



Fat Trucks can travel across land and through mud and water.

## All-Terrain Hauler Goes Everywhere

Fat Trucks from Zeal Motor go where nothing else can. With 5-ft. by 24-in. tires, they float in water, and with only 3 to 4 psi, they also float over most obstacles. Add spikes, and they chew their way across ice. They carry people, cargo and specialized equipment like cranes, water tanks, material spreaders or firefighting equipment.

“When we started the company, we were selling mainly to people who needed access to power lines, pipelines and mines,” says Amine Khimjee, ZealMotor. “We expanded to search and rescue, the military and border patrol and more recently the private market.”

Zeal Motor was founded in 2018 and

introduced its first model in 2019. Seven years later, it has five vehicle models and two trailer models. The company runs two assembly lines and has a production capacity of 500 per year.

All models share a joystick control, hydraulic wheel motors, an onboard display and an onboard compressor that can inflate or deflate tires within 10 seconds. Highly customizable, all vehicle models offer 41 options. They can handle slopes up to 35 degrees (70%) and traverse sidehills up to 22 degrees (40%).

“Our Fat Trucks create access when an area is otherwise inaccessible,” says Khimjee. “They can even climb over a 3-ft. high obstacle. On the military side, we offer remote-controlled vehicles.

Models include the 2.4 and 2.8 pickups, the 2.8 and 8x8 wagons, and the 8x8 hauler. Trailers include an amphibious version for use with Fat Trucks and the transport trailer to carry them to the worksite.

The four-wheel pickups and 2.8 wagon are equipped with 74-hp CAT engines with a turning radius of 0 degrees. The eight-wheel 8x8 wagon and 8x8 hauler feature 173-hp Cummins engines with a turning radius of 24 ft.

The 2.4 pickup can seat up to four passengers and has a 2,000-lb. payload, and a 3,000-lb. towing capacity.

The 2.8 pickup and 2.8 wagon each seat up to eight passengers, can carry a 2,200-lb.

payload and have a towing capacity of up to 3,500 lbs.

“The 2.4 pickup is designed primarily for private users, such as hunters,” says Khimjee.

The 8x8 wagon and hauler are actually two cars each. The wagon can seat four passengers in the front and 12 in the rear. Its front car has a payload of 1,000 lbs. and its rear car has a payload of 3,000 lbs.

The 8x8 Hauler seats up to four passengers in the front car, with a payload capacity of 1,000 lbs. It’s equipped with a backup/four-way camera system. The rear car has a payload capacity of 4,000 lbs.

If the vehicles are unique, so is their production. Aside from engines, transmissions, wheels and tires, all other components are sourced within 300 miles of company headquarters.

“Even the steel and aluminum come from around us,” says Khimjee. “The tires and wheels are the only components not manufactured in the U.S. and Canada and only because nothing like them is made here.”

The base price for the 2.4 pickup is \$100,000, and options can add another \$50,000.

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One AVIX Autonomous Mark II can deter birds from 15 to 20 acres.

## Laser Used To Keep Birds Away

The AVIX Autonomous laser from Bird Control Group keeps birds away from vineyards, cattle yards and other bird-troubled areas. The bird deterrent was introduced as a handheld unit in the Netherlands in 2012. In 2016, the company opened an office in Portland, Ore., and started serving customers in the U.S.

“At that time, we had both the handheld unit and an automated unit,” says Alyson Smith, Bird Control Group. “In 2019, we introduced the AVIX Autonomous Mark II, our second-generation automated bird deterrent.”

The initial application in Delft, Netherlands, was to deter birds from rooftops, and it’s still used for that purpose. Today, it’s used in various applications, from solar fields to crops and commercial facilities to sports stadiums. It’s been shown to reduce wild bird presence by up to 90 percent.

One AVIX Autonomous Mark II can deter birds from 15 to 20 acres. A problem with many bird deterrents is that birds become accustomed to and ignore them. The AVIX Autonomous varies its patterns throughout operation to prevent habituation. It can be programmed with 16 different patterns and 10 time slots, with each pattern assigned to a specific time slot. It also offers 250 individual waypoints per pattern, allowing trouble spots to be selectively targeted.

