



EU Amends Regulation for Antidumping and Anti-Subsidy

The proposal covers targeted amendments to Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 on protection against dumped imports from countries that are not members of the European Union and to Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 on protection against subsidized imports from countries that are not members of the European Union.

For WTO members, the normal value is normally determined on the basis of the domestic prices of the like product or on the basis of a constructed normal value. There are circumstances however in which the domestic prices and costs would not provide a reasonable basis to determine the normal value. This could be the case, for instance, when prices or costs are not the result of free market forces because they are affected by government intervention. In such circumstances, it would be inappropriate to use domestic prices and costs to determine the value at which the like product should be normally sold and a new provision stipulates that the normal value would instead be constructed on the basis of costs of production and sale reflecting undistorted prices or benchmarks. For this purpose, the sources that may be used would include undistorted international prices, costs, or benchmarks, or corresponding costs of production and sale in an appropriate representative country with a similar level of economic development as the exporting country.

For those countries which are, at the date of initiation, not members of the WTO and listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2015/755 of 29 April 2015 on common rules for imports from certain third countries, the normal value will be determined on the basis of the analogue country methodology as provided by Article 2(7) as amended.

The Commission considers also it is essential that the basic anti-subsidy regulation can deploy its full effectiveness. In that respect, experience shows that the actual magnitude of subsidisation is not always evident at the time of initiation. Oftentimes, investigated exporters are found to benefit from subsidies whose existence could not have been reasonably known before carrying out the investigation. Yet, those subsidies clearly provide an unfair benefit the exporters concerned, which allows them to sell at injurious prices to the EU market. It is therefore essential that such subsidies be adequately captured in the final analysis and level of duty imposed.

Modernisation of Europe's Trade Defences Finally Agreed

After four years of deadlock in negotiations, the European Commission, Council and Parliament finally reached a political agreement on the modernisation of Europe's Trade Defence Instruments (TDI).

"The European Steel Association (EUROFER) welcomes the fact that there has been an agreement, one which is a step forward in improving the EU's TDIs. We now urge the EU institutions to formally adopt the deal", said Director General Axel Eggert of EUROFER. "This compromise is a balance between the views in the Council and the European Parliament".

"The agreement is not as ambitious in improving the effectiveness of the EU's TDIs as we initially had hoped. However, it contains a number of improvements, such as a minimum target profit of 6%. This target profit represents a safety net for the sector when injury margins are being calculated", added Mr Eggert.



Industry Update

Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

Taiwan CSC Increases Domestic Prices for Steel Products in Q1 2018

On November 24th 2017, Taiwan CSC held the domestic quote meeting for steel products in Q1 2018. It is estimated that the global economy growth will continue to accelerate in 2018. Taiwan benefits from the thriving export, as well as the strong and stable industrial production. According to Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, the economic growth rate in 2018 is projected to reach 2.27%, better than 2017 performance. Thus Taiwan CSC made the following price adjustments.



Product Category	Avg. Price Adjustment (NTD/ton)
Steel Plates	+455
Wire Rods	+641
Hot Rolled	+214
Cold Rolled	+0
Galvanized Steel Rolls	+0
Electromagnetic Steel Rolls	+0
Hot-Dip Galvanized Steel Rolls	+100

Philippine Auto Sector Outperforms in ASEAN Market

The Philippine automotive industry is showing no sign of slowing down as it continues to be among the top performing sales and production markets in Southeast Asia in the first three quarters. Latest data from the ASEAN Automotive Federation showed vehicle sales and production in the Philippines posted the second fastest growth among automotive markets in the region behind Myanmar, a relatively smaller market.

Philippine automotive sales rose 15.9 percent in the nine months to September 2017 while local production jumped 30.1 percent during the same period. In terms of vehicle sales, only the Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand recorded double-digit growth in the nine-month period, while others posted a low single-digit increase or a decline.

Overall, vehicle sales in the region reached 2.44 million units as of end-September 2017, 5.6 percent higher than the 2.31 million units in the same period in 2016. Meanwhile, the Philippines significantly jacked up vehicle production to 112,171 units from 86,244 units in the same period in 2016. In the region, only the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar posted year-on-year increases in vehicle production. Overall, vehicle production in the region was flat from 2016 at 3.02 million units.

