

Fastener World NEWS



compiled by Fastener World Inc.

EU Extends Anti-dumping Measures for Another 5 Years on Iron and Steel Fasteners Originating in China

The European Commission (EC) released an official journal on March 27 regarding the re-imposing of antidumping measures on iron and steel fasteners imported from China and those consigned from Malaysia (whether declared as originating in Malaysia or not) after more than one year of investigation. The definitive anti-dumping measures will last for another 5 years and will come into effect immediately on March 28 (Sat.).

According to the investigative results, the EC concluded that the iron and steel fasteners imported from China at very low prices continue to cause material injury to local European fastener manufacturers and thus determined to levy the tariff up to 74.1%. Products involved in the case are within CN code 7318 12 90, 7318 14 91, 7318 14 99, 7318 15 59, 7318 15 69, 7318 15 81, 7318 15 89, ex 7318 15 90, ex 7318 21 00 and ex 7318 22 00. In addition, those fasteners consigned from Malaysia (whether declared as originating in Malaysia or not) involved within TARIC Code 7318 15 90 21, 7318 15 90 29, 7318 15 90 71, 7318 15 90 79, 7318 15 90 91, 7318 15 90 98, 7318 21 00 31, 7318 21 00 39, 7318 21 00 95, 7318 21 00 98, 7318 22 00 31, 7318 22 00 39, 7318 22 00 95 and 7318 22 00 98 will also be imposed with anti-dumping duties.

Other than certain companies which were selected or actively asked for inclusion into the investigation and which can be imposed with lower duties, all other companies (excluding 9 Malaysian companies: Acku Metal Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd, Chin Well Fasteners Company Sdn. Bhd, Jinfast Industries Sdn. Bhd, Power Steel and Electroplating Sdn. Bhd, Sofasco Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd, Tigges Fastener Technology (M) Sdn. Bhd, TI Metal Forgings Sdn. Bhd, United Bolt and Nut Sdn. Bhd, Andfast Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.) will be imposed with the duty of 74.1% (see the right table).

Companies imposed with lower duties are still required to submit valid commercial invoices to the Customs of member states of the EU when they export products to Europe; otherwise, their products will be subject to the duty of 74.1%.

Turkey: Additional 25% Tariff Will Be Imposed Upon Imported Hand Tools

According to the Bureau of Foreign Trade of Ministry of Economic Affairs (Taiwan), Turkey announced on Feb. 26th 2015 that it will impose an additional 25% tariff on imported hand tools.

Taiwan's Bureau of Foreign Trade pointed that those hand tools which will be subject to a 25% tariff in Turkey belong to the unbound tariff lines of Turkey under the framework of WTO. As a result, the increase in tariff this time does not violate the tariff exemption promise of WTO and member states of WTO cannot request for compensation through WTO.

Scissors, wrenches, and screwdrivers are all hand tools and the total value of products influenced by the tariff is about USD10 million to 20 million. Although these items are not the major exported products of Taiwan, this shows that Turkey has been gradually building its own trade barriers against imported products. Turkey imposes additional tariffs on products including hand tools to hold back the domestic demand and foreign supply, in order to reduce its trade deficits. The Turkish government hopes to encourage more foreign investors to set up their factories in Turkey through these measures and solve the problem of high unemployment rate at the same time. Taiwan's Bureau of Foreign Trade will also express its concern over this measure to the Turkish government.

Company	Duty (%)
Biao Wu Tensile Fasteners Co., Ltd., Shanghai	43.4
CELO Suzhou Precision Fasteners Co., Ltd, Suzhou	38.3
Changshu City Standard Parts Factory and Changshu British Shanghai International Fastener Co., Ltd., Changshu 38, 3 A919 Golden	22.9
Golden Horse (Dong Guan) Metal Manufactory Co., Ltd., Dongguan City	63.7
Kunshan Chenghe Standard Components Co., Ltd., Kunshan	64.3
Ningbo Jinding Fastener Co., Ltd., Ningbo City	69.7
Ningbo Yonghong Fasteners Co., Ltd., Jiangshan Town	0.0
Yantai Agrati Fasteners Co., Ltd., Yantai	0.0
Bulten Fasteners (China) Co., Ltd., Beijing	0.0
Companies listed in ANNEX I (please refer to the link in Note below)	54.1
All other companies	74.1

Note: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_082_R_0007&from=EN



Lewis-Goetz Acquires Action Industrial Group

Lewis-Goetz is pleased to announce it has acquired Action Industrial Group, a South Carolina-based fabricator and distributor specializing in fasteners, gaskets, hose products and industrial construction tools and supplies. The acquisition will add seven Southeast locations to the Lewis-Goetz footprint, as well as considerable gasket fabrication technologies. Action Industrial Group had \$21.5 million in net sales last year. The financial terms of the deal have not been disclosed.

