

## For Immediate Release

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### **R&D Investment Pays Big Dividends for Fontaine Fifth Wheel and Its Customers**

**Trussville, Ala. (June 15, 2010)** – Fontaine Fifth Wheel, the world’s leading fifth wheel manufacturer, is constantly seeking new solutions to improve driver comfort and safety while driving down overall vehicle weight and costs.

“Fifth wheels are our business — we don’t make anything else,” explains Henry Bell, president of Fontaine Fifth Wheel North America. “As a result of this singular focus, we invest considerable resources in fifth wheel research and development. In fact, even during the current recession and industry downturn, we have not reduced engineering personnel and have actually increased our R&D budget every year since 2007.”

Fontaine has dedicated 9,000 square feet of its new headquarters in Trussville, Ala., to a state-of-the-art research and development lab decked out with top-of-the-line computers, software, a 3-D printer and custom testing equipment. It is the largest fifth wheel research lab in the world.

Under the direction of Steve Mann, vice president of engineering, the Fontaine Fifth Wheel engineering team has capitalized on the company’s significant R&D investment to design many innovative new products that provide fleet and OEM customers with improved safety, quality, performance and cost-effectiveness. Fontaine recently introduced several of these new fifth wheels:

- The Fontaine® Ultra NS, the only fifth wheel to offer infinite, automatic slack adjustment.
- The Fontaine® Ultra LT, the lightest-weight fifth wheel slider system available.
- The Fontaine® Ultra HD, a lighter-weight, heavy-duty fifth wheel for severe service applications.
- The Fontaine Ultra® HR, a direct replacement for competitive standard-duty fifth wheel top plates.

Other projects in the works include the first fifth wheel to be installed directly into a truck’s frame; the first fifth wheel top plate made out of lightweight and durable composite material, and a unique removable lock cartridge.

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“We listen and work closely with our customers to develop new products that meet their needs today and into the future,” Bell says. “We believe that this commitment to our customers and our willingness to devote our team to designing innovative system solutions for them really sets Fontaine Fifth Wheel apart.”

For more information about Fontaine Fifth Wheel, visit [www.fifthwheel.com](http://www.fifthwheel.com) or call (800) 874-9780.

### **About Fontaine Fifth Wheel**

Based in Trussville, Ala., Fontaine Fifth Wheel is the world’s largest fifth wheel manufacturer. It has ISO 14001 registered manufacturing facilities worldwide.

Fontaine is a Marmon Highway Technologies (MHT) company. MHT companies support the transportation industry worldwide with a wide range of high-quality products and services.

MHT companies are members of The Marmon Group, an international association of business units that operate independently within diverse business sectors. Member companies have combined revenues of approximately \$7 billion. The Marmon Group is a Berkshire Hathaway company.

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*Editor’s Note: Please see photo.*

*Caption: At 9,000 square feet, the new Fontaine Fifth Wheel research and development lab at the company headquarters in Trussville, Ala., is the world’s largest research center devoted to fifth wheels.*

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