



## *News Release*

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **BENDIX ACUÑA, MEXICO, MANUFACTURING OPERATION** **CELEBRATES 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Milestone Highlighted by Ongoing Investment, Growth of Advanced Production Capabilities,  
Sustainability Successes, and Robust Community Support*

**AVON, Ohio – May 30, 2023** – This story begins in May 1988 with a single plant focused on assembly and machining for the Controls business unit of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix). Today, Bendix’s campus in bright, sunny Acuña, Mexico, has grown to three state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and a bustling logistics center – with a fourth plant, a model for high-tech production, now under construction.

Bendix, celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Acuña operation, credits many factors in its success and longevity. Chief among them are the operation’s diverse business portfolio; continuous investment in growth, with an emphasis on high-tech production capabilities; commitment to sustainability and community involvement; and the dedication of its employees.

The Acuña campus engages in manufacturing, remanufacturing, and assembly across a wide range of products – actuators, air dryers, antilock braking systems (ABS), compressors, integrated vehicle modules, and valves.

Coming online later this year is a new production facility using advanced automation to produce two emerging next-generation technologies: Global Scalable Brake Control (GSBC) and Global Scalable Air Treatment (GSAT). The new 185,000-square-foot plant will add to the Acuña operation’s existing 412,000 square feet. The company will hire an estimated 200 employees for the plant, bringing the Acuña workforce to approximately 2,000 people.

“The remarkable record of achievements that Bendix Acuña has compiled over 35 years includes growth initiatives, sustainability progress, and – as illustrated by the newest facility being built – ongoing expansion of its high-tech production capabilities,” said Mike Hawthorne, Bendix president and CEO. “Of equal note are the operation’s team members, men and women who are exceptional at their jobs while also being deeply community-minded. They have helped make Bendix Acuña a valued corporate citizen in both its home community and in Acuña’s sister city across the U.S. border, Del Rio, Texas.”

Bendix Acuña also supports a distribution center in Mexico City that serves South American customers and houses the headquarters of Mexico-based OEM and aftermarket technical sales, training, and support teams. Bendix expanded its Mexican presence further in 2018, opening a new Technology Center in Monterrey.

### **Home for High-Tech Manufacturing**

Acuña represents one of the fastest-growing Bendix manufacturing sites, and executives of Knorr-Bremse – Bendix’s Munich, Germany-based parent company – consider it a model manufacturing facility. Knorr-Bremse honored the Acuña operation as its top-ranked plant in 2011.

A hallmark of Acuña has been the active, ongoing investment in its manufacturing campus by Bendix, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking system technologies for commercial vehicles. Since 2016, funds totaling double-digit millions of dollars have been allocated for overall facilities improvements and strategic expansions aimed at broadening product lines and making the production floor even more lean, state-of-the-art, defect-proof, and safe.

“Increasing the sophistication of the manufacturing operation at Acuña has been an ongoing, concerted effort,” said Jacqueline Perez, Bendix senior director of operations in Mexico. “Our manufacturing operations are evolving in step with the changing commercial vehicle marketplace. Consistent introduction of greater automation and high-tech assembly to our shop floor improves our productivity – while increasing our ability to meet and exceed delivery expectations for our OEM and fleet customers.”

Perez continued, “Our increasing high-tech production capabilities in Acuña also help motivate our workforce to keep striving for excellence. At the same time, these capabilities give us the increased flexibility needed to meet the growing demands of our customers – doing so with Bendix’s signature product performance, quality, and reliability.”

### **GSBC and GSAT Center**

The latest step in the Acuña operation's high-tech growth is the GSBC and GSAT facility, which will use highly automated manufacturing processes. GSBC and GSAT are new brake control and air treatment modular global systems that are designed to be adapted to customer needs in various markets. The high integration of base and advanced technologies enables more flexible installation options, making adaptability to different vehicle platform requirements and needs easier. In addition, GSBC and GSAT advanced capabilities and diagnostics enable the groundwork for automated driving.