Japanese Fastener Industry in Urgent Need of Tackling the Decrease of Electroplating Plants

Japanese electroplating plants are decreasing in numbers. This is a nerve-cracking problem for local fastener makers who need to outsource fastener electroplating. The shutdown of some electroplating plants in the Greater Tokyo Area forces fastener makers to select new partnering electroplating plants. However, the status quo is that even with multiple

electroplating partners at hand, electroplating speed is still unable to keep up with shipment. In order to postpone the shutdown of electroplating plants, some fastener makers even go as far as to throw funds into electroplating plants. The reasons for the increasing shutdown of electroplating plants include lack of successors, high cost and low profits, and problems with waste water discharge.



Japanese Fastener Industry Sees Rise in Revenues

The Japanese media surveyed 13 local public fastener companies for their performance in the first half of 2017 financial year, finding that the majority reported rise in revenues with concerning profit issues. In revenue performance, all 13 companies reported growth. In the previous survey the majority reported revenue decrease, but this time in contrast the absolute majority reported revenue growth.

In terms of operating profits, 7 companies reported growth and 6 reported decrease, which means 1 additional growth company compared with the previous investigation. However, this also means, among all the 13 revenue-growing companies, the ones that reported profit decrease have amounted to nearly half the proportion.

In terms of ordinary profits, 9 companies reported growth and 4 reported decrease, which means ordinary profits performance is better than operating profits. Ordinary profits is improving compared with the last investigation. In terms of net profits, 7 companies reported growth and 6 reported decrease, which is a sharp contrast to the last investigation and which means net profit performance is improving.

Overall, revenue, operating profit, ordinary profit, and net profit performances are in good condition, but profits have not caught up with the rising revenue trend in all 13 companies. This could be attributed to high material costs, but fortunately the Japanese machinery industry is performing well and infrastructure investment is supporting from the back, so revenue decrease has not occurred. From now on, improving profit margin will be the task for the Japanese fastener industry.

Revenue



FIJ Reports 2016 Results of Japan Fastener Industry

The Int'l Committee Director of Fastener Institute of Japan (FIJ) Mr. Ookawa, on behalf of FIJ, reported the production and fastener trade

statistics of Japan fastener industry in 2016. In 2016, Japan produced 3,010,056 tons of fasteners (up 104.2% from year 2015) and the total production value amounted to JPY 851 billion and 90 million (up 102.7% from year 2015).

As for export, Japan exported 327,717 tons of fasteners (up 104.2% from year 2015). The export value amounted to JPY 268.5 billion and 3 million (up 97.1% from 2015). As for import, Japan imported 228,744 tons of fasteners (up 98.0% from 2015). The import value amounted to JPY 80.2 billion and 89 million (up 87.2% from 2015). Mr. Ookawa said that Japan's economy is continuously recovering and getting close to the level before the closedown of Lehman Brothers and the fastener industry also shows a trend of recovery.

KFFIC Reports 2016 Results of Korean Fastener Industry

The Int'l Committee Director of Korea Federation of Fasteners Industry Cooperatives (KFFIC)

recently reported the production and fastener trade statistics of Korea fastener industry in 2016. The domestic Korean fastener production in 2016 was 1.03 million tons and more than 80% of the production were for the automotive application. In 2016, Korea imported USD 0.493 billion worth of fasteners (down 16.6% from 2015). Main import origins were China, USA, Japan, Germany and UK (China and USA altogether represented 58% of Korea's total import). In the same year, Korea exported USD 0.911 billion worth of fasteners (up 19.7% from 2015). The main export destinations were China, USA, India, Japan and Mexico (China and USA altogether represented nearly 50% of Korea's total export). Both results in export and import show significant dependence of S. Korea on China and USA.

Lee added that, since H2 2016, there has shown significant recovery in business transactions and investment projects and Korea's economy in H1 2017 also showed growth in project investments and export. However, due to the influence from certain issues like N. Korea and the global situations, we still need time to tell the future development of the global economy.



Ta Chen and Brighton-Best to Benefit from the Approved Tax Reform

The U.S. Senate on December 2nd approved Trump's tax reform, which will help reduce the high corporate tax rate for the corporates operating in the US traditional industries. The US stainless steel products distributor Ta Chen International (TCI) and its subsidiary Brighton-Best International (BBI), a fastener distributor, could expect to benefit from the reform. The Senate will cut the corporate tax rate to 20% from 35%. As the biggest stainless steel products distributor in the US, TCI is predicted to benefit if the tax rate is greatly reduced.

