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Author/POC: Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer
Email: denise.emsley@navy.mil
Tel: 808-471-7300
Cel: 808-221-6387
Fax: 808-474-5479

Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii
400 Marshall Road
JBPHH HI 96860-3139

New Demonstration Electric Hybrid Bucket Truck Operating in Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Utilities Maintenance Division personnel took their new hybrid bucket truck into the field for the first time July 26 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

The heavy hybrid electric bucket truck is part of a one year demonstration project with NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (EXWC), Port Hueneme, Calif.

“We are pleased to be part of this pilot project and working on the next possible evolution of electric hybrid truck equipment,” said Line Crew Work Leader Michael Lyman. “The training we have received on the new vehicle has been very important to make sure everything operates correctly prior to taking it into the field. And, of course we really appreciate receiving new equipment that we get to retain after the pilot is completed. It’s a win-win situation for both commands and our customers here in Hawaii.”

The hybrid truck will be dispatched on routine field service calls and its electric plug-in system is expected to increase fuel economy over and above the non-plug-in bucket truck to which it will be compared.

“NAVFAC’s Directed Energy Program is sponsoring the project on behalf of the organization’s Base Support Vehicle and Equipment (BSVE) product line,” said NAVFAC EXWC Alternative Fuel Vehicle Team Lead David Cook. “This program conducts field validation testing for emerging energy efficient technologies. If the results are favorable, NAVFAC BSVE will integrate plug-in heavy hybrid utility trucks into their long-term vehicle buy plan. The non-plug-in technology has already accomplished performance objectives in a program completed in 2012.”

Electric plug-in heavy hybrid trucks have been found to be more efficient and produce lower tail pipe emissions than conventional diesel trucks. Hybrid trucks also permit clean and quiet work operations that would otherwise require continuous idling of the vehicle.

The electric plug-in hybrid bucket truck will demonstrate alongside a comparable diesel powered bucket truck at JBPHH. Both trucks will operate on similar duty cycles. Fuel economy is the critical performance parameter, considered successful if achieving a 40 percent increase in miles per gallon over the baseline truck. Additionally, the project will evaluate noise, brake wear, unscheduled maintenance, reliability, and drivability relative to the conventional truck.

(more)

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“The NAVFAC project team ordered the hybrid bucket truck with special instrumentation for hands-free monitoring,” said Cook. “The automated system will collect data on the truck’s usage in both the driving mode and the engine-off working mode (use in the aerial lift and hydraulic tools). The system will also monitor the truck condition and diagnostic codes. The on-board telematics system will transmit data to a website several times per day so the latest data will be available for the team’s review and analysis. The data will help compare efficiency of the hybrid with the baseline truck in both operating modes, and any other operating factors that may affect fuel efficiency.”

Heavy duty plug-in hybrid electric trucks are in an early commercial production phase, and have not previously been validated by the Department of Defense.

NAVFAC EXWC completed testing on a non-plug-in utility truck in 2012. The unpublished results indicated fuel economy benefits in excess of 25 percent. The non-plug-in hybrid conserves fuel by operating in a battery-only mode for aerial lift operations, though limited to short durations. The plug-in hybrid trucks have capability for direct grid recharging operations, as well as up to 15 times the capacity for the electric-only work mode. The larger battery pack also enables enhanced efficiency gains for driving operations.

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Photos/cutlines: High-resolution images is available. Please contact Denise Emsley.



140726-N-OF713-893

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 26, 2014) Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii utilities personnel used the new hybrid bucket truck in the field for the first time July 26. They replaced power lines between multiple poles on the command’s main compound at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs/Released)



140726-N-OF713-880

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 26, 2014) Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii utilities personnel used the new hybrid bucket truck in the field for the first time July 26. They replaced power lines between multiple poles on the command’s main compound at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs/Released)

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140710-N-OF713-587

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 10, 2014) Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii's new hybrid bucket truck's electrical connection or plug-in point is located on the passenger side of the truck just below the door. (U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs/Released)



140710-N-OF713-588

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 10, 2014) Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii's new hybrid bucket truck's electrical connection or plug-in point is located on the passenger side of the truck just below the door. (U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs/Released)



140710-N-OF713-592

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 10, 2014) The electric power station for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii's new hybrid bucket truck is located in Building 166, where the utility crew is stationed, making it easy to plug-in the vehicle every evening to fuel up for the next day's work. (U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs/Released)

For more information about NAVFAC Hawaii and/or Naval Facilities Engineering Command visit: www.navfac.navy.mil.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command

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