



EU's Antidumping Measure Against SS Fasteners from China, Philippines, Taiwan to Expire in Jan. 2017

The EU announced on April 14, 2016 that the antidumping measure on stainless steel fasteners from China, Philippines, and Taiwan will expire on Jan. 08, 2017. Related companies from EU's member states can submit their request for a sunset review to the EC from the date of the announcement of the official notice to the date 3 months before the expiry.

Continuously Changing Global Manufacturing Offers New Strategic Opportunities to Automotive Components Industry

On April 27, "2016 Automotive Components Technology Development Forum" was held in CIEC Expo (Beijing). The topic of this forum was "New Tech. New Trend." Related professionals gathered together to discuss the hot issues in the automotive components industry. With the fast growing sales and maintenance & repair markets of cars, the automotive components industry is developing really well. The current global manufacturing and the changes in China's economic situations both offer the automotive components industry "hard-to-get" strategic opportunities.

Some opinions from the media or the industry are:

"The global automotive industry is experiencing a period of technology reforms which we have never seen before. Trends of digitalization and automation are also influencing the business running ways of traditional manufacturing (also incl. the automotive industry). The auto-piloting, electric vehicles, and intelligent Internet connection will also boost the non-stop progress in automotive technology. It is believed that many innovative technology will be widely adopted in the future and will definitely change the current automotive industry for sure."

"The biggest challenges for Chinese automotive components industry interested in expanding business abroad are: the stability and consistence of their products."

Energy saving and reduction of carbon dioxide emission are popular trends in the automotive industry and car manufacturers and components industries have been doing a lot to achieve these goals.

Global Fastener Market Demand to Reach USD 95 billion by 2020

According to a recently published report, the Global Industrial Fasteners Market is expected to grow at the CAGR of 5.23% during 2015-2022 and it's estimated to be \$95 billion by 2022.



In both developing and developed regions the market of industrial fastener market is expected to witness high growth during the forecast period. Increase in living standard in various economies helps to fuel the demand for fastener containing durable goods such as motor vehicles and boost the OEM (original and equipment manufacturing) market sale. However, during the forecast period the market of developed region will not grow as strong as developing regions as the industrialization in these regions are increasing rapidly.

The industrial fasteners market is growing rapidly as the activities such as maintenance and construction is increasing across the globe. In emerging economies such as India, China and Brazil the automobiles demand is increasing which helps fuel the demand of industrial fasteners market globally. Industrial fasteners market is segmented on product basis such as aerospace grade, externally threaded and standard fasteners which includes internally threaded fasteners and non-threaded fasteners. The segment of the externally threaded fasteners is estimated to witness high growth over the forecast period and is estimated to be the most dominant product segment as the use of externally threaded fasteners is increasing in machinery OEM, construction and automotive applications. Similarly aerospace grade fasteners will witness high demand over the forecast period as the government investment in aerospace industry is increasing along with the infrastructure and defense industry.

TR Fastenings Launches New Website



TR Fastenings is delighted to announce the launch of its new website, designed to be the ultimate go-to resource for engineers, designers and buyers, with improved navigation and functionality throughout. Combining a new modern design with a powerful search tool it has never been easier to find the product required. Users can simply search for the product or product range required using any number of search terms and choose from a range of items available and related technical information. Once the product and size needed has been selected, users can view, send or download a dynamically generated 2D drawing for the part that includes all related dimensional data, download the related 3D model in a number of formats and save the part to the enquiry basket.

NFDA is Now a Member of the National Association of Manufacturers Council of Manufacturing Associations

NFDA's new membership in NAM's Council of Manufacturing Associations will give our members more representation in Washington DC on issues and public policies that affect manufacturing in the U.S., such as

- Energy and natural resources policy
- Human resources policy
- International economic affairs policy
- Legal/regulatory and infrastructure policy
- Tax, technology, and domestic economic policy

There will be weekly economic update reports, monthly reviews of global economic trends, and updates from NAM's Manufacturers' Compliance Institute on labor and employment compliance and enforcement matters.

