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Contact: Richard Ball
1-843-486-7852
RichardBall@AmericanLaFrance.com

American LaFrance, LLC Partners With Bosch Rexroth Corporation For Hydraulic Hybrid Project

LADSON, SC – In an announcement made by New York based Shurepower, LLC, Bosch Rexroth Corporation along with American LaFrance, LLC have been selected to demonstrate hydraulic hybrid vehicle technology in a refuse truck by installing the Bosch Rexroth Hydrostatic Regenerative Brake (HRB) system in an American LaFrance Condor chassis for field testing in New York City and Baltimore.

The overall goal of the project is to assist widespread application of hydraulic hybrid powertrains in vehicle fleets, such as refuse haulers, that have been identified as having high potential for successfully using this technology to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, along with reduced operating and maintenance costs and improved performance.

The Department of Sanitation - New York City (DSNY) and the City of Baltimore Bureau of Solid Waste (BSW) have stepped forward to host the field tests. American LaFrance, LLC will participate by providing each city with a prototype truck chassis into which the HRB system will be installed. Significant technical support is being provided by New West Technologies, LLC, and additional sponsorship is provided by the New Jersey Bureau of Public Utilities, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the Maryland Department of Environment. NASEO's support for this effort is part of the State Technology Advancement Collaborative, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to promote multi-state initiatives in new energy technology.

The objective of the field tests is to validate the technical and economic characteristics of the HRB system, a key step in defining a program for deploying this product to large numbers of in-service and new vehicles. The two cities participating in the tests are expected to exhibit significant differences in operating conditions and will therefore provide a more thorough analysis of the HRB's potential.

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"The Department of Sanitation is pleased to participate in the planned field testing of Bosch Rexroth's Hydrostatic Regenerative Brake System. Sanitation daily travels 6,300 curb miles to collect 12,000 tons per day of refuse throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The daily house to house collection service provided by the Department in stop and go traffic is a true test for this type of technology. We await the results of the testing for further Department evaluation," said John J. Doherty, New York City Department of Sanitation Commissioner.

The proprietary HRB system uses a hydraulic pump/motor, connected to the driveline, to capture kinetic energy during vehicle braking. This energy would otherwise be lost as heat in the vehicle's friction brakes. When braking, the pump/motor acts as a pump, absorbing energy from the driveline and imparting a retarding force on the drivewheels, and using the absorbed energy to pump hydraulic fluid into an accumulator. The accumulator is a tank containing inert gas that is compressed by the incoming fluid. During acceleration the pressurized gas pushes fluid out of the accumulator and the pump/motor now acts as a hydraulic motor, assisting the engine and reducing the fuel required to launch the vehicle. The overall process is called regenerative braking.

Hydraulic hybrids offer the potential for significant reductions in fuel consumption, emissions and brake wear. As compared to hybrid electric powertrains now entering the market, hydraulic hybrids appear to be inherently better suited for the very high power-handling requirements encountered during regenerative braking, and they require fewer efficiency-robbing energy conversion steps. These factors indicate that hydraulic hybrids have the potential to capture a larger portion of the braking energy and to use the captured energy more efficiently. Moreover, the required types of hydraulic components enjoy the benefit of many years of development, refinement and successful application to a wide variety of industrial and mobile power markets, where they have established a reputation for ruggedness and durability.

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