

PRESS RELEASE

Delhi
January 2012

JOST India Presents a New Trailer Axle and Suspension for the Indian Market

JOST, the leading producer of fifth wheel couplings, kingpins and telescopic landing gear, and German axle manufacturer gigant have entered into a joint venture in India. The joint project includes the production of a new trailer axle designed especially for the Indian market in the JOST factory in Jamshedpur, in eastern India.

“With the production and sale of a specially developed axle, we are strengthening our activities in the Indian subcontinent,” explained JOST CEO Lars Brorsen. “At the same time, we are increasing our competitiveness in the Indian market as a complete provider of chassis and connection components for Trailers.” JOST opened its own factory for fifth wheel couplings in Jamshedpur in the state of Jharkhand in 2008. The new axles will also be produced there.

Whilst JOST has the production facilities and an existing sales company in India, gigant contributes decades of experience in the development and manufacture of premium, sturdy axles and suspension systems to the joint venture. “Designed for resistance to bending and torsional strain, the JOST gigant axles fulfil all the demands of use under the high stress conditions that we see in India,” says Markus Gehle, gigant CEO. The axle has a beam made of premium fine-grained steel with shrink-fitted welded stress parts. The shrink fitting in the major parts of the axle reduces stress to the otherwise critical

welded seams in these areas. These parts are also made of fine-grained steel, which ensures a very uniform material grain flow within the entire axle beam. Just as with all JOST trailer components, e-coating reliably protects them against corrosion in the long term.

Outboarded Drum: Less to adjust – shorter down time

The new axle is impressive with its sturdy construction and offers significant advantages during servicing. The wheel heads are designed with the brake drum before the wheel hub, which allows the drum to be dismantled without having to open the hub unit or the wheel bearing. As a result, the hub and bearing do not need to be adjusted when replacing the brake linings – eliminating potential errors too. This design also prevents dirt from reaching the bearings.

Mechanical spring suspension systems with static axle balance

The new axle is combined with mechanical spring suspension systems, which is typical in India. Dual and tri-axle versions are both available. The suspension is equipped with leaf springs, which are made up of several layers of springs with a consistent profile and trapezoidal tiered lengths. Individual springs can thus be easily replaced. The ends of the springs are supported by the rotating swash plates, which mean a static balance is maintained between stresses on the axles during normal vehicle operation.

Great care has been taken to ensure easy serviceability. The spare parts have been standardized to fit existing dimensions readily available in the Indian market.

Steering and suspension systems for ODC trailers:

The JOST group company TRIDEC will exhibit at the Auto Expo in New Delhi, India.

TRIDEC will be present at the JOST India stand for the first time ever. TRIDEC is a manufacturer of steering systems and special suspensions for the trailer market. Since 1990 TRIDEC develops and manufactures its products in house. In 2008 Tridec became a member of JOST World and has since then been actively promoted by JOST India. To emphasize this, the 2 main products for the Indian market are on display at the Auto Expo.

HF-E hydraulic steering system

The HF-E is a hydraulically operating steering system for trailers. The HF-E system can steer up to 7 king pin type axles and hence finds its largest application in low loaders. It can also be combined with other TRIDEC products, mainly hydraulic suspensions. The system enables each trailer builder to manufacture a steered trailer that is highly manoeuvrable. The HF-E systems differs itself from other steering systems in that it is highly maintenance friendly. All major bearings are sealed and therefore protected from dirt getting in but also for grease getting out. The major components are bolted to the chassis by a weldable adapter. This also makes for ease in possible future repair work. The damaged or worn components can easily be removed and re-installed due to the bolt connections.

TRIDEC will engineer the lay-out of the steering system to get the optimum steering angles. This is depending on the trailer configuration such as the number of axles, axle spread etc. The trailer builder will get a package ready to install.

In order to get the best out of the steering system it can also be equipped with a manual override, which can be seen at the exhibition.

