Photo Caption:

(From left) Bill Congdon, publisher, *Popular Mechanics*; Brad Munchel, product development engineer, Firestone Industrial Products; Tony Berlingieri, aftermarket business manager, SANLUIS Rassini®; Todd Green, regional sales manager, Firestone Industrial Products Ride-Rite™ division; and Jim Meigs, editor-in-chief, *Popular Mechanics*

POPULAR MECHANICS Names Winners of 2009 Automotive Excellence Awards

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Firestone & Sanluis Rassini R4Tech

By The Automotive Editors

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NEW R4TECH HYBRID AIR SUSPENSION FROM FIRESTONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, SANLUIS RASSINI WINS *POPULAR MECHANICS* AWARD

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC and SANLUIS Rassini® were awarded the *Popular Mechanics* 2008 Editor's Choice Award for the new R4Tech™ hybrid air/leaf suspension system.

The award, presented by *Popular Mechanics* during the 2008 SEMA Show, recognizes new products that exemplify innovation, design and engineering. R4Tech, which replaces the factory leaf spring suspension, features a SANLUIS Rassini leaf-spring suspension design and a high-quality Firestone Ride-Rite™ air spring, positioned in a unique architecture to create a fully functional system that adjusts for varying load capacities. The suspension system delivers an improved ride at all times by utilizing the variable spring rate of the air spring that stiffens when the truck is loaded and softens when unloaded.

James Juriga
Inventor