

Press Release

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Knorr-Bremse invests heavily in remanufacturing business

Brake specialist Knorr-Bremse is stepping up its activities in the remanufacturing market. The company is investing in the expansion of its premium quality industrial remanufacturing capacities in Europe. As the original manufacturer of the parts concerned, Knorr-Bremse is familiar with the precise specifications and tolerances of every single component. This hard-earned expertise offers customers added safety and peace of mind, as well as supporting their efforts to conserve resources.

“Premium quality remanufactured products are set to play an even more important part in Knorr-Bremse’s business. The high quality of our remanufactured products helps protect our customers against potential safety risks. As a responsible original equipment manufacturer we consider this our duty and we are convinced that it takes in-depth experience of series production to produce technically high quality and reliable replacement parts. And so we are bundling our remanufacturing expertise and increasing our production capacities,” says Wolfgang Krinner, Member of the Executive Board of the Group’s Commercial Vehicle Systems division, Knorr-Bremse Systeme für Nutzfahrzeuge GmbH.

Knorr-Bremse ensures that the quality of its remanufactured parts is identical to that of original parts in terms of their functionality, so that the only difference is in their life expectancy. At the same time, the company’s extended range of remanufactured parts supports operators in their efforts to conserve resources during the long service lives of their vehicles. Despite the cost and effort of returning, disassembling, cleaning, and inspecting the parts which the remanufacturing process inevitably involves, the benefits for the environment are substantial. In-house studies show that, compared to a new part, a remanufactured part cuts carbon dioxide emissions by up to 75%. Financial savings for the customer are between 10 and 20% compared to the price of a new part.

Knorr-Bremse is bundling its remanufacturing expertise at its Liberec plant in the Czech Republic, where a 9,000 square meter production shop is dedicated entirely to this field of activity. A large part of the associated investments has gone into high-tech cleaning technology, including pyrolysis equipment to burn off old coats of paint, spray washing systems that utilize a variety of media, ultrasonic cleaning baths, and blasting systems. To concentrate its remanufacturing expertise in organizational terms, Knorr-Bremse has brought together activities previously handled by different business units within a team led by Frank Merwerth and Dr. Daniel Köhler.

Ideal solutions for mature fleets

At the international ReMaTec remanufacturing fair in Amsterdam, Knorr-Bremse is showcasing the individual steps involved in remanufacturing and demonstrating the four-stage process on products including a two-cylinder compressor. The process leads from a worn, used part to a ready-to-install reconditioned replacement with exactly the same functionality as a new part. The reconditioning work involves not only the mechanical parts but also the mechatronic and electronic components of the product. Remanufactured products are subject to the same end-of-line quality tests as new parts and in some cases are assembled on the same production lines.

Remanufacturing for customers around the world

The company's remanufacturing business is not restricted to Europe. For instance, in April of this year Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix), a U.S.-based wholly-owned subsidiary of Knorr-Bremse, also announced the expansion of its remanufacturing portfolio. Its new "All Makes" product line focused on remanufactured compressors comprises 20 of its own components and 100 from other manufacturers. In this way, Bendix is supporting a proposed U.S. government initiative aimed at promoting the use of remanufactured products in public-sector vehicles. In addition, Knorr-Bremse is also active in the remanufacturing sector in Brazil."

You will find Knorr-Bremse at the ReMaTec fair in Amsterdam from June 14-16, 2015 at booth 10.422 in hall 10. See www.rematec.com/amsterdam

Caption: Value-based repairs using remanufactured parts are the cost-efficient and eco-friendly solution for mature fleets, for example with an EAC1 Electronic Air Control unit.

The **Knorr-Bremse Group** is the world's leading manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles. For more than 110 years now the company has pioneered the development, production, marketing and servicing of state-of-the-art braking systems. In the rail vehicle systems sector, the product portfolio also includes intelligent entrance systems, HVAC systems, power conversion systems, control components, and windscreen wiper systems, as well as platform screen doors, friction material, driver assistance systems and control technology. Knorr-Bremse also offers driving simulators and e-learning systems for optimum train crew training. In the commercial vehicle systems sector, the product range includes complete braking systems with driver assistance systems, as well as torsional vibration dampers, powertrain-related solutions and transmission control systems for enhanced energy efficiency and fuel economy.

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