

# Maxion Wheels @ Solutrans 2025

A Century of Expertise in Commercial Vehicle Steel Wheels

## Maxion Wheels: Reinventing the Steel Wheel for a New Era of Mobility

Steel truck wheels rarely make headlines. They're utilitarian, low to the ground, and overshadowed by the more glamorous components of a commercial vehicle. Yet behind their plain appearance lies a century of engineering innovation—and at Maxion Wheels, that story is far from over.

### A Legacy of Strength and Ingenuity

Founded over 100 years ago, Maxion Wheels has grown into one of the world's largest wheel manufacturers, producing more than **10 million commercial vehicle steel wheels annually** for nearly every major truck and trailer maker. From its European engineering hub in Königswinter, Germany, the company has spent decades perfecting the delicate balance between **weight and strength**—a challenge that defines the steel wheel.

"When you look at a truck wheel, it seems simple," says Karl Rode, Director of Steel Wheel Engineering for Maxion Wheels. "But every kilo we remove without compromising safety requires thousands of hours of design, simulation, and testing."

That pursuit has paid off. Since the late 1990s, Maxion has reduced the weight of its standard 22.5x9.00 steel truck wheel from **41 kilograms to just 32 kilograms**, delivering fuel savings and payload gains for operators worldwide. The company's latest development is a steel wheel weighing **under 30 kilograms**, setting a new benchmark for lightweight performance.

### One Portfolio. Endless Possibilities.

Maxion Wheels offers one of the most comprehensive commercial vehicle wheel portfolios in the industry, covering steel wheels for trucks, trailers, buses, coaches, and off-road vehicles, as well as specialty wheels for agricultural machinery, construction equipment, forklifts, and mining vehicles. Combined with advanced aluminum solutions, this breadth ensures compatibility with virtually every commercial and industrial application. Each wheel is engineered for durability, safety, and efficiency—meeting the rigorous demands of global fleets and operators while supporting the industry's transition to sustainability and e-mobility.

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## Engineering for the Electric Future

The rise of battery-electric trucks is rewriting the rules of wheel design. Heavier vehicles mean higher loads—up to 10% more than diesel counterparts—while aerodynamic efficiency becomes critical for battery range.

Maxion is tackling these challenges head-on:

- **Next-generation steel wheels** offer a **weight-neutral load increase of 250 kg** and a **4,250 kg capacity**, ensuring durability without adding mass.
- Reduced brake cooling needs in EVs allow for **smaller ventilation holes**, opening the door to sleeker, more aerodynamic designs.
- Advanced simulation tools help engineers optimize every curve and contour for strength and efficiency.

“Our goal is simple,” says Rode. “Keep the wheels as light as possible while making them strong enough for the demands of electric trucks.”

## Sustainability: Steel's Competitive Edge

As OEMs race to meet carbon reduction targets, commercial vehicle steel wheels offer a clear advantage over aluminum alternatives. Conventional steel wheels emit **133.45 kg CO2 per wheel** from cradle to gate. By using renewable “green” steel, Maxion can cut that figure to **44.9 kg CO2**—a **66% reduction**.

The Company's lightest wheel is also its greenest, combining low-carbon steel, efficient manufacturing, and innovative design to achieve a **60% smaller carbon footprint**. “Sooner or later, green steel will become the norm,” says Stan Mommers, Vice President of Sales Europe, Middle East & Africa, Maxion Wheels. “We’re ready for that transition.”

## The Road Ahead

Truck steel wheels may never steal the spotlight, but they remain essential to the future of freight. As Maxion pushes the boundaries of lightweighting, e-mobility, and sustainability, one thing is clear: the humble truck wheel is anything but ordinary.

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## **ABOUT MAXION WHEELS**

Maxion Wheels, a leading steel and aluminum wheels supplier, works with global vehicle manufacturers on wheels for personal mobility, transportation, agriculture, defense, and off-highway applications. Our 10,000 employees operate out of 31 locations in 14 countries on five continents, including state-of-the-art technical centers in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Together we produce 50 million wheels a year, making us one of the world's largest producers of wheels. To learn more, please visit Maxion Wheels' website at [www.maxionwheels.com](http://www.maxionwheels.com).

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