



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BENDIX EXPANDS FLEET ACCESS TO UPGRADE PROGRAM,
DELIVERING ADVANCED SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR IN-SERVICE VEHICLES**

Broadening Its Network of Authorized Upgrade Centers, Bendix Boosts Opportunities for Fleets to Receive Custom-Engineered Upgrades and Robust Post-Installation Support

ELYRIA, Ohio – Jan. 26, 2021 – Fleet access to the Bendix® Upgrade Program continues to increase as Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems expands its network of Authorized Upgrade Centers (AUC). The network consists of dealers and distributors that facilitate the installation of the company’s advanced safety systems on existing vehicles. The growing AUC network now includes locations in over a dozen states in the U.S.

The Bendix Upgrade Program – launched in 2017 – is a unique, first-of-its-kind program that enables professional installation of select Bendix advanced safety technologies to upgrade select vehicles that did not come factory-equipped. Upgrades are specific to individual trucks and tractors, and include post-installation support and tracking. Only Bendix-certified AUC technicians have the required knowledge, training, and specialized tools and techniques to perform these advanced safety system upgrades.

“We are committed to providing fleets with our driver-tested, leading-edge commercial vehicle safety technologies through an upgrade program. We’re now engaged in a selective, phased process of building our network of partners, which will result in Authorized Upgrade Centers strategically placed throughout North America,” said David Schultz, Bendix director of aftermarket business development.

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Schultz continued, “Upgrading safety systems is highly technical work, and care must be taken to do it properly. Along with our deliberate approach to expanding our AUC network, we have in place a demanding training program specifically designed to certify technicians who already meet their company’s rigorous criteria. With upgrades expected to be completed in hours, the proper certification of installers is key to getting trucks back on the road the same day, with minimal disruption to fleet operations.”

Fleet Advantages

Through the Bendix® Upgrade Program, fleets can consider a select range of upgrades – including Bendix’s proven collision mitigation and warning systems. The Bendix website bendixcvsupgrade.com is the starting point for fleets interested in finding out if their specific vehicles are eligible for an upgrade and which systems can be considered. The technology meets high quality standards, similar to when that system is installed at the factory.

“Fleets face the constant challenge of keeping their vehicles equipped with the most advanced – and rapidly evolving – driver assistance technologies available,” said TJ Thomas, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions – Controls. “Replacing all your trucks overnight is not a practical option. The Bendix Upgrade Program, on the other hand, enhances a fleet’s safety by enabling the latest systems to be installed on vehicles not originally built with them. The safety systems help mitigate accidents and support driver coaching through video and data, while contributing to an improved, more consistent driver experience, vehicle to vehicle.”

Thomas emphasized two key advantages of the Bendix Upgrade Program.

First, each upgrade is engineered for a fleet’s specific vehicle – make, model, and year, across a broad swatch of commercial vehicles – to ensure proper fit and function. This means Bendix upgrades will fit properly, operate correctly, and avoid vehicle conflicts, such as with the CAN network.

“It’s critical that the configuration of the vehicle and the equipment already on it will integrate with the new capabilities to be added,” Thomas said. That could mean some vehicles may be upgrade-capable, and some vehicles may not be. In all cases, he pointed out, Bendix – along with the AUCs – will provide specialized upgrade expertise for evaluation and installation.

The second key advantage of the Bendix Upgrade Program, according to Thomas, is the support provided by the AUC and Bendix post-installation network of driver and technician training materials, VIN tracking, and access to the company’s full complement of technical support resources and tools. Upgrades are also covered by Bendix’s warranty programs.

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“Don’t overlook the necessity of post-installation quality checks and tracking, because they are vitally important,” Thomas said. “Take VIN tracking. The Bendix Authorized Upgrade Center can verify, by VIN, which trucks have been upgraded and provide that information to the fleet. Especially if you’re upgrading a larger number of vehicles – say, 30 or 50 trucks over three different locations – there’s no substitute for this tracking. Sometimes a fleet may incorrectly document that upgrades on all their trucks were completed, when in fact they were not. VIN tracking verifies which vehicles were upgraded to help keep fleet records accurate.”

System Availability

Systems currently available for retrofit on select vehicles include:

- Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™ driver assistance system. Retrofits include select features only.
- Bendix® Wingman® Advanced™ – A Collision Mitigation Technology.
- AutoVue® 4G Lane Departure Warning (LDW) System by Bendix CVS.
- Bendix™ BlindSpotter® side object detection system.
- SafetyDirect® by Bendix CVS video and data event recording.
- Bendix® VORAD® VS-500 collision warning system for trucks and tractors without the Bendix® ESP® full-stability program.

Additional technologies, including the Bendix® Intellipark® Electronic Parking Brake, will continue to expand the scope of the program.

Bendix upgrades are fully installed and include all components, overlay harnessing, connectors, special brackets, and displays needed for a complete installation. It’s important to note that these upgrades usually look different than factory-installed systems, but the system alerts, functionality, and performance are very similar, so drivers will know just what to expect behind the wheel.

Fleets wishing to learn more about the Bendix® Upgrade Program should visit the program’s website, bendixcvsupgrade.com. The site enables fleets and vehicle operators to identify which upgrade options are available for specific vehicle make, model, and year configurations. It allows Bendix to connect registered customers with an Authorized Upgrade Center that can assist fleets in securing Bendix upgrade installation and support.

Bendix safety technologies – including all those within the Bendix Upgrade Program – complement safe driving practices and are not intended to enable or encourage aggressive driving. No commercial vehicle safety technology replaces a skilled, alert driver exercising safe

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driving techniques and proactive, comprehensive driver training. Responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle remains with the driver at all times.

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 4,100 people, Bendix is driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-275) 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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