As part of Lewis-Goetz, the team at Action Industrial Group will have the opportunity to expand its reach with more access to resources and greater opportunities to cross-sell products.

As one of North America's largest industrial distributors, Lewis-Goetz is the largest company owned by ERIKS North America, which was recently ranked 20th on MDM's 2014 list of Top 40 Industrial Distributors. ERIKS currently consists of more than 60 companies with 450 branches in 27 countries, serving over 200,000 customers in the MRO, OEM, and project distribution business.



RBC Bearings to Acquire Dover's Sargent Aerospace & Defense Business

RBC Bearings Incorporated, a leading international manufacturer of highly-engineered precision plain, roller and ball bearings for the industrial, defense and aerospace industries, announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the Sargent Aerospace & Defense business ("Sargent") of Dover Corporation for \$500 million, to be financed through a combination of cash on hand and senior debt. The transaction is expected to close in the second calendar quarter of 2015 (our fiscal first quarter of 2016), subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory review.

"Sargent supplies highly engineered products to a customer base that we know well and serve daily. Their manufacturing processes and design expertise align very well and complement those of RBC Bearings," said RBC Bearings Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Michael J. Hartnett.

Argentina Announces Preliminary Result of Antidumping Investigation on Wrenches Imported from China and Taiwan

The Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of Argentina notified the Embassy of China in Argentina that it has concluded that the wrenches imported from China, Taiwan, and India were found to have caused material injury to Argentinian related industries, but it will not adopt provisional antidumping measures. It, however, requests that interest parties provide further evidence to the investigative unit.

TIFI: Taiwanese Companies Should Respond Cautiously to Continuation of EU's Antidumping Measures

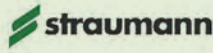
The EU released the final determination for the sunset review of antidumping measures imposed upon certain iron and steel fasteners originating in China. The continuation of 5-year long antidumping measure imposed on involved products from China aroused much of the attention of Taiwanese fastener industry.

Accordingly, TIFI Chairman Anchor Chang called on industrial peers and traders on April 7th for not being involved in the transshipments of China-made products and not illegally tagging products made in China as made in Taiwan, as well as not illegally tagging certain products as made in Taiwan when they are in fact semi-finished products imported to be treated with secondary processing. Such illegal behaviors mentioned above may trap Taiwanese fastener industry in the mud of antidumping measures.

However, the announcement of the antidumping measures is favorable to the business expansion of Taiwanese companies like Chun Yu and Tycoons into the European market, and they have considered Europe one of their most important sales markets. For example, about 30% of the current sales of Chun Yu were generated in Europe. To Tycoons, Germany is the most important market.

TIFI has immediately notified over 600 companies and traders of EU's determination for protecting members' interests. TIFI also reminds Taiwanese companies of having documents regarding origins of products in hand at all times when they export fasteners, lest they face the investigation of fastener dumping and circumvention.

Swiss Dental Implant Supplier Straumann Reports Net Profit Surge in 2014



Benefiting from the increasing demand from China and Japan, Swiss dental implant supplier Straumann in Europe sees recovery in its business. Its global revenue increased 4.5% in 2014 to CHF710.3 million, a surge in net profit.

Its net profit grew 56% in 2014 to CHF157.8 million. EBIT was up 28% to CHF148.3 million. Straumann expects that in 2015 the global dental implant market will continue to recover and revenue of the company is very likely to achieve a one-digit and medium-level growth. The revenue calculated in CHF will be influenced by the fluctuating exchange rate.

Beecherl Joins PennEngineering® As Vice President of Global Automotive

Pete Beecherl has joined PennEngineering® as Vice President of Global Automotive, which was announced by the Company. In this newly created position, Beecherl will drive and coordinate strategic initiatives for the Company worldwide across all automotive-related brands and businesses, including PennEngineering® Automotive Fastener Co. Ltd. (PEAF), PROFIL, and PEM® and Atlas® brand fasteners and inserts.

