

FONTAINE® NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: For Immediate Release

Fontaine SmartConnect® Wins HDT Top 20 Award and Named Finalist for Jim Winsor Technical Achievement Award

JASPER, ALABAMA -- Fontaine Fifth Wheel's SmartConnect® is doubly honored, receiving the HDT Top 20 Products Award and being named a top three finalist for the prestigious James Winsor Technical Achievement Award.



Images available for publication at www.fifthwheel.com/press

The HDT Top 20 Award follows a rigorous evaluation process conducted by a panel of fleet executives and HDT's Editorial Advisory Board, focusing on three primary criteria: innovation; the ability to address an industry issue; and the potential to affect a fleet's bottom line. This award was presented to the Fontaine Fifth Wheel team at the American Trucking Association's (ATA) Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA at the beginning of March.

Also announced at ATA's TMC meeting, the North American Truck Writers panel selected SmartConnect® as a top three finalist for the Jim Winsor Technical Achievement Award, recognizing significant technological advancement and wide applicability to the commercial trucking industry.

"SmartConnect® stands as the world's first smart fifth wheel, offering significant benefits to fleets by reducing maintenance costs and enhancing operational efficiency," said Paige Petroni, President of Fontaine Fifth Wheel. "This recognition from leading industry professionals reflects the dedication and expertise of our entire team, and we are truly honored."

SmartConnect® employs advanced sensors to monitor the fifth wheel lock position each time a trailer is coupled or decoupled. By collecting and analyzing this data, it proactively identifies maintenance needs before they escalate into problems down the road. While featuring a standard indicator light similar to other fifth wheels, SmartConnect® sets itself apart with its predictive maintenance capabilities. LED flash codes provide drivers with early alerts indicating the need for fifth wheel servicing at the next maintenance interval.

Designed for seamless integration with truck OEM's CAN and telematics systems, SmartConnect® utilizes the high-level SAE J1939 communications protocol. This integration allows for the automatic transmission of vital information, including lock status, usage hours, coupling count, and alerts directly to fleet managers, streamlining maintenance scheduling.

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

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Serving heavy-duty transportation customers for nearly 85 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 the company serves throughout the globe. Fontaine is a member of Marmon Holdings, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway company.

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