

Fastener World News



compiled by Fastener World

The EU Starts Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Imports Including Steel (and Fasteners) in July

According to Time, The European Union announced it would start imposing duties from July on a list of U.S. products in response to President Donald Trump's decision to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Europe. European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic told reporters, "It is a measured and proportionate response to the unilateral and illegal decision taken by the United States." Sefcovic said that formalities in finalizing the list would be completed in June. The EU says it will introduce "rebalancing" tariffs on about 2.8 billion euros' (\$3.4 billion) worth of U.S. steel, agricultural and other products.

Trump imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum from the EU on June 1. He said the move is meant to protect U.S. national security interests, but the Europeans claim it is simply protectionism and breaks global trade rules.

The EU exported some 5.5 million tons of steel to the U.S. last year.

European steel producers are concerned about a loss of market access but also that steel from elsewhere will flood in. The EU has also taken its case to the World Trade Organization. If the WTO rules in its favor, or after three years if the case is still going on, the EU plans to impose further tariffs of 3.6 billion euros on U.S. products. "The EU's reaction is fully in line with international trade law. We regret that the United States left us with no other option than to safeguard EU interests," Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in a statement.

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The fastener codes in the list of retaliatory tariffs are as follows. These codes will be imposed a 25% tariff.

- 73181410- self tapping screws of iron or steel, other than stainless (not woodscrews)
- 73181491- Spaced-thread screws or iron or steel, other than stainless
- 73181499- Self tapping screws of iron or steel other than stainless
- 73181640- Blind rivet nuts of iron or steel, other than stainless
- 73181660- Self-locking nuts of iron or steel other than stainless
- 73181699- Nuts of iron or steel, other than stainless, with inside diameter ≤ 12 mm
- 73181699- Nuts of iron or steel, other than stainless, with inside diameter > 12 mm

The list mentioned above can be read in full text through this link: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/may/tradoc_156909.pdf

EUROFER Condemns US Tariffs; Calls for Broad, Comprehensive Safeguards to Swiftly Counter 'Section 232 Effect'



US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has announced that the US' Section 232 tariffs will now hit EU steel. As of 1 June, the EU faces a 25% tariff on its exports of the metal to the US. The European Steel Association (EUROFER) condemns the US action and calls on the Commission to swiftly adopt safeguard measures that are broad in scope, comprehensive in the countries covered – but that ensure access to traditional trade flows.

"The US measure is naked protectionism – a bad day for the world trade system", said Axel Eggert, Director General of EUROFER. "However, what's done is done – the US' administration seems not to believe that being close, political, economic and geo-strategic partners is sufficient grounds to prevent the EU from being hit".

"The EU thus needs to act swiftly in its own interest to defend the internal market from the 'Section 232 effect' – the impact of steel deflected from the US border to the largest open steel market in the world: Europe's", stressed Mr. Eggert.

EUROFER
The European Steel Association

"EUROFER calls for a quickly-deployed safeguard that covers the full product scope that will be affected – and warns that there cannot

be country exclusions if the safeguard is to function. However, the purpose is not to exclude imports: it is preventative remedial action against the threat posed by import surges", added Mr. Eggert.

In the first four months of the 2018, imports have surged by 8.4%, almost certainly as a result of the Section 232 effect. 2017 already represented a high-water mark for imports into the EU – making rapid corrective remedial action all the more imperative.

"We regret that the US has taken this unnecessarily damaging step. We support the Commission in its responses to the US' trade action – and urge all EU stakeholders to remain united in order to face down both the US' measure and the incoming inundation of deflected steel products", concluded Mr. Eggert.

South Africa Confirms Termination of AD Measure Against Steel Hex Threaded Screws from China

On May 4, 2018, ITAC of South Africa announced that as there was no relevant companies submitting their application for sunset review before the expiry date, the termination of the antidumping measure imposed by SACU against Screws Fully Threaded with Hexagon Heads Made of Steel from China, which came into force on Nov. 15, 2012 and expired on Nov. 15, 2017, has been finally determined by ITAC.