Beecherl has particularly strong background in the areas of automation, engineering and engineered parts, as well as expertise in sales and business development. He most recently served as Vice President of Engineering and Business Development at Acument Global Technologies (now Fontana) and previously held senior engineering, product management, automation, marketing, and sales roles for Emhart Technologies, Textron Fastening Systems, Avdel, and Lamb Technicon.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from The General Motors Engineering and Management Institute (now Kettering University) and a Master's Degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan.



Statistics of China's Fastener Import and Export in 2014

According to China's customs statistics, China exported 2.778 million tons (USD 5.07 billion) of fasteners in the 12 months of 2014. Top 5 export destinations were the U.S., Japan, Russia, Hong Kong, and South Korea.

In 2014, China imported 309.3 thousand tons (USD 3.298 billion) of fasteners. The top 5 import origins were Japan, Germany, South Korea, the U.S., and Hong Kong.

Statistics of China's Fastener Export in 2014

Country/Region	Volume (KG)	Value (USD)
U.S.A.	660,119,935	1,059,124,872
Japan	145,808,632	309,843,515
Russia	207,015,039	270,495,746
Hong Kong	35,199,606	185,606,382
S. Korea	107,191,848	169,643,070
Germany	76,149,329	147,936,300
Australia	73,065,304	145,851,180
United Arab Emirates	86,273,515	134,137,033
Vietnam	35,672,424	132,629,612
Singapore	47,254,140	115,493,996
Total Export	2,778,854,892	5,070,198,998

Statistics of China's Fastener Import in 2014

Country/Region	Volume (KG)	Value (USD)
Japan	91,717,244	883,389,055
Germany	64,156,733	681,046,901
S. Korea	48,404,916	347,664,355
U.S.A.	14,563,636	272,643,481
Hong Kong	9,036,859	235,236,717
Taiwan	25,016,530	192,877,848
France	10,947,756	149,913,786
Italy	13,321,072	103,283,418
Other Countries	5,478,916	60,973,487
Malaysia	1,013,742	50,989,806
Total Import	309,392,780	3,297,788,226

Annual General Meeting 2015 of Bossard

At the annual general meeting of shareholders (AGM) of Bossard Holding AG on Monday (4/13), all Board proposals were approved with a large majority. Following the departures since 2013, the Board of Directors now has further reinforcements with the election of Dr. René Cotting and Daniel Lippuner. The annual general meeting of shareholders approved all current directors in their posts. Dr. Thomas Schmuckli remains as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Back in September 2014, the Board of Directors of Bossard Holding AG announced that it would be filling the vacancies in the Board and, with the appointment of Dr. René Cotting and Daniel Lippuner, intended to bring new skills to the Board. Dr. René Cotting, CFO on the executive committee of ABB Switzerland, will bring in particular his European and American market knowledge and his experience in the areas of finance and supply chain management to the Board. Daniel Lippuner, CEO of the Saurer Group, will be a strong addition to the Board with his global industry experience and his expertise in the field of innovation.

The annual general meeting of shareholders also approved Pricewaterhouse Coopers AG, Zurich, as auditors for the 2015 financial year.



Shanghai Prime Machinery Acquires 70% of Shanghai Tianhong Miniature Bearing's Shares

Shanghai Prime Machinery (PMC), according to the investment agreement signed by the company, main stakeholders, and Shanghai Tianhong, announced the acquisition of 70% of Tianhong's shares from its 7 stakeholders for RMB 20.37 million. Shanghai Tianhong is specialized in the R&D, production, and sales of aerospace bearings.

PMC said that Tianhong has technical and market resources in the aerospace and medical sectors. Through the acquisition this time, PMC can share these resources, which can help the company swiftly enter the medical machine market, widen the market range, advance the techniques and after-sale service, and strengthen its profitability.

STANLEY Stanley Black & Decker

• *Expects More Sales in Colombia*

Portafolio, a Colombian newspapers, currently reported that President James M. Loree of Stanley Black & Decker (an U.S. hand tools and electronic fasteners manufacturer) has good expectations to the Colombian market. The global sales of the company currently landed at USD 1.14 billion (including USD0.7 billion generated in Latin America and about 0.1 billion generated in Colombia). Colombia has become an inevitable market for the company and it is expected that its sales in Colombia will grow 10% in 2015.

