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Autocar cuts ribbon on Birmingham manufacturing plant

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Cooper: 205-241-8127 (office); 205-910-3215 (cell)
Rachel Burchfield: 205-241-8102 (office); 785-230-1452 (cell)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – April 19, 2018 – Hagerstown, Ind.-based Autocar Trucks hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at its manufacturing plant in Center Point today. Governor Kay Ivey, Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight and Center Point Mayor Tom Henderson were in attendance at the event, along with Autocar Chairman Andrew Taitz and President Jim Johnston.

The plant is fully operational and follows an announcement of the facility last September. Autocar expects to invest \$120 million to expand and open the plant in Jefferson County, where its severe-duty ACX cab-over-engine truck model is built. The plant is located in a one million-square-foot complex spanning both Center Point and Birmingham and is expected to create 746 jobs. In a short time Autocar has exceeded one third of that goal and is recruiting additional team members across production, engineering and management roles.

“Autocar already has a significant impact on Jefferson County, and will continue to do so with this new manufacturing plant,” said Governor Kay Ivey. “By continuing to invest in Alabama, Autocar further proves that what we’re doing in our state is working. Autocar, and its expansion because of its success, is a fantastic representation of our commitment to help businesses not just survive but thrive.”

Since its announcement in September, the team has built trucks for customers in 46 states and provinces, and in the near future expects to have built trucks for every state in the country. Helping build the trucks are the 54 local companies that Autocar has employed since the announcement. Autocar has already hosted 18 corporate site visits showcasing the plant – and Birmingham – to executives from around the country.

"Nine months ago, we set out to bring the production of an American-owned, American-made truck to the great State of Alabama – and to do it not over the course of years, but months," said Autocar Chairman, Andrew Taitz, during the ceremony. "So, thank you to all of you who have come to join us today – this is all your day and a great day for Alabama."

Autocar was founded in 1897 and is the oldest motor vehicle brand in the United States. It built America's first truck in 1899 and pioneered many technical innovations now common in all cars and trucks. Autocar's hundreds of customers include most major cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, Baltimore and Charlotte, most national waste-hauling fleets, and many of the largest retailers, food manufacturers, and freight logistics companies in North America.

Upon its announcement last September, Autocar became Alabama's fourth major motor-vehicle OEM assembly plant, cementing the state as a powerhouse in the motor-vehicle industry. Since then, Toyota-Mazda has announced a plant in Huntsville, making it the fifth OEM in Alabama.

"Autocar is a huge win for Jefferson County and its citizens," said Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight. "We are excited that Autocar is in Jefferson County and bringing jobs to our people. We look forward to working with the company in the future on its potential growth."

Autocar is expected to generate \$645.1 million annually, which includes a nearly \$229 million annual contribution to Alabama's GDP and \$130.1 million in earnings to Alabama households from 2,655 direct and indirect jobs, according to an impact study from the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Commerce.

For the Birmingham metropolitan area, operations at the company will generate \$600 million annually in economic impact, which includes \$224 million contributed to the metro's GDP, and \$123.9 million in earnings to households from 2,538 direct and indirect jobs.

"The City of Birmingham is proud to be part of the team that brought Autocar to the Birmingham region," said Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin. "The company has had a great impact on the city and our residents. We look forward to the opportunities to come."

Center Point Mayor Tom Henderson said the positive impact of Autocar is also felt in Center Point, in addition to its impact in Birmingham.

"Center Point is proud to have Autocar call our city home," Henderson said. "The rewards of having this company, and any of its suppliers in the future, in our community will be realized for our citizens for many years to come. We look forward to continuing being a partner with Autocar for its future growth in Center Point."

Autocar worked closely with the State of Alabama Department of Commerce, the Jefferson County Commission, the City of Center Point, the City of Birmingham, AIDT, the Birmingham Business Alliance, Alabama Power and others on this major economic development project.

"There is a lot to celebrate today at Autocar's ribbon cutting," said Lee Smith, East Region CEO for BBVA Compass and 2018 Chairman for the Birmingham Business Alliance. "Today is a special day for Birmingham and for our state, and Autocar is a strong link in the chain of automotive industry giants that have chosen to make Alabama home and make our state a leader in the automotive industry."

About Autocar LLC

Autocar is the oldest motor vehicle brand in the United States and built America's first truck, in 1899. Focused on purpose-built trucks from the very beginning, today Autocar is the leading American manufacturer dedicated to severe-duty cab-over trucks. Autocar has strong and growing positions in the markets for the biggest, baddest trucks on the road, such as Class 8 concrete pump trucks, refuse and recycling trucks, terminal tractors, and other severe-duty vocational applications.

A proudly American-owned company, Autocar is headquartered in Hagerstown, Ind., and is affiliated with GVW Group, based in Highland Park, Ill. For more information, visit www.AutocarTruck.com.

About the Birmingham Business Alliance

The Birmingham Business Alliance is the lead economic development organization for the Birmingham region. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

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