Production, Import & Export Data of Chinese General Parts Industry in Q1 2018

Benefiting from the booming markets of automotive, high speed rail and aerospace industries, Chinese mechanical & general parts industries showed modest growth in Q1 2018. The revenues of enterprises were steadily growing and the situation of product import/export was getting well. The total production value of the industry was around RMB 8.56 billion (YoY: 6.4%).

The total import value was USD 5.216 billion (YoY: 10%), USD 0.771 billion of which was contributed by fasteners (YoY: 6.42%). The total export value was USD 3.47 billion (YoY: 21.5%), USD 1.342 billion of which was contributed by fasteners (YoY: 28.41%).

Fredrik Meuller Appointed New CEO of the Nord-Lock Group



Fredrik Meuller has been appointed new CEO of the Nord-Lock Group, starting 1 June 2018. Mr. Meuller will be based in the head office in Malmö, Sweden.

Fredrik Meuller, born in 1970, has spent the past 16 years in various management positions within the Trelleborg Group (a publicly listed Swedish company within industrial polymers), the last 6 of which as Business Area President for Trelleborg Offshore & Construction. Prior to Trelleborg, Mr. Meuller was with McKinsey & Co. management consulting, as well as JPMorgan investment banking. He holds a MSc. in Finance from the Stockholm School of Economics.

Fredrik Meuller replaces Ola Ringdahl who is, after five years as CEO of the Nord-Lock Group, moving on to become CEO of the Lindab Group.

Germany's Billionaire 'Screw King' Tightens the Screws on the U.S.: No More Investment Until Trump Goes



One of the world's biggest suppliers of assembly and fastening materials, Germany's Würth Group, will not invest any more in the United States while President Donald Trump is in power.

Reinhold Würth, popularly known in Germany as the "Screw King," said that he had "made sure we are no longer investing in the U.S. at the moment."

"We make 14% of our annual sales there—€1.8 billion [\$2.1 billion]—but I do not want to increase our engagement in America any further." Würth said his reticence about further investment was based on the "general, uncertain political situation" in the U.S. "We'll wait and see if President Trump is re-elected in four years," he said. "Würth returns when he goes."

The billionaire's comments came just after President Trump imposed hefty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from the EU, Canada and Mexico. According to U.S. figures, Germany is the source of 4% of American steel imports. Just over 2% of U.S. aluminum imports come from Germany. Trump is also pushing for 25% tariffs on car imports, and seems particularly angry about German luxury cars having a place on American roads. Germany is Europe's biggest exporter of automobiles to the U.S.

Last November, the group bought Weinstock Bros, a venerable New York maker of supplies for the construction industry—the fifth transaction in three years for Würth Industry North America. A Würth spokesperson said that no additional acquisitions are currently planned in the U.S.

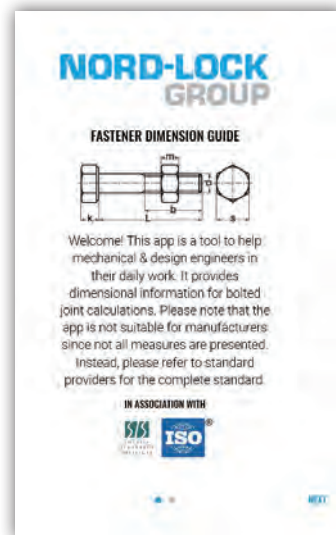
Nord-Lock Group Develops "The Fastener Dimension Guide" in Cooperation with Swedish Standards Institute (SIS)

The Fastener Dimension Guide is a web-based application that makes it easy to gather fastener data while performing bolted joint calculations. Rather than trying to find measurements from a table in standard sheets, engineers can simply enter the size and length of a bolt into the application and find all the dimensions that conform to ISO standards.

The Guide provides up-to-date information in a user-friendly format directly from your mobile device or desktop – making fastener data collection quick and easy. The Fastener Dimension Guide was developed by Nord-Lock Group in cooperation with SIS (Swedish Standards Institute).

This application can be used on all smartphones as well as on desktop. Click on the link below to download.

