



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@mtllc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX ESTABLISHES KNORR-BREMSE'S FIRST NORTH AMERICAN VALUE STREAM ACADEMY

Lean Manufacturing Courses Support Continuous Improvement and Operational Excellence

AVON, Ohio – Feb. 25, 2025 – The Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) operation in Acuña, Mexico, is the newest site of a Value Stream Academy (VSA), an initiative from Munich, Germany-based parent company Knorr-Bremse to explore strategies for waste elimination and value enhancement in manufacturing – all in pursuit of safer vehicles and roadways. The VSA represents Knorr-Bremse's first in North America, and third worldwide.

The inaugural class took place last fall, when an international team of 15 engineers from the United States and Mexico met over four days. Since then, VSA training has continued there and through demos and programs at other Bendix locations in North America.

"Our global vision for the future is to secure Knorr-Bremse's long-term position as a worldwide market and technology leader through operational excellence," said Piotr Sroka, Bendix president, CEO, and COO. "To do this, we are laser focused on becoming faster, more efficient, and more effective through a comprehensive operational transformation underway at Bendix. This is just one of the ways we will make the most of our full potential. The collaboration and results complement the expansive Knorr-Bremse global BOOST 2026 program."

"Since 2012, VSA training has played a key role in the Knorr Production System (KPS), providing lean manufacturing instruction for Knorr-Bremse employees in both the truck and rail industries," said Fabio Nakai, Bendix director of operations excellence. "Through a diverse training catalog that begins with the basics and builds to expert levels of problem solving, logistics, and soft skills for leaders, our VSAs have had an incredibly positive impact on our

teams and processes, strengthening our industry relationships and supporting transportation safety around the globe.”

Bendix is the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking solutions for commercial vehicles. Through the VSA at Plant 2 of its sprawling Acuña campus, Bendix will help facilitate training for employees at all of Knorr-Bremse's North American companies, including rail industry tier one suppliers; Knorr Brake Company; KB Signaling, KB Rail – Mexico, and New York Air Brake LLC. Hands-on training using real production line experiences and simulations are offered in Acuña, while the VSA will provide demos and other training programs at Bendix locations including Avon, Ohio; Huntington, Indiana; and Bowling Green, Kentucky. Classroom sessions are enriched with slides, videos, and simulations, ensuring a solid theoretical foundation that supports practical improvements.

“Effectively teaching lean advanced manufacturing requires a physical classroom with workstations, so we've set that up in Acuña to serve all North American locations,” Nakai explained. “Other courses are more flexible, so for example, we have advanced lean administration offerings in Avon and Huntington, Indiana, along with a lean logistics program scheduled for Bowling Green, all in early 2025. Moving forward, we'll be able to connect training priorities with individual locations. And we plan to begin making courses available to our suppliers next year as well.”

All Bendix manufacturing operations are committed to the KPS quality, productivity, and continuous improvement culture, practiced worldwide throughout Knorr-Bremse. One key aspect of the KPS philosophy is encouraging and empowering employees to recognize potential problems, then develop and help implement their own suggestions for quality improvements.

The new VSA in Mexico joins two other locations in Liberec, Czech Republic (KB CVS), and Berlin, Germany (KB Rail). While Knorr-Bremse's commercial vehicle and rail divisions run unique KPS versions, they have a common Value Stream Academy goal of developing KPS methods and lean principles that are accessible to all Knorr-Bremse employees, fostering a self-learning organization that serves as an inspiration for others.

“All of these efforts support Bendix and Knorr-Bremse's longstanding culture of continuous improvement at every level, from the shop floor to every department that directly supports operations,” Nakai said. “And when we drive safety, quality, and productivity, we develop a team-level ownership of everything we do to help make North American roadways and railways safer for everyone who depends on them.”

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 nearly 4,000 people, Bendix 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 X, formerly known as Twitter, at https://x.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).

#