

Icom North America Expands Propane Autogas Offerings

Spring brought growth to the propane autogas market with new marketing partnerships and new customers.

Icom North America (New Hudson, Mich.) recently revealed it would expand its autogas product line to include the Game system from Imega International USA (Stuart, Fla.), a high-pressure propane vapor injection system. Imega is marketing it to such aftermarket conversion customers as taxi fleets seeking an environmentally friendly alternative fuel with greater upfront cost savings.

The company will distribute and install the Game system through Icom's dealer installation and service network. The Game system is said to be installed quickly and easily using its self-calibration procedure, along with a few electric connections.

"We chose Imega as our vapor injection system partner for North America because their Game system is the optimum performing vapor system," said Ralph Perpetuini, CEO of Icom.

Icom has obtained Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certifications covering more than 600 vehicle platforms, including Chevrolet, Ford, Dodge, GM, Lincoln, and Mercury vehicles. In addition, it has manufactured approximately 4 million of its propane vehicle tanks worldwide. The company develops, assembles, integrates and certifies its patented JTG II, JTGhp, and JTG-Dynamic propane liquid injection fuel systems. Icom launched its JTG Liquid Injection System in the North American market in 2004.

The fully integrated plug-and-play JTG II bi-fuel system, offered in a mono-fuel and bi-fuel option, comes complete with the fuel tank, and the fuel rails and hoses pre-assembled. Icom reports that no cutting, splicing, or soldering is required. Three electrical connections are needed to operate the JTG II through its integrated harness equipment that reduces installation time.

The strategic partnership with Imega came about as Icom sought to grow its product offerings. It determined there was potential in serving engine platforms ranging from 2009-2011 vehicles not already included in Icom's certification list, noted Albert Venezio, Icom chairman.

While Imega's Game system does not offer liquid injection, its vapor injection fell in line with the Icom philosophy and strategy to offer reliable, innovative propane technology that can meet EPA certification requirements.

"We saw a need for a high-performing, competitively priced propane vapor sequential injection system for certain fleet sectors, and Imega has the solution," said Venezio. "Imega brings the highest engineering and vehicle expertise of all vapor injection system manufacturers."

Meanwhile, the partnership allows Imega to access Icom's distribution and service network and enter markets that may have taken Imega years and untold resources to gain entry to on its own.

Imega International USA is a division of Imega s.r.l., an Italian firm that develops and manufactures advanced propane and CNG systems. Imega USA is leading the firm's expansion in North and South America. Imega's Florida assembly plant includes a research and development center, an automotive service area, and an advanced training center for its clients.

"We are very pleased with our agreement with Icom and we are working diligently on achieving EPA emission approvals for a variety of popular fleet vehicles," said Danilo Gardi, CEO of Imega International USA. "Our proprietary electronics optimize emissions and performance via OBD protocol, closely matching the OEM engine management design, which allows us to provide fleets at different levels and sectors the largest propane vehicle platform range at an affordable cost."

The Game system was unveiled in the United States during the 2014 National Propane Gas Association Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo in Atlanta in April.

Icom also recently integrated and recently manufactured the patented Icom Propane Liquid Injection System for UPS Canada in a national roll-out. Icom provided a comprehensive training course on installing and servicing the JTG II technology to the company's technicians.

The JTG II system converts the traditional gasoline vehicles to run on propane autogas, and is certified in Canada and the U.S., Icom notes.



Danilo Gardi, CEO of Imega International USA, left, and Ralph Perpetuini, CEO of Icom North America, team up on a new propane vapor injection system.