



FAIL-SAFE BRAKE TECHNOLOGY PREVENTS TRUCK RUNAWAYS

With the recent spate of serious incidents – including two tragic fatalities in Queensland in the last two years – all as the result of inadequate truck brakes, it's little wonder that a small Perth-based Company is being inundated with queries about its patented SIBS® fail-safe braking technology.

Sealed Integrated Braking Systems, or SIBS® for short, is the brainchild of Advanced Braking Technology (ABT), an ASX-listed company who has been developing this unique technology for over 10 years from their headquarters in Osborne Park, Western Australia.

The SIBS system is effective in significantly reducing the risk of uncontrolled truck movements and the inherent danger this creates. The newest product in the SIBS range is the concrete agitator brake, specifically designed for cement agitator trucks and other similar heavily loaded vehicles.

"Following a spate of runaway vehicles several years ago, we identified that that a fail-safe brake could be developed for this application as an autonomous 'brake of last resort' in the event that the primary brakes of an agitator truck fail," said ABT's CEO, Mr. Ken Johnsen.

The product was developed from funding provided by a consortium of interested parties – HWE, Barmenco, Holcim (formerly Readymix) and Argyle Diamond – in 2007. By late 2008, ABT had successfully completed field trials and also sold the first commercial unit to global cement Company Holcim, to be used at the Golden Grove mine in Western Australia.

Since this time, Industry interest in the braking system has grown rapidly: "We are now getting interest from some of Australia's heavy hitters in the mining industry – all of which are searching for a solution to the widespread and serious issue of mine site brake failure," said Mr Johnsen.

Vehicle 'Runaways' – a Major Cause for Concern

In the mining industry – where large trucks, heavy loads and challenging environments are typical – a vehicle's braking ability can literally mean the difference between life and death.

The issue of brake failure on mine sites is not new, with countless reported cases of runaway vehicles making the pages of the various state safety watchdogs' reports since reporting began.

The most recent fatalities, in two separate incidents in Queensland over the past two years, have lead to the Queensland Mines Inspectorate issuing a statement in which they referred to the current problem with truck brake failure as a "state-wide mining issue" and one that "...cannot be allowed to continue."

"I'm sure the view expressed by the Queensland Mines Inspectorate is a view echoed by all of the States' safety departments," said Mr Johnsen, "The issue is not going to go away and that's why I believe we'll see more and more companies take up the SIBS technology."

The Birth of the 'Agi' Brake

The first commercial application of the Agitator Brake – or 'Agi' Brake as it is known – was fitted to a Holcim agitator truck in October 2008 at the Golden Grove mine located in Western Australia.

Following commissioning of the SIBS® enhanced trucks, Holcim completed weekly dynamic tests to ensure that the brake was operating at 100%. Based on the success of these trials, ABT went about producing a further commercial batch of these brakes which are now in stock for sale.

"The Agi Brake has been a great success so far and is a product that will considerably reduce the risk of uncontrolled vehicle movements in demanding conditions," says Johnsen.

Gaining Traction in the Mining Industry

With the SIBS® range of braking systems building a reputation for both safety performance and cost effectiveness, ABT are now receiving inquiries from many more operators of heavy trucks, particularly those used in underground operations.

To date, the biggest uptake of the Agi brake has been by leading mining contractor Barminco, where ABT has recently fitted three of their underground concrete agitator trucks with the SIBS® system. Another seven units are to be installed within the next six to eight months.

"We take safety very seriously at Barminco and for this reason we believe the SIBS® system was worth implementing as a failsafe and foolproof backup to the other safety systems we have in place," said Barminco's Engineering Manager, Peter Campaign.

Mr Campaign said the Agi Brake provided an extra level of safety for vehicles operating in the harshest underground environments where traditional braking systems were inadequate.

"The fact that the brakes are completely independent of the primary braking system means that they will be ready to go at any time when required, and this gives us an extra level of comfort.

"Traditional vehicle braking systems are not designed for the sort of conditions that we encounter on a daily basis," he said. "These conditions can be extremely harsh, especially underground where mud, dust and steep gradients are common."

One of the benefits of SIBS® is that in many cases the cost of adoption can be offset by maintenance savings, thus potentially providing safety benefits at what is effectively a zero net cost to the customer.

"We have a fleet of Landcruisers that average around \$1,200 per month just on parts and about a quarter of this relates to braking systems," said Mr Campaign. "We installed some of these vehicles with the SIBS system about 18 months ago.

"With the SIBS® system being virtually maintenance-free, there are some definite cost benefits over time, particularly as the SIBS® brakes will generally outlast the vehicle and can be salvaged for use on the replacement vehicles."

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For more information about achieving greater mine site vehicle safety through proven fail-safe braking, contact ABT by visiting their website at www.advancedbraking.com or by phoning +61 8 9273 4800.

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Background Information – Advanced Braking Technology Ltd (ASX: ABV)

Perth-based Advanced Braking Technology Ltd (ASX: ABV) is dedicated to innovative braking systems. The Company's key asset is the Sealed Integrated Braking System (SIBS™), a comprehensively patented Australian invention.

SIBS™ is a fully enclosed, single rotor, high speed wet brake. The brake rotor runs in a bath of oil that serves to cool the brake and minimize wear at the braking interface. An innovative fail safe feature is incorporated into the rear axle brake. As a result, the brakes are virtually wear and maintenance-free and may outlast the vehicles they are fitted to, unlike conventional drum and disc brakes. SIBS™ brakes deliver unparalleled safety, improved productivity and lower operating costs, and are engineered to survive the world's harshest conditions.

The proven technology is also environmentally friendly, eliminating brake dust emissions and noise and squealing, and provides a wide-range of benefits for on-road, off-road and industrial applications in terms of safety, reliability, performance and adaptability.

Based in Perth, Western Australia, Advanced Braking has a manufacturing plant in Thailand, worldwide patents on its technology and an extensive reseller network.