Loose Screw Likely Caused Marine Harrier Crash Off Carolina Coast

A Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier's cross-country training flight on May 6, 2016, was abruptly cut short when the aircraft suffered catastrophic engine failure and crashed in the water off Wilmington, North Carolina, shortly after takeoff. According to a newly obtained command investigation, the disaster was likely caused by debris damaging the engine -- and the suspected culprit was a screw fastener with a 5/16ths-inch hexagonal bolt head. The mishap totaled more than \$64 million in damage for the Corps, including the totaled Harrier and an expensive Litening advanced targeting pod that was mounted on the aircraft.

The Harrier fleet support team believes it is likely that the fastener had been lodged inside a boundary layer door for an indeterminable amount of time. Departure from Wilmington was normal but, shortly after takeoff, as the aircraft flew over the Atlantic, the pilot heard an unusual "thump" noise. Concerned, the pilot did an instrument check. There was a second "thump," and then a third, more powerful noise. "This time, it was more violent and I felt as if it shook the aircraft," the pilot recalled. By now, the throttle had also stopped responding. The plane went down in the Atlantic about 12 miles southeast of the Wilmington airport. The investigation called for further investigation of the object, believed to be a screw, that caused the engine to fail, citing possible changes to maintenance and preflight inspections that might result.



Companies Development



New MW Industries Aerospace Solutions Provides Precision Metal Components for Aerospace Design and Manufacturing

MW Industries, a leading provider of highly engineered springs, couplings, specialty fasteners, machined parts and other precision metal components, is announcing the launch of MW Aerospace Solutions to help address the specific needs of Tier 1 and OEMs in the aerospace and defense industry.

MW Aerospace Solutions designs and manufactures springs, fasteners and related products for a wide range of aerospace applications, including components for engines, flight controls, propulsion, landing gear, interiors, avionics and the most advanced space exploration vehicles. The brands comprising this group include Atlantic Spring, Accurate Screw Machine, BellowsTech, Helical Products and Servometer - specializing in springs, stampings, fasteners, couplings, flexures, machined springs, edge-welded and electrodeposited bellows and assemblies.

"With ISO9001 and AS9100 certification and compliancy, MW Aerospace Solutions offers core aerospace capabilities and experience with our advanced manufacturing techniques and processes that yield unrivaled innovations. Our market basket of products and our custom solutions are specifically designed and manufactured for the aerospace industry," explains John Bagnuolo, chief executive officer, MW Industries. "Our mission is to enable our OEM and manufacturing partners to bring products to market more quickly and cost effectively."



Grainger Opens Bordentown Distribution Center

Grainger recently celebrated its grand opening in Bordentown. The new distribution center is 1.3 million square feet and stocks more than 300,000 items, which will allow the industrial supply company to deliver more products by the next day to customers in the Northeast.

"Our Northeast Distribution Center in New Jersey is a significant investment focused on helping to ensure an effortless experience for our customers by getting them the products they need to keep their operations running and making those products available faster than the competition," said Barry Greenhouse, Grainger's vice president of global supply chain. "Grainger has been in New Jersey since 1933, and we look forward to continuing to provide exceptional value to businesses in the Northeast."

The distribution center runs on state-of-the-art distribution technology, enabling real-time order processing. The building also features more than 13,000 high-efficiency SunPower solar panels on its roof, capable of producing 4.3 megawatts of electrical power.



Sherex Fastening Solutions Gets Qualified Supplier List Approval

Sherex is excited to announce that it has received QSLM approval (Qualified Suppliers List for Manufacturers) from the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency for its threaded fasteners produced in its Akron, OH facility. Sherex Akron's MS/NAS fasteners are high quality, cost effective solutions for attaching thin sheet metals, and are available in small lot quantities and with short lead times.



OFICO Reports a New High in Sep. 2017 Revenue and Launches Mass Production of New Nuts

OFICO Industrial Corp. reported that its sales revenue in Sep. 2017 has reached a new high (nearly NTD 0.1 billion). In addition to the increasing focus on socket head screws, OFICO has also initiated its new nut mass production project. Mainly focusing on sales to Europe, OFICO has recently extended its reach to America and the Middle East markets. OFICO said that the production of nuts is currently upon customers' requests and the preliminary goal is reaching the monthly production of 300-500 tons. OFICO also looks forward to expanding to more markets in the future.

