

POSTAL NEWS

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- 1. U.S. Postal Service uses Precision Fleet Brakes. Oct 29, 2009.**
- 2. Grade Your Government: U.S. Postal Service Part 1. Oct 29, 2009.**
- 3. UPDATE: TNT 3Q Net Profit Falls 12%; Visibility Remains Low . Nov 2, 2009.**
- 4. Postal Services Around The World Need A Bailout. Nov 1, 2009.**
- 5. Postal Service emphasizes on new communication, technology. Nov 1, 2009.**

1. U.S. Postal Service uses Precision Fleet Brakes

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Precision Fleet Brakes has signed an agreement with Canam, the official supplier of high quality engineered products for the United States Postal Service, to provide its cryogenically processed rotors for use on the postal services' fleet of LLV delivery vehicles. Precision Fleet Brakes will be one of only two manufacturers to supply brake rotors and friction to the United States Postal Service.

“Before making their decision, the United States Post Office extensively tested our cryogenic brake components as well as several other suppliers' products at Greening Test Laboratories, and found that our rotors scored significantly higher than the competitive products on tests for brutal braking, environmental wear and noise,” says Zane McCarthy, president and CEO of Precision Fleet Brakes.

Cryogenic brake technology is a revolutionary way to treat brake rotors through the use of very low temperatures. Cryogenically processed brake components have an extended life of up to four times longer than original equipment.

“Precision's cryogenic brake components will keep the U.S. Postal Service's fleet of vehicles on the road longer between brake jobs, which translates into reduced downtime and considerable cost-savings,” says McCarthy.

Precision Fleet Brakes brake components are subjected to extensive independent lab and road performance testing. They conform to or exceed the material specs of SAE J431 and SAE G3000.

Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Precision Fleet Brakes cryogenically processes brake components to provide longer brake component life for fleet vehicles, significantly reducing the cost per mile for labor and parts. The Precision Fleet Brakes executive team has more than 50 years of combined management experience in the cryogenics and automotive industries.

Updated: Oct 29, 2009 8:24 AM

2. Grade Your Government: U.S. Postal Service Part 1

By Taylor Hemness - email

EAST TEXAS (KLTV) - In the time it takes for you to watch this story, the United States Postal Service will process roughly one million pieces of mail in the more than 32,000 post offices across the country.

Eight of those are in Tyler, the largest representation in East Texas. So that's where we surveyed people to get their opinions, and they were quick to give high marks to the people that handle their mail.

"I have packages picked up at my front door, and my carrier's wonderful, and he's always prompt, and he picks 'em up, and does great," said Sandy Butler.

"The local branches, I would say 'A,' because the people who are at the local branches, they are very knowledgeable," said Lori Arteaga.

"The Tyler Postal Service, I think, is exceptional, and I know my delivery man, Philip, by his first name," Priscy Tulbert said. "He's great."

That was the response we got across the board, as several people spoke very highly of their carriers, and the people behind the counter at the Tyler post offices.

So an 'A+' for personal treatment. But the praise starts to give way to criticism when it comes to getting to those people at the counters. The overwhelming response from Tyler residents was that the lines at the local post offices are just too long.

"Like, at lunch time, when most people can come to the post office, the staff is short," said Melton Timmons. "And, I understand that they have to eat lunch too, but I think they could work out a plan, and stagger lunches, and have more people available when customers are available."

"They gotta know when the peak times are," said Chris Greenaway. "I mean they can tell you when your mail's up in the P.O. Box, so they ought to be able to know when the influx of crowds are."

"I come here all the time, I come here in the morning, five days a week, and I've seen a decline in the fact that the lines are longer, and there's less people in the front to wait on 'em," Joe Williams said.

Then one man KLTV spoke with has a problem with the post office that's about more than long lines. Loma Allen lives in a retirement community in Tyler, where he says the mail is delivered to one central location, instead of multiple spots.

He says he's been trying for three years to change the delivery route, without any luck.

"I asked, on one occasion when they had turned us down, I said, 'Why?' The answer was, and I quote you, 'It is inconvenient to the post office,'" Allen said.

Mr. Allen has met with several postmasters, without any resolution. His grandfather was a postal carrier in North Carolina, and he says the postal service today is different than the one he remembers hearing about as a child.

"It's contrary to everything that all of us have always understood and it's desire to help the community. That desire is no longer there. It's a bottom line."

Mr. Allen also told us that during this effort, he's dealt with a couple of different postmasters for Tyler, but he has not spoken yet to the new postmaster, who has been on the job in Tyler for less than a month.

We did speak with the new postmaster, and he agrees that the wait time in line is a problem. In 'Grade Your Government: U.S. Postal Service Part 2' of this story, he'll explain why the post office is seeing the problem of long lines, and what he thinks is the biggest problem facing the postal service as a whole. Plus, we'll reveal your final grade for the U.S. Postal Service.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2009, 6:43 A.M. ET

3. UPDATE: TNT 3Q Net Profit Falls 12%; Visibility Remains Low

AMSTERDAM (Dow Jones)--Postal and express group TNT NV (TNT.AE) Monday reported a smaller-than-expected fall in third-quarter net profit due to continued cost cutting and it remained cautious about the sustainability of a recovery.

