

LINK SUSPENSIONS:

Providing Full Value for Customers with Excellent Products

Link Suspensions has a long history of collaborating with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), and vocational fleets in delivering innovative solutions and tailored products to their customers in the heavy vocational truck market.

In February 2012, Link acquired the assets, people and expertise of Raydan Manufacturing, which was founded in 1992.

Chris English, Managing Director, Link Suspensions of Canada, explained some of Link's products in an interview with Roughneck Magazine.

Link's research and development efforts in Nisku, Alta., provide unique results for applications requiring from 52,000 lbs. – 84,000 lbs. suspension capabilities.

In addition to well-known Link/Raydan products like the Air Link tandem drive vocational truck suspensions, "products that we manufacture and install are front-steer suspensions. We offer a conventional four-spring steer suspension. A new product called the Spring over Walking Beam (SWB), and our Front Air Link, which is a tandem steer suspension.

"The SWB was just released, late last year. A significant amount of design time and testing went into it," Mr. English described.

The four spring conventional system is status quo and antiquated. They work, but unfortu-

nately, because there are four spring packs, on each side of the front of the truck, there are a lot more wear points on the spring pins and connection points to the frame of the truck.

"In the past, if you wanted a tandem steer truck, you had to make do with a four-spring suspension. Unfortunately, it's not an optimized system. The spring over walking suspension integrates two proven technologies – a single spring pack, and a walking beam suspension.

"The single spring pack helps reduce the number of wear points from 10 to two, which is a dramatic decrease to maintenance wear points and fewer items to replace. The product facilitates installation integrity, too. The concept is really quite simple; the more components you have being mounted to the frame, the increased probability of alignment issues.

"Our new offering eliminates a lot of that. From a performance perspective, the SWB doesn't have to worry about the front springs working against the rear springs.

Raydan's history came from the trucking industry, which was the catalyst of Link's heavy vocational product. Now with Link, it further enhances their abilities through enhanced testing and engineering resources and capabilities that they previously didn't have.

"Link's headquarters in Iowa provide state of the art test lab facilities and fantastic group of engineers that help support and bolster our efforts here in Alberta," Mr. English exclaimed.

Link's processes have remained the same, becoming leaner and efficient. Everything is hand welded.



"Unlike competitors that are focused outside of Western Canada, this is in our backyard. We can oversee many applications in Alberta's unique environment. Our modification, installation and service centre is a huge advantage that allows us to tinker, play and assess some of the equipment that comes through its doors and this assists us in our research and development efforts. Basically, we can transfer what we learn to the manufacturing floor," he said.

In addition to twin steer conversion products and installations, Link also specializes in frame extensions, bogie rolls, suspension upgrades, and are authorized

and approved to modify gross vehicle weight (GVWR) of vehicles, as well. As an additional service to their customers, Link performs CVIP's, general welding and repair services.

Having a good rapport with customers is paramount to Link, Mr. English concluded.

"Link is absolutely committed to superior service and support. We have consistent on time delivery and supplying outstanding products is very important. Currently, we're at 99.7 per cent on time delivery. Our benchmark is 99 per cent. That's consistent with Link in Iowa. It's practiced throughout the entire company." ☺

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Twin Steer Conversions
- Frame Extensions
- Wheelbase Alterations
- Suspension Upgrades
- CVIP Inspections

NSM Authorized

LINK[®]

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