

Meritor launches LCV Axle and India's first Green Axle



Mr. Chris Villavarayan, Managing Director, Meritor India

Meritor HVS (India) Ltd. (MH-VSIL), a joint venture of Meritor Inc. and the Kalyani Group, launched at Auto Expo 2012 its new drive axle, the MS 04, for the light commercial vehicle segment and India's first green axle – The Two Speed.

The MS 04 series axle, unveiled by Dr. V. Sumantran, Non-Executive Vice Chairman, Ashok Leyland, is ideal for a wide range of applications, including light trucks, mini buses and off-highway vehicles. The significant growth of the LCV segment in India was the driving force behind this successful move.

The MS 04 design offers a fully dressed axle with an optimal combination of efficiency, durability and mobility to cater to the specific needs of the Class 5-7 GVW segment. The axle is available in ten ratios, ranging from 3.07 to 5.86 for various drivetrain requirements. Optional features include noise sensitive gearing for bus ap-

“With significant savings on fuel (6-10%) and reduction in turn-around time (18-20%), the two-speed axle is certainly going to be a strong contributor for Meritor's business in emerging markets like India.”

— Mr. Chris Villavarayan



Mr. Aravind Pillai, Project Lead for LCV Axle, along with the axle

plications, front steerable axle for 4x4s, driver-controlled differential locks for off-highway vehicles and a Salisbury housing design for increased flexibility.

“With access to a global network of engineering expertise, we have developed a new drive axle in record time,” said Mr. Subhash Gupta, President, Automotive Axles Ltd. (AAL). “We expect limited production will begin towards the end of calendar year 2012, with full production scheduled for April 2013.”

“We have already secured a new business in segment with a global OEM and are in discussion with others. We are also looking at export opportunities. We believe this product will be a valuable addition to our product portfolio”, said Mr.

“We are seeing significant growth in the light commercial vehicle segment in emerging markets like India.”