Dimac Following the Fasteners Eurasian Evolution

In the last issue of Fastener World, we have focused on the multilateral partnership between Boltun Corporation and Dimac as an important step of the path that Italian company has engaged to strengthen also in Asia the brand reputation.

This commitment to a global development is yielding new interesting projects for 2018, i.e. Dimac 30th Anniversary too. The world-class manufacturer of automotive fasteners and metal parts QST International Corporation – part of the Taiwanese group Boltun/QST – has entrusted Dimac with the installation of two new 100% inspection and sorting systems.

Mr. Mark Wu, chairman of QST Holding comments: "Dimac MCV3 and MCV1 series installed in Chemnitz (DE) – plants of our German partner Eska Automotive GmbH - fully meet the requirements for the inspection of aluminum parts, actually exceeding the expectations. A new MCV3 and a new MCV1 of the same series would be installed in our facility in Xiamen (CHINA) within the first quarter of 2018. Considering that 80% of our group turnover is automotive related, with 40% of sales coming from Europe and 30% each from Asia and America, it is strategically essential for us to invest in 100% inspection technology".

New MCV1 and MCV3 rotary table-based machines are specifically designed to control fasteners supplied to automotive OEMs and Tiers. MCV1 is developed to detect any defectiveness on M4-M10 parts, equipped with 2 (top and side) AVT Firewire Digital cameras with collimated tele-centric lenses, integrated with the latest MCVx vision software, performing peculiar inspection parameters, e.g. thread quality and cracks. MCV3 is suited to M8-M16 parts and, compared to MCV1, it is equipped with an additional side camera, to capture the oversize parts. The new generation Eddy Current station will have the same functionalities of the device provided to Eska, dramatically improving heat treatment control and cracks detection. Dimac will care the shipment too. The new machines will be in production within May 2018.



Rodex Reports Record High Q3 Revenue Compared to Last 3 Years

Benefiting from market recovery and the expectation for price increase, Taiwanese SS small screws manufacturer Rodex Fasteners Corp. reported the best revenue result in Q3 2017 compared to the last 3 years. Its combined revenue in Q3 was NTD 0.695 billion (a 23.9% quarter-on-quarter increase). On the other hand, as U.S. manufacturing continues to recover in the 2nd half of 2017 and the demand for machines in Europe continues to grow steadily, the sales of Rodex in the 2nd half of 2017 is expected to become better than the sales in the 1st half of 2017. Its EPS is also expected to reach NTD 3.

Rodex is the world's largest SS small screws manufacturer and its manufacturing sites are located in Taoyuan, Thailand and Indonesia. Its Taiwan plant shares 50% of the revenue while the overseas plants share the remaining 50%.



Stanley Black & Decker Opens York Location

Stanley Black & Decker, one of the world's largest tool companies, is opening a new manufacturing facility in York County. The new operations are projected to bring \$31 million in capital investment and lead to the creation of 500 new jobs. Stanley Black & Decker is a diversified global provider of hand tools, power tools, and related accessories; electronic security solutions; and fastening systems. Stanley Black & Decker will be occupying a new 345,000-square-foot facility for the manufacture and assembly of DEWALT cordless power tools. The new facility will be located in the Lakemont Business Park in Fort Mill.



Dubrovnik(Croatia), the EIFI 2018 Convention Venue

The EIFI 2017 convention was held from 18 to 21 May 2017 in the town of Marstrand, Sweden, in the wonderful archipelago of Goteborg. The programme started on Thursday 18 May with a welcome dinner at the Marstrand Havshotell, where owners and representatives of the major European manufacturers of fasteners that are EIFI members from Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, England, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden had the pleasure of meeting each other.

The following day was entirely devoted to meetings, with many special guests of EIFI representing several world associations: the Chairman of the American IFI (Industrial Fasteners Institute), Mr. James Springer, the Chairman of the Brazilian SINPA (Sindicato da Indústria de Parafusos, Porcas, Rebites e Similares no Estado de São Paulo), Mr. Fernando A. G. Martins, the former Chairman of the Taiwanese TFTA (Taiwan Fastener Trading Association), Mr. Bill Chen, accompanied by his delegation (Mr. Jim Chen and Mr. Ivan Lin) and the Secretary-General of EFDA (European Fastener Distributors Association), Mr. Alexander Kolodzik: all of them presented very interesting reports on the relevant markets that the EIFI members appreciated very much.

