

Automotive

Off Road

**Heavy
Duty**

Power
Gen



Idle Free® electric APU and Reefer Link® improve recruiting and retention of top-quality drivers for Central Trucking, Inc.

To improve driver recruiting, retention and comfort, the maintenance director at Central Trucking, Inc. (CTI), Mark Stahl, went in search of a more robust auxiliary power unit (APU) for the company's fleet. A premier coast-to-coast carrier, CTI's fleet includes 253 refrigerated trailers. CTI has solo and team drivers relaying to and from four terminals across the United States. Stahl wanted an APU that would deliver highly-reliable backup power for longer periods of time. Idle Free® electric APU and Reefer Link®, Phillips & Temro Industries (PTI) brands, exceeded CTI's requirements. These SmartWay-verified technologies also reduce fuel consumption, allowing for a greener fleet with virtually indefinite idle-free heating, cooling and 120V power for sleeper-berth comforts.

"We had issues with our previous APU. The batteries would run down and there was little to no dealer support. We lost drivers because the previous product didn't provide the backup power needed to meet the hours of service (HOS) regulation requirements and give our over-the-road drivers the off-duty sleeper-bunk comforts they need," says Stahl.

“During our search for a better solution, PTI’s Idle Free development engineer, Robert Jordan, met with us and explained the advantages of the Idle Free eAPU™ and Reefer Link Systems.”

When Jordan learned of the problem he recommended the company’s reefer-based APU, a year-round solution for sleeper trucks pulling refrigerated trailers. The Idle Free APU is affordable, recharges in just 4 to 6 hours and has been proven by a third-party test laboratory to run up to 10 hours. When combined with Reefer Link, virtually unlimited run time is possible. Reefer Link is an electrical connection between truck and refrigerated trailer.

CTI had the dealer install the Idle Free APU and Reefer Link products on new trucks starting in 2013. Specified with a 200-amp alternator, the trucks have experienced no alternator wear resulting from use of the products. The remainder of the fleet was converted to the technologies as new trucks were bought in 2014 through 2016.

“Our drivers really like the reefer-based Idle Free APU. They benefit from a comfortable temperature in the bunk, a warm engine and access to a television and computer,” says Stahl. “When we hire a new driver, they review our video that goes over the Idle Free unit. The product is really important when our drivers require a 34-hour restart.”

Combined Idle Free’s APU and Reefer Link can save up to 600 gallons (2,271 L) of diesel fuel per year over diesel APUs—and up to 3,000 gallons (11,256 L) of fuel per year versus idling truck engines. Idle Free’s eAPUs and Reefer Link are easy to install and provide engine pre-heat to eliminate the risks of cold starts. The systems offer minimal maintenance and a two-year warranty.

For more information, ask your dealer about Idle Free and Reefer Link, visit www.idlefree.com or call +1 608.237.6511.

Central Truck, Inc.

A premier coast-to-coast refrigerated carrier, Central Truck Inc. (CTI) has been family-owned and operated since 1974. The company has four terminals across the United States: Springfield, Mo.; Amarillo, Tex.; Edinburgh, Ind.; and Kingman, Ariz. Idle Free helps make CTI a SmartWay Elite carrier. Experienced drivers provide top-notch customer service and on-time delivery. Drivers enjoy more time at home than the industry average. The company prides itself on having the best equipment on the road, trading trucks and trailers every two to three years.

Phillips & Temro Industries

Phillips & Temro Industries (PTI) is a global original-equipment manufacturer (OEM) and aftermarket provider of custom-engineered thermal systems and solutions. Trucking, automotive, off-road, oil and gas, and electric vehicle (EV)/hybrid are just a few of the diverse markets that benefit from PTI's heating, cooling and electrification solutions. PTI manages the entire process from concept design, prototyping and testing to delivery with a focus on quality. PTI's portfolio of technologies is an amalgamation of brands, including ZeroStart[®], Temro, Arctic Fox[®], Idle Free[®] and Truflo.