<https://fastener-standards.nord-lock.com/>



NORD-LOCK®

TR Fastenings Launches Technical and Innovation Centre in Gothenburg

The new facility is located in the thriving Lindholmen Science Park, a hub for automotive innovation. The site will allow TR to form and enhance working relationships with key customers in the region, and to provide a showroom-style location where customers can visit, view fastener products and discuss design and manufacturing options with the TR team.

TR is a full service provider to the automotive industry, supplying and distributing fastener products to the Tier 1 market. TR's global reach now extends to 31 sites, since the launch of the Gothenburg location and the recent acquisition of stainless steel supplier and distributor Precision Technology Supplies (PTS). Globally, TR supplies more than 50 billion components annually to over 5,000 customers and also produces over 8 billion parts per annum from its 8 manufacturing facilities worldwide.



NORMA Group to Acquire a Supplier in the Area of Metal Processing

NORMA Group signed an agreement to acquire Statek Stanzertechnik GmbH ("Statek") on June 5, 2018. Statek has many years of experience

and a high level of production expertise in stamping, bending and forming technology for almost all commonly used metals. The parties have agreed not to disclose the details of the agreement. Completion is expected after antitrust approval in mid-2018.

The company based in Maintal was founded by Dieter Anton in 1980 and produces contact and stamped parts, housings, wave springs and other products. Statek has around 60 employees and supplies well-known German and international customers in the electrical engineering, automotive and reactor technology industries. NORMA Group has conducted business with Statek for many years, buying housings and spring inserts for worm-drive hose clamps from the medium-sized company. Statek generated sales of around EUR 17.2 million in fiscal year 2017, around 70 percent of which came from NORMA Group, its largest customer.



Vossloh Wins €30 Million Order for Rail Fastening Systems in China

Vossloh has won another tender for the supply of rail fastening systems in China. The order amounts to a converted volume of about €30 million, underscoring the continued strong market position of Vossloh with rail fastening systems in the high-speed segment in the focus market China.



A sub-section of the route currently under construction from Zhengzhou, in eastern China, to Wanzhou, a district of the megacity Chongqing, located southwest of Zhengzhou, is to be equipped. Deliveries for the so called "Zheng Wan Chongqing section" project are primarily scheduled for 2019.



Vossloh has been present in China since 2006. Kunshan-based Vossloh Fastening Systems China Co. Ltd. is one of the locally leading providers of rail fastening systems for use on high-speed lines. In China, the world's largest and most modern rail network is located. Since the end of 2017, more than 23,000 kilometers of track for high-speed trains have been in operation. Additional high-speed projects are under construction and should expand the rail network to 38,000 kilometers by 2025.

Bosch Sensortec Honors Digi-Key with Highest Volume On-Line Distributor, 2017 Award

Digi-Key Electronics, a global electronic components distributor, was awarded the "Highest Volume On-Line Distributor, 2017" Award at the Bosch Sensortec National Sales Conference.

The award was presented by Mark Johnson, VP of Worldwide Sales and Afzal Saeed, Sr. Regional Sales Manager at Bosch Sensortec and given to Jason Simoneau, Director, Supplier Business Development and Shawn Martinsen, Product Manager at Digi-Key.

Bosch Sensortec GmbH is a fully owned subsidiary of Robert Bosch GmbH dedicated to the world of consumer electronics; offering a complete portfolio of micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) based sensors and solutions that enable mobile devices to feel and sense the world around them.

Bosch Sensortec's broad portfolio of products including MEMS sensors, solutions, and systems is available for immediate shipment globally from Digi-Key.



Bulten Elected Members of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Bulten shall comprise six ordinary members, elected by the AGM, without deputies. The AGM decided to re-elect Board members Hans Gustavsson, Hans Peter Havdal, Ulf Liljedahl, Peter Karlsten, and Anne-Lie Lind and to elect Nicklas Paulson as a new member.



Nicklas Paulson is the President of Investment AB Öresund since March 2018 and was elected April 10, 2018 as a member of the Bilja AB (publ) Board. Nicklas has more than 20 years of experience in investment banking and corporate finance with positions in Carnegie, Investment Banking and Alfred Berg, Investment Banking.



Ulf Liljedahl was elected as the Chairman of the Board.