There were also two external speakers invited by Bulten SA, which organized the event: Mr. Fredrik Sidahl, Managing Director of the Scandinavian Automotive Supplier Association, who gave a very interesting speech on future mobility during the convention session of meetings devoted to the Automotive

sector, and Mr Magnus Helgesson, entrepreneur, writer and trainer, who gave an illuminating speech - during the convention open session – with the title “How to be successful” and on the importance of promoting corporate human resources.

Finally, like every year, many EIFI members presented their reports on the convention stage: Paolo Pozzi, Chairman of the Automotive Group, starting from an overview on the current geopolitical situation in Europe - Brexit, Immigration, impact of the Trump presidency, ISIS, etc. – analysed in detail the trends of the Automotive sector and stated that the sales of cars in the world will end 2017 with an increase of + 6% over 2016, driven by a growth in almost every country – with the exception of Russia and Brazil - particularly in Central Europe and China. Ramon Ceravalls, Chairman of the General Fasteners Group of EIFI, focused his report on the trends of the building sector in Europe, which seems to be strengthening its process of recovery that is expected to last with an average of +2% until 2019. The next annual EIFI convention will be organized by Member DIV Ltd in Croatia, in the wonderful town of Dubrovnik, from 24 to 27 May 2018.



Merger News



Threaded Fasteners Inc. is Expanding its Inventory with Acquisition

Threaded Fasteners Inc. (TFI), specializing in the manufacturing, custom packaging and distribution of fasteners, recently acquired the vast inventory of a Mississippi-based fastener firm -- some 111 pallets of materials totaling more than a million parts - which is immediately available for its customers across North America. The stock, purchased from an out-of-state business, included more than 5,000 different types of parts, all transported to Threaded Fasteners National Headquarters in Crichton, Alabama.

"All of our other locations now have access to the extra inventory," said Jarrad Douberly, Vice President for Commercial Sales at Threaded Fasteners. "It's ready to be distributed across the country as soon as our customers need it." Threaded Fasteners Inc. maintains more than 42 million individual parts in stock to meet the global needs of its clients.



Raybuck Auto Body Parts Acquires Henry's Automotive Warehouse

Raybuck Auto Body Parts is expanding its product offering with the purchase of automotive fastener company, Henry's Automotive Warehouse. Raybuck will now be able to get high-quality aftermarket parts and accessories, as well as the fasteners, all from one place. With the addition of Henry's, Raybuck now offers a wide range of automotive fasteners. Raybuck's complete line of products cover vehicles as early as the 1940s through today. Raybuck says it remains a service-oriented company focused on providing a higher level of customer support than the “big guys.”



BIAFD Spring General Meeting

The BIAFD Spring General Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th April 2018 at the Hallmark Welcombe Hotel, Stratford upon Avon. A detailed schedule will be announced in the New Year but BIAFD is pleased to confirm that KPMG has agreed to return to provide an update on the implications of 'Brexit' on the import and distribution sector.

Five Regions Fastener Association Conference 2017- Association Chairmen Hold Optimistic Expectation Toward Future Market Growth

More than 100 fastener association reps from Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, S. Korea and Japan attended the Five Regions Fastener Association Conference held in Sapporo, Japan on Oct. 20th. Chairman of the Fastener Institute of Japan addressed in the conference that he hoped the understanding and friendship among members could be strengthened through this event. Association reps also reported the current conditions of their regional industries.

Former TIFI Chairman Anchor T. H. Chang reported that in 2016 the total fastener export of these five regions reached 4.76 million tons (about 53% of the world's total) and the export value amounted to US\$12 billion (about 35% of the world's total), making the five regions one of the most important roles in the global supply chain. He also called upon the industry to refrain from price cutting competition in order to achieve sustainable growth.

Int'l Committee Director of FIJ Mr. Ookawa reported that the Japanese economy is gradually turning well. He added that in 2016 the fastener production of Japan was about 3 million tons (up 4.2% from year 2015) and that with the upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo in 2020 the market demand will definitely grow.

CMCA Executive Director Mr. Wang reported that in 2016 the fastener production of China was 7.4 million tons (up 2%) and that the next step of Chinese fastener industry must follow the guidelines of the “Made in China 2025” policy in order to march toward innovation and upgrade.

