

## Industry Update

### CITT Initiates an Expiry Review Investigation on Certain Carbon Steel Fasteners from China and Taiwan

On October 28, 2019, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT), pursuant to subsection 76.03(3) of the Special Import Measures Act (SIMA), initiated an expiry review of its order made on January 5, 2015, in Expiry Review No. RR-2014-001, concerning the dumping of certain carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China and Taiwan and the subsidizing of such goods originating in or exported from China.

As a result of the CITT's expiry review, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has initiated an expiry review investigation (investigation) to determine, pursuant to paragraph 76.03(7)(a) of SIMA, whether the expiry of the order is likely to result in the continuation or resumption of dumping and/or subsidizing of the subject goods. The CBSA will make a determination no later than March 26, 2020, and will issue a Statement of Reasons by April 9, 2020.

The subject goods are defined as:

“Certain carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China and Taiwan, excluding fasteners specifically designed for application in the automotive or aerospace industry”.

The subject goods are usually classified under the following tariff classification numbers (classification numbers):

7318.11.00.00	7318.15.00.10	7318.15.00.49
7318.12.00.00	7318.15.00.42	
7318.14.00.00	7318.15.00.45	

### U.S. Department of Commerce Finds Dumping of Imports of Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod from Thailand

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the affirmative final determination in the antidumping duty (AD) investigation of imports of carbon and alloy steel threaded rod from Thailand, finding that exporters from this country have sold carbon and alloy steel threaded rod at less than fair value in the United States at a rate of 20.83 percent.

Upon publication of the final affirmative antidumping determination, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to continue to collect cash deposits equal to the final applicable dumping rate.

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) was currently scheduled to make its final injury determination on or about November 29, 2019. If the ITC reaches an affirmative final injury determination, Commerce will issue an AD order. If the ITC reaches a negative final determination of injury, the investigation will be terminated and no order will be issued.



### Yongnian District of Hobei Province (China) to Head for the Overseas Market

Hebei Jinan Standard Component Co., Ltd in Yongnian District has signed orders with clients from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries to supply screws, weld studs and hexagonal bolts. The orders are piled up to spring 2020 and valued at USD 500 thousand.

Yongnian District is known as "China's City of Fasteners". It is also China's largest fastener manufacturing and processing base. There are 280 export-capable fastener companies and 43 export-oriented companies in the District selling products to over 40 countries around the world. Recently the fastener companies in the District have been actively expanding shares in overseas markets, and they are witnessing growth in export. In the first 3 quarters of 2019, the total fastener export of the District was worth over USD 10 million.



In a fastener show in Europe last year, 7 Chinese companies signed a total of 30 contracts on the spot that were worth USD 5 million. Since 2019, the companies of Yongnian District attended many international fastener shows and gained a large amount of overseas orders. Most fastener companies in the District have gone online, including opening websites, web stores and e-commerce. Recently the District set up more than 20 offices in India, Philippines and other countries. More and more companies are deploying their plants and sales offices to countries in "The Belt and Road Initiative". Additionally, the District is working with colleges to set up a research institute of fastener technology and promote industry upgrade. So far, there are 16 national patents within the District that have pushed the proportion of high-end fasteners in the industry from 40% to 60%.

## Hangzhou City of China Cashes in on Aerospace-driven "New Manufacturing"

Hangzhou City is determined to develop its "new manufacturing" centering on the aerospace industry and its rapid deployment is underway. Hangzhou is one of the major cities of digitalized economy in China. It recently announced a new manufacturing plan to propel economic growth by centering on the aerospace industry. In recent years, Hangzhou has become a platform combining the aerial and aerospace industrial park in Qiantang New District, Hangzhou airport economic zone, and Jiande aviation town.

The aerial and aerospace industrial park in Qiantang New District is the heart of the platform. Spanning 5.43 square kilometers comprising two core areas of R&D and manufacturing, it neighbors Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport and is only a straight-line distance of 135 kilometers away from Shanghai. The industrial park already houses Xizi Aviation, Xizi Aviation Fasteners and other critical companies. Xizi Aviation is a supplier to Aviation Industry Corporation of China, Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier and other domestic and overseas top airplane makers.