Swedish Sandvik Supplies Bolts That Secure the Lifetime of the Vasa Ship



After more than 4,000 rusty bolts have been replaced with specially constructed high-alloy stainless bolts from Sandvik, the job has now been completed. But every end is a new beginning – and now a whole new chapter for the Vasa ship

is launched, with bolts that will last for at least 150 years.

When Vasa was salvaged in 1961, the 17th century bolts that originally held the ship together had completely rusted away. New bolts were inserted where the original bolts were previously seated, but eventually they also started to rust.

"Replacing the bolts from the 1960s was necessary for the ship to survive in the future. The attacking rust had weakened the bolts and caused chemical reactions in the ship's wood," says Vasa Museum's director Lisa Månsson.

Vasa Museum realized that all the ship's bolts had to be replaced with another, better material to prevent the hull from collapsing. The museum began to look for a material which could secure the lifetime of the ship for at least a further hundred years and for a partner to collaborate with. Sandvik was chosen and in 2011, Vasa Museum and Sandvik initiated a unique and long-term research and development cooperation to save the national treasure Vasa.

Together, a solution was developed with specially constructed, high alloy stainless bolts to replace the old 60s bolts. During the project, material specialists from Sandvik could help with everything from initial material discussions to measurements and evaluations, which showed that the new bolts were in line with expectations.

All the bolts have now been replaced and the warship Vasa can be saved for the future.



Sandvik to Acquire Metrology Software Company Metrologic Group



In line with its strategic agenda to broaden Sandvik Machining Solutions' customer offering in digital manufacturing, Sandvik intends to acquire the French software company Metrologic Group from Astorg Partners at a price of 360 million EUR, on a cash and debt free basis.

Headquartered in Meylan, France, Metrologic Group is a market leader in agnostic metrology software. In its fiscal year ending in September 2017 Metrologic Group generated revenues of 43.3 million EUR with an EBITDA margin which would be accretive to that of Sandvik Machining Solutions. Metrologic Group would form a new business unit within a new product area in Sandvik Machining Solutions and would maintain brand independence, in line with Sandvik's decentralized business model. The Metrologic Group management team would remain with the company.

The combined offering of Sandvik Machining Solutions and Metrologic Group would help customers achieve a more seamless manufacturing chain by linking the machining and quality assurance processes.

The transaction is expected to close mid-2018 following consultation with works council and is subject to customary regulatory approvals.

Sandvik Divests Ownership in Joint Venture Fagersta Stainless



In addition to the previously communicated intention to exit from the stainless wire business, Sandvik further consolidates its business portfolio by divesting its 50% stake in Fagersta Stainless wire rod mill, a joint venture between Sandvik Materials Technology and Outokumpu.

Outokumpu will take full ownership of Fagersta Stainless and the purchase price is 184 million SEK. In 2017, the company's revenues were approximately 1.6 billion SEK, with Sandvik's share of the net profit consolidated as income from associated companies in Sandvik's financial statements.

Bossard Denmark and Sweden Certified by ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 14001: 2015 Standards

Bossard Denmark and Sweden have been upgraded to the new ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 14001: 2015 standards. After thorough review, the external audit has approved Bossard Denmark and Sweden according to the new ISO standards. Auditing did not find any deviations in its Quality Management System.

"We are proud to be certified once again after a thorough review of three external auditors," says Lars Holm, Quality Manager for Bossard Denmark.

The new ISO standards have received a major update in quality and environmental management, and the old ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO 14001: 2004 are released as ISO standards, valid from mid-September 2018.



Martin Kühn Appointed to the Board of Directors of Bossard

At the annual general meeting of shareholders of Bossard Holding AG all motions of the Board of Directors were approved with a large majority. After the resignation of Helen Wetter-Bossard, Martin Kühn was newly elected to the Board of Directors. The annual general meeting of shareholders approved all current directors in their posts.

Dr. Thomas Schmuckli remains as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Martin Kühn, who has been with the KIBAG Group since 2010, will bring his knowledge as CFO of KIBAG and his experience as a business economist and Swiss-certified auditor to the Board of Directors.



