



*Driving the Efficiency Revolution*



# Advanced Devices for Rear Drag Reduction on Tractor-Trailers

Andrew Smith - CEO

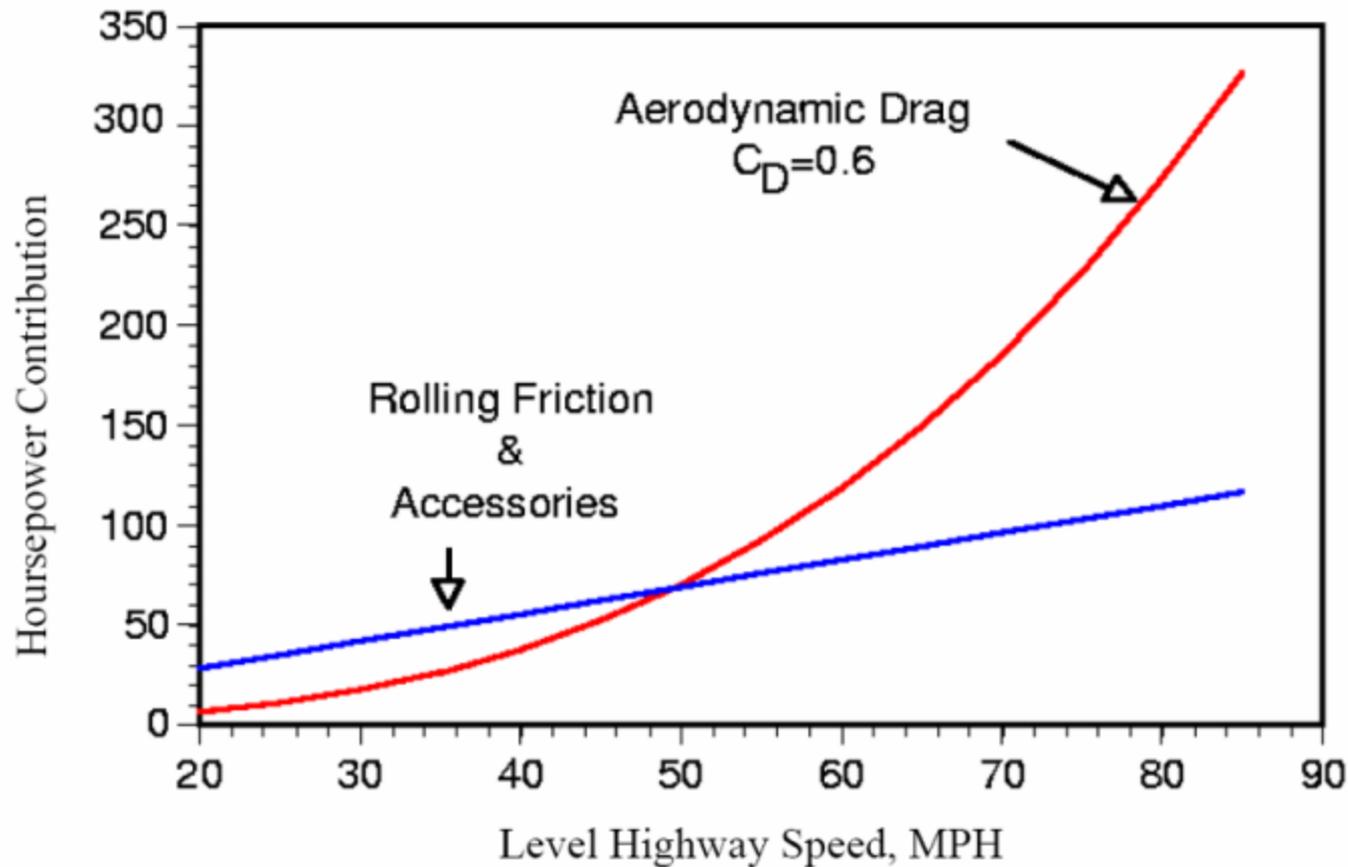
Chuck Horrell – Vice President of Engineering

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Contact:

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# Importance of Tractor-Trailer Aerodynamics: ~65% of Fuel Used to Overcome Drag at Highway Speeds



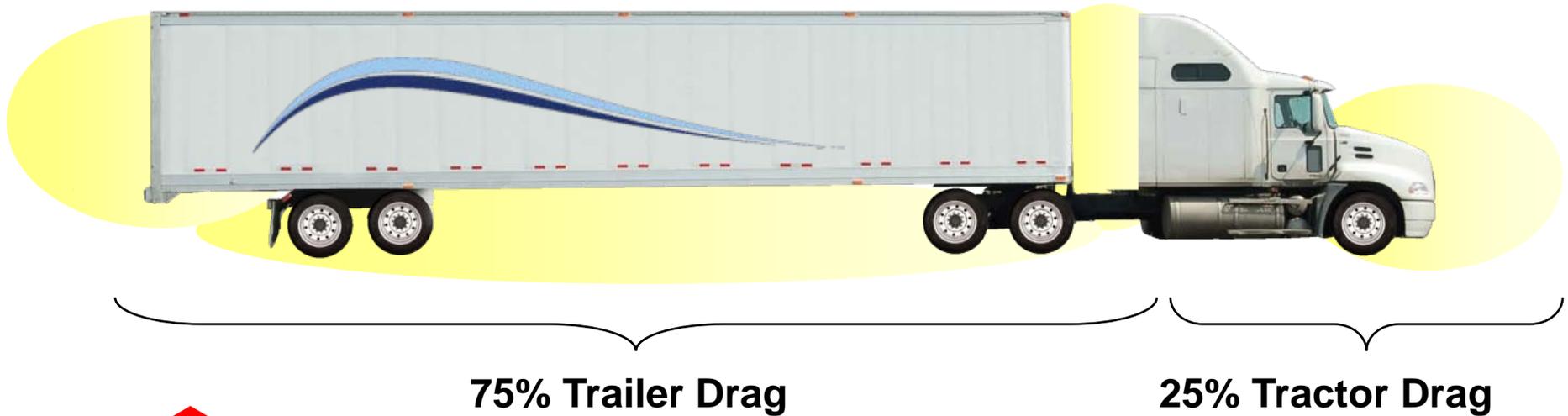
Source: McCallen, Rose et al. *DOE's Effort to Reduce Truck Aerodynamic Drag through Joint Experiments and Computations*, April 2006.

