



PRESS RELEASE

Electric Vehicle Leader BYD Taps Stertil-Koni Vehicle Lifts for Bus Manufacturing Plant in Lancaster, CA

For Immediate Release

STEVENSVILLE, MD August 20, 2019 – Heavy duty vehicle lift leader Stertil-Koni, well-known for its award-winning bus lifts and truck lifts, has announced that bus manufacturer Build Your Dreams (BYD), recognized as one of the leading suppliers of battery-powered electric transit and coach buses worldwide, has selected and uses Stertil-Koni heavy duty vehicle lifting systems in its 550,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Lancaster, CA.

BYD began assembling buses in Lancaster in 2014 in what had previously been a shuttered 100,000 square foot RV manufacturing facility. Today, the upgraded plant is capable of handling the production of as many as 1,500 buses a year with 750 employees and is designed for additional expansion as its North American sales continue to rise. BYD builds fully electric transit buses ranging in size from 30 to 60 feet, double-decker coaches ranging from 23 to 45 feet, and articulated buses that are 60 feet in length. The facility is also responsible for final assembly of medium and heavy duty trucks used for cargo handling at ports and railroad yards, refuse collection and food and package delivery.



Stertil-Koni Mobile Column Lifts support the BYD manufacturing process



Bobby Hill, Vice President of Sales with BYD's North America division

In terms of BYD production at the plant, the requirements are exacting. According to Bobby Hill, Vice President of Sales with BYD's North America division, "Stertil-Koni lifts are a vital part of our production process, warranty work, and vehicle upgrades. The lifts allow our employees to examine and work on the undercarriage of our vehicles safely."

The BYD team at the Lancaster location selected the Stertil-Koni ST 1085 cabled Mobile Column Lifts for its facility. These vehicle lifts play an integral role in the manufacture and inspection of BYD's

clean energy buses. Key features of these lifts include:

- Lifting capacity of 18,500 lbs. per column;
- Touch screen control console, known as the *ebright Smart Control System*, providing all lifting information at a glance;
- Connectivity that links up to 32 lifts in a single set;
- Extra-long adjustable 14 inch pick-up forks – well suited to raise all types of vehicles safely and securely;
- Stringent mechanical locking system for added safety; and
- Fast lifting and lowering – requiring only 94 seconds to reach a lifting height of 73 inches.

At the plant, technicians on the shop floor can quickly and easily place ST 1085 lifts into four- and six-column configurations, with the latter central to the production and inspection of BYD’s extra-long, 60 foot articulated buses.

Helping to make it all happen was Southwest Lift & Equipment Inc. (SWL) – a Stertil-Koni distributor based in San Bernardino, CA, providing vehicle lifts, shop equipment and service in the key markets of Southern California and Arizona.

Noted Dean McDonald, President of SWL, “Stertil-Koni Mobile Column Lifts leverage our tremendous company expertise in reliable hydraulic lifting technology – an approach that ensures efficient and smooth lifting with low maintenance – every time. For added safety, the ST 1085 comes with the coveted Gold Label designation from the Automotive Lift Institute (ALI), which certifies that lifts are third-party tested and proven to meet the stringent safety and performance requirements outlined in the safety standard ANSI/ALI ALCTV (current edition).”



From left to right: Bill Georgia, Southwest Lift & Equipment (SWL) sales person; Ron Reazer, Stertil-Koni Western Regional Sales Manager Bobby Hill, BYD VP of Sales; and Loren Wingenfeld, SWL sales rep and service tech

Southwest Lift & Equipment and Stertil-Koni have made quite an impression on BYD’s employees, as noted by Hill. “The techs love the lifts. We had some other products here, but what really speaks highly about this lift product is that we continue to get more of them and not order anyone else’s. My preference for lifts has always been Stertil-Koni, and for me personally, I would not buy anything else.”

Concluded Dr. Jean DellAmore, President of Stertil-Koni, “Stertil-Koni is proud to support BYD in its mission to advance the passenger and commercial transportation industry with its advanced electric vehicle technology. For our part, Stertil-Koni strives to bring the very best in vehicle lifting technology every day, thereby ensuring the highest levels of safety, performance and customer support.”

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About Stertil-Koni

Stertil-Koni is the market leader in heavy duty vehicle lifts, notably bus lifts and truck lifts, and proudly serves municipalities, state agencies, school bus fleets, major corporations, the U.S. Military and more. Stertil-Koni's breadth of products meets all ranges of lifting needs and includes [portable lifts](#) such as

[Mobile Column Lifts](#), 2-post, 4-post, [inground piston lifts](#), [platform lifts](#), and its axle-engaging, inground, scissor lift configuration, ECOLIFT. The company's innovative, inground telescopic piston DIAMONDLIFT is now available with an optional Continuous Recess system, ideal for low clearance vehicles. Stertil-Koni USA is headquartered in Stevensville, Maryland with production facilities in Europe, The Netherlands, and in Streator, IL.

About BYD

The Official Sponsor of Mother Nature™, BYD, which stands for Build Your Dreams, is the world's leading electric vehicle company with proven innovative technology for cars, buses, trucks, forklifts, and rail systems – like SkyRail. BYD is dedicated to creating a truly zero-emission ecosystem offering technology for solar electricity generation, energy storage to save that electricity, and battery electric vehicles powered by that clean energy. BYD has 220,000 employees across the globe, including nearly 1,000 in North America. For more information, visit www.BYD.com.

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