



DETROIT DIESEL

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Detroit Diesel Corporation Enhances Vocational Offerings with New MBE 900 and 4000 Ratings and Features

New attributes provide businesses productivity improvements/solutions

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, March 31, 2005 – Long known for its prominence in the heavy-duty diesel engine market, Detroit Diesel Corporation (DDC) is proving it's a driving force in medium-duty and vocational markets as well. Today, the company announced it is offering new un-restricted ratings for its 900 series Mercedes-Benz MBE 900 engine, as well as the launch of Rear Engine Power Take-Off (REPTO) for its MBE 4000 engine.

“With the enhancements to these engines, we are now able to provide coverage for virtually all vocational markets in North America,” said Carsten Reinhardt, president and chief executive officer of Detroit Diesel Corporation.

The MBE 900 and MBE 4000 engines are available in vehicles produced by business units of Freightliner LLC. Freightliner LLC is the largest manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks in North America and a leading manufacturer of medium-duty and specialized, commercial vehicles. Detroit Diesel Corporation and Freightliner LLC are both part of DaimlerChrysler.

MBE 900 Offers More Ratings

The MBE 900 engine, which was launched in the North American market in 1999, now offers un-restricted ratings for the 7.2-liter version covering 250 through 330 horsepower. Previously, the 300 and 330 horsepower ratings were limited to fire and emergency applications. In addition, the un-restricted ratings reinforce DDC's breadth in medium-duty applications by providing its customers a full-line of engines that span from 170 to 330 horsepower.

The MBE 900 provides 80 percent of its available torque at 1,100 RPM – providing significant pulling power for vocational uses such as construction dump trucks or refuse applications. Also, the MBE 900 provides the best power-to-weight ratio in its class – allowing for better vehicle and payload performance required for these applications.

Furthermore, the MBE 900's industry-leading durability and reliability not only make this a natural fit for vocational applications, but recreational vehicles as well.

“With the increased growth we are experiencing in the recreational vehicle industry, leveraging the MBE 900 as an option is an added incentive for RV buyers,” said Jack Conlan, president of Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation. “We only want the best and most reliable engines for our RV customers.”

MBE 4000 with REPTO Launches

Introduced into the North American market in late 2001, the MBE 4000 has shown strong acceptance across a wide variety of applications within the on-highway and vocational markets.

“A significant part of acceptance for this engine in the NAFTA market is the high level of available torque from the engine,” said Reinhardt. “And now, REPTO provides a foothold needed to compete in the concrete industry and other specialized industries.”

Orders are being accepted now with production for the MBE 4000 with REPTO commencing in the third quarter of 2005. REPTO enhances the vocational profile of this engine as it enables DDC to access new markets that are dependent on this feature, such as concrete mixers, vacuum trucks, brick and block trucks, log haulers equipped with loading carriers and other vocational markets.

The MBE 4000 engine with REPTO features a direct 1.243:1 ratio powered through the engine camshaft gear. It provides continuous power up to 170-horsepower and 442 ft-lbs. of torque. The design also features an isolated coupling that dampens torsional vibration, which is commonly seen in concrete mixer applications. Additionally, this reduces maintenance costs and extends the overall life of the chassis.

Detroit Diesel Corporation is the leading manufacturer of on-highway heavy-duty diesel engines for the commercial truck market. The company offers a complete line of engines from 170 to 515 horsepower for the on-highway and vocational markets. Through its corporate headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, Detroit Diesel is engaged in the design, manufacture, sale and service of these products, in addition to supporting alternative and hybrid engine strategies for the commercial truck marketplace. Detroit Diesel is a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler and part of the Freightliner Group.