# Benefits to Fleets for Each 5% Fuel-Efficiency Gain

|                         |         | Annual Highway Mileage Per Trailer |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         |         | 50,000                             | 75,000   | 100,000  | 150,000  |
| Fuel Price (per Gallon) | \$ 1.50 | \$ 625                             | \$ 938   | \$ 1,250 | \$ 1,875 |
|                         | \$ 2.50 | \$ 1,042                           | \$ 1,563 | \$ 2,083 | \$ 3,125 |
|                         | \$ 3.50 | \$ 1,458                           | \$ 2,188 | \$ 2,917 | \$ 4,375 |
|                         | \$ 4.50 | \$ 1,875                           | \$ 2,813 | \$ 3,750 | \$ 5,625 |
|                         | \$ 5.50 | \$ 2,292                           | \$ 3,438 | \$ 4,583 | \$ 6,875 |

- 5% fuel-efficiency gain equates to a ~7.7% drag reduction
- 5% fuel-efficiency gain is the threshold at which dry vans comply with ARB requirements for trailer aerodynamics

# Tractor-Trailer Aerodynamics



This project will address the low pressure vacuum created behind tractor-trailers moving at highway speeds.

# Rear Drag Reduction – Passive Devices

## **Aerodynamic Principles**

- Reduces aerodynamic drag by keeping laminar flow along trailer edges attached deeper into the wake
- Reduces the size and turbulence of low-pressure region behind trailer

## **History of passive rear devices**

- Patents issued as early as 1950's
- First market-ready product offerings have been developed in the last 5 years
- Aerodynamic and mechanical optimization has been pursued as part of this project

## **Outlook for passive rear devices**

- Potential for fuel-efficiency improvement is proven
- Industry awareness has increased dramatically since 2007
- Market penetration is improving

# Rear Drag Reduction - Active Flow Control (AFC)

## Aerodynamic Principles

- Reduces aerodynamic drag by pressurizing the low-pressure region behind a trailer
- Utilizes either suction, blowing, or both actions, done either continuously or pulsed

## History of AFC

- Used for decades in aeronautical engineering
- Preliminary research into adapting technology for tractor trailers
  - Various academic institutions
  - Government research centers

## Outlook for AFC

- Potential for fuel-efficiency improvement is proven
- Economics and market adoption outlook is positive
- Challenges are in aerodynamic optimization and mechanical engineering

# Work Completed

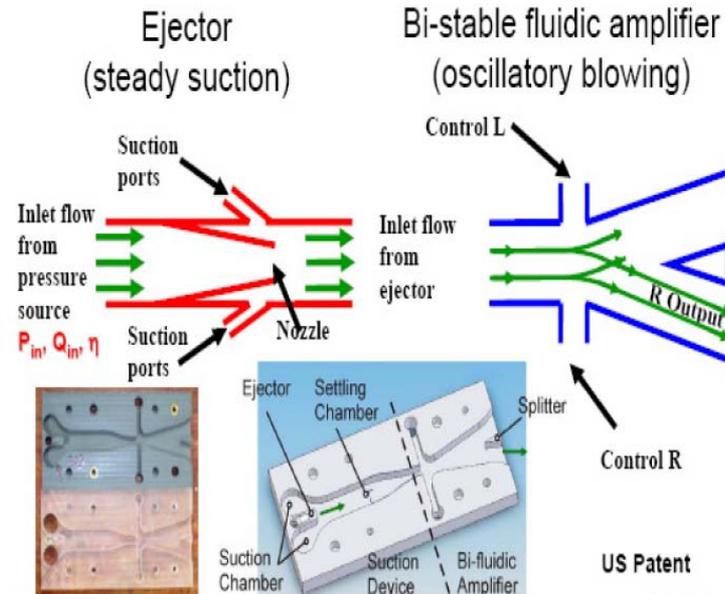
## Contractual agreements

### Tel Aviv University

- Commercialization partnership
- Exclusive license to ATDynamics to develop for the US market

### Georgia Tech Research Institute

- Development partnership
- Commercialization strategy to be developed after more is learned about the commercial viability of the technology

