News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX SAFETYDIRECT® WEB PORTAL HELPS FLEET
IDENTIFY DRIVER’S LIFESAVING MANEUVER

Onboard Safety System Records Actions of Alert PITT OHIO “Highway Angel”

ELYRIA, Ohio – July 15, 2013 – An onboard Bendix safety technology, SafetyDirect® from Bendix CVS, helped PITT OHIO identify a lifesaving maneuver by one of its drivers, who received a Truckload Carriers Association Highway Angel award for his actions. Harry Cogswell, a 25-year driver for the Pittsburgh, Pa.-based carrier, was honored in May for his alertness and reflexes during the incident last year.

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of leading-edge active safety and braking system technologies, has provided SafetyDirect to PITT OHIO for nearly two years.

SafetyDirect is a user-friendly Web portal that provides fleet operators with comprehensive feedback on their fleet and the performance of each driver. The system wirelessly transmits real-time driver performance data, as well as event-based information – including video clips of severe occurrences – for analysis by fleet safety personnel and to aid fleets in developing targeted, ongoing driver education and training. SafetyDirect’s video-capture capability – unique in the industry – allowed PITT OHIO a clear view of what happened on the road that morning.

Cogswell was traveling on Interstate 94 near Ann Arbor, Mich., in the pre-dawn darkness of April 4, 2012, when he rounded a bend and saw an overturned car in his lane. With almost no time to respond, he steered and braked to avoid the wreck. As he did so, Cogswell spotted a man crawling from the car. While Cogswell pulled his truck to the side of the road and headed
back to the scene on foot, a bus came around the same bend and made contact with the flipped vehicle just moments after the car’s driver had gotten free.

“Harry’s driving experience and trained response allowed him to avoid that accident, giving the other driver a crucial bit of extra time to escape safely,” said Jeff Mercadante, director of safety at PITT OHIO. “The SafetyDirect® video and data from that morning show that he had just two seconds to react before his truck would have hit the car. SafetyDirect told the story.”

Founded in 1979, PITT OHIO employs approximately 1,600 drivers and operates 1,000 tractors and 21 terminals. The company has received safety awards from the American Trucking Associations and the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, and is consistently recognized as having one of the highest-rated safety departments in the industry.

“Safety is a core part of the PITT OHIO culture,” Mercadante said. “We hold regular safety meetings with our drivers, and we monitor performance in part through the video recording SafetyDirect offers. The video and accompanying information give us conclusive facts as to what is happening on the roads. This allows us to sit down with drivers and conduct very specific reviews, which enables much more effective coaching.”

“When it comes to safety, PITT OHIO is a leader in the field,” said TJ Thomas, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Controls group. “Bendix is proud to provide our safety technologies to support the fleet’s commitment. We share the same goal – safer trucks, drivers, and highways.”

PITT OHIO has equipped 330 trucks with SafetyDirect – roughly one-third of its tractor fleet. The carrier is in the process of putting SafetyDirect on all of its new units.

Bendix purchased SafetyDirect in 2011 from Iteris, Inc. The onboard safety systems linked to SafetyDirect include Bendix® Wingman® Advanced™ – A Collision Mitigation Technology, Bendix® ESP® Electronic Stability Program full-stability system, and AutoVue® Lane Departure Warning (LDW) System from Bendix CVS – the market-leading, vision-based LDW system, which Bendix also purchased from Iteris.

To further enhance SafetyDirect’s capability, Bendix also added information from SmarTire® Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) by Bendix CVS, technology that monitors the pressure and temperature of each tire on a commercial vehicle to provide real-time tire status information to the driver or maintenance technician.

“A modern truck carries a lot of data over the J1939 network,” Thomas said. “SafetyDirect adds significant value by putting the data into the proper, meaningful context. The system displays critical information gathered from the vehicle in one place – a user-friendly Web
portal – makes it understandable, and turns it into actionable information a fleet can use to help lower risk.”

SafetyDirect® is available on vehicles at all major North American OEMs. Both it and the AutoVue® Lane Departure Warning System can be retrofit to vehicles already in service.

Bendix’s onboard safety systems are part of the company’s ever-growing portfolio of technology developments that deliver on safety, plus other areas critical to fleets’ success. By improving vehicle performance and efficiency and providing unparalleled post-sales support, Bendix aims to help fleets and drivers lower total cost of vehicle ownership and strengthen return on investment in equipment and technology.

Bendix emphasizes that safety technologies do not replace the need for safe drivers, and that no commercial vehicle safety technology replaces continuous, comprehensive driver training and skilled, alert professional drivers exercising safe driving habits.

The Truckload Carriers Association Highway Angel program was founded in 1997. It recognizes drivers and their companies for good deeds, ranging from simple acts of kindness to lifesaving efforts.

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 2,700 people, Bendix is driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Bendix is headquartered in Elyria, Ohio, with manufacturing plants in Bowling Green, Ky.; Huntington, Ind.; and Acuña, Mexico. For more information, call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit www.bendix.com. To learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit www.bendix.com/careers. Follow Bendix on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at www.brake-school.com.

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