

SINCE 1911

# DRY VAN TRAILERS

This year's latest models, specs  
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2019 INNOVATOR of the YEAR

# LOAD ONE

Expedite carrier develops game-changing technology to help its drivers succeed

Randall  Reilly

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS FOR TRUCKING PROFESSIONALS

## LOW ROLLING RESISTANCE

Fuel-efficient tires get more durable  
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## DRIVER RETENTION

Hold on to the ones you have  
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## IN BRIEF

- **Transtex**, a developer and manufacturer of aerodynamic products, acquired SmartTruck's Class 8 trailer aerodynamic system assets, including the TopKit system; terms were not announced.
- **Velociti**, a supplier of technology deployment and support services, was named the preferred installation provider by Rocketail, a developer of aerodynamic tail systems for semi-trailers. Fleets deploying Rocketail products can select Velociti's nationwide network of mobile technicians.
- **East Manufacturing** expanded its East Elite Wheel-End assembly warranty from five years/350,000 miles to five years/unlimited mileage. The wheel-end assembly is standard on all East aluminum trailer types and models.
- **Jacobs Vehicle Systems** announced a collaboration with West Virginia University's Center for Alternative Fuels, Engine and Emissions to define the benefits of Jacobs' cylinder deactivation and early exhaust valve opening systems on heavy-duty diesel engines for commercial vehicles, with a focus on testing trucks in low-load operations.
- **BestDrive**, a commercial tire dealer and retreader focusing on Continental offerings, opened locations in Houston, Los Angeles and Little Rock, Ark. The company now has 31 locations in 17 states.
- **Phillips Industries** released its PhillipsTools app designed to offer quick, easy availability to information about the company and its products in one location. The app offers access to updated product literature, catalogs and bulletins in English, Spanish and French, as well as the company's library of Tech Tips and videos. It is available for Apple iPad devices and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store by searching for PhillipsTools.
- **Great Dane's** manufacturing facility in Wayne, Neb., produced its 125,000th refrigerated trailer, an Everest Single-Temp reefer designed for Schuster Co. of Le Mars, Iowa, a Great Dane customer since 1988.

## Nikola adds battery-powered option to electrified lineup

**N**ikola Motor Co., which is working to develop and deploy a hydrogen-electric-powered Class 8 tractor, last month announced that it will showcase a battery-powered tractor at its Nikola World event in April.

The company debuted its hydrogen-electric fuel-cell tractor in December 2016.

Despite the addition of a battery option, the company tweeted it was not shifting its focus away from hydrogen, adding it was simply offering battery options for shorter-range non-weight-sensitive applications.

"Zero implications on hydrogen," read a tweet from @nikolamotor. "Hydrogen for long haul, over 700 stations going up and over 14 billion in pre orders for H2 and rising every day. BEV customers don't compete with hydrogen as they are mainly for inner city and much less range."

The company called hydrogen its "primary focus" for the long term, touting 50-to-1 sales of hydrogen versus electric. "We believe both have their place," the company tweeted.

Hydrogen-equipped models, according to the company, are 5,000 pounds lighter and offer lower operating costs in long-haul applications, even factoring for hydrogen costs.

Nikola already has attracted investments from and partnerships with major suppliers, including an investment from Wabco and buy-ins from Ryder and Bosch. It's also secured several thousand orders from major fleets for its hydrogen-electric truck.

The company intends to deploy units for fleet testing this year and to ramp up production this year and next, and it's also developing a hydrogen fueling network. The hydrogen-electric Nikola One, while powered by electric power, will use hydrogen fuel to create electricity rather than charging and batteries.

— Jason Cannon



Nikola Motor Co. debuted its hydrogen-electric fuel-cell tractor in December 2016.

## Stertil-Koni spotlights LED tubes for lifts

**S**tertil-Koni, a provider of heavy-duty vehicle lifts, introduced an enhanced high-performance LED lighting system for both its Skylift platform and four-post systems. The goal is to increase area-specific under-vehicle lighting for greater shop safety and efficiency. The lighting systems have:

- Preassembled 40-inch light tubes with transformer and mounting brackets;
- A modular "plug and play" design to facilitate easier installation and expandability;
- A slim-line design;
- A safe low voltage (24 volts);
- A water-resistant design suitable for Skylift wash bay applications; and
- Eco-friendly energy-efficient bulbs.

"Stertil-Koni's LED lighting systems are a cost-effective solution to a relatively widespread challenge in maintenance facilities of all sizes and functions — the lack of suitable lighting to perform work safely and productively," said Dr. Jean DellAmore, the company's president.

— Jason Cannon



Stertil-Koni's LED lighting system for its heavy-duty lifts is designed to increase area-specific under-vehicle lighting for greater shop safety and efficiency.