

Switches Strong Enough to Defend Our Troops

During the summer of 2008, the Department of Defense (DoD) declared that the Humvee wasn't adequately protecting U.S. troops in Iraq. With the vehicle being critically damaged or failing during warfare, it was time to replace the Humvee with a stronger, mine-resistant model. With lives at stake, the DoD quickly selected a military vehicle manufacturer to get the job done on an expedited timeframe.

"This military vehicle is engineered specifically for the most treacherous of circumstances," said Steve Mihaly, President of Nason. "It is an honor for our switches to play a part in keeping our troops safe."



Design Features of the Military ATV:

- Rugged and reliable powertrain
- Mature, effective, battle-tested armor configuration
- Easily traverses mountainous terrain
- Advanced braking system

Challenge

Because human loss was rising at an alarming rate, the DoD put the project on a fast track. By April of 2009, the mine-resistant, all terrain vehicle design was well underway. With no time to waste, the manufacturer was tasked with completing the production of 1,000 vehicles by September of 2009—only six months.

Typically, the production cycle would take several years to complete, but it was shortened to six months to speed the delivery of a safer ATV for U.S. troops. The shorter development time meant that all of the manufacturer's suppliers would need to speed the delivery of their parts, including four switches that would specifically control braking and steering, as well as monitoring fuel pressure.

The switch provider that was to be selected had to meet three main requirements: **1.** have military specified switch experience; **2.** work within the tight timeframe of the production schedule; **3.** customize a design for the application.

Solution

Given the specifications of the switches, Nason easily met these requirements and was able to produce the needed amount within the given timeline. This wasn't the first time that Nason had worked directly with military providers. In fact, for over six decades, Nason has delivered hydraulic and pneumatic automation solutions to military vehicle manufacturers.

Why has the Nason become so trusted in the Military industry? For one, unlike most competitors, Nason uses only elastomer diaphragm, snap action switch designs to provide positive action for critical applications. This provides accuracy and safety in the most demanding situations. Second, in addition to being military specified, Nason goes beyond customer service by creating switches that are specifically engineered for every application.



Result

The military all terrain vehicle that was designed is the ultimate defense vehicle. There have been approximately 5,000 vehicles rolled out since September of 2009, with each vehicle costing nearly \$470,000.

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Although the switches within the vehicle are just one component of the machine, they play an integral part in keeping it operating safely. Selecting the right switch can be the difference in preventing catastrophic system failure, loss of control of the vehicle, and malfunction due to extreme heat, dust and/or water. Because of the excellent vehicle design, many severe injuries have been avoided and several human lives have been saved since the rollout of the military ATV in 2009.



Switch SM

High-quality snap-action
Gold amp
Military-grade epoxy
Long-life elastomer diaphragm



Switch SM

High-quality snap-action
Gold amp
Military-grade epoxy
Long-life elastomer diaphragm



Switch SP

20 amp contact
Environment-sealed microswitch
NEMA 4, 13