



## Training notes from the woods & the classroom

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# U.S. Department of Energy Gives \$115 Million for 'Super Trucks' Efficiency Program

*By Paul Schultz*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in January that it awarded more than \$115 million to heavy truck and engine makers in a partnership designed to improve the efficiency of Class 8 trucks (> 33,000 # GVW).

The grant program, which DOE calls "Super Trucks," is part of a nine project, \$187 million program it hopes will improve fuel efficiency by 50% and reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles by 20% before 2030. "Improving the efficiency of our vehicles is critical to reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and addressing climate change," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu.

The manufacturers will explore fuel efficiency through improved aerodynamics, reduced engine idling technologies, waste heat recovery, advanced combustion techniques and powertrain hybridization. The goal is to build vehicle prototypes that can move large volumes of freight at efficiency levels beyond today's standards.

Cummins and Peterbilt received \$38.8 million to develop a clean diesel engine, an advanced waste heat recovery system, an aerodynamic tractor-trailer combination and a fuel cell auxiliary power unit to reduce engine idling. Cummins also received \$15 million for a light-duty diesel engine project.

"This public-private partnership is a win for our economy, a win for the environment and a win for energy challenges," said Tom Linebarger, Cummins president and chief operating officer.

Truck maker Daimler Trucks North America was awarded \$39.6 million to develop an engine downsizing project, electrify auxiliary systems and improve aerodynamics, among other programs.

Truck and engine manufacturer Navistar Inc. received a \$37.3 million for technologies to improve aerodynamics, combustion efficiency, waste heat recovery, hybridization, idle reduction and reduced rolling resistance tires in addition to other projects. The company has already been exploring and developing these technologies on the International ProStar.

“Navistar is proud of its fuel efficiency leadership and we’re delighted to work with the DOE on a project that will improve truck and trailer aerodynamics and reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil,” said Dee Kapur, president, Navistar Truck Group. “The International® ProStar® is currently the industry’s Class 8 leader in fuel efficiency and aerodynamics and this project positions Navistar to take its leadership to the next level.”

Currently, the transportation sector accounts for 28 percent of total U.S. energy use. Improving the fuel efficiency of heavy-duty commercial trucks would be an important step in reducing U.S. energy consumption and would also have a significant impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

With more than 80 percent of the nation’s diesel fuel consumed by heavy-duty on-highway Class 8 trucks, the DOE’s development of a “Super Truck” has enormous energy-saving potential as well as significant environmental benefits.

As these vehicle technologies are adopted broadly across the country, they could save more than 100 million gallons of gasoline and diesel per day, and reduce carbon emissions from on-road vehicles by 20 percent by 2030.

The Super Trucks program will create more than 500 jobs, the grant recipients said.

Drive Safe!

*“Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt.”*

- Herbert Hoover (1874-1964); 31<sup>ST</sup> US President

(Content courtesy of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association – May 2010 – *Great Lakes TPA Magazine* and Paul Schultz, Schultz Equipment – [www.schultzequipment.com](http://www.schultzequipment.com))

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