brake-school.com. And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake, visit bendix.com/careers.

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