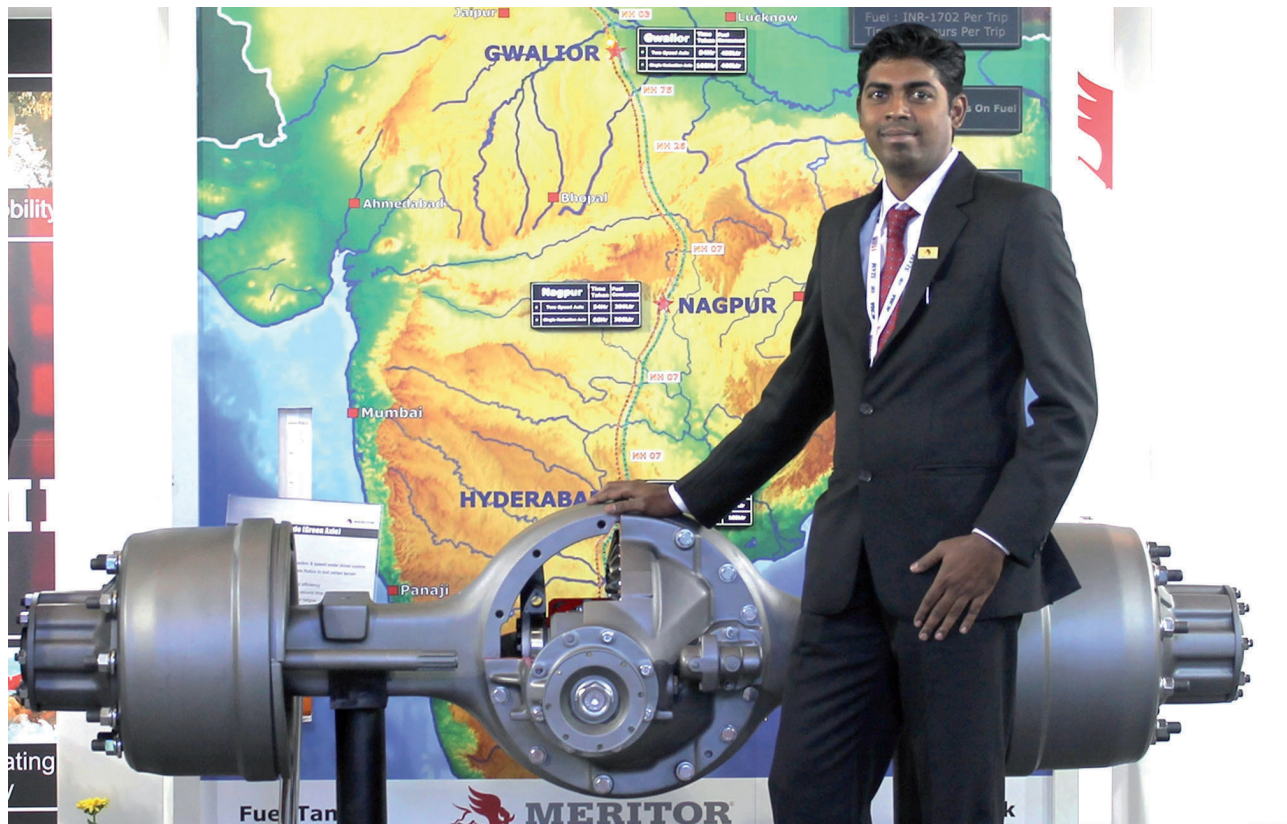
— Mr. Raghunathan

Raghunathan, VP and Executive Director, MHVSIL.

The two-speed axle allows the driver to select between two axle ratios on the fly, thus enabling to maximize economy, speed and grade capability depending on load, terrain and desired speed. “We are targeting at 25-31 T GVW haulage segment to start and slowly expect it to gain acceptance in other segments as well”, added Mr. Raghunathan.

The two-speed axle is ideal for a range of commercial vehicles, in-





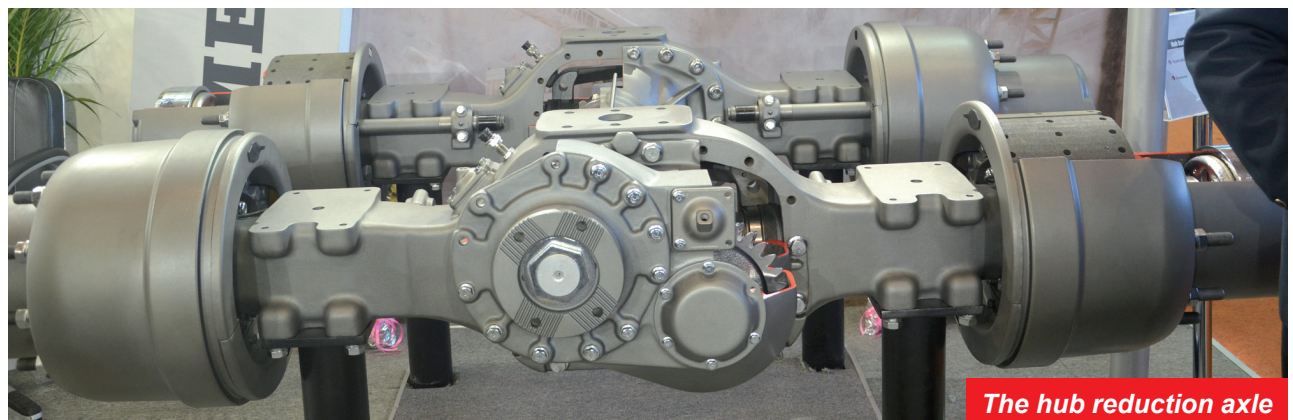
Mr. Kulkarni, Project Lead for 2-Speed Axle, along with the product

cluding 4x2 dump applications as well as 4x2, 6x2 and 8x2 haulage vehicles. Full-scale production of the axle started in mid-2011. The green axle, as it is also called, is customised for local operating conditions while using proven technology developed for Meritor axle applications in different regions of the

world, providing AAL customers with global quality at local price. The green axle is approximately 6-8 per cent more fuel efficient than a conventional axle configuration and offers traction-on-demand allowing the driver to effectively manage difficult gradients.

The third product on display at

the Meritor stall was the hub-reduction axle which is largely used for heavy duty applications like in mining and construction trucks. With top-notch products on offer, Meritor aspires to raise the bar in the quality of vehicle aggregates, an encouraging sign for the Indian commercial vehicle segment. ♦



The hub reduction axle