



# Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

## The EU Repeals Antidumping Duties Against Certain Iron & Steel Fasteners from China

On 27th February 2016, the EU repealed the anti-dumping duties on certain iron & steel fasteners originating in China. The European Commission published Regulation EU 2016/278 on 26th February "repealing the definitive anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in the People's Republic of China, as extended to imports of certain iron or steel fasteners consigned from Malaysia, whether declared as originating in Malaysia or not".

The Regulation simply states: "In view of the findings (of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body) the Commission considers that in accordance with Article 1(1)(a) of the WTO enabling Regulation it is appropriate to repeal the anti-dumping duties imposed by Regulation (EC) No 91/2009, as amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) No 924/2012 and maintained by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/519."

It all states clearly: "The repeal of the anti-dumping duties ...shall take effect from the date of the entry into force of this Regulation ... and shall not serve as a basis for the reimbursement of the duties collected prior to that date."

The Regulation comes in force the day after publication in the Official Journal e.g. 28th February 2016.

In addition, some European media also reported that this determination also created objection among some European fastener manufacturers and they might consider appealing to the EC for launching another new antidumping case. However, there is no news currently about which type of fasteners may be involved.

## U.S.-S. Korea FTA Has Come into Force for 3 Years, No Significant Impact to Taiwanese Fastener Export to the U.S.

The free trade agreement between the U.S. and S. Korea has come into force since Mar. 15, 2012. According to a recent report released by Chung-Hua Institute for Economic Research (CIER) on the comparison between the status 1 year before this FTA and the status 3 years after the FTA was signed, it shows growth in certain Taiwanese fastener export to the U.S. but decline if analyzed by its percentage in U.S. total import. S. Korea's percentage in U.S. total import increased and the export value of Taiwanese products within HS codes 7318 and 7415 still shows positive growth, which reveals that there is no significant impact on these Taiwanese fasteners from U.S.-S. Korea FTA.

CIER thinks that the tariffs for products traded between the U.S. and S. Korea currently subject to the tariff of more than 2.5% will



be gradually reduced in 5-10 years, so no significant influence on Taiwanese products may be observed in the short term and Taiwanese companies can have enough time to adapt to this change. The tariff for iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, automotive screws, rivets and similar articles within HS code 7318 Taiwan exported to the U.S. in 2014 was 6.37%; however, the favorable tariff under U.S.-S. Korea FTA will be 0.12% (expected to be achieved in 5 years). The annual increase in U.S. fastener import from S. Korea was USD 62.58 million (1.35% increase in the market share), while the annual increase in U.S. fastener import from Taiwan was USD 86.10 million (1.26% decline in the market share).

Such changes and market shares are all from the comparison between the status 1 year before this FTA (period: Mar. 2011-2012) and the status 3 years after the FTA was signed (period: Mar. 2014 to Feb. 2015).

## Taiwan Fastener Export Declines by 4.28%

Taiwan's fastener export in 2015 amounted to 1.5731 million tons, slightly declining by 1.38% from the previous year. The total export value reached USD 4.069 billion (approx. NTD137.637 billion), slightly declining by 4.28% as well.

Analyzing the factors that caused such decline, TIFI Chairman Anchor T. H. Chang said, "The higher material cost for manufacturing low carbon screws should be the main factor that resulted in lower export. I would continue to negotiate with China Steel Corp. and see whether it can provide wires at lower prices, which will be thus favorable to the order intakes of the downstream manufacturers."

According to a report released by TIFI, the top 10 export destinations of Taiwan's fasteners in 2015 were USA, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Japan, Canada, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and France. USA represented 40.15% of Taiwan's total fastener export, followed by Germany (8.69%). Among the top 10 countries, only USA, UK, and Canada showed increased fastener import from Taiwan while the other countries all showed negative growth.



