

















# RUAN

# **Electric Trucking and Automation**

Northwestern University Transportation Center – Business Advisory Council

5/03/18

Ruan Transportation
VP of Fleet Services
James Cade

#### **Ruan Introduction**

- + Founded in 1932 by John Ruan in Des Moines, IA
- + National footprint with 270+ Operating Centers
- + Primary industries: Retail, Grocery, Industrial Gases, Dairy, Manufacturing, Food Processing, Chemicals & Metals
- + 3,700+ Class 8 tractors / 8,000+ trailers / 5,100 employees
- + # 40 2017 Industry ranking by Transport Topics "Top 100"
- + Sustainability
  - 3x Excellence Award recipient EPA Smartway Partner
  - Member of DOE National Clean Fleets Partnership
  - Heavy Duty Trucking "Top 50 Green Fleets" award winner
  - Named annually to Food Logistics' "Top Green Provider" list
  - Named annually to Inbound Logistics' "Green Supply Chain Partner" list
  - Designated Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) "Manager Level" in 2017
  - Member of CA SB1383 Subgroup #2 (Fostering Markets for Digester Projects)



## **Alternative Energy Interest**

- + Ruan's asset business model is based on dedicated contract transportation
- + Multi-year contracts very predictable energy consumption
  - Very predictable routes and/or routes under 250 miles one-way
  - Much of our volume is not weight sensitive (i.e. not at 80,000 lbs.)
  - Annual miles generally around 100K or more per tractor

## **Compressed Natural Gas Fleet (CNG and RNG)**

- + Over 90 million miles with CNG equipment to date
- + CNG Fleet at a glance
  - 84 CNG 12L tractors
  - 40 RNG 12L tractors (Fair Oaks Farms)
- + Fleet domiciles: Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin



## **Alternative Fuels / Energy – Ruan Experience**

#### + Equipment

- Higher acquisition cost than diesel powered equipment
- Heavier than diesel powered equipment
- Higher downtime than diesel powered equipment

#### + Operational Impact

- Lower payloads
- Increased driver training
- Fueling complexity
- Increased investment in infrastructure



#### + Maintenance

- More maintenance intensive than diesel
- Reduced maintenance intervals (routine maintenance and inspections)
- Increased technician training

## **Electrification Application**

- + Yard trucks for in-yard trailer shuttling
  - Vehicles are available, and demand seems strong
  - Grants are available
- + Future: On-board electrification elimination of parasitic load to significantly reduce diesel consumption 48 volt systems
  - Electrification of all gear and belt driven accessories (alternators, power steering, AC systems)
- + Future: Electric powertrains in class-8 vehicles
- + Ruan has Five Tesla class-8 electric semis on order
  - "Ruan has always been a leader in efficient transport and logistics, so it makes perfect sense to explore what these trucks could do for us and our customers," James Cade, Vice President of Fleet Services



# Regional All Electric Trucks



Long Haul Hybrid Electric Trucks





Electric Yard Trucks

- Electric Standby Refrigeration Trailers
- Solar Powered Electric Refrigeration Units



#### **Electrification Concerns**

- Infrastructure
  - How long and where do I recharge my batteries?
  - What is the cost of a charging station?
  - What are the impacts of fast charge versus slow charge?

#### Costs

- How do the acquisition costs compare to diesel?
- Are there operational savings to offset higher acquisition costs?
- What is the cost of the electricity to recharge my batteries?
- How long do batteries last?

#### Range

- How far can I go on a battery charge?
- What impact does driver behavior have on range?

#### Weight

- Will battery weight impact my payload capacity?
- Will weight distribution be affected?



There's a lot of automation that can happen that isn't a replacement of humans but of mindnumbing behavior.

-Stewart Butterfield