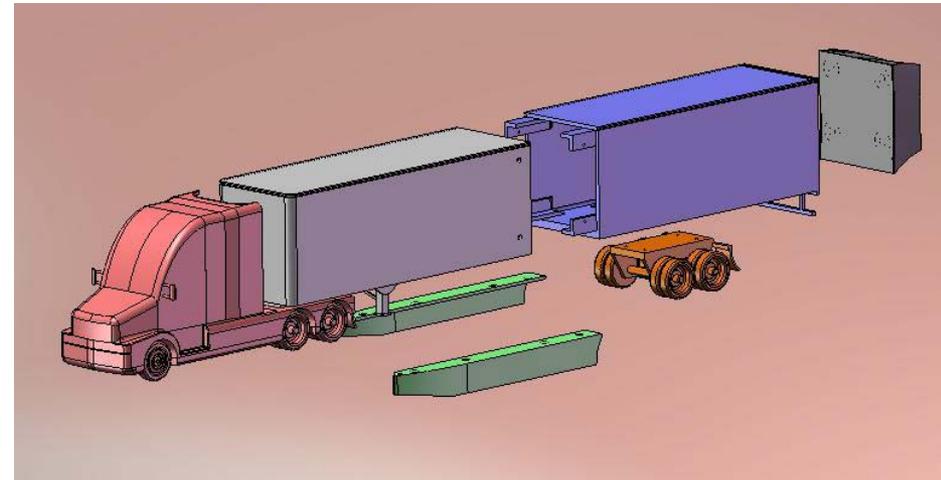
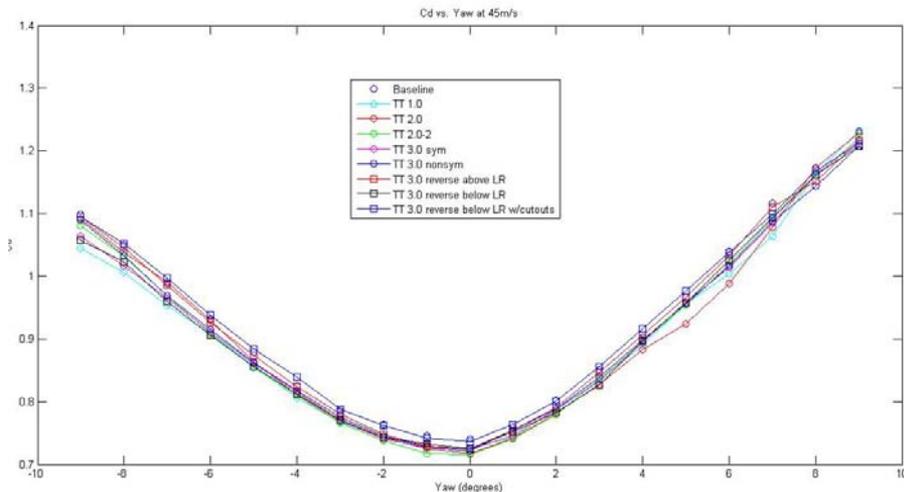


# Work Completed

## Aerodynamic Optimization

### Clarkson University

- Wind tunnel optimization
- New high-precision instrumentation
- Detailed model design and fabrication using SLS construction
- Preliminary wind tunnel results