## Grupo CELO Acquires Trident Fasteners Inc in USA (MI)

Grupo CELO acquires Trident Fasteners Inc in USA (MI) to become a global company providing better service to customers is its goal. With the factories in Spain and China, and the logistic bases in Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Mexico, CELO could be near many of its customers. But one step forward in USA was a must for Grupo CELO. This is the reason why it acquired the company Trident Fasteners located in Grand Rapids (MI). Trident Fasteners Inc has a human team with a large experience in the fastener industry and the production capabilities of the factory will enlarge the range of products of Grupo CELO.



## MW Industries, Inc. Announces Acquisition of USA Fastener Group, Inc.



MW Industries, a leading provider of highly engineered springs, specialty fasteners, machined parts, and other precision components, announced the acquisition of USA Fastener

Group, Inc., an industry leading manufacturer of various fasteners, including studs, nuts and other precision machined parts.

Located in Houston, TX, USA Fastener Group was established in 2002 and is recognized for their wide range of fastener products and machining capabilities, with a dedicated focus on quality and customer service. USA Fastener Group also offers comprehensive machining capabilities such as CNC machining and milling, drilling, tapping, sawing, threading, and hot forging. A wide variety of coating and plating services are also offered, including PTFE coating, zinc plating, cad plating, hot-dipped and mechanical galvanizing, and others.

## Hi-Tech Fasteners of Canada Acquires Wesco Aircraft Biz



Hi-Tech Fasteners of Canada Inc., Mississauga ON, has purchased the industrial fastener business of Wesco Aircraft Canada.

In addition to the Mississauga warehouse, the acquisition will also give Hi-Tech Fasteners of Canada the opportunity to service western Canada with local inventory in British Columbia.

“We are tripling the size of our Mississauga warehouse and will also capitalize on Wesco’s presence in Vancouver,” adds Steve Hill, sales manager, Hi-Tech Fasteners of Canada.

Hi-Tech Fasteners Inc. is a factory authorized stocking distributor for dozens of leading engineered fastener, electronic hardware and mechanical component lines specified by the electronics, telecommunications, medical, computer, aerospace, instrumentation and other high-tech and commercial industries.

## Prospect Fastener Launches E-commerce Site

Prospect Fastener has launched an e-commerce website at prospectfastener.com to give customers



easier, faster service and delivery of the items they need. “It is our goal to get products to our customers how they want them and when they want them,” said Rich Pratt, Jr., V.P. Quality Assurance for Prospect Fastener. “We have promised our customers a transparent pipeline of value. This is it.” “We provide a transparent gateway to branded, American-made products,” said Ryan Pratt, V.P. Operations for Prospect Fastener. “Our progressive approach is to keep on leveraging technology to improve. Our new e-commerce site is a symbol of our commitment. The new e-commerce site provides direct access to product and information much more efficiently.

Located in Wauconda, IL, Prospect Fastener is a Master Distributor of Value. It was founded in 1982 by Marie and Rich Pratt, Sr., and has grown into a nationally known and respected distributor of retaining rings, clips, clamps, pins, assortment kits and more. Companies from Grainger to Fastenal count on Prospect Fastener to maintain inventory and distribute value.



## Charles Debbout Appointed Director of Sales of Falcon Fastening Solutions

Falcon Fastening Solutions, Inc., a cost-reduction specialist for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) using fasteners and production components in high-volume, is pleased to announce that they have appointed Charles Debbout as the Director of Sales.

“We are excited about Charles leading our business development efforts,” explains Giovanni Cespedes, Vice President of Falcon Fastening Solutions. “He has a clear understanding of supply chain management and can speak



to the challenges that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) face in their day-to-day operations, specifically in inventory management.”

As Director of Sales, Charles will actively search for and align Falcon’s vendor managed inventory (VMI) cost-savings programs and services with OEMs operating in the Southeast region.



## 85th Anniversary for Huron Automatic Screw Company

Huron Automatic Screw Company is celebrating 85 years in the fastener manufacturing industry. In 1931 Huron Automatic Screw Company began as a small operation inside a barn in Port Huron, Michigan. It was started by Keith Brooks and his wife. The company survived the Great Depression thanks to the innovative efforts of the Brooks family and their team’s dedication to growth and continual improvement. This commitment to growth has fueled the company through the decades as it continues to evolve and change to meet the needs of customers throughout the world.

