



DALLAS SMITH CORP.®

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Dallas Smith Corp. To Launch The Z-Frame™ Cab Chassis at NTEA – The Work Truck Show

Low floor cab chassis trucks offer options for U.S. truck modifiers and up-fitters with customers looking for better ways to load & unload cargo...faster, easier, and safer.

ATLANTA—The Z-Frame™, a low floor cab chassis truck built from a standard Ford F-450/550 Super Duty, will be unveiled by Dallas Smith Corp. Wednesday at the annual NTEA (National Truck Equipment Association) – The Work Truck Show.

The Z-Frame™ brings low floor options to all types of commercial vehicles. Operators typically do not need a CDL to drive Ford's Super Duty Series trucks.

“Vehicles with our Z-Frame™ address many of the industry-wide concerns of commercial vehicles,” said Dallas Smith Corp. Vice President Jud Smith. “Whether it is worker injuries or delivery time or capacity, low floor technologies present powerful solutions.”

Z-Frame™-based low floor vehicles incorporate Dallas Smith Corp.'s exclusive Wide - Trac™ Axleless® air ride suspension. Delivery times decrease with the low floor system as do operator workers' compensation claims due to the strain of heavy lifting and the occurrence of slips and falls. The lowered center of gravity on the front-wheel drive vehicles betters the handling and stability. The lower profile height improves fuel economy.

Dallas Smith Corp. invented and patented the Z-Frame™ low floor rear frame and its unique connection to a traditional Ford F-450/550 frontal frame, and signed alliances with key industry leaders to build the low floor vehicles. Detroit Chassis manufactures the Z-Frame™ and, along with Manning Equipment in Louisville, performs the conversion.

Two vehicles with a Z-Frame rear chassis will bear the Dallas Smith Corp. brand. The Friendly Bus™ was launched at Buscon in November 2005. In January 2006, the company introduced the Boss Van™, a high-cube, low floor cargo van. Both vehicles are produced for Dallas Smith Corp. by Supreme Corporation in Goshen, Indiana.

“Bringing Z-Frame™ low floor to commercial vehicles opens the door to so many applications - the Boss Van™ and the Friendly Bus™ being but the first vehicles,” Smith said. “Once a conversion is complete, the new low floor chassis can be bodied-up as almost anything – a utility service body, a low flat bed, a pick-up, a stake body with fences. We have identified many of the most obvious, functional types of vehicles for low floor and are open to customers and Ford dealers coming to us with unique needs.”

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Applications for the Dallas Smith Corp. Z-Frame™ low floor cab chassis outside of the work truck include ambulances, first response vehicles and shuttle buses. A Dallas Smith Corp.-sponsored low floor Friendly Bus™ will make runs to and from the Georgia World Congress Center during The Work Truck Show from seven area hotels, offering the low floor experience to attendees and media.

The Dallas Smith Corporation engineered the patented AXLELESS® suspensions system that enables vehicles to be converted to low floor design. In total, the company has 15 U.S. patents at work in the design. The two most recent patents apply to the low floor chassis and low floor suspensions that convert the Ford Super Duty F-450/550 trucks to the low floor design.

Dallas Smith Corporation has driven automotive innovation for more than 50 years. The company's latest contributions – Axleless® suspensions & Z-Frame™ chassis – enables low floor systems on vehicles in Class II through Class VIII. Applications include military units, transit shuttle buses and other medium- and super-duty trucks and utility vehicles for municipalities, the federal government and private industry. Dallas Smith founded the company in 1954. The company remains family-owned and operated. For more information on Dallas Smith Corporation, visit the company online at www.dallassmithcorp.com or call the office at 765-653-1715.

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