# Work Completed

## Passive device development

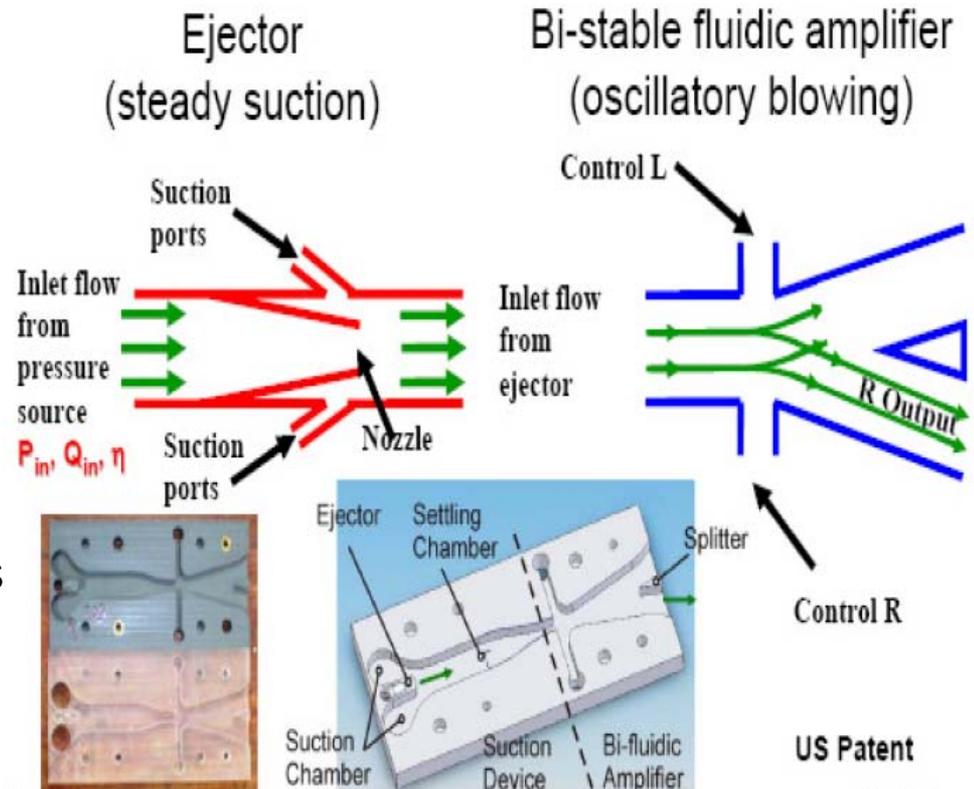


# Work Completed

## Aerodynamic Optimization

### Tel Aviv University

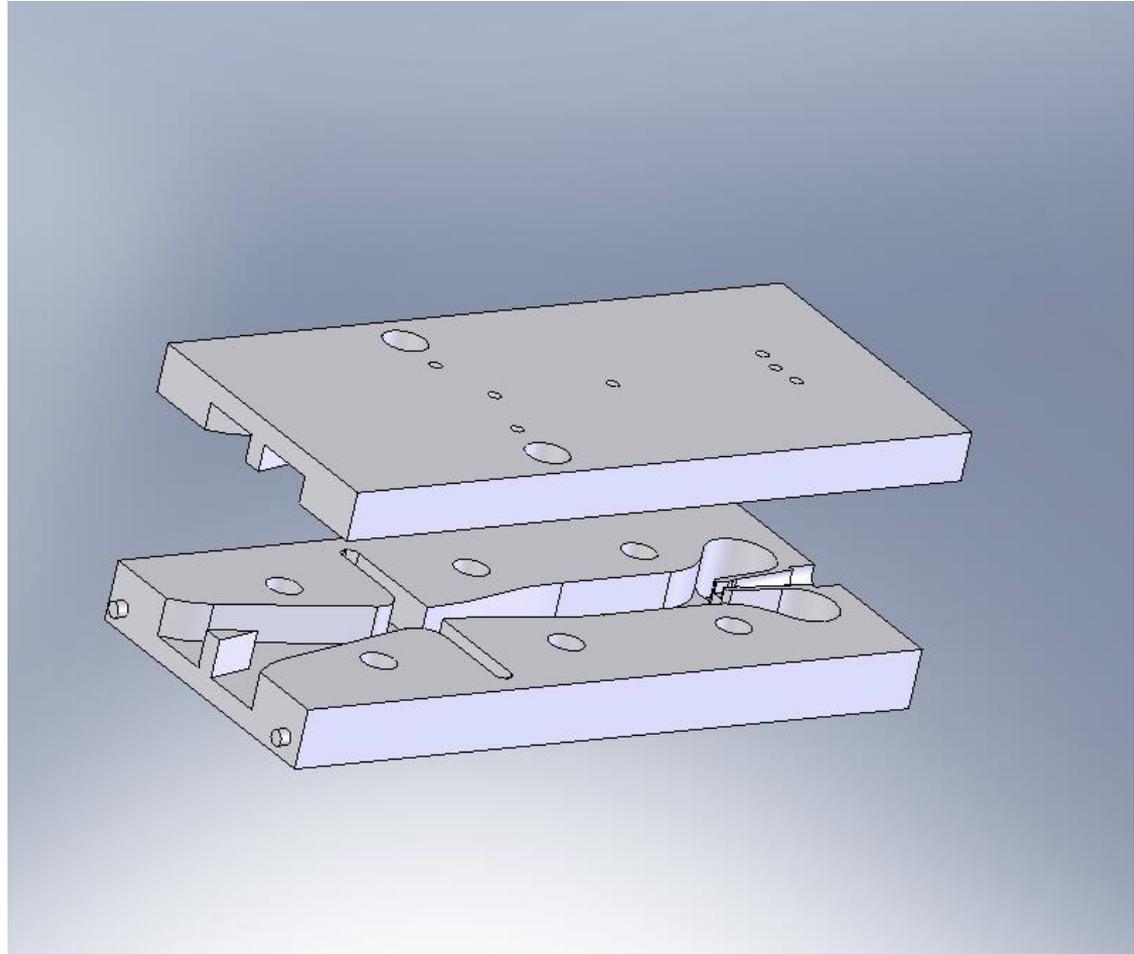
- Valve body geometry optimization
- Frequency of oscillation
- Synchronization channel length
- Inlet pressure
- Desired flow rate
- Angular placement of outlet nozzles
- Span-wise placement of outlet nozzles
- Angular placement of suction holes
- Span-wise placement of suction holes
- Inlet nozzle geometry