## Japan's Fastener Export to China Drops in Jan.-July 2019

Japan's fastener export to China is decreasing. The Japanese steel bolt export value to China during Jan. and July 2019 landed at JPY 17.2 billion, down 13%; the export volume was 24.9 thousand tons, down 19%. In the backdrop of U.S.-China trade conflict, China's economic downturn seems to have cast an impact on Japan's fastener export.

In Japan's steel fastener export to the U.S., the export value of the same period was JPY 1.635 billion, a minor drop of 0.7% from the last period; the export volume was 29.47 thousand tons, a 3.1% drop. Comparatively, Japan's steel fastener export to China decreased significantly under the U.S.-China trade conflict, while there was no sign of stagnation in the export to the U.S.



## Poland Ranked the 5th Largest Fastener Market in Europe



According to the report of Plus Biznesu Daily, the Polish fastener market is one of the largest fastener markets in Europe and it is also expected to become the 3rd largest in a couple of years. There are 120 fastener manufacturers in Poland, whose production value in total reached PLN 1.8 bn in 2018 (over 200% growth since 2005). In 2018, the value of fastener export from Poland was over PLN 1.82 bn.

As of the end of last year, the value of Polish fastener market reached PLN 4 bn, making it the 5th largest fastener market in Europe. Poland has outpaced Spain (the previous 5th largest) in recent two years. According to the industrial representative of Poland, Marek Langalis, Poland is very likely to outpace the UK in the following 2-3 years and is very likely to leave France behind in the following 5 years. Also, it is very likely to become the 3rd largest fastener manufacturing country in the EU.

## Broken Bolt Results in Japan Self-Defense Force's Helicopter Crash

In 2018, Japan Self-Defense Force's attack helicopter crashed into a civilian house because the metal bolts for securing the helicopter blades ruptured and caused the blades to come off. The bolts originally had embedded pins that spinned with the bolts as the blades rotated.

The investigation result released on September 27, 2019 revealed that the failure of the rust inhibitor caused the pins to jam with other components and disabled the blades' rotation before the accident occurred. Bolts could rupture because of friction generated from their rotation. On the other hand, the investigators did not rule out the possibility of the bolts already having cracks for a certain cause before they were installed. The helicopter crashed into a civilian house in a test flight on February 5, 2018. The accident led to the injury of a girl in the house and the death of two helicopter crews.







## Company Development

### Shanghai Prime Machinery May Shut Down One Manufacturing Plant in Berlin

After a strategic review of the business by its Board of Directors, Shanghai Prime Machinery announced a possible plan to shut down one manufacturing plant in Berlin. The plant based in Berlin is a smaller factory along with the other one, both owned and operated by Nedschroef Fraulautern GmbH, which is Shanghai Prime Machinery's direct and wholly-owned subsidiary. The planned restructuring could permanently shut down the Berlin plant and lay off all employees there, and transfer existing business and assets to Shanghai Prime Machinery's other specific manufacturing plants in Europe.

Based on the BoD's preliminary assessment, the restructuring is estimated to generate EUR 6.2 million of one-off cost, including the indemnity of EUR 4 million for layoffs, expenditure of EUR 1.5 million for reinstalling specific machines, and other mediating and assorted expenses calculated as of December 31, 2019. Shanghai Prime Machinery expects to initiate the planned restructuring and complete it by the 3rd quarter of 2020.

### BUMAX Wins Order for Belgian Offshore Wind Farm

Leading Swedish manufacturer of premium stainless steel fasteners BUMAX has received a large order for corrosion resistant and maintenance free studs to be used for a wind farm off the Belgian coast. BUMAX won the order to supply stainless studs, nuts and washers for the 219 MW "Northwester 2" offshore wind power plants thanks to its capability to provide high strength fasteners with excellent corrosion resistance that are suitable for extremely challenging North Sea conditions.

