



RSB to roll out fifth wheel couplers with Fontaine

RSB, has launched fifth wheel coupling solution for the domestic market under the brand name RSB-Fontaine and exports to Fontaine, UK. Fontaine Fifth Wheel is the European division of Fontaine International Inc., the largest fifth wheel coupling manufacturer in the world. Fontaine Fifth Wheel, part Marmon Highway Technologies/ Berkshire Hathaway is head-quartered in the United States. The 20 tonne pressed steel

fifth wheel coupler comes with a patented techlock system with an integral kingpin height sensor that prevents false couplings. Fontaine's patented kingpin height sensor is at the heart of the techlock system. The mechanism will only lock when the kingpin enters at the correct height. This coupling also comes with a four kg weight advantage relative to conventional couplers. M. Sankaranarayanan, President, Auto Components & Systems, RSB, tells us that the deal was in the works for 18 months. 'All key parts have been localised and are ready for production in the first quarter of next fiscal. We will start with an initial capacity of 1,000 units per month, going up to 2,000 per month within six months. Initially the output will be exported to the UK' Besides these two products, RSB also showcased its first five speed hydraulic gearbox, which has been under development for a year now. 'We will launch our own hydraulic gearbox by 2016. It will be targeted at light duty vehicles,' reveals Sankaranarayanan. In a bid to reduce its dependence on the

cyclical commercial vehicle industry, RSB Transmissions India has entered into a partnership with Brazilian passenger car steering systems specialist, DHB Automotivos. SK Behera, Vice Chairman & Mg Director, RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd. says, 'We have launched fully assembled manual/power steering gears and also steering rack and pinion, tie rod, hydraulic pump and aluminium pump through a partnership with DHB Automotivos, a USD 150 million Brazilian enterprise which is the largest manufacturer of passenger car steering system in Latin America. These products will enable RSB to make entry into Latin America and Russia. We will be able to reach out to DHB's OEM customers like GM, Renault, Volkswagen, Ford, Fiat and PSA Peugeot Citroen.' The RSB Group has a turnover in excess of Rs. 1,400 crore, in automotive components and systems as well as construction equipment aggregates. Presently, it has 13 manufacturing plants spread over seven locations in India and one each in the US, Belgium and Mexico. ■ ■ ■