# Work Completed

## Aerodynamic Optimization

Tel Aviv University  
SaOB Actuator

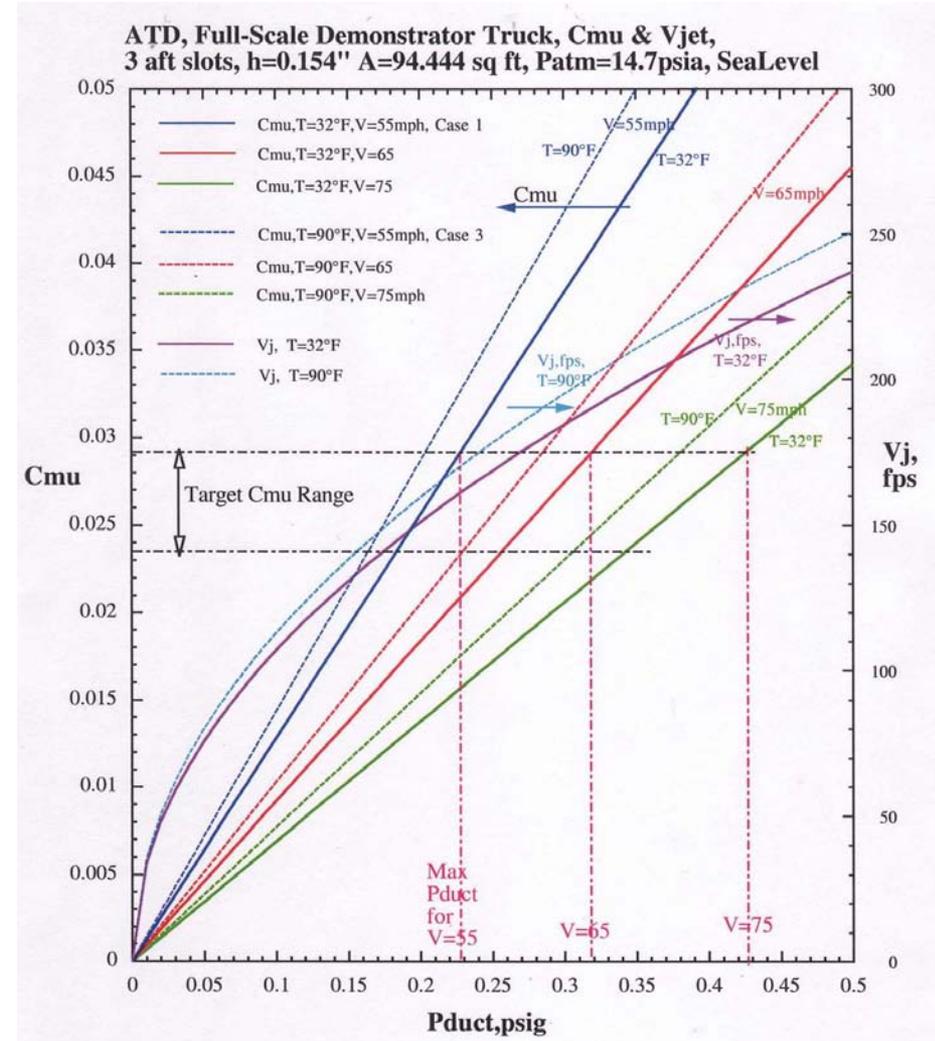


# Work Completed

## Aerodynamic Optimization

### Georgia Tech Research Institute

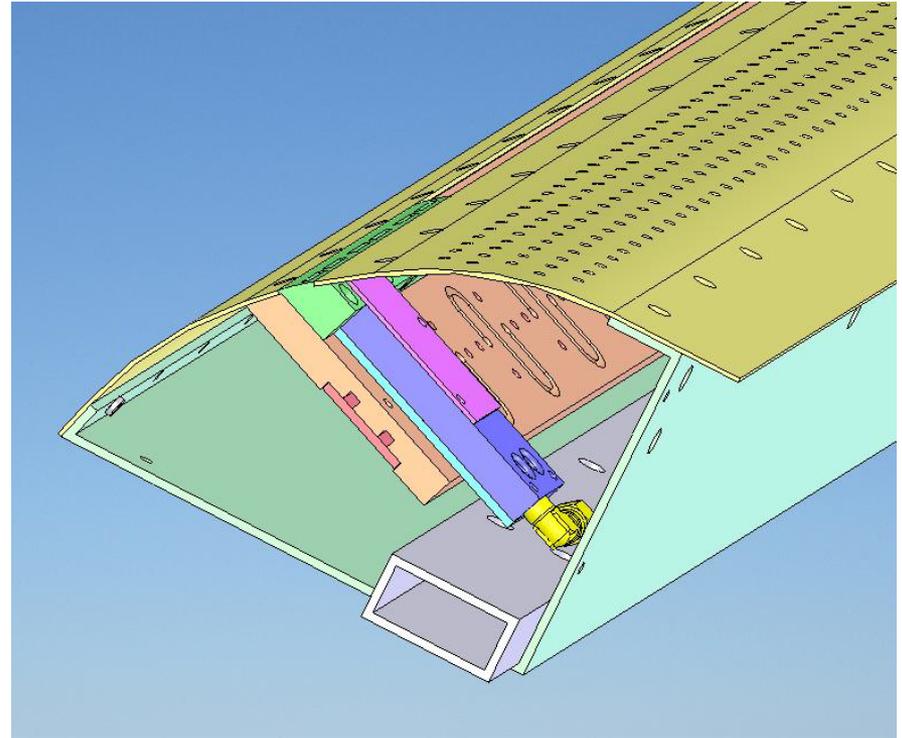
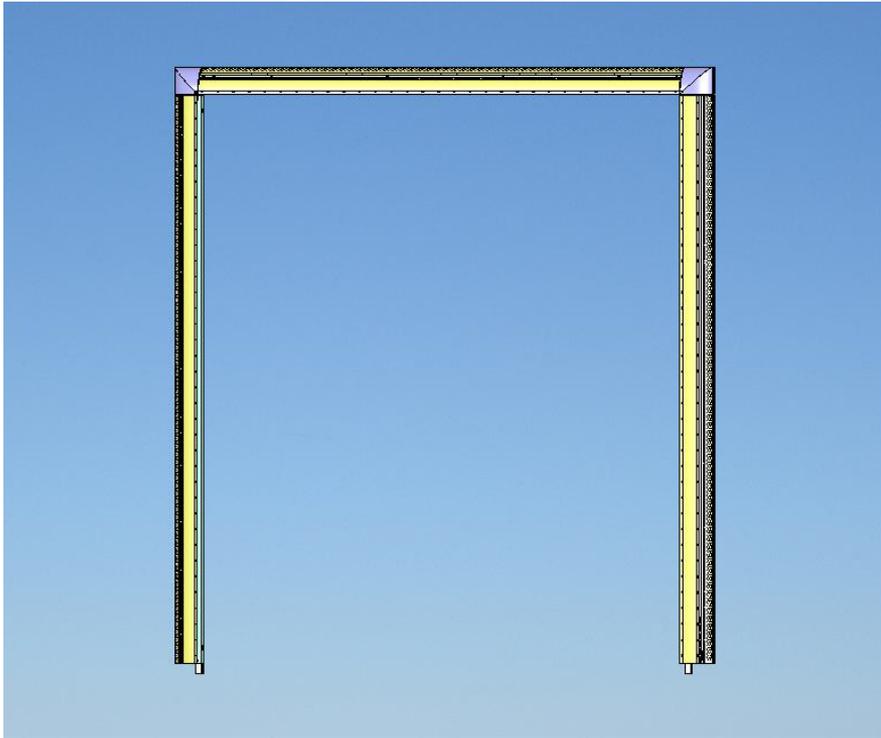
- ATDynamics completed mechanical design
- GTRI head researcher provided design parameters:
  - Slot height
  - Inlet pressure
  - Volumetric flow rate
  - Outlet velocity
- All parameters provided for multiple test scenarios
  - Temperature
  - Elevation
  - Test speed