• *Announces 2nd Quarter Dividend*

Stanley Black & Decker (NYSE: SWK) announced that its Board of Directors approved a regular second quarter cash dividend of \$0.52 per common share. This extends the company's record for the longest consecutive annual and quarterly dividend payments among industrial companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The dividend is payable on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

Stanley Black & Decker, an S&P 500 company, is a diversified global provider of hand tools, power tools and related accessories, mechanical access and electronic security solutions, healthcare solutions, engineered fastening systems, and more.

Atlas Copco Wins Design Awards for MicroTorque Tightening Systems

Atlas Copco won two awards for the innovative QMC 21 and QMC 41 screwdriver systems that are used for assembling micro screws in applications such as small electronic devices. The new design and choice of materials cut weight by half compared to their predecessors, improving assembly speed and reducing maintenance needs.

Atlas Copco was also awarded for its MT Focus 6000 Controller system, which facilitates tightening of micro screws during electronics assembly and sets new standards for size and usability.

Atlas Copco, founded in 1873, is based in Stockholm, Sweden. Atlas Copco's Industrial Technique business area provides industrial power tools and systems, industrial assembly solutions, quality assurance products, software and service through a global network. Principal product development and manufacturing units are located in Sweden, France, Germany, the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan.



Oriental Bluesky Titanium Technology's High-end Fasteners Help China-made Aircrafts Fly High

Oriental Bluesky Titanium Technology Co., Ltd is the first Chinese fastener supply company that has been approved to supply fasteners used on C919 (a new aircraft developed by a Chinese company). Oriental Bluesky has been registered into the supplier list for commercial flight and can thus provide products and service to various large sized aircrafts.

C919 is the first large sized aircraft that is 100% designed and produced in China for commercial flight. It is expected that the flight test will soon be implemented this year and the first-batch aircrafts will be delivered to the customer in 2018. The assembly of a C919 needs over 1.8 million pieces of fasteners including over 0.2 million pieces of Ti-alloy fasteners. When the capacity of Oriental Bluesky for manufacturing Ti-alloy fasteners is fully utilized, about 4 million pieces of high-end fasteners will be produced every year, which can thus satisfy roughly 30% of the total demand of Chinese market for aviation and aerospace fasteners.

"At the inception of the company, Oriental Bluesky focused on the development of products used for C919. Now it has been able to produce 70% of all the fasteners used on C919," said Xin Wang. "Such a result is not only favorable to the acceleration of the development program of big planes 100% made in China but also helps promote Chinese brands through providing service to the development of satellites and rockets as well as project cooperation with domestic Chinese leading universities."

Singaporean LTA to Replace Rail Fasteners for Addressing High Vibration Level

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) of Singapore will replace rail fasteners along the Botanic Gardens stretch of the new Circle Line to address high vibration level.

LTA received public feedback on vibration at various parts of the orbital line. But after investigations, it determined that only the Botanic Gardens stretch needs addressing now.

A spokesman said: "LTA is replacing the rail fasteners, which hold and support the rails on which the trains run, near the Circle Line's Botanic Gardens station. This is to reduce the higher track vibration level felt there." She said there were isolated complaints about Serangoon and Holland Village stations, too. But after checking, LTA found that "vibrations experienced at these two stations are within specified limits". She explained that "the stiffer ground conditions and tighter turning radius of the track near the Botanic Gardens station exacerbate the vibrations" at that stretch. "We have therefore taken proactive measures to replace the fasteners with ones that can further dampen the vibrations," she added. "We will monitor vibration levels on the other stretches and do the same if necessary."

LTA has called a tender for contractors to design and install the fasteners. Works will be carried out only after operational hours, and will be completed by the second quarter of next year.

Fastenal Awarded National TCPN Contract

Fastenal has partnered with The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN) to provide Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) supplies to government entities nationwide. TCPN's lead government agency, Region 4 Education Service Center, uses a competitive solicitation process consistent with applicable procurement laws and regulations.

Fastenal's TCPN contract offers discounts on Fastenal's entire MRO product line, such as fasteners, safety, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, tools, welding, chemicals & paints, lighting, and janitorial. Fastenal's industry leading industrial vending program and vendor managed inventory services are also included in the TCPN contract.

