



Release date: 2 February 2021

PLANT AND MACHINERY FLEETS TO BENEFIT FROM INTELLIGENT TPMS

Wheely-Safe is to make its intelligent tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) available to operators and manufacturers of agricultural, construction and materials handling machinery for the first time, as it launches a brand-new range of connected devices.

The company's patented sensor technology already protects thousands of vans, trucks and buses in the UK against tyre underinflation, which can increase running costs, CO₂ emissions, stopping distances and result in sudden tyre failure.

Steve Jackson, Managing Director of Wheely-Safe, says: "We've won multiple awards for our sensor technology in the commercial vehicle industry; now we are bringing the same benefits to operators and manufacturers of plant and machinery.

"We can offer standalone kits which provide alerts directly to the driver, or fully-connected open platform systems which plug into a machine's telematics or CAN bus. This means that both the driver and fleet manager or workshop can receive an alert the instant a potential tyre issue is detected – no matter what speed they are travelling, on what terrain or in what weather conditions.

"Operators increasingly want everything running through their telematics and that brings huge advantages for the Wheely-Safe product. It means we can also provide access to real-time pressure data remotely, which can help to prevent breakdowns and takes the guesswork out of organising tyre maintenance."

Wheely-Safe's technology can be set up to suit an operator's precise requirements. For example, non-critical events, such as when a tyre has dropped just below optimum inflation pressure, can be reported purely to the workshop team, enabling rectification work to be organised at the end of a shift, without interrupting the driver.

Smart sensors

Patented sensor technology sits at the heart of Wheely-Safe's offering, and now includes an auto-calibrating internal TPMS sensor which adheres to the rim of any size wheel. This unique sensor can distinguish between intentional pressure adjustments, and genuine underinflation or leakage, and offers an extended battery life of 5-10 years, depending on machine utilisation.

It is manufactured from a flexible engineering-grade material and, being incredibly thin and light – weighing just 21g – offers the maximum versatility for all vehicle types.

Sensors auto-pair with the receiver, making it hassle-free for machines which regularly pull different trailers. However, Wheely-Safe is also offering a new manual pairing solution for plant which operates in close proximity to other machines – such as forklifts or skid-steers – avoiding the risk of alerts from one sensor being picked up by another vehicle.

Jackson adds: "We've built a huge amount of intelligence into our sensors, and these new internal ones are the jewel in our crown. They are perfect for the original equipment market, plus can be quickly and easily retrofitted by a tyre technician. Once affixed to the wheel rim, they are protected from the elements and bring distinct advantages for vehicles in off-road environments."

New accessories

Wheely-Safe has also expanded its range with a new keyring-sized WalkAround Checker. Designed for use as part of a driver's daily inspections, it can be held against any Wheely-Safe TPMS sensor and a series of red, amber and green lights report the latest sensor status – with red highlighting an issue which requires immediate attention.

Connected devices record a log of the completed walkaround inspections, whilst standalone in-cab receivers feature a dedicated symbol which illuminates to confirm if an inspection has been completed in the previous 24-hours – enabling managers to check inspections are being carried out daily.

An updated Pressure Checker is also available for workshop staff, giving them access to fast and accurate tyre pressure readings when held next to a TPMS sensor.

A next-generation range of wired and solar-powered receivers completes the launch, for displaying driver alerts in the cab.

Availability

Prices for an intelligent TPMS solution for agricultural, construction and materials handling plant starts below £200. Systems are available directly from Wheely-Safe, and selected tyre dealerships.

All products in the range come with a 12-month manufacturer's warranty.

For more information visit www.wheely-safe.com

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Notes to editor:

Wheely-Safe Ltd is a technology business founded in 2010 by two lifelong friends – Gary Thomas, a Director of his own transport compliance consultancy, and Gary Broadfield, a Director of Technology and serial inventor for a large Japanese electronics manufacturer. Together they brought the marriage of skills required to help solve wheel loss issues in the automotive sector, and to tackle the huge number of vehicles driving every day on under-inflated tyres. The early years of Wheely-Safe concentrated on attaining worldwide patent protection and technology small enough to fit near the wheels of all vehicle types, from cars and vans to trucks and trailers – with its first products launched into the market during 2018. www.wheely-safe.com

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WS/057/21