

Innovation Award

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Shepherd Distribution Services

Sheffield-based Shepherd Distribution Services has developed an easy-to-operate load restraint system that can be adapted for any size curtainsider vehicle. One of the key areas of innovation is the simple method of raising and lowering the load-restraining straps by using a cord through a system of carabiners. This device not only acts as a robust restraint mechanism but also doubles up as a safety feature allowing drivers to stay on the ground while securing the load. The system was specifically designed to be retrofitted to vehicles that use systems with limited load safety. The component parts have been designed to be exceptionally robust, low cost and easily replaced in the event of damage.

Awards judges described it as a "cost effective, unique, robust restraint mechanism with fewer moving parts than competitor systems".

Carrier Transicold

An eco-friendly refrigeration system is being trialled by Sainsbury's to reduce the supermarket's carbon footprint. Carrier Transicold's NaturalLINE system encompasses multiple innovations that work together, enabling the use of a natural refrigerant.

The system uses two stages of compression, which improves the overall efficiency of the unit, and its unique cylinder unloading capability allows the compressor to save energy in light-load conditions. A custom-designed drive electronically adjusts the compressor's speed to provide the precise amount of cooling capacity to meet demand, saving considerable energy compared with conventional units. Replacing the condenser assembly found in conventional refrigeration units is a new heat exchanger called the gas cooler. This wraps around the fan, maximising heat transfer surface area for greater efficiency in a design that is both compact and lightweight.

The judges described it as "a potential game changer".



Jimmy Beam Downlights

The Jimmy Beam Down Light (JBDL) is a downward shining light fitted to the side of a vehicle/trailer that illuminates the surrounding floor space. At night when visibility is poor and there is little or no street light, or contrasting shadows in the wing mirrors, the JBDL enables drivers to clearly see the exact road position of the vehicle/trailer, as well as other vehicles, cyclists, street furniture and pedestrians. The JBDL also increases the visibility of the vehicle/trailer to other road users when driving conditions are poor: for example, when it is foggy, raining and there is water spray from the vehicle in front. The JBDL is approved and certificated to meet the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 and certificated for use on ADR vehicles. In 2013, six companies agreed to trial the JBDL as part of a case study.

The judges said the system had a "long list of credible benefits for drivers and other road users" and "supports vulnerable road users".



Live Data Solutions

Twenty Palletways members are using software developed by Live Data Solutions. The system includes an address book so operators do not have to repeatedly enter addresses. It helps customers to monitor the amount of pallets they send through and identifies where pallets are going to and what services they are using. In addition, TomTom integration allows firms to monitor driver standstill times. An archive system keeps a log of all the jobs the customer has entered, and they can search, track and trace consignments from it. A report helps customers see the last time they sent freight to customers, and the system also helps sales teams identify lapsed customers.

The judges said that "setting up the system from scratch is commendable, particularly for such a small business".