The order value is SEK 1.7m and the customer is Danish steel contractor Bladt Industries, a company that specializes in large-scale and highly complex steel structures, including offshore substations and offshore foundations. The wind farm is owned and operated by Parkwind, a Belgian company that develops, finances, builds and operates offshore wind farms. "This prestigious order is a testament to BUMAX' ability to develop and market premium stainless steel fasteners of the highest quality, for the most complex constructions and aggressive conditions," said Patrik Lundström Törnquist, Managing Director of BUMAX.

The delivery to Bladt Industries was completed in July. Development of the offshore wind farm is ongoing and it is expected to be in operation in the first half of 2020. The product chosen for this project is BUMAX SDX 109, a high strength super duplex fastener with excellent mechanical properties, and exceptional resistance to general crevice, pitting and stress corrosion in aggressive environments.

**KUABIAO**  
DI-METAL SCREW

**COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND SERVICE**

The production process of each KB stainless steel screw is strictly tested and tested to meet the high standard quality requirements. Where Chinese purchase KB fasteners please look for the Dongguan KUABIAO Fastener Co., Ltd. issued the original warranty, the quantity of screws, and check each warranty as determined by the model, and the name of the project, to ensure that you can be assured of safe use; at the same time you can log on the official website of the company with your product parameters and instructions for use.

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## Bulten Inaugurates New Factory in Tianjin and Strengthens Its Platform in China

Bulten has inaugurated its new factory in Tianjin for production of high quality fasteners to the automotive industry in China. With the establishment of the new business, Bulten has strengthened its position as an international supplier of fastener solutions and created very good conditions for managing future growth in China. "Bulten is gradually growing as an international supplier of fasteners. Having well-functioning and modern factories with room for further growth is necessary. The inauguration of the new factory in Tianjin is an important milestone for us and strengthens our platform in China, which is the world's largest car market," says Anders Nyström, President and CEO of Bulten.

Bulten has manufacturing units for high-quality fasteners in six countries and established its operation in Beijing as early as 1996. In October 2018, a decision was made to move the Chinese operation to newly built premises in Tianjin, about 150 km from Beijing, in order to create better conditions for expansion from a former relatively low level, and to meet Bulten's sustainability goals.

The move has been carried out according to plan and on 22 November, 2019 the new facility was inaugurated. The move has meant investments of approximately SEK 25 million and the costs are estimated to be approximately SEK 16-20 million. With the move, Bulten gets a modern and fully integrated plant with cold forming, heat treatment and surface treatment. Bulten is one of the few fastener suppliers in China that controls all these steps in the manufacturing process in-house. With the new platform, Bulten is equipped to take the operation in China to a whole new level.

## Sherex Fastening Solutions Opens UK Sales and Distribution Center

Sherex Fastening Solutions, a global leader in engineered fasteners, tooling, and automation is excited to announce the opening of its UK sales and distribution center, Sherex's first facility in Europe. Located in Burnley, England, the expansion responds to the demands of current customers and will help further expand Sherex's world-class fastening solutions into the European and Middle Eastern markets.



## IMPORTED FROM SWITZERLAND ATMOSPHERE HEAT TREATMENT (AUSTEMPERING)

从瑞士引进国际先进的  
贝氏体等温淬火设备

Double-Gold Machinery Accessory Factory founded in 1987. It is one of the earliest private enterprises engaging in production of various standard fasteners such as retaining rings for bores, E-rings, wave washers, and spring washers, etc. We have gained the certification of ISO9001:2015 International Production Management System, ROHS2.0 Environmental Protection Certification, and the certification of ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management System. Double-Gold Factory holds the concept of innovation promoting values and always put a premium on investment and updating of equipment. Therefore, in 2008, we imported the most advanced equipment of controlled atmosphere heat treatment (Austempering) from Switzerland. As a professional manufacturer in standard fasteners industry, we have endless pursuit of quality. We are making efforts to maintaining the highest level of raw materials selection, employee cultivation, products production and inspection. Double-Gold strives to achieve precision in every detail, and our hardworking are just for offering the ideal products to our customers.



