



## News Release

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### ODYSSEY<sup>®</sup> Batteries by EnerSys<sup>®</sup> Power Fuel-Efficient AirFlow SuperTruck Prototype

**READING, Pa., Feb. 9, 2010** – Bob Sliwa, owner of AirFlow Truck Co., needed batteries for his prototype SuperTruck, a tractor-trailer designed to improve fuel efficiency through aerodynamic design and separate electric motors for accessories.

“Capacity is everything,” Sliwa said. “In addition to starting the Cummins diesel engine, the batteries need to power a 12-volt motor that runs the air conditioning compressor in the warm weather or an electric mica panel heater in the cold weather, so the driver can sleep in his cab without the diesel engine idling.”

As a means of reducing carbon emissions and pollution, California, among several other states and municipalities, has enacted laws prohibiting engines idling more than five minutes.

“With conventional trucks, accessories like the air conditioner traditionally have run off the diesel engine through a drive belt system, creating a parasitic loss and reducing the engine’s fuel efficiency,” Sliwa said. “You can’t use the normal factory-installed air conditioner or the heater when the truck’s not moving, unless you idle the diesel engine. The AirFlow SuperTruck’s cab heating and cooling environmental systems, on the other hand, are directly powered by the pollution-free batteries.”

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Some truckers use an expensive and maintenance-prone, diesel-fueled auxiliary power unit (APU) to power a completely separate cab environmental system for sleeping use. An APU and a second environmental system, however, are redundant and very expensive. Furthermore, an increasing number of jurisdictions are considering bans on diesel-fueled APUs altogether in response to the pollution they cause and the fuel they use. After much research, Sliwa selected the ODYSSEY® 31-PC2150 battery, manufactured by EnerSys®, a 12-volt battery with a pulse hot cranking amp (PHCA) rating of 2,150 amps for five seconds, and a cold cranking amp (CCA) rating of 1,150 amps. He plans to use four to six units for the SuperTruck prototype.

“At 1,150 amps, the CCA rating for the ODYSSEY® PC-2150 battery is much higher than the 770 amps for most of the batteries that I considered,” Sliwa said. “Along with the batteries being completely maintenance free, the SuperTruck cab environmental system is also completely pollution free during sleep break periods.”

EnerSys is among several companies sponsoring the prototype, which Sliwa expects to complete by the end of April 2010 for a cross-country trip in the summer. The components used to modify the tractor cab’s environmental system and the trailer aerodynamic modifications will be available to motor carriers and truck owners in kits by the end of the year.

The kits’ aerodynamic components were developed with a computer-aided design program that is known as Computational Fluid Dynamics, roughly analogous to a software wind tunnel, resulting in a more fuel-efficient vehicle that reduces costs and emissions. The prototype, which uses most of the components that will be available in the modification kits, is expected to run at 15 miles per gallon (mpg) of fuel, in comparison with the six-mpg average of conventional tractor-trailers.

“More than half of a conventional tractor trailer’s fuel consumption is caused by aerodynamic drag,” Sliwa said. “If the modifications used to create the SuperTruck become widespread, the trucking industry can save more than 7.5 billion gallons of fuel annually, as well as reduce annual toxic emissions by 21 million tons.”

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**ABOUT ENERSYS**

EnerSys®, the world leader in stored energy solutions for industrial applications, manufactures, distributes and services reserve power, motive power and starting, lighting and ignition (SLI) batteries, chargers, power equipment, and battery accessories to customers worldwide. SLI batteries are used for trucks and buses, passenger cars, boats, personal watercraft, ATVs, motorcycles and garden tractors. The company also provides aftermarket and customer support services to its customers from more than 100 countries through its sales and manufacturing locations around the world. For more information about EnerSys and its ODYSSEY® batteries, visit [www.enersys.com](http://www.enersys.com) or [www.ODYSSEYbattery.com](http://www.ODYSSEYbattery.com).

**ABOUT AIRFLOW TRUCK COMPANY**

Bob Sliwa founded AirFlow Truck Company in 1983 after several years as an independent tractor-trailer owner-operator, during which time he devised ways to improve the fuel efficiency of the rigs he drove. Applying principles he learned as an amateur drag racer, Sliwa improved fuel efficiency from 4.4mpg to 10mpg through systematic experimentation. As proprietor of AirFlow Truck Company, Sliwa has served as a technical consultant to fleets seeking to improve fuel efficiency. Sliwa now is developing the SuperTruck, a modification kit of aerodynamically designed components to improve the fuel efficiency of tractor-trailers. A prototype is planned for completion in April 2010, and will be used and tested in a commercial fleet the summer of 2010. Retrofit kits will be available commercially by the end of 2010. Visit [www.airflowtruck.com](http://www.airflowtruck.com)

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