Blaj Fasteners Becomes a Member of the German-Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry

This May, Blaj Fasteners joined the Slovene-German Chamber of Commerce (AHK). With 92.00% export revenue, Blaj joined 237 Slovenian export companies that are oriented towards the future.

In cooperation with BME (German Association for Material Economy, Purchasing and Logistics) and their partners, the German-Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry helps to find potential Slovenian suppliers for German companies. They advise Slovenian export companies on entering the German market, help find sales agents and establish a company in Germany. In the company Blaj Fasteners, they are primarily looking for education and consulting in legal, tax and other areas related to the German market.

In B2B events organized by the Slovene-German Chamber of Commerce (AHK), companies can meet directly with purchasers from



German companies. Among them are Atlas Copco, Bosch Rexroth, Dieffenbacher, Diehl Defence, Fath, GEFA Processtechnik, Haacon Hebetechik and others.



nVent Honored with Raytheon's 5 Star Supplier Excellence Award

nVent Electric plc (NYSE:NVT) ("nVent"), a global leader in electrical connection and protection solutions, was recently honored with the 5-Star Supplier Excellence Award from Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. A 5-Star award is the highest level of recognition a Raytheon business supplier can achieve for excellence in quality and performance.

Raytheon recognized the team at nVent's Schroff brand facility in San Diego, Calif., which manufactures Schroff Calmark and Schroff Birtcher product lines.

nVent was one of nine companies selected for the award which honors suppliers who have provided outstanding service and partnership in exceeding customer requirements. Candidates are judged on certain criteria, including overall quality, on-time delivery and demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement.



Agrati Holds Innovation Day 2018

It was held on May 29th the Innovation Day 2018 (6th Edition): a meeting organized by Agrati R&D Department with the partnership of IBM, A2MAC1, E-NOVIA, Brose Italia, Continental Italia and SDA Bocconi.



During the meeting the attendees have talked about several themes regarding innovation: from the future of mobility to the new technologies' application.

The impact that PSM operations have on the environment is of great importance to PSM International. They work on a continuous improvement program of policy and objectives to monitor their impact on the environment, reduce and control the generation of waste, and use the resources effectively.

Following the successful upgrade of the quality system certification for PSM International's Taiwan operations in January this year, at beginning of May this year, PSM Taiwan operations successfully upgraded to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification 2015 standards.



John Ashe Named President and CEO of Lucas-Milhaupt Unit of Steel Partners Holdings



Lucas-Milhaupt, Inc., a global manufacturer of metal-joining products and associated fabrication services, and

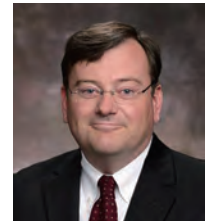
a unit of Steel Partners Holdings L.P. (NYSE: SPLP), announced the appointment of John Ashe as its President and Chief Executive Officer, effective May 7, 2018.

Ashe joins Lucas-Milhaupt from the FastenMaster division of OMG, Inc., also a business unit of Steel Partners, where he was Senior Vice President and General Manager. He served in various sales and management capacities with OMG, a global supplier of specialty fasteners and products for commercial and residential construction applications, since 1992.

Ashe reports directly to William T. Fejes, President of Steel Services Ltd., who also heads Steel Partners' Diversified Industrial businesses.

KYOCERA Senco Announces Leadership Transition as CEO Retires

KYOCERA Senco Industrial Tools, Inc. (formerly Senco Brands, Inc.) announced that President, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member Ben Johansen retired in July 2018 as part of a planned internal succession strategy. He was succeeded by Clifford Mentrup, the company's current Chief Operating Officer and Board Member.



Johansen, 58, has been President and CEO since January of 2010. He was appointed soon after Senco was acquired by Wynnchurch Capital, who purchased the fastener and tool manufacturing business in 2009.

As CEO, Johansen steered the company out of the Great Recession and led the company into a position of financial strength, during which it has produced consistent year-over-year revenue and profit growth. After more than seven years under Johansen's leadership, Senco was purchased by Kyocera Corporation in August 2017.