KFFIC Chairman Mr. Cheng reported that the investment of companies is increasing and the economy is in recovery; however, due to protectionism, interest rates increase of USA and the unstable situation in Northeast Asia, the uncertainty still remains.

HKSFC Chairman Wu, Wai-Yee reported that the economy is turning well and boosted by improved technology, business transformation and intelligent/green manufacturing, we could expect a better future for the fastener industry soon.



Bufab Group: Bufab Acquires Kian Soon Mechanical Components Pte Ltd



Bufab has signed an agreement to acquire all outstanding shares in Kian Soon Mechanical Components Pte Ltd in Singapore, with annual sales of approximately SGD 17 million.

Kian Soon was founded in 1977 and is one of the leading distributors of C parts in South-East Asia. Besides the head office in Singapore, the company has subsidiaries in Malaysia and Indonesia and a joint venture in Thailand. Kian Soon has 64 employees and generates annual sales of approximately SGD 17 million with good profitability.

The acquisition will be financed within Bufab's existing credit facilities. The purchase price, on an "enterprise value" basis, amounts to approximately 85 million Swedish crowns upon closing of the transaction. An additional approximately 25 million Swedish crowns will be paid in 2019 conditional on a stable financial development. Finally, a performance-related purchase consideration of a maximum of 20 million Swedish crowns may be paid in 2021, conditional on an improved profit. The acquisition will close and take effect immediately, and will be reported within Bufab's segment International. The acquisition is expected to contribute marginally to Bufab's earnings per share starting from the first quarter of 2018.

Hodell-Natco Acquires Davco Fastener Company



Hodell-Natco Industries acquired Davco Fastener Company on December 1, 2017. The move was a strategic one that gives Hodell-Natco a stronger foothold in the OEM market. Kevin Reidl, President of Hodell-Natco, worked together with Dave Potts, President and Owner of Davco Fastener Company on this mutually-beneficial transaction.

Hodell-Natco President, Kevin Reidl, views the acquisition as the perfect step in Hodell-Natco's growth strategy. "You don't often come across another business that is so wholly aligned to your own business both strategically and philosophically." From a product standpoint, the acquisition provides Hodell-Natco with very logical product line extensions. Davco Fasteners offers additional custom and specialized product lines which will allow Hodell-Natco to appeal to a broader customer base. Reidl goes on to say, "The similarities between the two companies are profound."

Commemorating Thomas Doppke, Former President of Technical Presentations Company



Thomas Doppke, an esteemed fastener expert with over sixty years of in-depth experience in the fastener industry and a long time contributing author to Fastener World Magazine, passed away at the end of October 2017. While at General Motors during 1957 to 1999, he held positions of progressively greater responsibility. Positions

have included technician, general supervisor, and fastener engineer. From 1995 to 1999, he was the president of Technical Presentations Company, a consultant and technical communications firm. After the closure of Technical Presentations Company, he had been doing consultant work and technical writing and training as an independent consultant. He had done consultation work on product failures, several law suits, and general fastener technology.

Jane Doppke, married to Thomas, said, "Tom was a man who loved his family and friends. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. There is a great hole in our hearts. We will work on filling it with wonderful memories." Fastener World Magazine would like to pay homage to him for his decades long contribution to the fastener industry.

PREVEX INFÄSTNINGSSPECIALISTEN Ahlsell Acquires Distributor of Fastening Solutions in Gothenburg

Ahlsell Sverige AB has, through its subsidiary Prevex AB, signed an agreement to acquire Infästningsspecialisten Göteborg AB (Infästningsspecialisten) with annual sales of approximately SEK 28 million.

Infästningsspecialisten distributes building supplies to professional customers in the region of Västra Götaland in Sweden. The company has a particularly strong position within fastening solutions and related tools. The products are sold to small and medium-sized contractors within the customer segments construction, electrical, assembly, steel plating, plumbing and demolition. The company is privately owned and has eight employees.

"Infästningsspecialisten operates in an attractive product segment and has a strong external sales force. Through the acquisition, our customers in the region gain even better access to components within fastening.", says Johan Nilsson, President and CEO of Ahlsell AB (publ).

The operations of Infästningsspecialisten will be integrated into Prevex AB, a subsidiary of Ahlsell Sverige AB, and the acquisition is expected to be closed in the beginning of December. The acquisition is expected to have a minor positive impact on the Group's earnings for 2018.

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