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Introducing the Travis Body & Trailer All-Aluminum Quarter Frame New Trailer is 850 Pounds Lighter for More Revenue Per Load

HOUSTON (June 12, 2017) – Travis Body & Trailer, Houston, has introduced an aluminum quarter frame trailer that is 850 pounds lighter than any other quarter frame on the market. The 850-lb. weight reduction is the result of replacing heavy steel components with much lighter aluminum components that are just as strong or stronger.

Since it is so much lighter, the new aluminum quarter frame trailer allows operators to haul more with every load. Based on conservative figures for typical payloads and weekly revenues, this new Travis trailer will pay for itself in less than 14 months.

“Less weight equals more payload, and more payload equals more profit per haul. It’s that simple,” said Travis Vice President of Sales & Marketing Greg D. Smith. “We’re constantly looking for ways to take weight out of our trailers and give our customers the largest possible payload. This trailer marks another innovation for Travis, as well as a positive evolution for hauling and dumping as a whole.”

Options & Benefits

The all-aluminum quarter frame is available in Travis [Wave[®]](#) and [Vertex[®]](#) options, as well as tandem and triaxle configurations. Both Wave and Vertex are dual-wall trailers made with aluminum extrusions. The aluminum panels on Wave trailers run

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horizontally and are connected with one long, horizontal weld. Vertex trailers feature vertical panels with welds every 14 inches. Both are machine welded.

Dual walls protect the trailer's outer appearance and, ultimately, its resale value. While the inside walls are scratched and dented by payload materials, the outer walls remain pristine and appealing.

The new quarter frame also comes with air-ride suspension, which not only makes for a smoother ride but also keeps all the wheels on the ground when dumping. This ensures greater stability and safety for the operator.

Finally, since aluminum will not rust and does not need to be painted, up-front manufacturing costs are minimized. Even unpainted, the aluminum lasts longer and retains its original value better than steel.

Technology Evolution

The aluminum quarter frame is an upgrade of the steel quarter frame that Travis has been building since 1992. Innovations in trailers over the past 25 years have made heavy steel components unnecessary. Travis analyzed quarter frame trailers built in 2015 and found 85 percent were tri-axle trailers with air-ride suspension. Triple axles and air-ride suspension significantly impact the forces involved with a quarter frame.

The triaxle option lengthens the subframe, which in turn reduces the drag link force necessary to counteract the downward load on the hinge from the body and payload. The air-ride suspension moves the support point for the subframe during the dumping process rearward toward the subframe hinge point. This reduces the force that the drag link needs to exert downward on the front of the subframe to counteract the force on the hinge from the body and payload.

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Together, these options lower the force in the drag link from around 55,000 lbs. to about 5,500 lbs., which makes it possible to manufacture the major components with aluminum rather than heavier steel.

About Travis Body & Trailer, Inc.

Travis Body & Trailer, a portfolio company of Truck Bodies & Equipment International Inc., is a leading manufacturer of aluminum end dump, bottom dump, transfer and specialty dump trailers and bodies. Travis trailers are used in many industries, including aggregates, agriculture, construction, municipal solid waste, organic waste and rendering. Travis has developed many trailer innovations over the years, and the company customizes trailers and options based on the needs of each customer.

Travis trailers are sold through an independent network of 43 dealers in 102 locations throughout North America. The company's roots date back to the founding of CMC Trailers Inc. in 1977. Travis purchased CMC's assets in 1989. More information:

Travis Body & Trailer, 13955 FM 529 Road, Houston, TX 77041; 800-535-4372; info@travistrailers.com; and www.travistrailers.com.

About Truck Bodies & Equipment International Inc.

Truck Bodies & Equipment International Inc. is a Minnesota-based corporation headquartered in Alabama that manufactures dump bodies, landscape bodies, grain bodies, platforms, hoists, and truck and trailer equipment and accessories. TBEI is an industry-leading company driven by a strong management team. It operates with five major brands and more than 500 distributors and dealers across North America. More information: www.tbei.com.

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Image: AlumQuarterFrame-Profile.jpg

Cutline: Travis Body & Trailer's new aluminum quarter frame trailer is 850 pounds lighter than any other quarter frame on the market.

Image: AlumQuarterFrame-Lifted.jpg

Cutline: The new Travis Body & Trailer aluminum quarter frame comes with air-ride suspension, which keeps all the wheels on the ground when dumping to ensure operator safety.