As the years passed, the Brooks welcomed their son into the leadership of the company. In the 1950s, the company focused on growth and moved to a new larger location. The 1960s through the 1980s were a time of modernization and innovation as the company acquired new machines and technology including the implementation of Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machines which allowed the company to deliver greater precision, meet exacting tolerances, and work with more challenging materials. Finally, a third generation of the Brooks family is now involved in the company and is guiding Huron Automatic Screw Company towards a continued legacy of expansion and innovation for years to come.

For eighty-five years, Huron Automatic Screw Company has worked with fastener distributors, component manufacturers, and original equipment manufacturers within a variety of industries.



## NFDA/YFP Announces Mentorship Program for Young Fastener Professionals

This NFDA/YFP mentorship program will serve the needs of young fastener professionals by pairing them with willing mentors focused on advancing the mentee’s personal career goals. Mentors and mentees will be matched based on professional skills that the mentee wants to acquire and that the mentor has to offer. The goal of this program is to provide support and educational opportunities to young professionals while developing a more diverse leadership pool for the fastener industry. If you are interested in participating in this program, please link to <http://www.youngfastenerprofessionals.com/form> to fill out the form.



## H&S Sales, Inc. Acquires Nut & Bolt Products

Growing fastener distributor, H&S Sales, Inc. has purchased Nut & Bolt Products, Inc. of Niagara Falls to continue its aggressive expansion plans in Western New York.

Founded in 1952, H&S Sales, Inc. located in Buffalo, delivering production and MRO fasteners to a diverse group of Western New York customers. H&S has consistently grown revenue by employing an experienced and knowledgeable sales team that is laser focused on achieving customer goals. H&S continues to create new jobs and invest in Western New York.

H&S Sales is a full-line fastener distribution company that offers its clients a comprehensive portfolio of standard, metric, and made-to-print fasteners, packaging services and innovative inventory solutions. H&S’s parent company is Great Lakes Fasteners of Cleveland, Ohio.

## LINC Systems Acquires Fastener Distributor Numax

Indiana-based LINC Systems has announced the acquisition of fellow industrial fasteners







distributor Numax, based in New York. The combined company will operate as LINC Systems and remain headquartered in Westfield. LINC services a customer base that includes 22 states.

LINC said the addition will bring improved efficiency to the combined company's infrastructure. In 2013, LINC launched its LINC Supply division, which supplies its customers with their MRO/industrial supply needs. The company said the LINC addition brings more products and services to that offering.

"Both of our companies have a long history based on the foundation of customer service, quality products, and great brands," Azar said.



## EFC International Acquires Technology Components Southwest

EFC International, headquartered in St. Louis, MO, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Texas-based fastener distributor, Technology Components Southwest (TCS). EFC is an engineered fastener distributor. The acquisition, along with other future targeted acquisitions, is part of EFC's plan for regional/global expansion, market diversification, and enhanced product/service offerings.

Technology Components Southwest, LLC was formed in 2004 after acquiring the sales and distribution rights for Rivetnut Products in the Southwest region of the US and Mexico border, including maquiladoras. Since then, TCS has added numerous strategic product lines that are some of the most recognized and respected worldwide manufacturers.

EFC has locations in St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Guelph (Ontario), Querétaro (Mexico), and Shanghai (China). Matt Dudenhoeffer, CEO/President of EFC, notes that "TCS' location and presence in the Southwest expands our coverage in that region thereby enhancing our ability to service customers with local engineering support and inventory. The newly combined entity will benefit from numerous synergies that will accelerate growth as well as strengthen the value we bring to both customers and suppliers throughout North America and globally."

## Royal Adhesives Acquires Adhesive Systems



Royal Adhesives & Sealants L.L.C. has acquired the stock of Adhesive Systems Inc., a manufacturer of cyanoacrylate,

methyl methacrylate, epoxy and anaerobic adhesives for assembly applications.

ASI, based in Frankfort, Ill., was founded 25 years ago and serves a variety of industries, such as automotive, aerospace/aviation, medical equipment, military, electronics, general industrial.

