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Spartan Motors Introduces New Entry-Level Diesel-Pusher Chassis, the Summit ES Chassis Improves Performance and Cuts Cost 10-15 Percent

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CHARLOTTE, Mich., June 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Getting into a new diesel-pusher motorhome just became more affordable -- thanks to Spartan Motors, Inc. ([NASDAQ:SPAR](http://www.nasdaq.com/symbol/SPAR))

The Charlotte, Mich.-based manufacturer of custom chassis, emergency vehicles and buses has introduced the new Summit ES chassis for diesel-powered Class A motorhomes. This new entry-level chassis allows for a motorhome retail price point under \$100,000, putting RV owners into a diesel-powered coach at a price 10-15 percent less than anything currently being sold on the market. The new Spartan Motors chassis will debut in a new Class A RV product by Rexhall Industries, Inc. ([NASDAQ:REXL](http://www.nasdaq.com/symbol/REXL)), the Lancaster, Calif.-based motorhome maker.

Spartan Motors said that its Summit ES chassis maintains the performance characteristics of higher-priced rear-engine diesel pushers, but provides a significant price break to RV enthusiasts eager to upgrade from gas-powered engines.

"The new ES platform allows original equipment manufacturers such as Rexhall to build a motorhome with all the features, performance and maneuverability of higher-priced models, but with a sticker price of less than \$100,000," said John Szykiel, president and chief operating officer of Spartan. "Our technology provides a crucial price-point breakthrough, which we are certain will be very attractive to potential RV owners and should have great acceptance in the marketplace."

The new ES chassis is 10-15 percent lower in cost than any other model in Spartan's popular entry-level Summit series, which was introduced in 1998.

"This new chassis underscores our commitment to bring innovative new products to market every six to eight months," Szykiel said. "Spartan Motors introduced two new chassis lines at RVIA last fall, and we plan to introduce another exciting new product at the upcoming RVIA show in November."

The ES platform, which is built for motorhomes up to 38 feet, features a Cummins ISB 260 h.p. engine, an Allison 1000 Series transmission and air suspension as standard equipment. Szykiel said that offering air suspension distinguishes the ES from other entry-level chassis, which use spring suspension.

"Spartan products have long been noted for their excellent ride and handling, and air suspension allows us to do that," Szykiel explained. "This becomes particularly important with slideouts, which are now standard on the majority of Class A motorhomes. Air suspension is not only the best way to handle the issue of weight distribution, it also offers a far superior ride than springs."

Spartan Motors, Inc. (<http://www.theshyftgroup.com/>) is a leading developer and manufacturer of custom chassis for fire trucks, recreational vehicles, transit buses, school buses and other specialty vehicles. The Company also manufactures fire and rescue vehicles through its subsidiaries Luverne Fire Apparatus, Quality Manufacturing and Road Rescue, Inc. and owns a majority interest in school bus manufacturer Carpenter Industries, Inc.

Source: Spartan Motors, Inc.

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