NFDA is proud to be included in the 250+ trade associations that are part of NAM's Council of Manufacturing Associations, representing all sectors of manufacturing.

Ching Chan Optical Technology Goes Listed on Emerging Stock Market; Subscription Price at NTD70 Per Share

Ching Chan Optical Technology Co., Ltd., the fastener optical sorting machine giant, has been listed on the emerging stock market since April 6. The subscription price is NTD70 per share.

The company was established in 1994, manufacturing fastener optical sorting machine, fastener former, packaging machine and offering full inspection service. It has a complete global deployment and distributing network across global major industrial countries. It offers patented products at competitive prices.

The company's consolidated revenues for 2015 reached NTD 720 million, up 31% from NTD 547 million of 2014. Profit gain at NTD 129 million. Earnings per share at NTD5.27.

Notably, the company tapped into the R&D of fastener forming machinery in 2014. It formed an R&D team of 50 people, developing a high speed fastener forming machine (400 pcs per minute). So far the purchase orders are on the increase, and performance gain is expected for the future.



Gem-Year Industrial Wins the Bid for a New Rail Fastener Supply Deal

Gem-Year Industrial announced on Jan. 27 that it has won the bid for the fastener supply to the construction project of Huaihua-Henyan Railway in China. This will be a RMB 68,548.1 million deal. Gem-Year said that more details will be disclosed when the contract is signed by both parties later.

Gem-Year: A RMB 15 Million Loss for the Company Last Year

Gem-Year Industrial announced on Jan. 28 (right after the announcement of winning a bid for a rail fastener supply deal on Jan. 27)) that the company may report a turnover loss for the year of 2015 (net profit for stakeholders may drop by RMB 15 million). The net profit of the company in 2014 was RMB 0.137 billion.

Gem-Year said that the loss for 2015 may be due to slowdown of economic growth, continuous decline in steel prices, and the weak market demand that greatly caused the decline in sales of fasteners used in high speed rails.



SMEs to Become the Biggest Beneficiaries of Global Manufacturing Network 4.0

According to China's Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP growth for 2015 hit a record low at 6.9% over the past 25 years. Integrating with the Internet has become the first choice for the transformation of traditional industries. E-commerce development is especially difficult for SMEs. To deal with this problem, a number of solutions has emerged on the market, but compared with the massive e-commerce demand of the traditional industry, these fragmented solutions cannot fundamentally solve the problems posed for e-commercializing the industrial sector. The global manufacturing network is an emerging new generation B2B platform and is recognized by SMEs with its "specialist consultation" and "4.0 effective marketing".

Crescent Manufacturing Hosting a Fastener Training Institute Workshop on September 20, 2016

The Fastener Training Institute will be conducting at one day training course at Crescent Manufacturing on Tuesday, September 20 at the Crescent Manufacturing plant. This training session will be led by Jim Speck.

EVENT: Fastener Fundamentals

DATE: September 20, 2016

TIME: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

LOCATION: Crescent Manufacturing, 700 George Washington Turnpike, Burlington, CT



Würth Group Acquires Fastener Distributor House Of Threads

The Würth Group has announced the acquisition of the U.S. company House of Threads, based in Birmingham, Alabama, and its sister company based in Querétaro, Mexico. Würth House of Threads is now part of Würth Industry of North America (WINA), one of the largest providers of assembly technology in the USA. Supplying original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and commercial construction companies with a range of assembly material and other C-parts, the Würth House of Threads business supports WINA's continued growth strategy and boosts its access to new and adjacent markets. House of Threads, founded in 1963 generated sales in the amount of USD 42.1 million for 2015. It currently has 108 employees on its payroll and has over 1,200 active customers.

House of Threads strengthens Würth's presence in the economically strong U.S. Southeast and grants WINA access to the market in Central Mexico. WINA is currently comprised of nine companies, which primarily serve the OEM market by providing vendor management inventory programs through their proprietary brand, CPS® C-Parts Solutions. Würth House of Threads is WINA's fourth acquisition in the last two years.

