



Talk to the Pro About ABS and EBS

The ZF [pro]Service is a commercial vehicle workshop service program that has aligned three existing concepts into one. Through it, ZF offers the expertise and unmatched technological knowledge of the world's leading commercial vehicle supplier into personalized service solutions for truck, trailer or bus workshops. Its customers can now benefit from an extensive portfolio and service offer. Asian Trucker spoke to Pei Jia Koh, Managing Director, Seri Zenith Engineering Sdn Bhd, to get more details about this ground-breaking new approach.

According to Koh, ABS, EBS, Trailerguard and Trailer Pulse are the most prominent and in-demand ZF products sold under the WABCO brand. Recently, Seri Zenith Engineering has also embarked on a campaign to train and educate workshops outside their own on these products. "With these products gaining popularity, we also need to change some systems. For instance, many workshops use imperial measurement, but we are now switching to the metric system." One may think that this approach is not serving Seri Zenith Engineering, however Koh thinks it is better to serve the entire ecosystem and thus creating a better society.

"We started this as early as 2018 to bring end-users, suppliers and service providers to the table. This has allowed us to provide benefits along the entire value creation chain and in return reap the benefits of these partners coming back to us for their follow-up orders." Koh said that they understand that a trailer is the revenue generating asset for any transporter and that low operating cost, high uptime and easy servicing is paramount to them. Having identified brake jams, tyres overheating and cracked chassis as the most common breakdowns of trailers, Seri Zenith Engineering believes that deploying sophisticated tools such as ABS and EBS is helping operators to avoid such incidents.

It is remarkable that the feedback from the market points at the reduction of accidents and operating cost. Koh highlighted that this is not data from the lab, but real life insights that are being reported from their customers. Referencing their road safety event held in October 2022, he stated that some 60 percent of trailers manufactured by them feature ABS. Now that many customers have been convinced that ABS / EBS is a solid investment, tyre pressure monitoring is one of the next applications in the pipeline.

Koh opined that the introduction of the ZF [pro]Service is a very important step. While the maintenance cost for tools like ABS / EBS is close to nil, these systems need to be properly specced and when maintained, it needs to be done right. With the advancement of technology, workshop personnel also need to keep up with developments. As with great power comes great responsibility, to be certified ZF [pro] Service is not easy as one would have to comply with strict requirements.

A common misconception about ABS / EBS is that it would only be suitable for light and medium goods vehicles. However, when equipped with ABS and EBS, the braking distance for a heavy truck can not only be shortened, but the vehicle can also still be steered, and thus have more safety margins in an emergency situation. To ensure that a trailer is equipped with the right tools, it is vital that a workshop or trailer manufacturer understands how the individual items combined are offering a sum bigger than its parts. Hence, the ZF [pro]Service is the way forward in Koh's view and he is confident that through it, the industry will benefit as a whole. **FT**