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IN BRIEF

- The six-week-long United Auto Workers union strike at General Motors delayed the delivery of about 5,000 vehicles to customers, **Navistar** said. The strike, which caused production shutdowns at GM facilities and affiliated suppliers, impacted the delivery of components to Navistar's truck assembly plant in Springfield, Ohio. Navistar paused production Sept. 23, affecting about 1,500 plant workers and suspending production of GM cutaway model G Vans and International branded trucks.
- The **Volvo Group** established Volvo Autonomous Solutions, a new business area to accelerate the development, commercialization and sales of autonomous transportation products. The company formed the autonomous business unit to meet growing demand and offer solutions to customers in segments such as mining, ports and transportation between logistics centers. It will debut Jan. 1, 2020, and will be reported financially as part of Volvo's truck segment.
- **Volvo Trucks** in October began sales of its Volvo FL and Volvo FE electric trucks in select European markets to meet increasing demand for sustainable transportation solutions in city environments requiring reduced exhaust emissions and noise levels.
- **Volvo Group Venture Capital AB** invested in Upstream Security, an Israeli automotive cybersecurity company. Volvo said the investment will fund the development of systems to protect connected vehicles from cyber threats or misuse while stationary and in motion.
- **ZF Group** announced strategic collaborations with two Israeli-based technology companies, Cognata and OptimalPlus, to bolster its competence in plant operations management and to enhance the efficiency of its Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) validation operations.
- **Phillips Industries** restructured its business by creating five strategic business units to focus resources on specific markets to be more responsive to customer needs and innovative in product development. The five SBUs are Phillips Aftermarket, Phillips OEM, Phillips Connect Technologies, Phillips Asia-Pacific and Phillips Europe.
- **Enterprise Truck Rental** opened its first location in the western Montana region. The new Missoula facility is the company's 36th branch to open in 2019.

Continental celebrates grand opening of Miss. tire plant

Continental in October held a grand opening event for its new tire plant near Clinton, Miss., to mark the completion of the construction process, which began in 2016. About 300 guests, including state and local officials, community members, customers and suppliers joined 250 Continental employees for the event.

The new plant is located on a 1,000-acre greenfield site in Hinds County, about two miles from Clinton and 20 miles from Jackson. Continental has committed nearly \$1.4 billion and expects to employ 2,500 people when the plant reaches full capacity in the next decade.

"The completion of our new tire plant signifies a major step in our global long-term Vision 2025 growth strategy for Continental Tires," said Christian Koetz, a member of Continental's executive board and head of its Tire Division.

The plant will produce truck and bus radial (TBR) tires for the U.S. market. Production is set to begin in 2020.

"This is Continental's first new plant dedicated to truck tires in the world," said Paul Williams, executive vice president, Commercial Vehicle Tires, the Americas. "We have seen tremendous growth in this area of our business, and the addition of this production facility will help us continue to satisfy customer orders."

– Dean Smallwood



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Phillips, Nussbaum team for 'smart trailer' system

Phillips Connect Technologies recently partnered with Hudson, Ill.-based Nussbaum Transportation (CCJ Top 250, No. 216) to supply a "smart trailer" system that delivers GPS tracking, cargo detection, automatic tire inflation system (ATIS) alerts, tire pressure and temperature monitoring and an anti-lock braking system (ABS) decoder that provides detailed fault codes, trailer VIN information and mileage reporting.

PCT also is providing Nussbaum with tractor-trailer pairing to ensure the right tractors are connected to the correct trailers before hauling a load. The smart trailer system also provides Nussbaum with detailed information to drive operational KPI reporting metrics. Additional sensor features under consideration by Nussbaum are Phillips Connect's Lite-Sentry (light-out detection) and Remote PreCheck designed to provide the ability to remotely pre-check lights and tires on a parked trailer from any connected device.

Nussbaum also will combine Pressure Systems International's TireView system for tire pressure and temperature monitoring with P.S.I.'s ATIS to provide real-time tire health to the fleet's operations managers, instead of waiting for a driver to report a tire concern, while still automatically maintaining pressures to allow the driver to complete their run. The system also provides visibility of the trailer's tire status even when it is untethered without tractor power connected.

– Dean Smallwood



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