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## PRESS RELEASE

Truck platooning: a new, green transport solution

### **The truck platooning technology reduces heavy vehicle emissions by 8.2%**

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced by as much as 8.2%. This environmental benefit is achieved through the truck platooning technology, also known as “convoy driving”. The aforementioned rate is disclosed in Airp’s Osservatorio on Sustainable Mobility (*Airp* is the Italian Tyre Retreaders Association), based on a recent study by Ertico (a partnership of around 100 companies and institutions involved in the production of *Intelligent Transport Systems*) and Acea (European Automobile Manufacturers Association).

The automotive platooning systems is defined as the collection of vehicles that travel together and which are in active coordination with each other. This improves fuel efficiency while cutting polluting emissions.

Truck Platooning comprises a number of trucks, one closely following the other. Only the lead vehicle is driven by a driver; the other vehicles, all unmanned and equipped with WiFi- GPS- and camera-based driver assistance systems, follow close behind in semi-autonomous driving mode. The driver of the lead vehicle selects the route and sets the average driving speed, while the remaining vehicles are programmed to drive at a constant speed while still maintaining a safe following distance, which varies only when other vehicles cut in. Driving closer together at a constant speed, with less braking or accelerating, and filling in the lead vehicle’s wake cuts fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4.5% for the lead truck and by 12% for trailing vehicles. The ensuing average reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions achieved is therefore 8.2%, and this rate grows if the number of trailing vehicles increases. Truck platooning can really make trucking more environmentally friendly and more efficient (roads are used more rationally, with reduced congestion and faster deliveries). Seen from this perspective, this system is undoubtedly a starting point for a new concept of sustainable logistics applied to trucking.

Platoon technology is still being tested and will obviously pose different legislative challenges in the near future. In the meantime, there are current practices that can improve fleet efficiency and bottom line. Among these, special mention must be made of retreaded tires, which are extremely environmentally friendly (retreading tires releases less CO<sub>2</sub> than manufacturing new ones) and money-saving products (retreads cost less than new tires because the casing is recovered from used tires). Last but not least, safety is by no means compromised, since retreads are subjected to the same safety tests as new tires before being placed on the market.

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