After 10 years in business, Wheel Monitor Inc., located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, continues to grow and to develop new technology to provide clients with the most effective wheel monitoring system available today to ensure drivers are safer when hauling loaded trailers. Incorporated in 1997, Wheel Monitor founder, John Mantini, took on two partners, Sam Chia and Ken Adams to help bring his original vision of a wheel monitoring system to reality. With a lot of careful planning, diligent research and marketing, the first electronic prototype would soon be available to customers worldwide.

“Chia was into electronics and started the basic conceptual design,” said Mantini. “From that point on we met with Toronto OPP Sergeant Cam Woolley to get his input. He liked the concept and idea we had. The next thing we knew many local newspapers did some stories on us and people suddenly wanted to invest.”

After watching a television program one day about the disasters of wheels flying off rigs, Mantini called the phone number provided on the screen. He submitted his wheel monitoring idea and it was enthusiastically received. At this same time, he patented the product to protect what he knew would be a big hit in the trucking industry. A lot of hard work remained including raising money to hire a team of engineers to build the product and dealing with the ever looming lack of money in the industry, which made it difficult to bring the product to market. But while the wheel monitoring system took a slight back seat, Mantini kept moving forward and sparked the interest of the Canadian Government.

“When the Ministry of Transportation launched a function and safe trailer operation. Its revolutionary ability as a stand-alone device allows the control to automatically lock and/or lift axles. It maintains independent control which cannot be manipulated by the driver. In addition to its main control function it offers great value to the consumer. The device also includes an output which will turn on a trailers backup lights and/or alarm while backing up to add to safety. But, in the end, the most important issue that the Wheel Monitor addresses is safety.

“If a driver had a fully loaded trailer and was trying to go up steep hill during a freezing rain situation, he or she could spin out because the tractor could lose traction,” he said. “And for this emergency the driver could lift the rear axles to ensure that drivers lift the axles only when absolutely necessary. With the Reverse-A-Matic we can help brakes from failing.”

Mantini also pointed out the importance of the portfolio for drivers. “If a driver had a fully loaded trailer, turning on the Reverse-A-Matic for a spin out because the traction was not enough, the driver could lift the rear axles to ensure that drivers lift the axles only when absolutely necessary. With the Reverse-A-Matic we can help brakes from failing.”

Mantini said that they are always looking for new and innovative ways to make vehicles safer on the roads.

“We’re also getting involved with video cameras on buses and Sam Chia is importing a DVD system from China,” he said. “We’re currently doing software work to incorporate computers and cameras on buses to provide additional security and safety.”

Mantini said they build all prototypes in-house and once the product is tested, it goes to production at a manufacturing plant and is then market ready. They are in the process right now developing new technology to make the wheel monitoring system completely computerized to help with preventative maintenance. While the details are being kept under wraps, this new system will be announced and ready for eager consumers some time during 2008.

Mantini said simply, “It will be pretty impressive!”

Wheel Monitor provides products with the customer’s best interest in mind, and all their products come with a full one-year warranty. They sell direct to trailer manufacturers and through their distributors of, Partech Marketing in Mississauga, Malmberg Truck Trailer Equipment Ltd and Palmar Inc. in Quebec. Wheel Monitor continues to grow towards the future and Mantini credits his quality team of half a dozen with much of the success.

“We’ve got a great bunch of people here; a good team,” he said. “We always look to expand and grow, so I’m hoping to expand our engineering department because I have a lot of ideas I want to bring forward.”

To learn more about Wheel Monitor and their products visit www.wheel-monitor.com.