



Press information

New Volvo FH challenges the truck industry and boosts haulage firms' profitability

With its new Volvo FH series, Volvo Trucks is pushing the envelope for what a premium truck can offer.

Fuel economy, reliability, ergonomics, superior handling, active and passive safety, and time-saving features. The Volvo FH is a truck built with the driver in mind and with the focus on improving the haulage firm's profitability.

There is no doubt that fuel economy is one of the highest priorities for haulage firms today. So it was naturally also in firm focus during the development of the new Volvo FH. The already fuel-efficient Euro 5 driveline is now even more economical. At the same time, Volvo's first Euro 6 engine sees the light of day, significantly reducing emissions. Moreover, the new I-See function makes it possible to cut fuel consumption still further – by up to 5 percent. And in autumn 2013 a new driveline will be launched, Volvo I-Torque, setting a new technological benchmark and delivering even lower fuel consumption and further improved driveability: features that will benefit both haulage firm and driver.

I-See cuts fuel consumption on hills

I-See is an example of technology that makes life easier for the driver and saves fuel.

“I-See is a software package for the I-Shift transmission. It stores information about hills as the truck drives along. The next time the truck uses the same route, I-See operates the accelerator, gears and brakes to ensure that progress is as economical as possible,” explains Claes Nilsson, President Volvo Truck Corporation.

“Thanks to I-See the haulage firm can cut fuel consumption by up to 5 percent per vehicle,” he continues.

An additional fuel saving of up to 5 percent is possible with Volvo Trucks' new Fuel Package. This package encompasses training and monthly assistance – Fuel Advice – and its aim is to cut fuel costs by changing driving styles and increasing knowledge of how to drive for maximum fuel-efficiency.



Efficient new driveline with the new Euro 6

With Volvo Trucks' new I-Torque Euro 6 driveline – production of which for the European market will get under way in autumn 2013 – the savings are even greater. “Volvo I-Torque reduces fuel consumption by up to 4 percent. Together with I-See and other minor improvements, the result is that fuel consumption drops by up to 10 percent. This corresponds to 4100 litres of fuel a year for the average truck,” comments Claes Nilsson.

Wireless connection maximises uptime

A truck is only profitable when it is working. Volvo now offers maximum uptime. This promise is based on Volvo Trucks' new technology for remotely monitoring component wear and the vehicle's overall condition.

“The workshop can remotely check the actual wear of various truck components via the computer. As a component approaches the end of its service life, the workshop can get in touch with the haulage firm well in advance to schedule a service when it is most convenient,” explains Claes Nilsson.

Superior handling in the truck world

You don't need to read the manual to discover that the new Volvo FH represents a major step forward. It's enough just to get behind the wheel.

“The new Volvo FH offers exceptional handling – pretty much like a car's. To put things into perspective, we even offer individual front suspension. This world-first takes handling to unsurpassed levels in the truck world,” says Claes Nilsson.

An entirely new truck

Superior handling is a major benefit, but when Volvo Trucks unveils an entirely new Volvo FH series, there are many new features in other areas too.

“The Volvo FH series represents a paradigm shift. This becomes evident for instance when you look at how we use remote online communication to connect the truck directly to the workshop,” says Claes Nilsson.

New technology further increases onboard safety, creates a more economical driveline and transmission, and is used to keep uptime at high levels.

“Having said all that, we haven't just packed in technology for the sake of it. In order to reap the full benefits of innovative technology, it's important that the people using it know how to use it and actually do so. That's why we've worked hard to develop a truck that puts the driver firmly in focus,” explains Claes Nilsson.



Ergonomically designed and intuitive to use

The driver's work-place is a good example of this focus. From the improved driver's seat, the driver has a better view of the road, not least owing to the increase in the cab's usable window area and to the innovative rear-view mirror design. Stalks and controls are arranged in priority so that the most important ones are closest to the driver. All in all, these various changes give the driver far better visibility.

The driving position is better and offers greater flexibility. For instance, the steering wheel now has a neck tilt function, a world-first in the truck world. A better driving position means the driver is less likely to get tired – and of course an alert driver does a better job.

Safety in a variety of ways

An all-new cab structure makes the new Volvo FH an even safer truck. Never before has a Volvo truck passed the comprehensive collision tests as well as the new FH cab. The improved visibility, not least thanks to the slimmer rear-view mirrors, also contributes to the safer work environment.

More upright A-pillars have given the cab an additional one cubic metre of interior space. This means an extra 300 litres of storage capacity, as well as greater comfort on board.

“The cab is optimised both for work and free time. A better bed, integrated parking cooler, new lighting, low noise level and other features all increase the chance of pleasant relaxation and a good night's sleep, which in turn means drivers are less tired and more alert,” says Claes Nilsson.

Attracts the best drivers

Good drivers who have the opportunity to work as efficiently as possible increase the haulage firm's profitability. A truck built for the driver also improves the haulage firm's ability to attract the very best drivers.

“There's already immensely tough competition over good drivers in Europe; that competition is going to get even tougher. I'm convinced that trucks which are popular among drivers will push them to apply for jobs with haulage companies that operate these models. That is why the new Volvo FH will increase the haulage firm's profitability in many different ways in the future,” says Claes Nilsson.

Production of the Volvo FH will start in spring 2013 for the European market. See the film about the new Volvo FH on www.youtube.com/volvotrucks



September 5, 2012

For further information, please contact:

Lennart Pilskog, Volvo Trucks Global Brand, phone +46 70 3183422

e-mail: Lennart.pilskog@volvo.com

Per Nilsson, Volvo Trucks Global Brand, phone +46 31 3233349

e-mail: per.nilsson.pr@volvo.com

Visit <http://www.thenewsmarket.com/volvogroup> to access broadcast-standard video about the Volvo Group's various production plants and products. You can download graphic images in the form of MPEG2 files or order them on Beta SP tape. Registration and video are free to the media.

Images are available in the Volvo Trucks image bank <http://images.volvotrucks.com>

Volvo Trucks provides complete transport solutions for professional and demanding customers, offering a full range of medium to heavy duty trucks. Customer support is secured via a global network of 2,300 dealers and workshops in more than 140 countries. Volvo trucks are assembled in 16 countries across the globe. In 2011 more than 115,000 Volvo trucks were delivered worldwide. Volvo Trucks is part of the Volvo Group, one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses and construction equipment, drive systems for marine and industrial applications, aerospace components and services. The Group also provides solutions for financing and service. Volvo's work is based on the core values of quality, safety and environmental care.