### 瑞安市双金机械附件厂

RUIAN DOUBLE-GOLD MACHINERY ACCESSORY FACTORY

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E-mail: shuangjin@china.com





“The UK facility will provide design and technical support and be our sales and distribution center for the UK and Europe, where we will continue to work even more closely with our long-term partner Dejong in Belgium,” said Michael Carbine, Managing Director, Sherex. “We are thrilled to further expand our global footprint!”

In addition to its new UK sales and distribution center, Sherex has four established facilities in North America and Taiwan, including manufacturing capabilities in the United States and Taiwan. In 2004, the company had only one location. “We’re proud of our growth,” said Adam Pratt, President, Sherex. “By having facilities in the UK, United States, and Mexico, and manufacturing in Taiwan and Akron, Ohio, we’re globally positioned to quickly react to our customer requirements for global support.”

## Copa Tool Achieves AS9100D Status



Copa Tool is proud to have been awarded AS9100D accreditation status for our Quality Management system. AS 9100D is a prestigious quality management standard for the aviation, space, and defense industry. It recognizes Copa’s quality system for the manufacture and assembly of precision machined products, in management, process control and service, purchasing, and design of manufacturing processes. Copa Tool manufactures products with “mission critical precision” to meet the high-quality needs of aerospace and defense companies. Our engineering and machining are reliable in the most demanding circumstances, and few companies can react as quickly and thoroughly to defense contractors’ requirements as Copa.

## Japanese Kobayashi Metals Limited to Change Its Company Name

Kobayashi Metals is a publically traded fastener trader founded in August 1926, and headquartered in Osaka where Japanese machinery and tool companies converge. In recent years it expands its product lines to include tools in addition to fastener lineup. As a preparation for overseas sales deployment, the company is to change its name to "TORQ" by April 2020.



[www.biaoer.com](http://www.biaoer.com)

## YUYAO BIAOER TRADING CO., LTD. YUYAO NO.2 STANDARD FASTENER FACTORY

Tel: 86-574-62003777, 62003860 Fax: 86-574-62003980

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ADD : Wucheyan Yuyao Ningbo Zhejiang China

Established in 1993, YUYAO BIAOER is a manufacturing and trading company specializing in EYEBOLT (GB789, DIN444) and HINGE.

Material: 4.6/ 8.8/ 10.9/ 12.9/ A2-70/ A4-70)

Standards: M6 - M100 (1/4" ~ 2")  
The machined spherical part will remain cleaned and bright after a hot/cold forging and a complete cut process.

We've cooperated with big customers such as ...

- (1) SIEMENS, ABB, GE...,etc.
- (2) WUERTH, BOSSARD, FABORY, GRAINGER, S+P, LEDERER,WASI, FASCO..., etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as our new customers.

If you are interested, please contact us.

Attn: Mrs. Lao / Mr. Ruan



## PPG Earns R&D 100 Recognition for PPG POWERCRON® 160 Anionic Epoxy Electrocoat



We protect and beautify the world™

PPG announced that its PPG POWERCRON® 160 anionic epoxy electrocoat (e-coat) technology has earned a 2019 R&D® 100 Award in the Mechanical/Materials category.

“Earning an R&D 100 Award is a pinnacle of achievement in the global research and development community, and we are proud to be recognized for this groundbreaking coatings technology,” said David Bem, PPG vice president, science and technology, and chief technology officer. “We are even prouder of what this development means for our customers – more versatile and effective corrosion protection for their products with less energy use and enhanced environmental compliance.”

PPG Powercron 160 anionic epoxy e-coat is a significant technical advance in electrocoat technology because it enables high film builds (greater than 6 mils) over multiple substrates and pretreatment chemistries. Previously, anionic e-coats had to be matched to specific pretreatments and metal substrates, which added complexity, cost and energy use to the coatings process.

PPG Powercron 160 coating cures at lower temperatures than conventional anionic e-coats, which further reduces energy use and related carbon emissions. It also has excellent workability and exterior durability.

