



## *News Release*

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**BENDIX CONTINUES TRADITION OF SPONSORING THE  
ATA NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS GRAND CHAMPION AWARD**

*For Eighth Straight Year, Company Honors Drivers for Professionalism, Skill, and  
Commitment to Safe Roads*

**ELYRIA, Ohio – Aug. 8, 2018** – Every day, millions of commercial vehicle drivers contribute to highway safety through their skill, dedication, and professionalism. Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC is honored to celebrate these drivers by sponsoring the Grand Champion Award at the American Trucking Associations (ATA) National Truck Driving Championships (NTDC) for the eighth consecutive year.

The Bendix National Truck Driving Championships Grand Champion Award is given to the overall top driver of the four-day competition, which takes place Aug. 15-18 in Columbus, Ohio. Bendix's continuing sponsorship of the award reflects the company's commitment to highway safety and honors the drivers whose skills help create safer roads across North America.

"The NTDC is the epitome of driver skill, and we appreciate the opportunity to recognize all the participants who share our dedication to keeping America's highways safe," said Scott Burkhart, vice president – sales, marketing and business development at Bendix. "Though there is more and more discussion about the coming of autonomous trucks, the importance of drivers and driver training remains paramount. This competition highlights the many abilities of highly trained drivers and demonstrates the enormous value these men and women bring to our roads. We thank all of this year's competitors and wish them the best of luck in the championships."

The NTDC features the winners from 50 state trucking associations' truck driving championships. All competitors must drive accident-free for at least one year before qualifying for the competition. In Columbus, more than 430 of these top-notch drivers are expected to

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compete in the championship event, testing their expertise through a written exam, personal interview, pre-trip inspection test, and skills-based competition course.

Inside the Greater Columbus Convention Center, drivers must demonstrate extensive knowledge of safety, equipment, and the industry, as well as put their driving abilities to the test. The driving course challenges drivers to maneuver, reverse, park, and position their vehicles with precision over scales, before barriers, and around curves. In the behind-the-wheel skills course, drivers are tested on their ability to handle their trucks, judge distances, and maneuver through tight spots.

Roland Bolduc, a FedEx Express driver based in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, was last year's Grand Champion award winner. Other previous recipients of the Bendix National Truck Driving Championships Grand Champion Award are Paul Phillips, who won in 2011 as a Con-way Freight driver from Coarsegold, California; Don Logan, who took top honors in 2012 as a FedEx Freight driver from Topeka, Kansas; Gary Harms, who earned the award in 2013 as a Walmart Transportation driver based in Olathe, Kansas; Jeffrey Langenhahn, a Con-way Freight professional truck driver based in Plover, Wisconsin, who was named 2014 champion; Ronald Emenheiser Sr., a Walmart Transportation driver based in Yorkana, Pennsylvania, winner of the 2015 championship trophy; and Mike White, a Walmart Transportation driver based in Nineveh, Indiana, winner of the Grand Championship award in 2016.

### **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](http://bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](http://brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](http://bendix.com/careers).

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