Johansen's successor, Cliff Mentrup, 47, joined Senco in the fall of 2000. During his nearly 18 years with the organization, Mentrup has led several key company operations, including manufacturing, distribution, customer service, human resources and risk. He has also managed the company's legal activities, led multiple mergers and acquisitions, and served as a key member of the leadership team that strengthened Senco's financial and global position. Mentrup was named Chief Operating Officer and was appointed to the board in August 2017.

PSM International Taiwan Site Awarded ISO14001: 2015 Certification in May

MSC Industrial Supply Co. Acquires All Integrated Solutions

MSC Industrial Supply Co. (NYSE: MSM), a premier distributor of Metalworking and Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) products and services to industrial customers throughout North America, has acquired All Integrated Solutions (AIS) from New York-based private equity firm High Road Capital Partners. AIS is a leading value-added distributor of industrial fasteners and components, MRO supplies and assembly tools based in Franksville, Wisconsin. The stock purchase transaction closed on April 30, 2018.

AIS delivers production fasteners and custom tool and fastener solutions for use in the assembly of manufactured commercial and consumer products. The company's 135-plus associates serve customers in a region that includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana and North Dakota. AIS's revenue in calendar 2017 was approximately \$66 million.

MSC plans to maintain AIS's operations, providing the company's customer base access to MSC's 1.5 million-plus product portfolio to support their full metalworking and MRO needs. Similarly, MSC will extend AIS's production fastener and vendor-managed inventory (VMI) solutions to MSC's manufacturing customers.



KLX Agrees to Sell Its ASG Business to Boeing in an All Cash Transaction

KLX Inc. ("KLX" or the "Company") (NASDAQ:KLXI), a leading distributor and value added service provider of aerospace fasteners and consumables, announced its intention to sell its Aerospace Solutions Group business to The Boeing Company.

KLX announced that the Company has entered into a definitive agreement to sell the Aerospace Solutions Group ("ASG") to The Boeing Company ("Boeing") for \$63.00 per share in cash. The transaction with Boeing is valued at approximately \$4.25 billion, including the assumption of approximately \$995 million in net debt. Upon closing of the transaction, ASG will become part of the Boeing Global Services' business. Boeing's acquisition of KLX Inc. is conditioned upon the successful divestment and separation of KLX Inc.'s Energy Services Group ("ESG"). The transaction is also subject to customary closing conditions, including KLX shareholder approval and receipt of applicable regulatory approvals.



Japanese Fastener Machine Trader OSY Sets up a Branch in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

OSY has set up its 100%-owned branch "OSY Ltd Taiwan" in Kaohsiung of Taiwan on May 11 this year. The branch has started operation.



Mesirow Financial Advises Brinker Brown Fastener & Supply Inc. on Its Sale to Colony Hardware Corporation, a Portfolio Company of Tailwind Capital Group, LLC

Mesirow Financial acted as the exclusive financial advisor to Brinker Brown Fastener & Supply Inc. ("Brinker Brown" or the "Company") on its sale to Colony Hardware Corporation ("Colony"), a portfolio company of Tailwind Capital Group, LLC ("Tailwind").

Based in Southwest Florida, Brinker Brown is a leading distributor of fasteners, diamonds, power tools, construction supplies and generators, primarily serving the Florida market. The Company wholesales to a variety of customers, including contractors, subcontractors and dealers, and serves the roofing, marine deck and dock, concrete restoration and mechanical, electrical and plumbing end markets. As a result of its extensive product offering and exceptional customer service, Brinker Brown has amassed considerable recognition in the industry and is known in the market as a "go-to" provider of leading tool and fastener brands.

The transaction represents another successful assignment within the distribution and supply chain sector completed by Mesirow Financial's Investment Banking group. With extensive sector-specific expertise and deep long-standing relationships, Mesirow Financial's team has a proven track record of completing successful transactions.