Originally developed to meet the unique corrosion protection requirements of the pipe industry, Powercron 160 e-coat is engineered for manufacturers who finish complex cast profiles in the castings, automotive, heavy-duty equipment and other industries.

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## Japanese Nitto Seiko Extends Its Automotive Parts Lineup

The company has a subsidiary in Thailand named "Nitto Seiko (Thailand) Co., Ltd". The subsidiary is considering increasing its market share in automotive parts and is planning to increase the diameter range of the function parts it can manufacture to 6mm. Furthermore, since 2019 Nitto Seiko has been enhancing its trader role and sales by utilizing its group network.



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## L.B. Foster Awarded \$13.2 Million Contract to Supply Unique Direct Fixation Fastener to CTA



L.B. Foster Company (the “Company”) (NASDAQ: FSTR), a leading manufacturer and distributor of products and services for transportation and energy infrastructure, working in collaboration with general contractor Walsh-Fluor Design-Build Team (DBT), announced that it has been awarded a contract to supply direct fixation fasteners (DFF), rail, and other track materials for the Chicago Transit Authority’s (CTA) Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One Project, which will rebuild portions of the CTA’s Red Line and Purple Line. The \$13.2 million contract will extend through 2022.

The RPM project is the largest capital improvement project in the history of the CTA. According to the CTA, “...the much-needed capacity will be added in this growing residential corridor to accommodate current and future riders, and to deliver faster and smoother rides with less crowding and more frequent service.”

Gregory Lippard, L.B. Foster Company Vice President, Rail commented, “The CTA provided a revolutionary specification for the DFF to challenge the industry to develop a novel fastener.” L.B. Foster’s Transit Products Division draws upon over 35 years of fastener development expertise to advance specialized product solutions to the market, meeting specific customer needs. “Our team designed, developed and tested a low-profile resilient DFF weighing less than 25 pounds per fastener, allowing for more ergonomic installation, while not sacrificing ride quality.”



## Association News

### Updates of U.S. Fastener Associations' Event Calendar 2020

Association	Event	Dates	Location
IFI	IFI Spring Meeting	2020/03/07~03/10	Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa 301 S. Bayview Boulevard Clearwater, FL
NFDA	2020 Pac-West and NFDA Joint Conference and Tabletop Show	2020/03/04~03/06	The Westin Long Beach 333 E Ocean Blvd Long Beach, CA
	2020 Annual Meeting and ESPS® (Executive Sales Planning Sessions®)	2020/06/23~06/25	Embassy Suites Minneapolis Downtown Minneapolis, MN 55402 USA
Southeastern Fastener Association	Fall Conference	2020/10/21~10/24	Hilton Palacio Del Rio

## Acquisitions

### PennEngineering® Announces Acquisition of Eurotec Ltd.

PennEngineering® announced that it has acquired Eurotec Ltd., a specialty technical reseller of metal fabrication equipment, fastener installation systems and clinch and sheet metal fasteners. Eurotec is based in Tokyo, Japan. The acquisition will provide the Japanese market with permanent access to PennEngineering's PEM® and PROFIL® fasteners and installation equipment.

"PennEngineering's acquisition of Eurotec reflects our steadfast commitment to strategic expansion in Japan. Eurotec is an innovative company with highly technical fastener expertise, and true system installation capabilities," shared Leonard Kiely, CEO of PennEngineering. "We look forward to partnering with Eurotec and investing in additional resources dedicated to introduce our unique technologies to consumer and automotive electronics, as well as the automotive OEM market," added Kiely. Eurotec will maintain operations in Japan and join the existing brands under the PennEngineering corporate umbrella.



### EQT Greater China II sells PSM International

The EQT Greater China II fund ("EQT Greater China" or "EQT") announced that it has signed an agreement to sell its entire stake in PSM International ("PSM" or "the Company"), a multinational leading fastener manufacturer, to Bulten AB ("Bulten"), a full-service provider of fasteners solutions to the international automotive industry.