TP-O Hydraulic pendular axle suspension

The TP-O is a pendular axle suspension that has multiple applications. Its main application is on special trailers for extreme loads. The TP-O can bear 10 tons per leg at 80 km/h meaning an axle line (left and right) can carry 20 tons. At lower speed the load can be increased by 150 % up to 30 tons per axle line. The TP-O is made out of cast steel thereby combining strength and optimal weight. It consists of an upper arm, lower arm and the hydraulic cylinder. All bearings are sealed and therefore require no greasing during its life time, making the TP-O maintenance friendly but also protected from harsher environment with water and dust. The TP-O can be easily combined with the HF-E type steering system. Tridec can achieve steering angles of up to 70 degrees so that the TP-O can be used for dollies in the front part of the trailer.

The pendular axle is mounted in a rubber bush allowing pendular movement but does not require greasing either. With a suspension stroke of 550 mm the TP-O can compensate for larger height differences enabling low loaders to achieve sufficient ground clearance.

Tridec can combine the TP-O suspension with its ride height control system for easy changes in ride height and comfortably get the trailer back into ride height. All these features can be seen at the JOST stand **[15A.10]**.

About gigant

gigant is the European specialist for market-orientated solutions in the commercial vehicle industry. The group of companies is headquartered in Dinklage in Lower Saxony from where the production facilities in Germany and Great Britain are managed.

gigant manufactures axle systems, air suspension and leaf spring units as well as compressed air tanks and distributes these via a European network of partners and branches.

The involvement of the European members of the group has enabled gigant to create a development and production company that not only has more than 50 years of experience but also puts its heart and soul into combining tradition with innovation.

Only in this way is it possible to develop axles among other things to cope with the toughest requirements while being light, inexpensive and easy to maintain.

About JOST world

The JOST Group is an enterprise which was founded in 1952 as a factory for ball bearing turntables in Neu-Isenburg, near Frankfurt am Main, Germany. At that time 19 employees worked in the small forge, on whose foundations today's exhibition room now stands.

More than 50 years later JOST has achieved a leading position worldwide in the manufacturing of components for commercial vehicles. Our products are amongst the most frequently used components in the truck & trailer sector today. Convinced by the excellence of what we do, all the major manufacturers place their trust in JOST.

JOST has a tradition of success based on flexibility, technical know-how, entrepreneurial action and a close relationship with our employees. As the expectations of end users and vehicle manufacturers for supplier performance become increasingly exacting and our customers rightly demand defect-free, reasonably priced products and services worldwide, it's absolutely essential that its products and services offer high quality and reliability in order to maintain the competitiveness and advancement of the enterprise. Apart from economical and social responsibility JOST has ecological responsibility to its customers, employees and the community.

JOST is the worldwide leading producer of connection components for truck & trailer. Under the umbrella brand name of JOST, the comprehensive range of products is broken down into four areas. The JOST brand includes fifth wheel couplings, telescopic landing gears and accessories for semi-trailers, ball bearing turntables, king pins and container locks. Under the traditional brand name of ROCKINGER, the company produces towing hitches and drawbar eyes for both transporters and trucks, as well as for use in the agricultural industry. With REGENSBURGER ZUGGABEL, JOST supplements its range of products for coupling technology with drawbars for both road and agricultural use. TRIDEC completes the range of JOST products with steering systems and suspensions for trailers. JOST is the only fifth wheel coupling and telescopic landing gear supplier that can provide its products and services throughout the world.. With production plants in Germany, Spain, Hungary, the USA, Brazil, South Africa, China and India, JOST is the global partner of choice for the commercial vehicle industry.

About JOST India

One of the youngest additions to the JOST-World is JOST India Auto Component. This wholly-owned subsidiary of JOST opened in 2008 as a state-of-the-art production plant in Jamshedpur, in the north-eastern federal state of Jharkhand. Modern manufacturing centres and assembly lines for production have been built on the 60,000 square meter premises. The production meets the high industry standards not only in terms of quality but also of working safety and eco-friendliness. Besides trading parts from its own group, JOST India also produces fifth wheel couplings in Jamshedpur.

Press Contact:

Pradeep G.S.

Tel: +91 9243252818

Email: Pradeep.g.s@jost-world.com

Monika Smilovic

Tel: +49 (6102) 295-383

Email: monika.smilovic@jost-werke.de