



News Release

For more information, contact:

Barbara Gould
Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
(440) 329-9609
barbara.gould@bendix.com

or Ken Kesegich
Marcus Thomas LLC
(888) 482-4455
kkesegich@marcusthomasllc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAIA LTL FREIGHT EXPANDS SAFETY FOOTPRINT WITH BENDIX ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Leading Carrier Equips New Vehicles with Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™ Collision Mitigation System, Continues Spec'ing Bendix® ADB22X® Air Disc Brake on Tractors Fleetwide

ELYRIA, Ohio – April 2, 2020 – There's a saying at Saia LTL Freight: "From our pallets to our people, we're serious about safety." And at Saia – where safety is a core value for its more than 10,000 employees – seriousness about safe operations guides the equipment choices on the carrier's tractors and trailers.

Since 2011, the Johns Creek, Georgia-based company has partnered with Bendix and equipped its vehicles with Bendix brakes and active safety technologies. This year, on its order of 150 International® Trucks LT® Series tractors, Saia spec'ed Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™, Bendix's flagship advanced driver assistance technology. In addition, the carrier chose the Bendix® ADB22X® air disc brakes on all axles.

"Saia LTL Freight is coming up on a century of doing business, and living our core values – of which safety is one – is a key reason for our longevity," said Jason Plumlee, Saia director of maintenance. "Saia's reputation is built on safety, service, and value, and our relationship with Bendix stands on those same qualities. When we expanded our safety footprint even further on our latest truck order, Bendix was there – as they've long been – as a trusted partner in technology. The Bendix team is as committed as we are to helping our drivers, and everybody around them on the road, arrive home safely from their travels, every time."

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Saia equips all of its nearly 5,000 tractors with advanced safety and braking features, including Bendix® ADB22X® air disc brakes on all its Freightliner M2 and Cascadia® models. In 2019, continuing to equip ADB22X disc brakes on most all vehicle purchases, the fleet began specifying Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™ to its new International® LT® models, while outfitting its Volvo VNL tractors with Volvo Active Driver Assist (VADA) – which integrates Wingman Fusion. The carrier now also selects Hyundai trailers equipped with Bendix® ADB22X®-LT trailer air disc brakes.

Leading Carrier, Leading Technology

Saia LTL Freight, founded in 1924, is a publicly held top 10 carrier in the LTL sector providing complete transportation and logistics solutions throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Operating from a network of 168 terminals, the carrier – with more than 15,000 trailers in addition to its tractors – specializes in less-than-truckload, guaranteed, and expedited services. Saia has been recognized multiple times by the American Trucking Associations (ATA) Safety Management Council with first-place honors for its outstanding safety record.

Saia's work with Bendix – the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking solutions for commercial vehicles – began eight years ago when the carrier equipped Bendix® Wingman® Advanced™ – A Collision Mitigation Technology on its tractors. The recent International LT order represents Saia's continued adoption of Wingman Fusion, the latest evolution of the Wingman family of collision mitigation technologies.

Bendix Wingman Fusion gathers input through radar, video, and the vehicle's braking system, combining and cross-checking the information from sensors that are working together and not just in parallel. By creating a detailed and accurate data picture, Fusion delivers enhanced rear-end collision mitigation, and adaptive cruise control, along with following distance alerts, stationary object alerts, lane departure warning, alerts when speeding, and braking on stationary vehicles – all while prioritizing alerts to help reduce driver distraction. Event-based data – including video – can be wirelessly transmitted for driver coaching and analysis by fleet safety personnel.

Fusion is built on the foundational technology of the Bendix® ESP® Electronic Stability Program full-stability system. As such, it helps drivers avoid some additional crash situations, including rollovers, loss-of-control, and sideswipe crashes.

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The forward-facing camera of Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™ is powered by the Mobileye® System-on-Chip EyeQ® processor with state-of-the-art vision algorithms.

“Our drivers are highly experienced professionals who benefit from comprehensive training programs,” Plumlee said. “But the only given out on the road is that the unexpected can happen at any second. We feel Bendix safety systems help give our men and women an extra advantage – for the backup it offers, Wingman is well named – in responding to situations they will encounter.”

Stopping with Confidence

At its wheel-ends, Saia maintains a strong commitment to safety by equipping its vehicles with Bendix® ADB22X® and the trailer-specific Bendix® ADB22X®-LT air disc brakes.

Air disc brakes virtually eliminate brake fade, provide shorter stopping distances, and deliver greater reliability with more consistent stops. This sets them apart from drum brakes, which can fade during heavy stop-and-go traffic situations or during mountain descents, and can extend stopping distances as they heat up.

“We continue to choose air disc brakes for their proven safety performance and ability to resist fade,” Plumlee said. “Drivers appreciate not only the stopping power, but the quality of the stops, as well – straighter, more stable, and with reduced brake steer. In the shop and fleet office, we appreciate the reduced maintenance time and uptime advantages.”

The uptime benefits of air disc brakes result, in part, from faster friction changes, which require roughly one-quarter the time of drum brakes once the wheel is off. Air disc brakes also include an internal self-adjustment mechanism that can help lower the risk of brakes being found out of adjustment during inspection, which can affect Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) scoring.

By pairing the trailer-specific ADB22X-LT with tractor units equipped with the ADB22X, fleets also gain additional stopping distance benefits – as well as more balanced wear, since there are no drum-braked wheel-ends and their susceptibility to fade. Additionally, improved side-to-side brake balance – a hallmark of air disc brakes – helps keep the trailer behind the tractor during heavy braking. And by combining the ADB22X-LT with the ADB22X, fleets can streamline work in the shop, since the two brakes utilize the same training and maintenance practices, and share replacement wear items such as pads, tappets, and boots.

Worldwide, Bendix and its parent company, the Munich, Germany-based Knorr-Bremse Group, maintain global leadership in air disc brake production at over 45 million and counting.

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“Saia makes safety a high priority, and they demonstrate it in everything they do on and off the road. We’re proud to stand with this rock-solid partner in safety as we shape tomorrow’s transportation together,” said Lance Hansen, Bendix vice president – aftermarket, sales, fleet, service, and operations. “That Saia is choosing Bendix’s most advanced safety technology and pairing it with our industry-leading air disc brakes is most definitely a point of pride. But even more than that, it’s a motivator that helps drive our efforts toward safer trucks and safer roads for everyone.”

Bendix emphasizes that no technology can replace a safe, alert, professional driver practicing safe driving habits, supported by proactive, ongoing driver training. Active safety systems are not intended to enable or encourage aggressive driving, and responsibility for safe vehicle operation remains with the driver at all times.

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 3,400 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.

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