Hendrickson Acquires Business from Frauenthal Automotive Sales in Europe

Hendrickson acquires the U-bolt, pin and screw business segment from the Austrian Frauenthal Group. The signing took place on May 30th, 2018, and the final title transfer took place in June 2018. The acquisition includes the manufacturing facility in Torun, Poland, along with 200 employees who will join Hendrickson Commercial Vehicle Systems Europe. "This acquisition will widen our product portfolio and provide components that can complement our existing product lines. We look forward to working with our new colleagues and strengthening our business across Europe in the coming year," stated Gary Gerstenslager, president and chief executive officer of Hendrickson.

Hendrickson, a Boler company, is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of medium- and heavy-duty mechanical, elastomeric and air suspensions; integrated and non-integrated axle and brakes systems; tire pressure control systems; auxiliary lift axles systems; parabolic and multi-leaf springs; stabilizers; and bumper and trim components to the global commercial transportation industry. Hendrickson, based in Itasca, Ill., USA, continues to meet the needs of the transportation industry for more than 100 years.



Optimas OE Solutions Holdings, Inc. LLC Acquires Circle Bolt & Nut Co., Inc.

Optimas OE Solutions Holdings, Inc. LLC announced the acquisition of the US-based Circle Bolt & Nut Co., Inc. (CBN) located in Kingston, PA. "We are pleased to have Circle Bolt & Nut join our team. We are convinced that this is the right investment for Optimas to expand beyond our current base of business," stated Anesa Chaibi, Chief Executive Officer. The acquisition supports the Optimas growth strategy into product adjacencies and enhanced MRO capabilities.

Jim Castellino, CBN President & CEO, added, "I'm very excited for our company to become a part of the Optimas family. Together we will be able to provide exceptional value to our customers." As a premier supplier of a wide variety of parts and components, CBN services Original Equipment Manufacturers and Maintenance Repair Operating needs of industrial companies by providing Vendor Managed Programs that utilize state of the art technology. "Circle Nut & Bolt enables Optimas to accelerate our expansion into small and medium sized accounts," said Christian Wiltrout, President, Americas.

The transaction also diversifies the portfolio of Optimas customers across multiple industries. "The addition of Circle Bolt & Nut to our Optimas family is another positive step forward in accelerating the execution of our growth strategy and company transformation," stated Anesa Chaibi.



Jergens JIS Division Honored with 2018 Epicor Customer Excellence Award

JIS, division of Jergens Inc. (Cleveland, OH), has been honored with the Customer Experience award in the 2018 Epicor Customer Excellence Awards program for the Americas region. Recipients were selected by Epicor Software Corporation based on the complexity of the project, clearly stated objectives and overall business impact of the initiative relative to stated goals of customers that have successfully implemented the Epicor solutions.

JIS is a division of Jergens Inc. a manufacturer of standard tooling components, fasteners, hoist rings, vises and other workholding equipment. JIS represents over 300 of the top manufacturers for industrial supply in the US. With experienced staff at multiple locations, JIS fully supports a variety of applications for customers across the country. JIS is a Premier Autocrib distributor, creating a custom vending solution.

The 2018 Epicor Customer Excellence Awards winners in the Americas regional program were presented at the Annual Insights Customer Conference held in Nashville, TN.

The Epicor Customer Excellence Awards global program honors organizations that have successfully deployed Epicor solutions to achieve excellence in business efficiency, customer experience, and overall performance.



Intercorp Unveils Striking New Packaging for Strong-Point® and Strongcon® Brands of Fasteners



Intercorp, an importer and master distributor of professional-grade construction fasteners under the Strong-Point® and Strongcon® brands, has revamped their product packaging, giving it a brand new look and feel that is much bolder and appealing across all of their product offerings. The new packaging will start hitting store shelves throughout the U.S.

"Intercorp has a great reputation for providing high-quality products throughout the construction industry and we wanted our packaging to reflect the quality of the products inside the box," said Director of Marketing, David Harlan.

The new packaging design covers all of their product families including their bulk, 5lb. and 11lb. packaging. This high-impact design gives continuity and ease-of-recognition across the Strong-Point and Strongcon brands. Without a doubt, when you see these boxes, you will know the fasteners inside are of the highest quality.

Strong-Point® and Strongcon® fasteners are available through construction distributors throughout the United States.

