

People

Allison Transmission has appointed **Gary Vasey** to the position of UK market development manager for trucks.

Kevin Belfield is the new regional commercial director for the Scottish operations at First Bus. **Paul McGowan** has also joined the company as a project director.

Kina Wileke has been made head of media relations corporate news at AB Volvo. She assumes her new position on 1 July 2012.

One year on from the formation of UK subsidiary Dayco Aftermarket UK, the company has recruited experienced aftermarket stalwart **Steve Carolan** as its new national sales manager for the UK and Eire.

Ian Hollis is now international business development manager at hydraulic tipping specialist Edbro.

Phil Franklin has been promoted to the role of business development manager for 1link Service Network at motor industry e-commerce specialist epyx.

Bodybuilder Thompsons UK has appointed **Ian Chaplin** to the new position of business development and after-sales manager to develop new business with existing customers and key target accounts.

Trevor Mann has been promoted to senior vice president, global supply chain management and operating committee EMEA for Nissan. **Jerry Hardcastle** becomes global chief marketability engineer, based in Cranfield. And **David Moss** takes on his former position as vice president, vehicle design and development NTCE.

irtec gets backing from VOSA and traffic commissioner

irtec, the independent engineering competency assessment for commercial vehicle technicians, has received backing from two industry figures.

"It is essential operators recognise the need for a professional approach to vehicle maintenance and irtec provides this through the periodic assessment of technicians' competence," states VOSA chief executive Alastair Peoples.

"Reflecting technical and legislative changes, irtec is one of the building blocks required to achieve total performance and compliance," he adds.

Similarly, acting senior traffic commissioner and traffic commissioner for the North Western Traffic Area, Beverley Bell, has joined Peoples in supporting irtec.

"There are currently around 30,000 technicians

maintaining around 350,000 vehicles specified on operators' licences," says Bell.

"Running a compliant operation is key to running a safe and reliable fleet driven by safe and reliable drivers, maximising efficiency and delivering excellent customer service," she continues.

"Through on-going certification, demonstrating current technology and legislation requirements, irtec ensures that technicians are independently assessed against industry standards," she adds.

"Their subsequent accreditation through the irtec scheme will not only enhance the reputation of the commercial vehicle industry and give aspiring technicians a recognised career path, but will also actively improve standards of vehicle maintenance and consequently road safety."



FTA slams fuel price hike

The Freight Transport Association says that the Chancellor's failure to cut fuel duty rates has condemned UK industry to suffer the consequences of even higher fuel bills at a time when the world price of oil stands at a four-year high – with every prospect of further price rises in coming months.

FTA chief economist Simon Chapman notes that the Chancellor intends to go ahead with plans for a 3p per litre increase this August and is urging him to reconsider his decision.

"The Chancellor has squandered a very real opportunity to support UK industry, jobs and economic recovery by his Budget policy on fuel duty," states Chapman.

"Independent research has shown that a cut in diesel duty

of 2.5p per litre would have created an additional 175,000 jobs, with no loss of revenue to the Exchequer," he continues.

"But, in contrast, the fuel duty rise of 3p per litre, scheduled for August, will increase the average cost of lorry operation by around £1,200 per vehicle per year – all on top of other price rises that are inevitable as a consequence of the current and anticipated increases in the world price of oil."

Chapman is also concerned that the much heralded Fair Fuel Stabiliser has emerged as a "damp squib". Noting that it simply formalises fuel duty increases above inflation, if world oil prices fall below \$75 per barrel, he says: "At the very least, what he should have done was to commit to freezing fuel duty when world oil prices were above \$100 per barrel."



Daily decisions

TNT Express is putting Iveco's new Daily light commercial vehicle to the test on its pick-up and delivery operations, with the arrival of 10 Daily 50C15 chassis cabs into its national fleet.

The Iveco vans, supplied by Guest Trucks, form part of a larger trial by TNT Express to assess the suitability of lighter alternatives to regular 7.5-tonne box bodied trucks.

Each Daily has a 5.2-tonne gross vehicle weight and has been mounted with a Cartwright dry freight box body. Each will be in operation up to six days a week for the next five years.

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