"Fastenal is excited to combine our world class service with the ease of cooperative purchasing through TCPN. Our partnership with TCPN will enable Fastenal to better serve the public sector and bring tremendous value to the procurement of MRO products. Fastenal is dedicated to implementing innovative solutions to foster a strategic partnership with our customers." says Zach Wise, TCPN Contract Manager, Fastenal.

"TCPN is pleased to be able to continue our partnership with Fastenal. This contract will allow public sector entities to save the soft costs associated with the competitive bid process, while reaping the benefits of nationally leveraged pricing. We look forward to helping Fastenal serve agencies with solutions that best fit their needs." says Chris Penny, Vice President, TCPN.



AVIC International Expands Commercial Aerospace Services Portfolio with the Acquisition of Align Aerospace



Align Aerospace Holding, Inc. ("Align" or the "Company"), Greenbriar Equity Group LLC ("Greenbriar") and AVIC International Holding Corporation ("AVIC International") announced that the transaction to sell Align to AVIC International Holding (Zhuhai) Company Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AVIC International, has closed after receiving all necessary government approvals to proceed.

Headquartered in Chatsworth, CA, Align provides supply chain services for the aerospace industry and is a leading global distributor of fasteners and other hardware, primarily to aerospace original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and OEM suppliers. The Company sells more than 100,000 SKUs through its distribution centers in California and France, and forward stocking locations throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

AVIC International is a diversified global company with activities in aerospace, trade and logistics, retail, electronics and real estate investment. Within the aerospace sector AVIC International has a strong emphasis on supply chain integration and management and is the primary channel for the import and export of commercial aerospace products in China.

"Align brings valuable experience in aerospace supply chain management to AVIC International," said Mr. Wu Guangquan, Chairman of AVIC International. "With AVIC International's investment, resources and relationships, we plan to grow Align's relevance with its current customers in parallel with expanding the business globally, especially in the Chinese market."

Tycoons Sees Prosperous Future and Receives More Orders Originally Made to China

Benefiting from the influence of EU's imposing antidumping measures on certain Chinese iron and steel fasteners and the stable low-cost material supply from its own factory in Thailand, Tycoons has had the order backlog of nearly 20 thousand tons, which reveals that a prosperous future for the company is not far away.

The antidumping measure the EU imposes upon Chinese fasteners has been implemented 5 years ago and the current announcement of the EU shows that another 5-year antidumping measures will be extended continuously with the rate up to 74.1% (but Chun Yu Donggaun and Gem-Year get the particular rate of 54.1%).

General Manager Ho of Tycoons said that Tycoon's fasteners sold to the world are mainly supplied and exported from Taiwan, Vietnam, and Thailand. Its operations in China mainly provide products and service to the domestic Chinese market (which are not influenced by the antidumping measures of the EU).

Ho added that theoretically when it is not the right time to export Chinese fasteners to the EU, its factories in Thailand and Taiwan can take the position to process the orders originally made to China and enjoy the benefits. So far, the monthly production of large screws in its Thailand-based factory has increased from 2,000 tons to 4,000 tons and the operating efficacy is also increasing.

Tycoon's factory in Thailand could only produce limited sizes of screws, but after the introduction of advanced machines from Tycoons (Taiwan), the problem of limited sizes has been solved, resulting in smooth and busy shipments. In addition, the EU does not impose antidumping measures on Thailand, so it is favorable for Tycoons to expand business in Europe. Plus, its Taiwanese headquarters also has entered the European market. As a result, it can develop more business in various approaches.

Würth Sweden Receives International Architecture Award for New Head Office

The new administration building and logistics center of the Swedish subsidiary Würth Svenska AB has received the MIPIM Award 2015 in the category "Best Industrial & Logistics Development". The MIPIM Awards honor the most outstanding and accomplished architectural projects around the world. The award, which is also known as "real estate Oscar", was presented at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes.

The head office consists of an administration building with offices and a modern conference center as well as a new logistics center and a pick-up shop. The total surface area is 29,000 square meters. The official opening of the new head office had already been celebrated with Prof. Dr. h. c. mult. Reinhold Würth and family as well as members of the Central Managing Board of the Würth Group in May 2014.

Würth Sweden was founded in 1967 and currently employs 357 people.