# Work Completed

## Mechanical Design

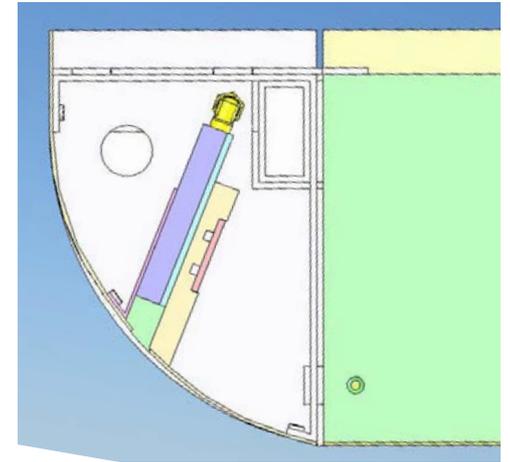
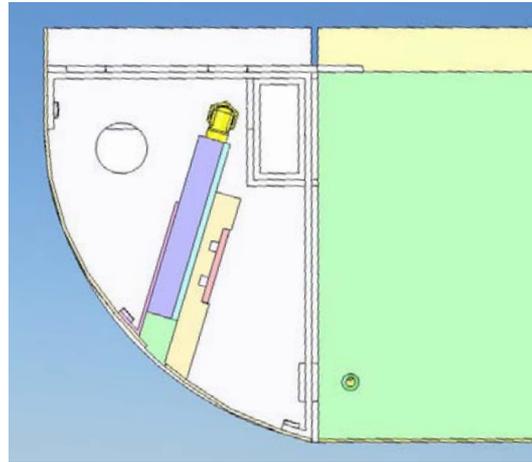
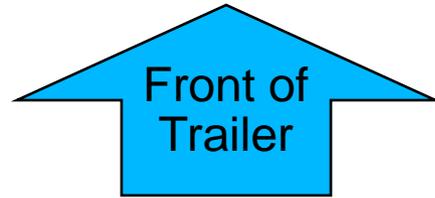
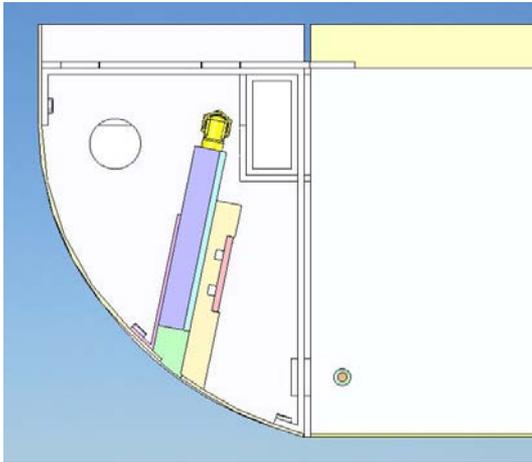
Tel Aviv University Device



