

RICON DEALER NEWS

September 28, 2005

RICON introduces Pneumatic Door Systems for Buses

RICON CORP. is expanding into a new area of transit bus accessibility with the introduction of pneumatic bus door actuator systems. The company will debut the product line at EXPO 2005 in Dallas, Texas. Designed to be interface compatible with most current door systems, the Ricon actuator system may be used as an economical aftermarket replacement by agencies looking to improve fleet reliability. Utilizing proven pneumatic technology and a clean modern design, the Ricon actuator system has the potential to significantly lower operating costs. Backed by highly trained and responsive technical and service teams, the Ricon actuator system is well positioned to compliment Ricon's other transit accessibility products.

“From the outset, we wanted a system that would integrate easily into the existing US transit bus fleet. Accordingly, we defined our design space around the header space and door systems used in the most commonly produced US built buses.” said Stanton Saucier, VP of Business Development at Ricon. “We currently have actuator solutions for slide-glide, swing-out and some plug door geometries (see photos 1&2)”. In addition to interface compatibility with incumbent systems, the Ricon design also features the ability to remove and replace the pneumatic cylinder in both the slide-glide and swing out systems in a few minutes without upsetting the existing door adjustment. Additionally, the swing and slide-glide systems employ the identical pneumatic cylinder, which translates to a smaller spares inventory for a given fleet size. At the time of this writing, Ricon engineers have logged nearly one million cycles on a representative sample actuator (see photo 3) as well as have begun a beta testing program that involves retro-fitting some of the most popular transit bus models (see photos 4&5).

“With sheet metal fabrication as a core competency and the assets that already constitute our Transit and Rail Business Line, door systems are a logical fit for us.” indicated Oscar Pardinias, Vice President of Ricon's Transit and Rail Division. “We have learned to speak “bus” pretty well over the last several years...” Pardinias adds “...and we're confident we have the technical savvy

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and the respected service personnel to bring our door system products to market in a manner consistent with our customer's expectations."

In spite of the obvious technical correlation between hydraulics, another of Ricon's core competencies, and pneumatics, Ricon acknowledges that these two technologies are different. Accordingly, Ricon have leveraged a long-standing, international relationship to include a solid technology partner in the development of their product. Ricon's technology partner is the technology leader in the Japanese market with a share position of over 90% and a history of service that goes back nearly sixty years.

Ricon's development program can be summarized in three phases, the first of which includes the development of pneumatic actuator systems. With the APTA Expo presentation, Ricon will have completed the initial phase. In their second phase, Ricon plans to offer the balance of the door system components including a choice of steel or aluminum door panels, seals and actuation mechanisms for slide-glide, swing-out and eventually, plug type door arrangements. Ricon's first step in their second phase will involve the introduction of a complete slide-glide door system including panels, actuation hardware and sensitive edge technology.

In the final phase of their program, Ricon plans to feature their door system components in a total, integrated solution that will provide bus builders with maximum value-added before the product reaches the bus assembly line.

Ricon's wheelchair accessibility products include Foldover, Bi-Fold, Express and Slide-out low-floor bus ramps and Mirage, Baylift, Klearvue, and S series wheelchair lifts. Ricon Corp is the only company offering complete "Inter-modal Fleet Accessibility".

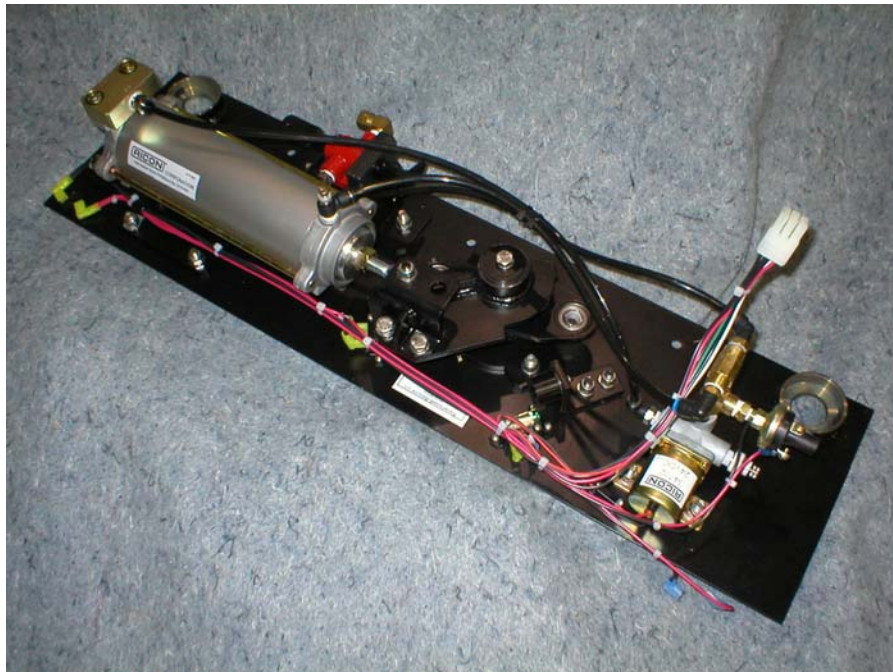
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Photos:



Photo 1: Slide-Glide Door Actuator. Also applicable to some plug door type applications.



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Photo 2: Swing-Out Door Actuator

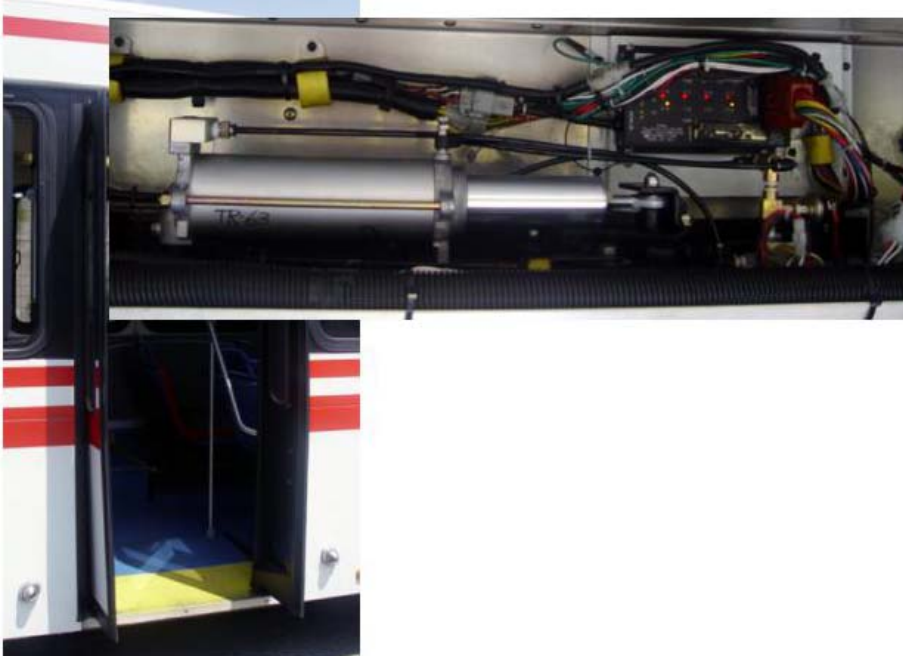


Photo 3: Slide-Glide Door Actuator accelerated lifecycle test (over 500k cycles).



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Photos 4: Beta Test Bus, Front (Slide-Glide) Door



Photos 5: Beta Test Bus, Rear (Swing-Out) Door