DELO: A HISTORY OF FIRSTS
GOING FURTHER SINCE 1935

ANSWERING THE CALL
The early 1930s are remembered as a period of significant struggle for America. However, this time of depression marked significant achievements for two companies—Chevron (then Standard Oil of California) and Caterpillar. Caterpillar needed an oil to lubricate the high-speed diesel engines it was planning to build. The joint venture between the two companies in 1935 resulted in a multigrade motor oil known as Delo, an acronym for Diesel Engine Lubricating Oil.

As engine technology improved and different engine oils required specific lubrication needs, the family of Delo motor oils expanded. Just prior to World War II, U.S. submarines were operating on straight mineral oil, meaning their engines occasionally had to be overhauled at sea, even on short trips. In 1941, the company developed compounded diesel engine oil, RPM Delo Special Motor Oil, with extended drain capabilities, enabling U.S. submarines to extend overhaul periods and triple cruising range. Also in 1941, Diesel Engine Lubricating Oil (DELO) became a registered trademark.

In the 1950s, the Delo brand pioneered the first successful multi-grade engine oil and delivered one of the first oils approved for Caterpillar Series 3—RPM Delo Supercharged 3 Oil. In 1957, Delo introduced the first ashless detergent engine oil. In 1962, the Delo brand introduced the first high detergent, low ash content Caterpillar Series 3 Oil.

Through the 1970s, the industry’s greatest challenge was to develop a “universal” oil that would meet all diesel and gasoline engine manufacturers’ specifications and performance requirements.

In 1971, Chevron Delo 400 was introduced and became the first product in the industry to meet the dual need. In the early 1980s, Delo 400 experienced a significant improvement with the introduction of additives to provide better cold protection. This advancement coupled with the use of improved detergents, decreased engine wear and kept engines cleaner. In 1984, Chevron introduced the first all-Synthetic, antiwear base oils, which set the standard for performance in the industry.

Later in the decade, Chevron introduced its Low Oil Consumption Delo 5540-40 and was the first to extend a 1,000,000 mile drain specification in 1998. In 1999, Delo and Chevron introduced the Delo 5540-40 with ISOSYN™ Technology, resulting in mineral base oils with synthetic-like capabilities.

Today, Chevron’s Delo product family includes lubricants, coolants and greases. Delo products are found in all major industries including commercial transportation, construction, mining, agriculture and power generation. These performance benefits can be seen through the experiences of our customers in a variety of markets.

PROOF OF PERFORMANCE
R.E. West Transportation, a division of Smith Bros., is a nationally recognized contract and dedicated carrier with a fleet of 120 trucks and 350 tractors. For years, R.E. West has depended on Chevron’s Delo lubricants and Chevron Delo Extended Life Motor Oil (RPM Diesel Plus) for its fleet. Recently, the team towed down a 3.3 million-mile 80-truck Series 60 engine for an extensive, three-day inspection. The engine appeared to be a fraction of its true age. The components had minimal wear and clear of harmful deposits. ASARCO Roy Hayley operates a fleet of 39 haul trucks, 21 of which are Liebherr T282s. One of the facility’s 200 MTU 4000 engines that had delivered 21,900 hours of service with 500 hour drain intervals was torn down and inspected. ASARCO determined it was using approximately $160,000 per engine per year—roughly $3,000,000 in savings per year—based on the extended service protection and engine durability.

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal operates in extreme conditions, including high altitudes and severe temperatures ranging from 30 degrees below zero in the winter to over 100 degrees in the summer. The fleet included a garbage disposal truck with a Cummins M11 engine, which the company towed down after 18,000 hours of service using Delo 400 LE SAE 15W-40 and Delo Extended Life Motor Oil. The company realized significant savings to its bottom line as the trucks lasted longer and engine components experienced minimal wear despite the hours of service.

The success of Delo is based on its unique formation, superior quality, extended service protection and unsurpassed performance record. Delo’s story is an evolving story that has produced a family of engine oils to keep pace with the ever-increasing needs of the industry. And it is a story that will continue to develop as the industry moves forward with new diesel engine oil category. Proposal Category 11 (PC-11) Chevron is working closely with the group in charge of creating this new engine oil classification and is prepared to introduce new Delo products focused on fuel economy to meet the demands of PC-11. Delo is a global brand, distributed by Chevron and Calteks.