More Than 100 Thousand Tons: the Apparent Consumption of Automotive Fasteners in 2015

The automotive production in Brazil, with more than 30 automakers, is used here as reference in estimating the level of fastener consumption in tons.

As everybody knows, fasteners are used in almost all machines and parts. However, in Brazil there is no accurate information about the level of annual fastener consumption, mainly because the local manufacturers disclose nothing about it. Accordingly, fastener imports are easier to get information than finished products with screws, bolts, nuts, and others already placed in automotive assemblies.

As a result, we choose the automotive sector as the reference of this report, based on the annual production and the average quantity of fasteners used per vehicle. One of the sources of these data was from the section called "Fique por Dentro" (in Revista do Parafuso) in which a model of vehicle and its total use of fasteners was published sometimes.

Recently, this report passed through a revision, after it was first published in Anuário do Parafuso 2016 (Buyer's Guide 2016), after more and accurate information showing that the consumption in tons still being the largest was obtained.

As mentioned in the beginning of this text, it is just an average consumption, based on fasteners sold to automakers. However, fasteners are also used in the aftermarket, boats, engines, power generators sectors. The other kinds of fastener applications such as construction, furniture, electrical/electronic products, oil & gas, and many others showing high consumption confirm that Brazil is one of the largest markets worldwide for fastener consumption. In addition, strong depreciation of its currency and political changes can make Brazil a giant player on fastener export.

ITW to acquire ZF EF&C

Illinois Tool Works Inc has announced that it has reached a definitive agreement to acquire the Engineered Fasteners and Components business (EF&C) from ZF TRW for approximately US\$450 million (413 million euros). Headquartered in Enkenbach, Germany, EF&C has 13 locations globally. It produces engineered fastening systems and interior technical components for the automotive OEM market in nine countries. Employing around 3,500 people. 2015 revenues were around US\$470 million.

"The Engineered Fasteners and Components business will be a highly complementary addition to ITW's automotive OEM segment that will broaden our ability to serve our customers and further expand our long-term organic growth potential," said Sundaram Nagarajan, ITW executive vice president. "In addition, we believe there will be significant opportunity to enhance the performance of the business through the application of ITW's 80/20 business process."

ZF says it is primarily concentrating on the growth of its core businesses in advanced safety, efficiency, electrification and the further development of automated driving. ITW intends to run the Engineered Fasteners and Components business as a standalone division within its automotive OEM segment. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2016.



Average fastener consumption per category

Small Cars

2.3 million units produced in 2015
1,200 pcs of fasteners/26 kg per vehicle
Total: 2.7 billion pcs of fasteners/60,000 tons

Trucks

74,000 units produced in 2015
3,000 pcs of fasteners/225 kg per vehicle
Total: 222 million fasteners/16,650 tons

Motorcycles

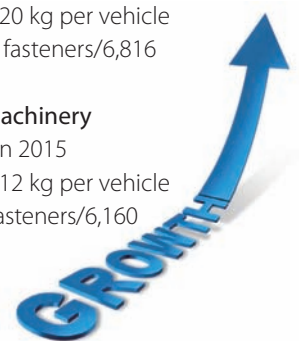
1.2 million units produced in 2015
300 pcs of fasteners/6.6 kg per vehicle
Total: 360 million pcs of fasteners/7,900 tons

Buses

21,300 units produced in 2015
6,400 pcs of fasteners/320 kg per vehicle
Total: 136 million pcs of fasteners/6,816 tons

Agricultural and Rail Machinery

55,000 units produced in 2015
1,600 pcs of fasteners/112 kg per vehicle
Total: 88 million pcs of fasteners/6,160 tons



Alcoa Introduces High Strength 12.7mm Diameter Huck® Magna-Lok® Fastener

Alcoa has launched its new 12.7mm diameter Huck Magna-Lok structural blind fastener. The company believes this is the strongest product of its type.