The lines – which will begin production on a staggered, multiyear schedule commencing later this year – are being built from a global design by Knorr-Bremse. Bendix is installing them in a space with strict environmental controls and on specially designed antistatic flooring. The new facility will help enhance productivity, increase precision, ensure a continuous degree of quality, and bring the Acuña campus another step closer to the most advanced manufacturing operations across the global Knorr-Bremse network.

“We will take advantage of the stability, knowledge, skill sets, and strong quality and safety records we have cultivated here to manufacture GSBC and GSAT products,” Perez said. “Acuña currently builds all Bendix valves and air dryers, so we are well positioned to manufacture GSBC and GSAT, which are the next generation of those products. The new GSBC and GSAT facility, using robotics and employing operators with advanced technical skills, will be the most advanced at Acuña, the culmination to date of everything we’re striving to do.”

### **Proud Partner of the Planet**

Expansion at Acuña is occurring through the rest of the operation as well. The location continues to increase sustainability measures to reduce energy consumption and increase efficiency.

The campus has orchestrated an aggressive CO<sub>2</sub> reduction effort since 2020. Major efficiency enhancements have included upgraded HVAC systems, modernized building envelopes, submetering and building management systems, and the addition of solar energy. The location is now on track to reduce its emissions by about 3,820 tons while saving close to \$805,000 a year in energy costs.

All told, the efforts should result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions in line with the company's long-term sustainability goals. Key among them is the commitment by Bendix and Knorr-Bremse to cut scope 1 and scope 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in half by 2030.

The Acuña campus' CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Program spans investments at multiple buildings, with a total commitment of more than \$3.8 million to support reduced energy use, improved energy efficiency, and better oversight and control of energy consumption.

The program includes a \$1 million investment to install two solar arrays. The arrays, one each at plants 1 and 2, went online at the end of 2022 and represent the first such systems installed by a manufacturing organization in the Acuña region. They are capable of generating 2 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of renewable electricity annually, which is about the same amount of energy needed to power 100 homes for a full year. Each system is expected to supply around 10% of the energy needs at each facility. Together, the installations will help the campus avoid 850 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and save the site around \$170,000 in energy costs per year.

### **Community Caretaker**

The Acuña location continues to expand its community support efforts as well, with a focus on social cohesion and education.

“Community involvement dates back to the plant’s founding,” Perez said. “Social responsibility is in our DNA – both for the company and the people who work here – and giving back is deeply woven into our corporate values. Every day throughout the organization, the men and women of Bendix Acuña demonstrate this commitment to our home community.”

Over the years, Bendix Acuña employees have helped rebuild homes for tornado survivors and supported the local Relay For Life cancer fundraisers, local sports teams, and the competitive robotics team at Del Rio High School.

Recent examples of Bendix Acuña community support include funding for vocational training to empower women in the Acuña area with career options; and a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) bootcamp for young women in Mexico to help close the gender gap in STEM careers. Both efforts were led by project champions from the Acuña campus and were made possible with grants through Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America (KBGCNA), a philanthropic arm of Knorr-Bremse.

Other educational initiatives include the creation of a unique, 180-hour light manufacturing technical course for at-risk youth in Acuña, as well as help building an advanced industrial production laboratory for a local technical vocational school. Bendix also established a dual-education apprenticeship opportunity for select students at the vocational school, while delivering practical training for the students at the Acuña campus.

Internally, the Bendix Acuña operation has offered on-site elementary, middle, and high school educational opportunities, taught by certified teachers who tutor and administer state-

mandated exams. More than 530 employees have graduated through these classes in the past 24 years.

“We’re proud of the home we’ve built here over 35 years,” Perez said. “Bendix Acuña is a place of momentum and energy, making an important contribution to our industry and our community. We’re excited for the next chapter – and many more beyond that.”

**About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,400 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](https://www.bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](https://www.knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](https://www.brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](https://www.bendix.com/careers).

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