Royal Adhesives & Sealants is a global developer and manufacturer of high-performance adhesives and sealants. Headquartered in South Bend, the firm serves the aerospace and defense, construction, specialty packaging, automotive and industrial markets.

Royal confirmed the acquisition in a Jan. 4 news release, which added that ASI's founders—President Ed Koziol and Vice President Gary Johnson—will continue to run the business as part of Royal.

## Boltun Expected to Reach Better Performance Level

Boltun's major products are high-end automotive fasteners under the support of superior technological level. In recent years, Boltun has been working really hard in developing business in China, Europe, and Southeast Asia, helping it disperse the risk in the markets and create the biggest benefit. China Steel Corp. stated that Boltun seemed to be more aggressive than San Shing Fastech was in the overseas business deployment, so it could achieve remarkable performance. Boltun has also recently expanded its business to high end wind power fasteners. In Q4 of last year, China proposed a favorable policy for the development of medium-to small sized automobiles (less than 1,600 CC), boosting Boltun's successful sales in the Chinese market. China is considered a big market with many opportunities, so Boltun will try to gain benefits from this market as much as possible.



## 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 68.5481 million deal. Gem-Year said that more details will be disclosed when the contract is signed by both parties later.

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.

## Ohio Manufacturer of Fasteners Exposes Workers to Amputation Hazards, OSHA Finds Multiple Machines Lack Guarding, Proposes Fines of \$121K

More than 30 workers were at risk of amputation and other injuries daily while manufacturing nuts and bolts at a Berea factory. Federal inspectors found Telefast Industries Inc. failed to install guards and use recommended safety procedures to prevent workers from coming in contact with operating parts of machinery, violations for which inspectors previously cited the company in 2014.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Telefast for four repeated, two serious and two other-than-serious safety violations on Jan. 21. The agency has proposed penalties of \$121,000.

"I cannot imagine reaching into a machine to clear a product jam or make a quick fix without knowing the machine was inoperable," said Howard Eberts, OSHA's area director in Cleveland. "Yet, these workers - like thousands do across the nation each day - reached into operating machines. Many suffer severe and disabling injuries. Employers must protect their workers on the job."

Investigators also found Telefast did not provide workers with head and face protection against an arc flash as they worked with live voltage while troubleshooting and conducting maintenance on electrical equipment. Additionally, cranes were not inspected as required.

## Nedschroef Introduces Tightening Calculator Mobile App

This app has been created for both Nedschroef's employees and customers. It will help you find or check the tightening procedures of threaded joints using the relationship between torque, clamp load, friction and the property class of the fastener. The calculations can be performed for tightening into the elastic or the plastic area. This app project was carried out in partnership with Nedschroef's Techno Centre, IT department & the Marketing Communication Department.



Nedschroef Tightening Calculator

## KLX Inc. to Initiate Repurchase of Up to \$100 Million of Its Common Stock

KLX Inc., the world's leading distributor and value added

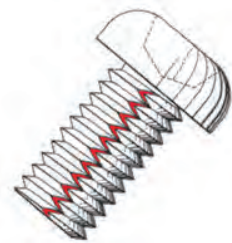


service provider of aerospace fasteners and consumables, and a provider of services and products to the oil and gas industry, announced that it plans to repurchase up to \$100 million of its common stock under its previously authorized \$250 million share repurchase program.

Amin Houry, KLX's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "While we are in the early stages of evaluating several acquisition opportunities for our Aerospace Solutions Group business, we believe our shares currently offer a compelling investment opportunity. Consequently, our Board of Directors has authorized repurchases of up to \$100 million of common stock under our existing \$250 million share repurchase program. Repurchases will be made in open market or privately negotiated transactions in compliance with Securities and Exchange Rule 10b-18, subject to market conditions, applicable legal requirements, and other relevant factors. The share repurchase program does not obligate KLX to acquire any particular amount of common stock, and it may be suspended at any time at KLX's discretion." Mr. Houry continued, "We believe our strong free cash flow and balance sheet flexibility will support both share repurchases and value creating acquisitions."

