

TECH SHORTS

buyer or owner, it instead refers to the lifetime of the device, component, or some other ambiguous definition.

Some boats that come with a lifetime warranty are only good for less than ten years - the hull, as an example, may only have a "lifetime" of so many years. Or, a "lifetime" satellite radio subscription is not good for your entire life; rather, for the lifetime of the tuner. There's almost always a catch.

So before you pay a higher price for what seems to be a really good warranty, understand the terminology being used and the definitions. In this case, whose lifetime? Often, the companies making such outrageous claims are nowhere to be found when it is time to make your claim. A lifetime warranty on a Chinese-made light bulb? Go ahead and make your claim. Good luck.

Electronic Solutions

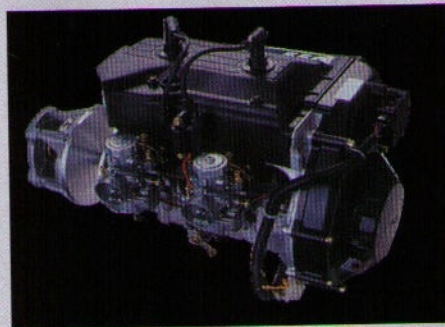
With electronic controls becoming more and more common on most every subsystem

Polaris 550 Fan Upgrades

Helping Polaris meet the 2007 EPA fleet averages is a cleaner version of the popular 550 fan cooled engine. Changes to the peppy 550 include an upgrade to NiCaSi cylinders for improved durability and cooling capabilities. The fuel delivery and ignition has been enhanced to match the new cylinders, resulting in improved fuel economy and performance. Emissions have been reduced by 30% (hydrocarbons) and 50% (carbon monoxide)!

Additionally, the ACCS system has been dropped, and two new kits have been developed - A High Altitude Vent Kit for more airflow and a Towing Kit, also for increased airflow. These were developed to address regional concerns with heavy use.

Pre-production testing indicates this new version delivers better pulling power and top speed, with improved fuel economy. Heat issues should be greatly reduced as well. With the extra low end torque, there is less belt burning with heavy loads.



found on snowmobiles, smaller companies are having greater difficulty interfacing their mechanicals with the electronic requirements.

Now there's help. G-Force Consulting (www.g-forceconsulting.net) specializes in helping aftermarket and OEM powersports companies develop and source electronic components and systems.

G-Force Consulting is owned and operated by Gary Gustafson, formerly Electrical

Engineering Group Leader at Arctic Cat. Gustafson was responsible for the new electronics found on the 2006 and 2007 Arctic Cats, and has since left Arctic Cat (to be with his growing family more).

For example, FAST recently turned to G-Force for assistance in developing the required electronics and controls for the new AIRWAVE suspension, specifically the hardware required to control the activation of the air compressor for the air spring.

Fitch Drop-Ins vs. In-Line Units

Advanced Power Systems, makers of the Fitch Fuel Catalyst, have added in-line units to their product line. These in-line units are primarily intended for use in automotive applications, and in no way replace the drop-in units we use in our gas cans and recreational vehicles. Since we all own cars and trucks, it seemed logical for them to promote their automotive products to the same users of their drop-in units.

We asked Advanced Power Systems why they are now offering the in-line unit, as we figured this was not going to treat the standing fuel left in the gas tank, the main reason we use the drop-ins. The response was that many newer automotive vehicles will not allow the drop-ins to be installed into the gas tank. The in-line units treat the fuel as it is going to the engine, so you still get the catalyst reaction that delivers fresh fuel.

We're also told buyers like to "see" their investment, and that the in-line unit is visible under the hood, where the drop-ins disappear. The in-line can easily be removed and transferred to another vehicle, while the drop-ins are pretty much in the tank for good. And, guys like to show their new stuff to their buddies.

APS claims modest fuel economy gains

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