"TNT is optimally positioned to take advantage of a possible economic upturn but also needs to be prepared for continued harsh economic conditions and therefore remains focused on achieving its aggressive cost and cash control targets," Chief Executive Peter Bakker said in a statement.

TNT said net profit in the quarter ended Sept. 30 fell 12.4% to EUR99 million from EUR113 million a year earlier, but beat ...

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4. Postal Services Around The World Need A Bailout

Vincent Fernando | Nov. 1, 2009, 12:01 PM | 471 | 8

A weak economy has accelerated the process of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) becoming pretty much unnecessary due to technology and effective private options.

This is obviously bad news for the the USPS's 656,000 employees. Yet it is also likely to be bad news for the U.S. taxpayer as well.

The writing is on the wall, but this institution is unlikely to go down without a fight given that it is the second largest employer in the U.S. after Walmart.

Thus each piece of bad news is a step closer to the unfortunate day when billions of taxpayer dollars could be spent protecting an army of postal employees from economic reality.

At the current rate, this could be pretty soon:

The Economist: Overall, many postal firms [globally] now expect total letter volumes to fall by 5-10% or more in 2009. America's postal service saw a drop of almost 14%, or 28 billion items, in the year to September. Menno Sanderse, an analyst at Morgan Stanley in London, predicts that European postal services could lose half their mail volume over the next ten years. In Europe, postal services also face the prospect of more competition, since from 2011 all remaining monopolies on delivering letters will end. Japan, ironically, is not suffering quite as much: volumes fell by only 2% last year.

The industry's high fixed costs make profits vulnerable. In November 2008, badly battered by the recession, America's post office announced its second successive annual loss, of \$2.8 billion, and it expects to lose more this year.

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5. Postal Service emphasizes on new communication, technology

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1 (APP): Keeping pace with the changing communications market, Pakistan Post (PP) is emphasizing in the use of new communication and information technologies to move beyond what is traditionally regarded as a its core postal business. An official source told APP here on Sunday, that PP is decided to introduce fast services to facilitate customers.

He said that recent years witnessed the phenomenal growth of Courier Services. He said that customer needs became supreme and courier services initiated designing specialized products for different segments of customers.

“Postal administrations realizing the change rose to the occasion and focused on customer a fresh,” he added.

He said that they launched an array of customer oriented products and services and were able to reclaim some of their revenues lost to courier services.

He said that Pakistan Post keeping with the imperatives of market forces introduced new products to respond to customer needs for a faster, efficient and cost effective message services.

These services included on Urgent Mail Service (City to City), special handling from receipt to delivery, fast and reliable serves all major cities and towns, International Speed Post, Economical, highly dependable link between Pakistan and rest of the world, fast delivery of documents and trade samples.

While Urgent Mail Service (Local) same day delivery (Gifts and packets).

He said that Pakistan Post has implemented an Express Mail Track & Trace System, and Inquiry & Reporting System (EMTTS), in 14 major cities of Pakistan.

Main objectives of the project are to improve the quality of service to customers, provide an efficient automated platform to support a major increase in the volumes of Express Mail and Express Money Order traffic, improve overall operations and increase productivity and provide PP management with information relating to the quality of service for Express Mail being provided by PP to its customers Letter mail is the basic traditional service of the Pakistan Post.

He said that Pakistan Post are enjoying privilege over collection, conveyance and delivery, Pak Post ensures availability of affordable, reliable and a fast communication service to all segments of society across the country.

He said that Pakistan post has a large network of over 3000 outlets throughout Pakistan for collection of utility bills in order to facilitate consumers from all walks of life.

The Day Post Offices collect electricity, telephone and gas bills from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Whereas, all GPOs, and Night Post Offices offer this facility from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. On Friday, prayer and lunch break is observed from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

“While Utility Bill Payments at your Doorsteps is also operating for further convenience of the working class community who cannot spare time to visit Post Offices in order to pay their bills, the facility of utility bill payment (Gas and Telephone) has also been extended at their doorstep, through cross cheque on a nominal charge of Rs.20/ ,” he added.

He said that the doorstep collection facility is currently available in Karachi only which will shortly be extended to other stations.

He said that the complaints and suggestions can be forwarded directly to complaint Cell Directorate General Pakistan Post G 8/4, Islamabad through mail, phone, fax, E Mail or by any other mean.

“Pakistan Post Savings Bank offers the largest network of savings bank services in Pakistan and serving on behalf of Ministry of Finance, it has been playing a crucial role in encouraging and mobilizing savings among the general populace since long,” he added.

He said that it is popular both in urban and rural areas, but its operations in rural Pakistan are wide spread and deep rooted.

“In fact in most of the remote areas, it is the only banking service available, through its extensive network of post offices, Pak Post Saving Bank offers a number of very attractive saving bank schemes,”he added.

He said that under an agreement signed in the year 2002, Pakistan Post serves as a partner with Western Union for disbursing the payments received through Western Union channel from all corners of the world. Pakistan Post has been helping legal foreign exchange inflow to Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan post is committed to make secure and timely delivery of mail, money and material at the doorsteps of the customers at affordable cost.

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