

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Fontaine Introduces New Premium Fifth Wheel with Infinite Automatic Slack Adjustment

New Fontaine® Ultra NS fifth wheel provides smoother ride, longer component life

Trussville, Ala. (Oct. 15, 2009) – Fontaine Fifth Wheel introduces the Fontaine® Ultra NS, the first fifth wheel to offer infinite, automatic slack adjustment in order to provide a more comfortable ride and reduce component wear. The Fontaine Ultra NS is part of the company's new Ultra family of fifth wheels.

This premium fifth wheel features the next generation of Fontaine's patented No-Slack® lock design. Slack, which is open space around the kingpin when the fifth wheel lock is engaged, causes many problems, including a jarring ride for the driver and increased inputs into the vehicle frame that can cause premature wear to truck components.

With the Ultra NS fifth wheel, Fontaine engineers completely re-imagined the fifth wheel lock. The Ultra NS fifth wheel replaces the jaw and wedge utilized by previous No-Slack locks with a cam and moveable jaw system. The cam "swings" the jaw into position behind the kingpin, where it is kept in place by constant spring pressure. That pressure, combined with various design elements, provides infinite slack adjustment for zero slack at all times. Only Fontaine fifth wheel locks automatically self-adjust to reduce slack.

"The lock on the Ultra NS fifth wheel also provides additional contact to the kingpin, helping to increase kingpin longevity," says Terry Mennon, vice president of sales and marketing for Fontaine. "The Ultra NS has an automatic secondary lock and a positive lock indicator that provides a quick visual signal to the driver that the lock is properly closed. Like all Fontaine fifth wheels, the Ultra NS is equipped with a safety trigger that prevents high hitching."

Because the Ultra NS fifth wheel self-adjusts to hold any size kingpin, it allows fleet operators to switch from trailer to trailer hassle-free. The Ultra NS fifth wheel is also easier to open. Its pull handle has a shorter opening stroke to eliminate interference with fenders and tires.

The compact Ultra NS fifth wheel is easy to maintain and rebuild, for reduced vehicle downtime. A low-lube lock is standard. Air actuation and a lube-free top plate are optional.

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The Ultra NS fifth wheel is rated for on-highway use in standard to severe service applications, with a 55,000 pound vertical load and 150,000 pound drawbar pull rating. It is cast steel and offers the same extensive mounting options as Fontaine's popular 6000 and 7000 Series fifth wheels.

"For fleets looking for a durable, easy-to-rebuild fifth wheel with all the latest features to enhance driver comfort and security, the Ultra NS is a great choice," Mennen says. "It is truly a top-of-the-line fifth wheel."

For more information about the Ultra NS or any of the other products in Fontaine's full line of fifth wheels, visit www.fifthwheel.com or call (800) 874-9780.

About Fontaine Fifth Wheel

Based in Trussville, Ala., Fontaine Fifth Wheel is the world's largest fifth wheel manufacturer. It has ISO 14001 registered manufacturing facilities worldwide.

Fontaine is a Marmon Highway Technologies (MHT) company. MHT companies support the transportation industry worldwide with a wide range of high-quality products and services.

MHT companies are members of The Marmon Group, an international association of business units that operate independently within diverse business sectors. Member companies have combined revenues of approximately \$7 billion. The Marmon Group is a Berkshire Hathaway company.

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Editor's Note: Please see photo Ultra_NS.jpg.

Caption: The new Fontaine® Ultra NS from Fontaine Fifth Wheel is the first fifth wheel to offer infinite, automatic slack adjustment in order to provide a more comfortable ride and reduce component wear.