The large diameter 12.7mm Magna-Lok fastener has extremely high shear (44.4Kn) and tensile (31.1Kn) strengths, plus high resistance to joint failure. It offers 60% and 57% respective increases in shear and tensile strengths when compared to its predecessor, the R12 9.5mm fastener. The higher strength capability provides the user with the option of installing fewer fasteners per application, thus facilitating a reduced inventory, faster production times and potentially resulting in more lightweight products.

In addition to its high strength, the new product has all of the features of the standard Magna-Lok blind fastener, including a wide grip range to accommodate large variations in joint thickness, and 360° internal locking technology, which enables the pin to be mechanically locked to the sleeve. Its expansion during installation also provides excellent joint tightness and high-quality resistance to liquid penetration. The new fastener has been approved by the widely recognised Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DIBt).



Bufab Makes Swedish Acquisition

Bufab has acquired 100 percent of the shares in the privately owned company Magnetfabriken AB in Västerås, Sweden. The acquisition has taken immediate effect.

Magnetfabriken AB was founded in 1992 and has since developed into one of the leading suppliers of magnets and magnet systems in the Nordic region. The company has annual sales of just under SEK 20 million (approximately 2.15 million euros) and six employees. "Magnetfabriken is a solid addition and complements Bufab's operation in Sweden in a very good way," says Johan Lindqvist, regional director for Bufab Sweden. "We see synergies and potential, both in relation to new and existing customers and through the expansion of application areas for magnets and magnet systems. We will initially focus on the Nordic market, but I naturally see opportunities throughout the Bufab Group."

"Bufab is a recognised player in fasteners and C-Parts, and holds a very strong position in the Swedish market," says Magnus Gustafsson, president of Magnetfabriken AB. "Through Bufab we will have entirely different possibilities to cultivate the market and evolve our business in the same successful manner as we have done to date, while also benefiting from being part of the Bufab Group. This is something we really look forward to."

Japanese Saima Corporation Rolls out New Slim Head Screw

The company has rolled out and launched sales of "5-color Slim Head Screw" which is made of aluminum and anodized. The product not only has a beautiful appearance but also increases ease of recognition during installation. The company is optimistic for the booming development of radio control industry (e.g., drones) and medical care robot industry, and expects to apply this product to these fields.

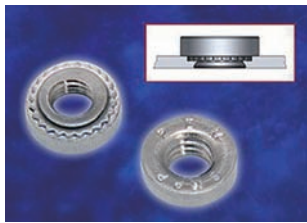


Vietnam Shows Great Demand for Fasteners

Vietnam is a country with many foreign manufacturers. There are many business opportunities in this Southeast Asian country. Market reports show that in the first 2 months of 2016 Vietnam reported a surplus of USD0.865 billion and the newly added foreign investment was worth USD2.8 billion (up 135% over the same period last year). A market analyst said, "Vietnam has been one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. The strategic location and rapid growth of Southeast Asia both help make Vietnam one of the most attractive countries for foreign investors." So, what would be the quickest way for fastener companies to tap into Vietnamese market?

One way is through the machine engineering & related components sector. According to the data provided by Vietnamese officials, the total value of the infrastructure construction of Vietnam in the following 10 years will be USD160 billion. These construction projects include the 5,000 kilometers long freeway, 300-400 kilometers long railways, and 12 airports. With the growing Vietnamese market, there is high demand for building machines, facilities, materials, bulldozers, road rollers, hydraulic presses, etc. However, Only 6% of metal processing and industrial products are made by Vietnam itself and the remaining 94% are imported. As a result, Vietnam is a very potential market.

The other way is through the automobiles, motorcycles, and related components sector. Motorcycles have been the major transport way for local Vietnamese people. Over the past 5 years, the annual sales of motorcycles in Vietnam were over 2.5-3 million units. Vietnam has become the 5 largest strategic market for motorcycle manufacturing and its government also encourages local companies to assemble and manufacture motorcycles. With the improvement of the infrastructure in Vietnam, the demand for sedans and trucks in cities is also increasing. The economic development in Vietnam is going really well. However, machines and facilities used in Vietnam are not as state-of-the-art as in other countries, so this is a market fastener companies should focus on.