## Japanese Matsumoto Industry Supplies Small Screws for Brazil's Small Satellite

In August 2015 Japan sent the uncrewed cargo spacecraft "Kounotori" ("Tork" in English) to the space to supply the International Space Station. "Kounotori" carries Brazil's small satellite, and the small screws installed on the satellite are supplied by Matsumoto Industry Co Ltd. The small screws are M3 with countersunk head and anti-loosening special threads called "Noji Lock" which prevent loosening with no coating required, and therefore the screws were adopted. Matsumoto Industry specializes in micro-screws. Besides the medical industry, the company is tapping into the space machinery industry.





"Noji Lock" features: 1. High bondability: The threaded portion comes in 5 types of shape designed to partially deform the thread and create protrusion on the flank so as to make the effective diameter longer than that of the underformed portion and create high bondability with the female threads. 2. Anti-loosening: Apply axial force after fastening the threads, and the protrusion on the flank will deform the flank of female threads and bite the female threads, in the meantime defying the torque on the loosening direction. 3. Reusable.



## Japanese Die Maker Yamanaka Specializes in Products with Added Value

Established in 1961, Yamanaka Eng Co., Ltd. is

a die maker starting with wire drawing dies and now producing dies used for cold forging automotive components. The company not only produces and sells products, but also has the advantage in developing technique, trial production and quality guarantee. It makes products with high added value by adopting CAE software (deformation processing simulation) and introducing the latest equipment.

As for fastener dies, although tooling cost is high, "We minimize the cost of each piece of die," said the sales manager. "We are confident of making impeccable dies through which we can help users take the challenge to produce products with high added value. As our products are subject to clients' requirement, we send our technical team to the production site for inspection, or use CAE software for analyses. We will continue to provide flexible proposals to manufacture products desired by our users."

## Bossard Denmark Moves into a New Technology and Logistics Center

The Bossard Group has made larger investments in the past few years towards expanding the Group's own infrastructure. The relocation to this new technology and logistics center in Hvidovre, near Copenhagen at the beginning of the year was in line with this strategy. The new center will play an important role in developing the Baltic region: From Hvidovre we can efficiently supply products and services to customers in Denmark, Sweden, Norway as well as the Baltic States and Eastern Europe.

Attached to the new technology center is a



state-of-the-art testing laboratory for product developments and tests, which is oriented to the challenging customer requirements. Bossard Denmark's products and services appeal above all to industry customers in the fields of electronics and mechanical engineering. The building complex in Hvidovre has over 2,300 m<sup>2</sup> of office area and nearly 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of warehouse space. The expanded high bay warehouse is oriented to a storage capacity of 4,500 tons.

In addition, the Bossard Group has built up its expertise in the aerospace industry through various acquisitions in recent years, including its takeover in 2015 of Aero-Space Southwest, Inc. In particular, this US subsidiary is active in this demanding segment and officially certified for this industry. Part of the overall strategic direction of the Bossard Group is to expand its base in this business segment. One important step toward this goal is the official certification to the aerospace standard AS9120 in Switzerland. This certificate attests to the quality of Bossard's products and services and acknowledges traceability and processes in place for delivered parts in particular. Customers in the aerospace industry are therefore guaranteed to receive premium original products and an excellent service. Also in France, which has a significant aerospace industry, Bossard is likewise seeking certification and has already initiated the necessary steps. The same applies for Canada.

## Plas-Tech Coatings Introduces New Process for SPC11, Earns Fastener Coater Certification

In response to DuPont's new line of SPC11-compliant Teflon® fastener coatings, Plas-Tech Coatings has developed a new process for coating application under SPC11 and, in turn, has earned the company's approval by Intech Services as an Authorized Fastener Coater. This new process meets or exceeds the following requirements:

- Pass 1,000 hours of salt spray per ASTM B117
- Pass Cross Hatch Adhesion Testing to ensure proper substrate adhesion
- Pass MEK rub test to ensure proper curing
- Pass Appearance Test