



# ICE and Hybrid Powertrains: Complementary Technologies for the Future

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Picture: Cummins

Table of Contents



- [Cummins Leads with Integrated Diesel Hybrid](#)
- [New SAE Research on Hybrid Configurations](#)
- [Summary Table](#)
- [Conclusion: ICE and Hybrid Are a Smart Pairing](#)

## Cummins Leads with Integrated Diesel Hybrid

Cummins has unveiled a groundbreaking integrated diesel-hybrid powertrain

concept, combining an internal combustion engine (ICE) with an electric hybrid module. This development represents a practical and scalable solution for hybrid propulsion in commercial vehicles, showcasing how legacy technologies and electrification can work hand in hand.

## New SAE Research on Hybrid Configurations

Several recent SAE technical papers provide valuable insights into hybrid system optimization:

- One study examines how different ICE configurations impact performance, efficiency, and system layout in parallel hybrid architectures.
- Another paper demonstrates that hybrid vehicles can achieve **fuel savings of 18-32%** compared to conventional ICE-only vehicles.
- In light-duty Class 3 commercial vehicles, a **P3 hybrid architecture** with engine downsizing and active thermal control achieved **up to 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction** under WLTC and FTP75 drive cycles. However, the same study noted **elevated NO<sub>x</sub> peaks** during intermittent ICE operation, which would require advanced exhaust aftertreatment solutions.

## Summary Table

Study / Source	Key Findings
Cummins	Diesel-hybrid prototype with integrated electric module
Parallel Hybrid Study	Analysis of fuel economy, power output, and ICE influence
General HEV Research	Fuel savings of 18-32% versus ICE-only vehicles
Class 3 Light Commercials	Up to 60% CO <sub>2</sub> reduction; NO <sub>x</sub> peaks during ICE operation

## Conclusion: ICE and Hybrid Are a Smart Pairing

1. **Hybrid Systems Are Becoming Practical:** Studies of parallel and P3 architectures highlight the efficiency of real-world applications.
2. **Fuel Efficiency:** Hybrid powertrains can reduce fuel consumption by up to 30% depending on the use case.
3. **Emission Reductions:** For commercial use, up to 60% CO<sub>2</sub> savings are

feasible- though NO<sub>x</sub> emissions need to be managed with smart thermal and aftertreatment strategies.

4. **Industrial Relevance:** Cummins' diesel-hybrid integration shows how OEMs are incorporating hybrid technology into mainstream offerings.

Reference SAE: [Hybrid powertrains in the product mix](#)