Established in 1931, PSM International is a leading provider of fastening solutions to a diverse customer base in the automotive, notebook, mobile phone and general manufacturing industries. The business has a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific, Europe and US markets. With manufacturing facilities in China, Taiwan and the UK, PSM's products include a complete range of inserts for plastics, as well as multiple fastening solutions for sheet metal. PSM works with customers throughout the product life cycle, from design conception through product launch and general production.



EQT invested into PSM in 2007 and during EQT's holding period, the corporate governance and management have been strengthened with the addition of key management hires and experienced board members. PSM has leveraged EQT's network and expertise in the industrial sector to support the Company in further developing its manufacturing capabilities, sales channels and supplier networks. The transaction was signed on 20 December 2019.





## Shimtech Industries Acquires Fastener Technology Corp.

Shimtech Industries is pleased to announce the acquisition of Fastener Technology Corp. (FTC), a North Hollywood based supplier of high-strength specialty fasteners for commercial and military aerospace applications. FTC was founded by Bulent Gulistan in 1979 and has built a strong reputation as an innovative and reliable supplier serving more than 400 customers. Some customer relationships span multiple decades, including those with Lockheed Martin, Click Bond, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon, and Wesco. The existing management team, led by President Dennis Suedkamp, will continue to operate and grow the business, now aided by Shimtech's additional group resources.

Shimtech is owned by Inflexion Private Equity and Auctus Industries. With headquarters in Santa Clarita (CA), its aerospace divisions include four manufacturing facilities in the US, three in Europe and one in Mexico. Their C-Class Components Division specializes in the manufacture of high-volume metallic and composite detailed components which are complementary with FTC's fastener products. This Division includes such well-respected companies as Lamsco, Attewell, and Bolsan which, together with FTC, will continue providing high-quality, on-time components to the commercial and military aerospace markets.



## FDH Acquires BTC Electronic Components

FDH, a portfolio company of Audax Private Equity ("Audax"), announced that it has acquired BTC Electronic Components ("BTC"), a Wake Forest, NC based specialty distributor of high-performance connectors and accessories focused on aerospace, military and industrial end markets. BTC provides a complimentary product offering to FDH's and further expands the business into the electronic connectors space.

Scott Tucker, CEO of FDH, said "Paul and the BTC team have built an outstanding business, on a foundation started and nurtured over 32 years by Bob Barnett, and we are excited for them to join the FDH family. Their strong OEM business provides a strong position in the electrical connectors space." BTC is FDH's sixth acquisition, and fourth completed since Audax invested in the company in 2017.



## Novaria Group Announces Acquisition of Long-Lok, LLC.

Fort Worth-based Novaria Group announces the acquisition of Long-Lok, LLC, a premier manufacturer of self-locking and self-sealing fasteners, with locations in Cincinnati, Ohio and Carson, California.

Long-Lok's self-locking fasteners have helped solve threaded component fastening problems for more than 50 years using unique and proprietary designs, including thin nylon strips and patches, which help strengthen and secure bolted assemblies during operation.

Long-Lok's products go on a wide variety of high-growth programs, which fits within Novaria's long term growth strategy. Long-Lok continues operations in its current facilities in Ohio and southern California along with its many tenured and skilled employees.



## TriMas Enters into Agreement to Sell Its Lamons Business

TriMas (NASDAQ: TRS) announced that TriMas Company, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of TriMas Corporation, has entered into a definitive agreement to sell its Lamons business to First Reserve, a private equity firm focused on energy investing, for \$135 million in cash, subject to customary working capital and purchase price adjustments.

Lamons is a leading provider of industrial sealing and fastener solutions used in mission-critical, high-consequence applications in the petrochemical, petroleum refining, midstream energy transportation, upstream oil and gas, metropolitan water and wastewater management end markets. Lamons, currently part of TriMas' Specialty Products segment, generated approximately \$186 million in net sales for the 12 months ended September 30, 2019. TriMas will report Lamons' results of operations as discontinued operations beginning in the fourth quarter of 2019. The closing is expected to occur by the end of the first quarter of 2020, and remains subject to customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions. ■