The mobile AVIX Connect app makes it easy to configure and monitor the AVIX Autonomous via Bluetooth. New waypoints can be selected, the system updated, and the status checked.

A significant advantage of the AVIX

Autonomic is its silence. Unlike gas cannons or distress calls, it makes no noise. It operates safely without harming people or the birds it deters.

Birds perceive laser lights on the green spectrum as physical objects. When the light moves toward them, the AVIX Autonomous laser triggers their fight-or-flight instinct, and they move as if an object were thrown their way. After repeated experiences with the lasers, birds tend to avoid the area where they’re active.

Smith explains that pricing varies based on installation factors. “When comparing the laser bird deterrent to current common tools such as netting, spikes and sound canons, our product requires considerably less maintenance and doesn’t have short-term wear items that require consistent investments,” she says.

Concerned about the spread of avian influenza, FARM SHOW’s home state of Minnesota offers up to 80 percent reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for equipment purchases like the AVIX Autonomous Laser.

The AVIX Autonomous bird deterrent was previously available in Canada but is no longer available. “We can’t ship into Canada anymore due to PMRA (Pest Management Regulation Agency) Health Canada,” says Smith.

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## Heavy-Duty Airbag Tool Handy For Projects

The AirShim Pro STEEL is the first “no-sag airbag” with a built-in steel PowerLift plate. “This innovative new product solves a problem common to all standard airbags and offers a game-changing solution for construction, remodeling and other installation professionals,” says Mark Paulsen, Vice President of Marketing at Calculated Industries.

Overall, the AirShim is contractor-grade and capable of handling 350 lbs. “The patent-pending PowerLift steel plate prevents the airbag from folding around narrow loads and eliminates loads bouncing during lifts,” Paulsen says. “This unique design allows for stable, controlled lifting of doors, windows, cabinets, equipment and appliances, even with narrow and small-footprint loads.”

The AirShim Pro STEEL is well-suited for projects where other airbags fail. It doesn’t leave marks or damage surfaces, and the steel plate helps prevent punctures, extending the tool’s life.

The AirShim PRO has a 2-in-1 design. With the steel side up, it stays flat, with no folding, for faster lifts with less pumping. This is ideal for heavy, narrow loads and edges. With the steel plate side down, it grips lighter, narrower loads, preventing them from sliding off. The even force distribution prevents damage and ensures precise, controlled lifts.

It’s ideal for installing or leveling windows, doors, cabinets and even washing machines. “Farm homes always have doors and windows to install and make level and plumb, wobbly appliances to lift to adjust leg heights, cabinets and furniture to lift onto sliders to move, etc.,” says Paulsen.

“The AirShim Pro STEEL is also great for installing or repairing heavy gates. It can lift and hold the far end in place temporarily, making it easier to align hinges or brackets at the post. You can also use it to level small machinery during setup or maintenance or to lift, support and align piping to be welded or bolted onto valves and flanges. And, of



AirShim Pro STEEL is lab-tested and certified by SGS to support 350 lbs. for an hour without leaking.

course, it’s great for shop work.”

The AirShim is well-suited for one-hand operation, ensuring that solo installers can work without risk. Many users consider it a steady “extra hand” to free them up during installation.

Customer reviews prove that many find that the metal plate handles heavy weight easily without causing the shim to bulge from the door slab. Other users appreciate that the Shim’s bright color makes it hard to leave behind accidentally. “It’s like having an extra hand around whenever you need it,” says Paulsen. “You’re pretty much only limited by imagination.”

AirShim Pro STEEL is lab-tested and certified by SGS to support 350 lbs. for an hour without leaking. The bag measures nearly 6 in. by 8 in. and is approximately 1/8 in. when deflated and 2 5/8 in. when fully inflated. Weighing just 5 oz., it comes with a one-year warranty.

It costs about \$20 and is available on Amazon, at select Home Depot store locations, and on the Home Depot website.

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