New PEM® Type SMPP™ Self-Clinching Nuts Install with Minimal Footprint in Ultra-Thin Stainless Steel Sheets

New PEM® Type SMPP™ self-clinching nuts from PennEngineering® install permanently in ultra-thin stainless steel sheets and provide dimensionally ideal solutions for stainless assemblies where space for attachment hardware may be limited. A minimal footprint resulting from an overall low-profile design combines low height (.065" / 1.4mm) and small diameter (.220" / 5.6mm) with close-to-edge mounting capabilities for installation in stainless steel sheets as thin as .025" / 0.64mm. Their corrosion resistance will be similar to 300 Series stainless steel. Upon installation, a serrated clinching ring prevents the nut from rotating in service and, ultimately, the fasteners will not loosen, fall out, or otherwise adversely affect the end-product integrity or performance.

PEM Type SMPP nuts are made from age-hardened A286 stainless steel and recommended for use in stainless sheets with hardness of HRB 90 / HB 192 or less. Thread sizes for mating hardware range from #2-56 through #6-32 and M2.5 through M3.5.

New PVC Trim-Board Screw Blends in for Clean Finish, Less Effort

Simpson Strong-Tie, the industry leader in engineered structural connectors and building solutions, now offers a special-purpose PVC Trim-Board screw engineered for easy, low-torque installations of exterior PVC trim and fascia onto wood. The fastener's triple-thread design, box-shaped cutter head and flat underhead allow easier installations with higher pull-through resistance and clean, flush finishes.

"This fastener shows great holding power with increased pull-through resistance," said Dr. Ed Sutt, vice president of Fastening Systems.

"One of the things we've heard from customers is the need for a fastener that provides a clean, professional finish when installing PVC trim and fascia."



Fasteks Quick-Fasteners Portfolio: Quick to Install, Long-Lasting and Reliable Grip

With the Fasteks quick-fastener portfolio, KVT-Fastening addresses the requirements of companies who want to fasten different materials and surfaces quickly, reliably and permanently. Especially in air-conditioning and solar



technology, electronics and in white goods manufacturing, the huge range is used in mass production and repairs. The multifunctional design reduces the number and therefore the weight of components used. On top of that, manufacturing tolerances are easily taken up without any difficulty. They are available in the following materials: stainless steel, galvanised steel or combined, or plastic (polyamide / brass). These quick fasteners can be installed in circular, stamped or drilled holes. In addition, they can also be used in blind holes and soft materials such as wood or plaster. The quick-fastener range is supplemented by further fastener possibilities such as speed nuts, clip-fastener systems (spring clip / pin), U-clamps, S-clamps, cable and pipe clamps, shaft locks, plastic rivets / plugs and earthing clamps.

Due to the enormous bandwidth of the Fasteks quick-fastener range, the right product can be found for every application. There are for instance cage-nuts available in various designs and thread sizes. Particular attention was paid to covering as many different types of installation and applications as possible.

Japanese Crown Corporation Acquired New Patent for Original "DELTITE" Screw



Crown Corporation's self-developed "DELTITE" screws have acquired a new patent last year in Japan. The product is pending for patents in 11 countries in the world, and the company is enhancing its intellectual property strategy across the world.

"DELTITE" acquired the first patent and started sales back in 1976. Now the product has acquired a third patent and

has become the main product of the company. The patent number is "5770399", and the title of invention is "Self-tapping screw and its manufacturing method". The new patent will last until 2035.

DELTITE is a self-tapping forming screw. The front end of the threads have taper points used for guiding, and there are 3 spoon-shaped concaves on the circumference. Its female threads are formed through plastic processing. Features include: (1) No need to use taps to make female threads, greatly lowering the cost. (2) Low driving torque, high performance. (3) Strong fixture. No loosening to vibration or impact. (4) Reduced cutting chips. (5) Exchangeable with small screws.