Global Largest Steel Casting Plant for Auto Parts Production to Be Built in Abu Dhabi

The media reported on March 31st that Abu Dhabi Port Co. has recently made an agreement with Advanced Manufacturing Solutions (AMS) to build a new steel casting plant at Mussafah Industrial Zone for 0.514 billion dirhams (about USD 0.14 billion). This plant will be used to produce auto parts for BMW, VW, and Benz. It is known that the construction of this plant will be completed through 3 phases and its final capacity can reach 300 thousand tons per year, making the plant the largest steel casting plant for auto parts production around the world. Auto parts produced in this plant will not only be sold to the domestic UAE market, but will also be exported via Khalifa Port to the whole world. It is reported that this plant is only one of the project investments of AMS. AMS and FourWinds are planning for investing further in infrastructure, energy, and real estate market sectors of UAE.

Boltun Seeks High Added Value and Enters Aerospace Fastener Market



In order not to be too concentrated on the investment in the development of automotive products,

Boltun, with the guidance of Taiwan's Industrial Development Bureau in a project for the integration of metallic materials and applications industries, entered the field of aerospace fastener development, built up the manufacturing technology of super-alloy fasteners, and gained the certification of NADCAP. In addition, supported by the project of Taiwan's Industrial Development Bureau for promoting the recyclable energy industry, Boltun won another opportunity to supply fasteners installed on large win power generators and has been planning to enter the market of small wind power generators for creating more green energy businesses.



Sherex Fastening Solutions' Akron Manufacturing Facility Awarded ISO 9001:2008 and AS9100

Sherex Fastening Solutions, a global leader of engineered fasteners, tooling and automation, announces that its newest manufacturing facility located in Akron, OH has been certified to both the ISO9001:2008 and AS9100 Quality Management Systems.

These certifications cover the design, manufacturing, and distribution of fasteners specifically engineered to meet the demands of the MS and NAS market. "This is an important step in meeting the customer requirements of the aerospace and defense industry and reinforces Sherex's commitment to a domestic source of supply for this important end-user market," said Sherex President Mr. Adam Pratt.

In addition to offering a complete line of MS and NAS parts, the facility offers expanded capabilities in prototyping, research and development, and production of small lot quantities. These capabilities will improve the new product development process and allow Sherex to continually innovate fastening solutions for customers' application requirements.

Sumeeko Gains Strong Profits

The public fastener giant, Sumeeko Ind. Co., Ltd., expects to perform well after the capacity expansion in its Pingtung plant (in southern Taiwan). Sumeeko's CAGR is expected to grow 20.7% from 2014 to 2016. Its targeted price is adjusted upwards to NTD 172. On April 15, Sumeeko's stock price rose to NTD 132, the highest record since October 2014. Specialized in automotive fasteners, Sumeeko's revenue in March alone reached NTD 120 million with the annual growth rate at 35%.

Furthermore, Sumeeko's annual market growth rose 55% after Tesla reported new highest record of car delivery in the first quarter. In 2014 Sumeeko delivered around 70 types of fasteners to Tesla which accounts for 4% of Sumeeko's total revenue. Tesla's proportion in Sumeeko's revenue is expected to increase again (to an estimated 10% for the year 2015) and may become the new power house for Sumeeko's revenue growth.

Sumeeko has successfully entered the automotive component market. Words are spreading that Sumeeko has received new orders of welded nuts used for chassis from GM (North America). Sumeeko has delivered the nuts in small lots during last December and this February. The delivery in the second quarter is expected to grow and turn even stronger in the second half of the year. Although Sumeeko has acquired the ticket into GM's supply chain, at the early stage the order value could be smaller. However, the business efficacy in the long term is optimistic.





Announce USD2.5 Billion Investment in Expanding Mexican Plants

The year 2015 is the 90th anniversary of Ford's presence in the Mexican automotive market and Ford is now planning to expand its Mexico-based plants with further investment of USD2.5 billion in total. It is reported that USD1.3 billion will be used in the expansion of its plant located in Chihuahua state, which will manufacture two new diesel engines; the other USD1.2 billion investment will be used to expand the central Guanajuato state-based plant that manufactures transmissions. Ford's investment last time was in 2008 with a USD3 billion investment to update its Cuautitlan plant. According to official industrial statistics, Ford is currently the 4th largest car exporter in Mexico. Mexico has many advantages in the market such as comparatively low labor cost, FTAs with many countries, and proximity to USA. As a result, the investment this time will further facilitate the development of the already booming automotive market in Mexico and may bring more investment projects into Mexico from other major car manufacturers.

