



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Heavy Duty Vehicle Technician Receives First-Ever Technician of the Year Award**

**ELGIN, Ill. (Jan. 10, 2006)** – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, Dayton Parts, LLC (DP, LLC), Haldex and SKF recently announced Darrell Gravley as the 2005 Technician of the Year award recipient. Gravley is a technician for Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc. in Greensboro, N.C.

A 15-year employee of Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc., Gravley holds numerous honors that make him an excellent selection for the Technician of the Year Award. He is an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Truck Technician and is a member of the Technology and Maintenance Council (TMC). Additionally, Gravley has participated in several certification and training programs, including Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Inspector Certification (2000), OSHA Tire and Rim Training (2000), Foundation Brake Training (2003), HAZ-MAT Security Training (2003) and Smith System Safe Driver Training (2005), among others.

Gravley's nomination form also cited his "creative and perceptive attitude" toward shop operation and safety. At the facility where he works, Gravley initiated the installation of safety arms at the exit of the check lane to protect the technicians from safety lane accidents. Additionally, the nomination form acknowledges Gravley's "strong personal character and daily work ethic."

A recent addition to Gravley's resume is his participation in the TMC SuperTech 2005 competition held in Valley Forge, Pa. in September. Gravley, representing Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc. advanced to the finals and finished among the nationally recognized winners.

As recipient of the Technician of the Year Award, Gravley and a guest receive a trip to the first race of the 2006 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup season in Daytona. At the race, Gravley will serve as an honorary pit crew member for the Richard Childress Racing team of his choice.

An independent panel of judges extensively reviewed the pool of nominations. The panel consisted of heavy duty trucking experts holding backgrounds in various areas of the industry – from nationally recognized heavy duty trucking magazine editors to former fleet managers to heavy duty aftermarket product manufacturers.

For more information on the Technician of the Year Program, its winner and its sponsors, visit [www.techoftheyear.com](http://www.techoftheyear.com).

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### **About the Technician of the Year Program**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, Dayton Parts, LLC (DP, LLC), Haldex and SKF collaborated in March 2005 to create the Technician of the Year Award program. The group implemented the program to recognize a fleet's superstar technician who exemplifies the best qualities of the profession, including his or her technical and mechanical experience, service specialties and overall contributions to the industry.



### **About sponsor companies:**

**Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC** supplies air brakes, charging and control systems and components, wheel-end and electronic braking systems, vehicle modules and leading-edge safety technologies under the Bendix® brand name for medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses and other commercial vehicles. For more information on Bendix products and services, visit [www.bendix.com](http://www.bendix.com) or call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE.

**Dayton Parts, LLC** is a manufacturer and distributor of undercarriage replacement products for the heavy-duty aftermarket in the United States and global markets. For more information on DP, LLC's products and services, visit [www.daytonparts.com](http://www.daytonparts.com).

**Haldex Commercial Vehicle Systems** ([www.hbsna.com](http://www.hbsna.com)) is a leading manufacturer and distributor of heavy-duty air brake system and suspension control system components. It operates globally with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, and manufacturing and engineering facilities throughout the world. Haldex Commercial Vehicle Systems is a part of Haldex Group ([www.haldex.com](http://www.haldex.com)), an innovator in vehicle technology and supplier of proprietary products for trucks, cars and industrial vehicles on a global basis.

**SKF** is a leading global supplier of bearing and elastomeric products, solutions and related services, as well as linear motion and lubrication technologies. Headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, with technology centers in the Netherlands, Italy and the United States, SKF is a valued partner to original equipment manufacturers and a major supplier to the automotive, aerospace, heavy-duty/off-highway, marine and other industries. For more information, visit [www.vsm.skf.com](http://www.vsm.skf.com).

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