



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR ARRAYS DELIVER ENERGY AND REDUCE EMISSIONS AT BENDIX MANUFACTURING OPERATION IN ACUÑA, MEXICO

Sustainability Project Is a First in the Region, and the Company's Second in as Many Years

AVON, Ohio – May 23, 2023 – Atop two Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems (Bendix) plants in Acuña, Mexico, a pair of solar arrays convert sunlight into electricity, capable of producing more than 2.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy annually for the massive manufacturing operation. The arrays consist of nearly 2,600 photovoltaic panels that generate about 11% of each plant's required energy and will reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 850 tons per year (about 13%), decreasing reliance on the local power grid and reducing Bendix's carbon footprint in pursuit of sustainability.

The \$1 million project is also the first solar installation of its kind among the region's numerous manufacturers. An April 27 ribbon-cutting event commemorated the solar array, which came online on December 15, 2022.

The 2.1 million kWh of electricity produced annually is about the same amount of energy needed to power 100 homes for a full year. And the 850-ton yearly reduction of CO₂ is roughly equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from more than 2 million miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

"Since the release of our Climate Strategy 2030, we have put an intense focus on cutting carbon dioxide emissions in our largest manufacturing campus, located in Acuña, Mexico," said

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Bill Schubert, Bendix director, environmental and sustainability. “These solar panels are among several climate action projects furthering that goal.”

Bendix, the North American leader in the design, development, and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking solutions for commercial vehicles, is a subsidiary of Munich, Germany-based Knorr-Bremse. Over the past decade, Bendix has pursued and adopted the sustainability strategies of its parent company, the global market leader for braking systems and a leading supplier of other rail and commercial vehicle systems. Solar projects are a key element of Bendix’s overall climate strategy: The Acuña arrays are the company’s second solar installation, following one completed in Huntington, Indiana, in 2021.

Impacts, Today and Tomorrow

The size and scope of Bendix Acuña – which opened in 1987 and now encompasses three manufacturing facilities, a logistics center, and a new site under construction – make it one of Knorr-Bremse’s largest consumers of electricity and generators of carbon emissions. Through their climate strategy, Bendix and Knorr-Bremse committed to cutting CO₂ emissions in half by 2030 from the 2018 baseline, setting the stage for significant sustainability efforts in Acuña.

“As soon as it came online, the Acuña solar array started making a difference,” said Maria Gutierrez, Bendix senior director, environmental, social, and governance (ESG). “It will contribute a 2.4% decrease to our North American carbon footprint, and that’s important progress. We’ve also made operational changes to improve energy efficiency and implemented more effective control of our energy consumption. Every step forward matters.”

The State of Coahuila, of which Acuña is a part, recognized Bendix Acuña’s progress during the April 27 ribbon-cutting for the solar project. Each of the site’s three current manufacturing plants earned Industria Verde (Green Industry) certification from the state environmental protection office, recognizing efforts to increase energy efficiency, utilize green energy sources, reduce the site’s carbon footprint, and be a sustainable consumer. Certification, valid for two years, is based on a compliance audit of processes and equipment, as well as the evaluation of environmental risk and impact.

Bendix supports the United Nations’ (U.N.) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 overarching objectives providing guidance on how to make business activities compatible with sustainable development. Five key SDGs have been at the core of Bendix’s longtime sustainability efforts, among them Responsible Consumption and Production (encompassed within SDG 12) and Climate Action (the focus of SDG 13).

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Knorr-Bremse has increased its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by maximizing renewable energy purchases and offsetting. Bendix's 2021 sustainability efforts led to a reduction in energy consumption of more than 16 million kWh over the most recent seven-year period.

Bendix's 412,000-square-foot Acuña campus employs approximately 1,800 people in manufacturing, remanufacturing, and assembly across a wide range of products – actuators, air dryers, antilock braking systems (ABS), compressors, integrated vehicle modules, and valves. The campus continues to garner awards for its outstanding production quality levels and is one of the fastest-growing Bendix manufacturing sites.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, 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 4,400 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best 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](https://www.bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](https://www.knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](https://www.brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](https://www.bendix.com/careers).

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