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Fontaine Introduces SmartConnect® the World's First Smart Fifth Wheel

JASPER, ALABAMA -- Fontaine Fifth Wheel company is unveiling the new SmartConnect® fifth wheel in October at the ATA Exhibition in Austin, TX, booth 3077.

“Think of it as a fifth wheel with a brain,” began Juan Hernandez, VP Sales & Marketing. “It utilizes advanced sensors to monitor the fifth wheel lock position every time you couple or de-couple from a trailer. By collecting and processing this data, it can accurately anticipate maintenance needs before problems surface,” he further explained. “Promptly addressing these issues prevents minor problems from escalating into costly repairs and extends the fifth wheel’s lifespan. In essence, SmartConnect® means less guessing and more uptime,” he concluded.

Shane Wolfe, Director of Engineering, added, “Similar to other fifth wheels, the SmartConnect® system includes an indicator light that notifies the driver of the fifth wheel’s locking status. What truly sets SmartConnect® apart, however, are its predictive maintenance capabilities. LED flash codes provide drivers with advance notice that fifth wheel service is required at the next maintenance interval.”

Hardwire connections not only simplify the installation of an optional in-cab indicator light, they also provide fleets the flexibility to expand SmartConnect® functionality as more features become available. The system is CAN bus capable right out of the box, using the high-level SAE J1939 communications protocol. When integrated with the Truck OEM’s CAN and telematics, SmartConnect® will seamlessly transmit lock status, hours of use, number of couples and maintenance alerts to fleet managers.

“We’re genuinely excited about this product,” says Paige Petroni, company president. “SmartConnect® is the world’s first smart fifth wheel, and I’m incredibly proud of our engineering and management teams for their remarkable accomplishments. This innovation can significantly assist fleets in lowering maintenance costs while elevating operational efficiency.”

For more information about Fontaine Fifth Wheel SmartConnect® products and support – contact Fontaine Customer Service at 800-874-9780 or email info@fifthwheel.com.

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Serving heavy-duty transportation customers for more than 75 years, Fontaine Fifth Wheel is the innovator of SmartConnect®, the world’s first smart fifth wheel and Fontaine No-Slack®, the only self-adjusting fifth wheel lock in the industry. With IATF 16949:2016 certified manufacturing facilities worldwide, Fontaine is dedicated to providing dependable, robust solutions for each demanding market segment that we serve throughout the globe. Fontaine is a member of Marmon Holdings, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway company.

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See page 2 for photo captions and images available for publication at www.fifthwheel.com/press

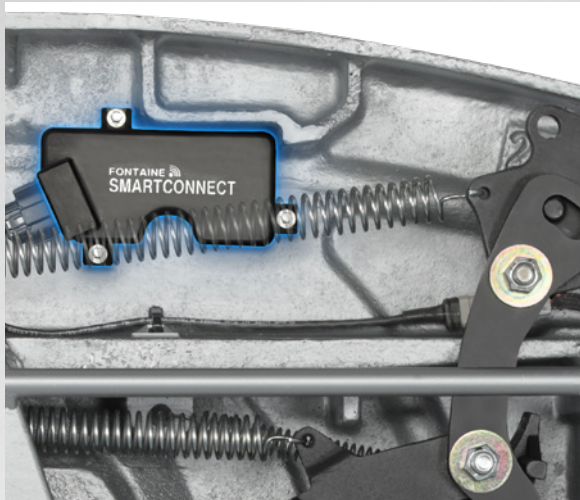
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CAPTION:
The Fontaine SmartConnect® system monitors the fifth wheel lock position at every coupling event and analyzes the gathered data. The system predicts maintenance needs and proactively issues alerts for servicing or inspection. This proactive approach helps prevent premature wear, minimizes the need for early rebuilds, and improves fleet uptime by aligning maintenance with early indications.



CAPTION:
SmartConnect® provides an additional check to supplement the DOT-required visual inspection and tug test. A green light informs the driver that the fifth wheel is securely locked. If the light flashes before turning solid green it signals that an adjustment or repairs are needed at the next service interval. On the other hand, a red light indicates an unlocked state, prompting the driver to ensure proper re-coupling before proceeding on the road.



CAPTION:
When integrated with the Truck OEM's CAN and telematics systems, SmartConnect® will seamlessly transmit lock status, hours of use, number of couples and maintenance alerts to fleet managers. The SmartConnect® brain features hardwire connections for future fleet management communication and software enhancements which are underway.

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