

Alcoa Wheel Products Europe **NEWSLETTER**

December 2005

*Best wishes for a prosperous
and happy New Year 2006*

The Alcoa Wheels Europe team



On October 6, 2005, the 4.000.000th aluminium wheel forging was produced in the Alcoa Wheels Europe plant in Székesfehérvár, Hungary. The first wheel forgings were made in this plant in September 1997.

**New Alcoa “WORKHORSE” wheel
currently being tested**



Alcoa Wheel Products Europe has developed, together with DaimlerChrysler, a new wheel for the Axor construction vehicle. This new wheel does not have any hand holes. It has been developed to protect the Axor construction vehicle's disc brakes from sand and gravel on the drive / front axle.

Application: inner dual wheel on the construction vehicle drive or tag axle, single on the front axle.

Available sizes: 22.5 x 8.25, 22.5 x 9.00 and 22.5 x 11.75 (inset 120mm),
32 mm bolt holes.

Finish: Diamond Brite (satin) - Mirror polished will be available later.

The wheel has the same load and mounting characteristics as a standard Alcoa 22.5 x 8.25, 22.5 x 9.00 and 22.5 x 11.75 (inset 120 mm) wheel.

This Alcoa “workhorse” wheel has an increased fatigue life, due to its new and stronger design.

It's all about looks...

...for **Barry Proctor Services**, based in Stoke-on-Trent, England. Barry is very proud, and rightly so, of his award winning fleet of 24 trucks which can regularly be seen on the UK truck show circuit.

Barry Proctor Services was founded 20 years ago and is today one of the most recognisable fleets in the UK. This is why Corgi Models produced a limited edition model range of his vehicles and of course they feature polished aluminium wheels.



Although these trucks are not particularly weight sensitive, looks are everything and this is why Barry fits Alcoa mirror polished wheels. Barry says that “nothing shows off a truck better than Alcoa wheels”. Although weight is not the main issue in his transport, he still enjoys a weight saving of 280 kg on his six axle trucks, which contributes to a fuel saving on each load. Alcoa wheels also enhance the residual value of the trucks, while giving them stunning good looks.

When you see Barry's trucks at shows, it is hard to imagine that they work under such tough conditions, delivering bricks to all parts of the United Kingdom 5 days a week. But Barry encourages his drivers to keep the trucks in tip-top condition by providing them with all the Alcoa maintenance products they need: **ALclean** (wheel cleaner for aluminium wheels to remove disc brake dust), **ALbrush** (soft brush to activate the components of ALclean), **ALpolish** (polishing compound to restore the shine) and **ALfinish** (mechanically operated polishing tool).

According to Barry, exhibiting at truck show helps to build camaraderie between the drivers and the company.

What better show room could Alcoa have than award winning trucks like these?



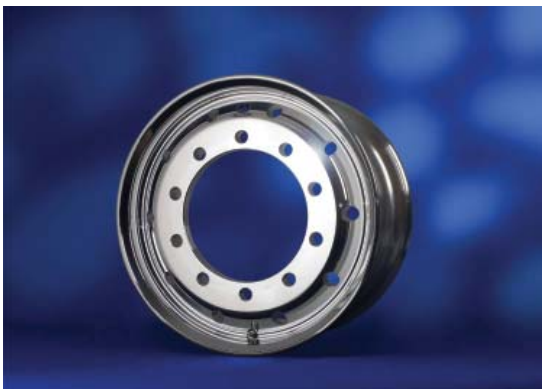
Barry Proctor's recently bought trucks have been fitted with the new Alcoa Dura-Bright® wheels, which have proven to be a big success, giving stunning good looks with very little cleaning needed. His drivers now all want the new wheels, he says. “We only need to wash the wheels with soap and water and my drivers can do this in 10 minutes, and walk away with almost the same effect as the mirror polished wheels”. Little effort....great results.

Dura-Bright® is not a coating. It is a surface treatment, applied by Alcoa, which becomes an integral part of the wheel itself. It provides a protective barrier against dirt and dulling caused by brakes dust, road salt, oil residue and normal road wear and tear.

Spiros Transport, South African coal hauler and a satisfied Alcoa customer

Spiros Transport, located in Pretoria, South Africa, started fitting Alcoa wheels four years ago, as a result of frequent fines for overloads on the drive axle of their Mercedes Benz 4x2 trucks. Using Alcoa wheels solved their “overweight” problem, according to Jerry Soupionas, technical director of Spiros Transport.

Subsequently they decided to retrofit the entire fleet. This retrofitting program was started three years ago and today this fleet of 16 MB 4x2 trucks with solid bulk 30-50m³ rear end tipper trailers and 4 Freightliner 6x4 trucks with 50-70m³ walking floor trailers is 95% on Alcoa. The remainder of the trailers in the fleet will be fitted with Alcoa wheels by the end of 2005, resulting in a total of 376 running Alcoa wheels.



Eighteen months ago, the Alcoa Frontrunners were introduced into this fleet on the Freightliner trucks, with surprising results of improved lifetime of the tyres. Within a year, extended kilometers on the 385/65R22.5 tyres were realized. Their records show an improved mileage of 140000 kilometers over that of the 315/80R22.5 tyres that were used before. On top of this, Spiros Transport discovered the additional benefit of zero shoulder drop on the wider tyres. Also their drivers are very enthusiastic about the Alcoa Frontrunner wheels on 385/65R 22.5 tyres, because of the improved comfort in the steer axle positions.

Spiros Transport also reported that the use of Alcoa wheels in all wheel positions has extended brake life and that tyre pressures are constant, as opposed to the experience they have with steel wheels.

But the best news of all is that they have reduced their tyre bill by 18% and have most certainly realized a return on their investment in Alcoa forged aluminium wheels.

Spiros Transport average kilometers steel versus Alcoa					
Wheel Position Tyre Size	Truck Steer 315/80R22.5	Truck Drive 315/80R22.5	Trailer 315/80R22.5	Truck Steer 385/65R22.5	Trailer 385/65R22.5
2001 Steel	80000 km	135000 km	230000 km		280000 km
2002 Alcoa		160000 km	272000 km	220000 km	330000 km
2003 Alcoa		160000 km	272000 km	220000 km	330000 km
2004 Alcoa		160000 km	272000 km	220000 km	330000 km
2005 Alcoa		160000 km	272000 km	220000 km	330000 km

News from Down Under - The Australian Road Trains



This incredible vehicle from Mitchell Corporation Western Australia has a length of 53 meters and features 98 Alcoa wheels 22.5 x 8.25. The weight saving on this vehicle by mounting Alcoa wheels instead of steel wheels is 2,450 kg!

Road trains exist in the remote parts of Australia and are mainly used for carrying goods such as raw materials, fuel, grain and livestock. They are only permitted on the outskirts of major cities and each trailer is then attached to a single prime mover for distribution. Part of their existence is based on the fact that they can carry large amounts of goods with only the single prime mover to pull a number of trailers, eliminating the necessity for multiple trucks and drivers.



Alcoa's values in action

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Together, the Alcoa Foundation and Alcoa employees have contributed nearly 800,000 US dollar to local agencies in Alcoa communities and to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. This money is a combination of the Alcoa Foundation's initial pledge of 220,000 US dollar, plus employee contributions of 275,000 US dollar, and the Foundation's matching contributions. Additionally, many Alcoa locations have been helping with the efforts. Here are just a few:

- The Alcoa operations in Tennessee, USA, donated 17,000 cans of water.
- Alcoa CSI in Indianapolis, USA, donated 2.7 million closures to Nestlé Waters North America Inc. for use on water bottles for relief efforts.

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