

Meritor HVS expands product portfolio

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Mysore-based Meritor HVS (India), the joint venture between the Kalyani Group and Meritor Inc of the US has recently launched its two-speed axle in India, offering significant fuel economy benefits to truck customers. The company has already supplied the two-speed axle in small volumes to vehicle manufacturers for field evaluations and is in varying stages of gaining product approvals.

The two-speed axle, internal-ly called the Meritor MS13-240

has been considered a 'green axle' as it helps in improving fuel efficiency and increased levels of performance. "Our new two-speed axles have been tested on different applications and found to increase a truck's fuel efficiency by seven to 11 percent while reducing the turnaround time by 15 to 20 percent. This allows the operator to effectively manage vehicle with varying loads and speeds," said Vice President and Executive Director, Meritor HVS, S Raghunathan during a recent interaction with *Auto Monitor*.

The Director (India Programmes), Meritor CVS, Siva B Kumar said the driver has an

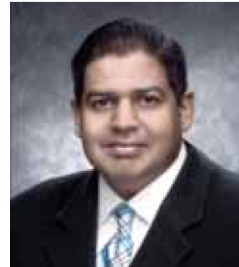
option to reduce the rear axle ratio, depending upon the load and road grade. This flexibility enables the vehicle to achieve better fuel efficiency and turnaround time. The two-speed axle is ideal for a variety of haulage vehicles including 4X2, 6X2 and 8X2 vehicles and is available in a wide range of ratios.

The company is also in the process of launching their heavy duty Meritor MT36-610 hub-reduction axle for applications in the growing heavy duty 6x4/8x4 tipper segment, as well as in the heavy duty 6x4 tractor segment. Hub-reduction axles are typically used in demanding mining or

construction segments as well as for heavy duty tractors with higher powered engines. "These axles have a planetary gear reduction mechanism built into the hub in addition to the main axle differential. This enables a reduction in the size of the main differential gearing, which helps increase ground clearance for off-road use in addition to handling larger torques," Siva said.

The Meritor MT36-610 axle, being launched in India, is based on the company's European design, which has been in use in mining, construction and haulage applications worldwide for over a decade. This axle has been fully re-engineered by the Indian engineering team for higher load conditions seen on Indian driving conditions. The company currently supplies over 600 axle equivalents per day from its plant in Mysore and offers a wide range of solo axles ranging from four to 18 tonnes GAWR (Gross Axle Weight Rating) and tandem axles ranging from 24-36 tonnes GAWR.

Managing Director, Meritor India, Chris Villavarayan said, "We are in the midst of a major expansion, which includes investments of over \$60 million in Asia Pacific, mostly in India and China over the next two years. A major part of our investment is going towards adding to our footprint, growing our experienced engineering teams and expanding our testing capabilities." The company has a strong presence in the domestic market for about thirty years with its manufacturing facility near Mysore and a Global Technology Centre in Bangalore. Starting about eighteen months ago,



Chris Villavarayan, MD, Meritor India

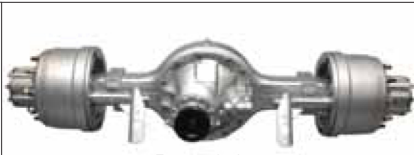
Meritor embarked on an aggressive revamp and expansion of its axle and brakes products for the domestic market and also established a testing centre in its office in Bangalore. The company turnover is expected to cross ₹1,000 crore this year.

The company's aftermarket division focuses on offering replacement parts for drive axles, trailer axles, braking systems and drivelines for heavy commercial vehicles. As part of its expansion, this division has recently opened a large parts distribution centre in Pune to cater to the needs of OEMs and aftermarket distributors. The company is also entering the off-highway market in selected segments and have already received pilot orders from few manufacturers to supply axles.

Meritor HVS is a leading manufacturer of commercial vehicles brakes in India offering a full range of S-cam drum brakes and air disc brakes for light to heavy commercial vehicle and trailers. Meritor Inc is one of the global leaders in providing advanced drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket solutions for the commercial vehicle and industrial markets. [AT](#)



Hub reduction axle



Two speed axle



Testing facility in Bangalore