The company is also enhancing sales of its original special recess screw "CROSSFIRM", which prevents screwdriver bits from cam-out during fastening process.

Unions and Associations Against Tax Increases on Steel Imports

At the end of December last year, 14 associations from Brazilian industry - including Sinpa and entity representatives of fastener industries published a manifesto (on newspapers) to draw the attention of public authorities to the risk to benefit a sector at the expense of another much larger.

According to the chairman of the Abimaq (the Association of Machines Industries and Equipment), Carlos Pastoriza, "It has been confirmed by a study of the government economic team that the increased rate on imported steel will cause strong effects to the Brazilian industry that consumes this metal."

Pastoriza said that this measure would be "a shot in the foot" at the same time while doing a comparison between sectors: "The steel consuming industries create about US\$ 175 billion revenues per year, 73,000 manufacturers, and 4.7 million jobs, while the steel producers are formed just by 11 oligopolies with a total revenue at around R\$ 7.5 billion per year and 120,000 jobs.

This manifesto also shows that only 10% of this kind of raw materials used in Brazil is imported, and this quantity is the lowest average among industrialized nations. Moreover, it is obvious to assume that the measure will increase the price on the domestic market due to weakening competition and fuel an inflationary thrust. Steel consumers in Brazil pay 35% higher than the international average.



Confirmed Conformity to International Standards

Metinvest Holding once again confirmed conformity to demands of international standards ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007. Certificates were handed over by general director of Bureau Veritas Certification to the head of the Group.

The international standards ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007 have requirements to construction of the management system in the field of ecology and industrial safety. This responsible attitude to the environment involves the decrease of waste formation, a regular estimation of risks in the field of labour safety and ecology, involvement of employees of a management company in safety of working process, etc.

For the first time the management company gained the certificate on conformity to these standards in 2009. According to requirements, after receiving the certificate, it will be supervised and audited annually. In December 2015 the company successfully passed the certification audit on acknowledging of functioning of the integrated system of management according to standards ISO14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007.

The General Director of Metinvest Yury Ryzhenkov said, "For Metinvest, it is important to not only be the leader of the branch and match to international standards, but also stably maintain this reputation. Work safety and care of the environment are problems which each employee faces today. Reception of the next certificate confirms it. We intend to pay further attention to our employees' safety, to support a high level of responsibility of the company, and to match to the best world standards."

Makes the Next Step of Equipment Modernisation

Severstal-metiz opened a new wire drawing section, thereby making the next step of the equipment modernisation at the Cherepovets factory. Investments from the beginning of the projects of modernisation were about 300 million rubles.

The modernisation allows increasing productivity of the factory to develop new kinds of products and improve its quality. So, thanks to the cumulative increased capacity, the company set the record in April and the volume of output was nearly eight thousand tons.

The new section has been opened on December 24th in celebration of 50 years from the date of production of the first Cherepovets' wire. The project of the equipment modernisation included some fundamental changes in steel-wire department No.1. Besides drawing lines, the factory built the new water turnaround cycle.

"Such a big program of modernisation is a part of our development strategy, we aim at giving our clients the best service and quality. We tried to finish this project for the anniversary of the factory. Thus we celebrated the 50 years from the date of production of the first wire in Cherepovets," commented Alexander Shevelev, the general director of Severstal-metiz. ■

87% of Motor Vehicles Were Recalled in Brazil in 2015

According to the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, 130 convocations to do repairs in products were made by local companies in 2015. 114 of them were for cars, motorcycles and trucks, which was a record number, and this percentage goes higher year after year. For example, in 2014 vehicles accounted for 65% of 120 recalls; in 2013 vehicles accounted for 55.9% of 109 recalls.

Experts estimate problems involving fastener systems match around 60 to 70% of total problems happening between automakers and their suppliers. Among 2.8 million units of vehicles involved in recalls, 2.72 million units were cars, 102,500 units were motorcycles, and 1.7 thousand units were trucks.