# Work Completed

## Mechanical Design

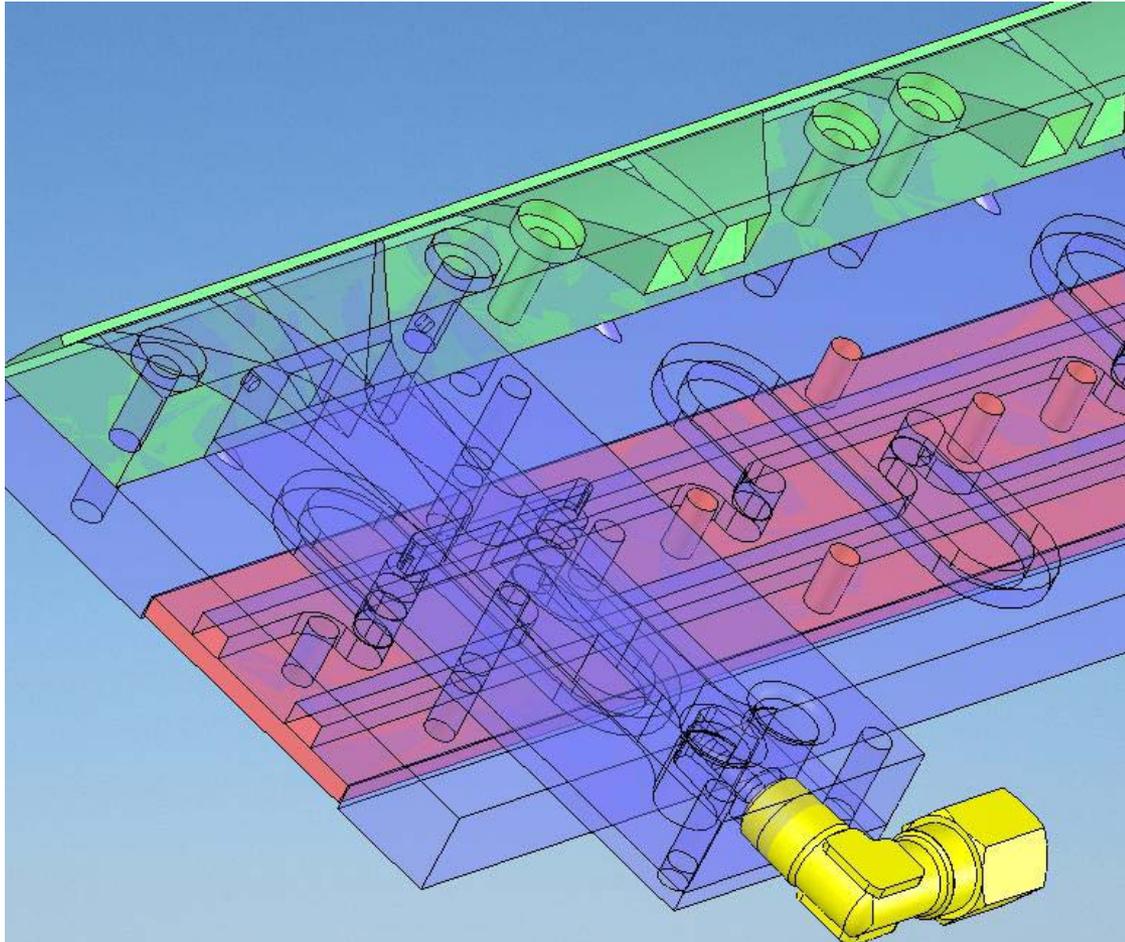
Tel Aviv University Device



# Work Completed

## Mechanical Design

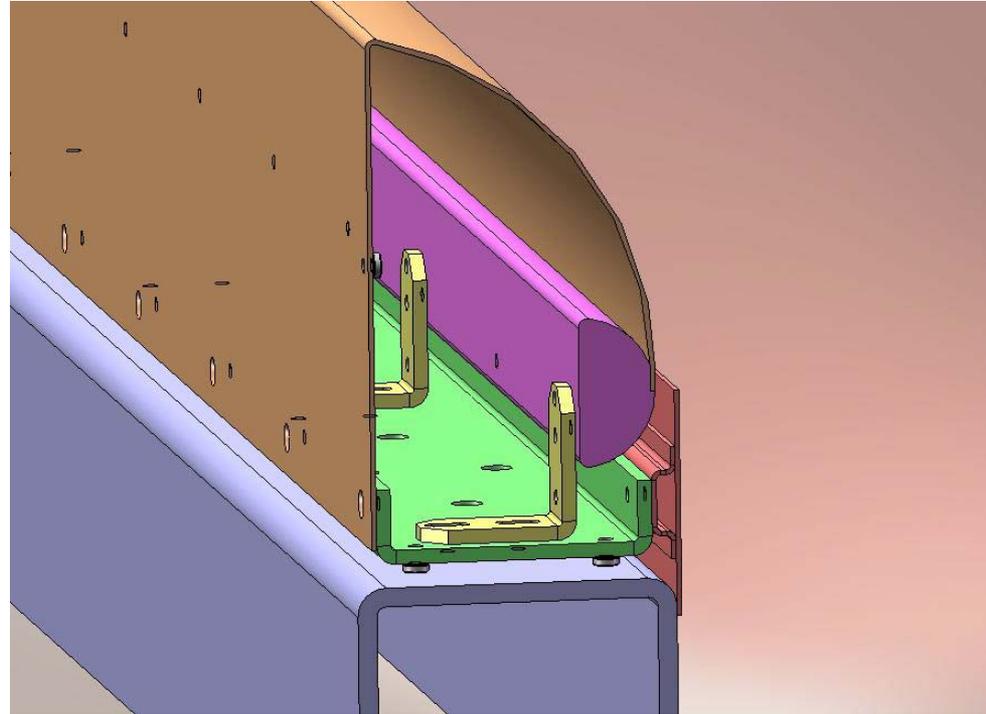
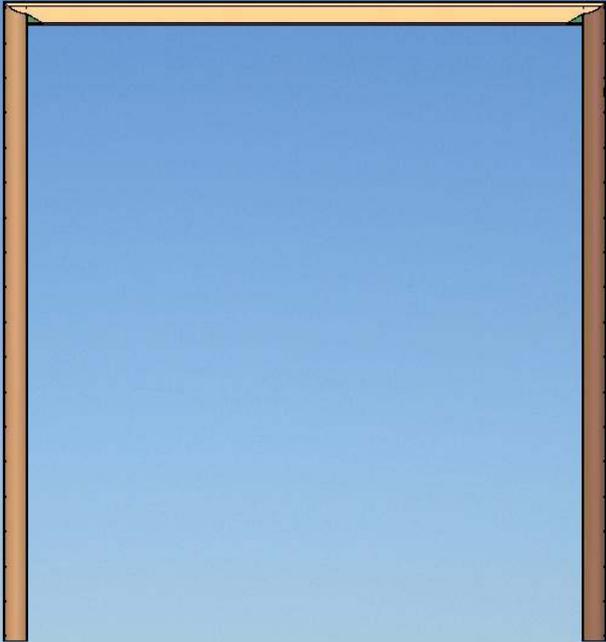
Tel Aviv University Device



