

Acknowledgments

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Introduction



Technological advances in the trucking industry are moving ahead at a very rapid pace and this is due to several reasons. Much of the innovation is coming from industry to squeeze out more productivity and achieve greater economies of scale in a quest for efficiency and profits. Some of the innovation is coming from environmental movements and regulations to prevent pollution. Still many new technologies are born out of safety issues and together for all these reasons we see research and development in the transportation sector we find adequate money flows for both radical new ideas and incremental increases in current technologies; there is lots R&D in Trucking.

Today we see alternative fuels, new materials, virtual reality simulators, advanced aerodynamic designs, increased efficient engines, stability control systems, virtual dashboards, real-time GPS monitoring, efficient routing software and tire pressure in cab monitoring as just a few of the rapidly increasing technologies in the trucking industry and we will discuss them in this book.

If a trucking company or any independent operator can save one half to 2 miles per gallon on an 18 wheeler, then the cost savings is well worth the money to upgrade. Lighter materials, better aerodynamics and more efficient motors are a prime concern of anyone in the transportation sector.

Safety is also a huge issue in trucking due to insurance costs, downtime and lawsuits. Because of the shortage of truck drivers, which is now over 150,000 faster training times using virtual reality simulators not only saves money and fuel, but also saves lives. All this equates to less cost per mile driven and greater efficiency and profits for independent truck drivers and corporate trucking companies.

In the future trucks may drive them selves and deliver their cargo to their destinations and be completely monitored at all times, although that is still a long way off. In this book we will discuss thought-provoking and philosophical questions about the future concepts in technology for the trucking industry. I hope you will enjoy a future look at the road ahead in the transportation sector.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this book. If you have any questions, comments, concepts, hate mail, research or case studies please feel free to e-mail them to us and perhaps we can make mention of them in our next edition or with your permission to include them in our next book. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

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