Bulten Rus Awarded Best Market Newcomer in Russia

Bulten Rus LLC, a joint venture founded in 2014 by Russia's largest manufacturer of industrial basic elements, GAZ, and the Swedish fastener producer, Bulten, has been awarded the "Best Market Newcomer in Russia" of the year at the 18th Russian Automotive Forum of Adam Smith Conference, in recognition of its successful implementation of development strategy in the domestic Russian market. The forum was given on March 17-19, 2015. The award was presented to Tommy Andersson, the President and CEO of Bulten, on behalf of the Group. Bulten Rus LLC is headquartered in Nizhny Novgorod and is specialized in manufacturing high quality automotive fasteners. Recently it has been certified by several local Russian car manufacturers in the supply of fasteners.



Invests in Its 15th Plant in Mexico

On April 15, Toyota announced to invest USD 1 billion in a plant in central Mexico producing Corolla starting in 2019. The plant will employ 2 thousand people and produce 200 thousand units annually, aiming at becoming the future trend of manufacturing for the world.

Toyota shifts its production of Corolla from Canada to Mexico. The Canada (Ontario) plant will upgrade equipment and produce cars of medium size and higher price, and it will still produce RAV4, Lexus RX350 and 450h. From the merged plants, Toyota learned that integrating the production of subsidiary plants can improve production efficiency and balance the supply chain of components.

The Guanajuato plant will be the 15th plant of Toyota. It has been Toyota's first and biggest investment in Mexico since 2011.

TONG Zhejiang Tong Ming Reports 27% YoY Revenue Growth for Jan. and Continues to Enjoy Preferential Tax Rate in China

Zhejiang Tong Ming, a leading stainless steel fastener manufacturer, reports that its combined revenue in Jan. 2015 showed a YoY increase of 27.19% at NTD0.595 billion (a slight increase from NTD0.590 billion of the previous month). Such performance is very remarkable. The company was also certified by "Chinese High-tech Enterprise Certification," so it can continue to enjoy the preferential income tax rate down to only 15%.

According to related regulations in China, Zhejiang Tong Ming, after being certified again by Chinese High-tech Enterprise Certification, can continue to enjoy a more favorable income tax rate (which will be reduced from 25% to 15%) for 3 years.

24 Countries Have Reduced Interest Rates in 2015

The South Korean Central Bank announced on Mar. 12 a 0.25% decline of the interest rate, making the total number of countries reducing interest rates reach 24. With the adoption of quantitative easing policies, the global capital flow has been more active. Although the "war of currencies" continues to be a hot issue, analysts consider it a fake issue and expect for more interest rate reducing policies in the future.

In fact, since the beginning of March this year, China, India, and Poland all put their QE policies into force. Analysts think that the next will be Russia and Malaysia. The sequential QE policies adopted in the emerging markets mainly result from the remaining low level or slip of inflation, which signifies the necessity of supporting weak economic growth.

Central banks which have reduced their interest rates thus far include the EU, Canada, Singapore, Denmark, Russia, Australia, Romania, China, Poland, India, Peru, Switzerland, Egypt, Turkey, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and S. Korea.

Introduction of Japanese Fastener Manufacturers



Ohsato Co., Ltd.

Ohsato develops and produces original products available in small lots. The company is developing and selling original screws used in medical device, industrial components, and construction. It focuses its sales on users' direct demand and it has routes in hardware and other stores. Tel: 048-863-6411 Fax: 048-863-8459 Contact: Mr. Yusuke Kojima <http://ohsato-web.co.jp/>

Neji No Takayama Co., Ltd.

Neji No Takayama sells a wide range of products including standard screws and machined parts. Established in 1939, the company has good relationship

with its customers and suppliers domestic and abroad. Recently it has been working a lot on rare metal screws (alloy 276, alloy 600, etc.). It is proud to have

Takayama



the largest inventory of standard screws, bolts, washers, and nuts in Japan. Last year it established a branch in Shanghai (TEL: +86-21-63231692 FAX:+86-21-53862353, Contact: Mr. Chiao Yuan) as its active trading base with China. Tel: +81-3-3603-0831 Fax: +81-3-3603-0837 Contact: Mr. Hisashi Saito (Sales Dept.) <http://www.nejitaka.co.jp/>