# Work Completed

## Mechanical Design

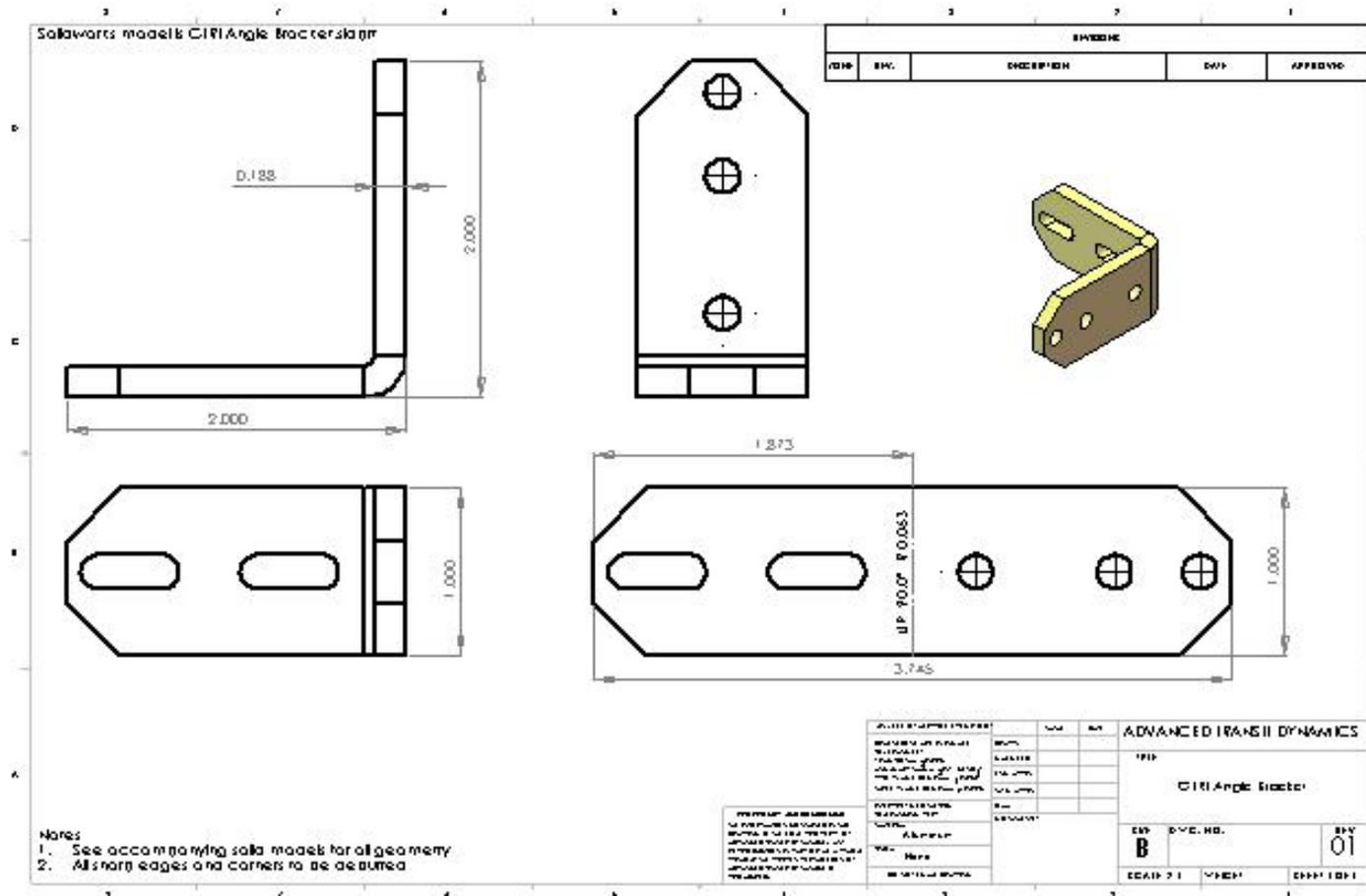
GTRI Design



# Work Completed

## Fabrication

### Prototype shop selection





# Work Completed

## Fabrication

Blower selection – GTRI device



# Track Testing

## Schedule

- Test design completed after fabrication of devices was completed
- Testing itself took place the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

## Location

- Goodyear Proving Grounds in San Angelo, TX
- Wal-Mart provided tractors and roll-door trailer
- CRST provided a swing-door trailer



# Track Testing

## **Day 1**

1. Run GTRI test article with blower turned off on roll-door trailer (3 runs)
2. Baseline swing-door trailer (3 runs)

## **Day 2**

1. Run GTRI test article configurations on roll-door trailer (4 runs)
2. Run baseline skirts on swing-door trailer (5 runs)

## **Day 3**

1. Run full aero trailer configuration (TrailerTail and baseline skirts) on swing-door trailer (8 runs, 7 with winds outside of SmartWay envelope)
2. Run through various configurations of TAU test article on roll-door trailer (7 runs, 6 with winds outside of SmartWay envelope)

## **Day 4**

1. Run full aero trailer configuration (TrailerTail and baseline skirts) on swing-door trailer (2 runs)
2. Run TrailerTail on swing-door trailer (7 runs)
3. Continue running TAU configurations with roll-door trailer (10 runs)

## **Day 5**

1. Run advanced skirts on swing-door trailer (4 runs)
2. Baseline roll-door trailer (4 runs)

# Testing



# Testing



# Testing



# Testing Results

|                | Test Configuration   | % Fuel Saved | Comments  |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|
| <b>Active</b>  | GTRI test article, blower off  | <b>1.48</b>  | Test run to quantify effects of geometry of GTRI device   |
|                | GTRI test article, blower on   | <b>0.19</b>  | Does not account for fuel burned to power blower  |
|                | GTRI test article, blower on, with input fuel counted                    | <b>-8.78</b> |   |
|                | TAU test article, blower off   | <b>1.81</b>  | Test run to quantify effects of geometry of TAU device  |
|                | TAU test article, blower on, best configuration                          | <b>5.00</b>  | This was with the blower at maximum pressure, outlet ports in position 2, rows 4 and 5 of suction holes uncovered   |
|                | TAU test article, blower on, best configuration, with input fuel counted | <b>-3.76</b> | With improvements to blower setup to increase pressure and efficiency, Dr. Seifert estimates we can get this to ~5% |
| <b>Passive</b> | TrailerTail only   | <b>6.58</b>  |   |

# Next Steps

## Active Flow Control

- Feedback given to GTRI and TAU
- Potential areas for improvement of TAU device identified
- Partnership formed with team from Europe and Israel to take next development steps with TAU technology

## Advanced Passive Devices

- ATDynamics has upgraded design of 2011 TrailerTail – both durability and efficiency performance
- Commercial rollout of the TrailerTail is underway with forward-looking fleets
- New green jobs created in South San Francisco to meet current demand



# Conclusion

- **Special thanks to:**
  - **CARB**
  - **NYSERDA**
  - **Wal-Mart and CRST**
- **ATDynamics is committed to bring to market technology that will**
  - **Reduce diesel burned by 500 million gallons a year**
  - **Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 5.5 million tons a year**

• **Questions???**