Japanese OTC Enhances Coating Service at Thailand Plant

OKUYAMA Technical Center Co., Ltd has a manufacturing plant in Thailand that is highly rated within the industry for its coating that exerts excellent anti-loosening and sealing performance. In light of this, the Thailand plant will expand the application range of its coating service in 2019 by adding a coating line for products of small diameters to increase productivity. After the addition, there will be two coating lines in total to provide better contracted coating service.



Japanese Fastener & Hardware Trader Eto Opens Offices in China and Vietnam

To open up its world market, Eto Co., Ltd. set up bases in Dongguan City of China and Hanoi City of Vietnam that have started operation in April. The Guangdong office is titled Eto (Shanghai) International Trading Co., Ltd. Dongguan Office. The Hanoi office is titled "The Representative Office of Siam Eto Co., Ltd. in Hanoi City".



Chin Well to Make Vietnam Focal Point for Fastener Ops

Vietnam will play a key role in Chin Well's plans to grow its fastener business. Group executive director Tsai Chia-ling said that Vietnam is where the group would focus its resources as the country offered cheap labour who could be trained cost effectively. Tsai said the group is now planning for its Vietnam operations to produce more do-it-yourself (DIY) and other types of fasteners. "In July, the Vietnam facility has started to manufacture a new range of fasteners for South-East Asian market. "These new fasteners will be used to connect reinforced concrete bars used in high-rise buildings," she said.



According to Tsai, the group will also raise the production volume of DIY fasteners at its Vietnam plant in the third quarter. She said it is talking to a big

DIY customer in the United States who could take up about 15% of the group's annual output of fasteners in Vietnam. "We have plans to tap into the European market with our DIY fasteners. Currently, the Vietnam facility produces about 60,000 tonnes of fasteners per year. "We foresee the operations in Vietnam to contribute about 50% to Chin Well revenue in two years, compared to 30%-40% now," she added.

Moving on, the group expects to perform better in the financial year ending June 30, 2018 compared with the previous year. "This is due to the higher prices of hot-rolled coil, which hovers between US\$650 and US\$750 per tonne now, compared to US\$500-\$600 per tonne a year ago," she said. The group is forecasting an output of 140,000 tonnes for the financial year ending June 30, 2018.

Update for Taiwan's Fastener Export in Q1 2018

According to the statistics of Taiwan Customs, in Q1 2018 the main product categories in Taiwan's fastener export were: Other Screws & Bolts (7318159000), Nuts (7318160000), Self-tapping Screws (7318140000), Wood Screws (7318120000) and Iron Nails (7317009010). Except for the category of iron nails showing a significant decline of 23.80%, other top 4 categories all showed a growth between 7-9%. The total export volume of Other Screws & Bolts (7318159000) and Nuts (7318160000) represented more than 70% of the total export volume (about 0.4 million tons) of Taiwanese fastener industry to the world in Q1 2018.

If viewed by export destination, in Q1 2018 the top 5 destinations for Taiwan's fastener export were: USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and Canada. More than 40% (about 0.16 million tons) of Taiwanese fasteners were exported to USA in the period.

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Sundram Fasteners (Zhejiang) Limited Inaugurates a New Forging Plant in Haiyan

On April 26th, Sundram Fasteners (Zhejiang) Limited inaugurated its new forging plant located in Haiyan Province of China. Important officials and the management from the local government, The Consulate General of India in Shanghai, and Sundram Fasteners all made their presence in the grand ceremony.



The construction of this forging plant was started in March 2017 and was completed in April 2018. The total investment value was around USD 13 million and the manufacturing site spans the area of 19,600 sq m in total. The annual capacity of various forged parts is planned to be 20,000 tons.

After the inauguration, the management from Sundram Fasteners also led all attending guests to visit the new forging plant.

Best Lightweight Solutions Innovation Award for Bossard China

Bossard China honored with the “Best Lightweight Solutions Innovation Award” at the 8th China International New Energy Vehicle Forum 2018.



BOSSARD

May 17-18, 2018. Nearly 800 professionals including vehicle manufacturers, electric control companies, battery manufacturers, component suppliers, core technology providers and government agencies from around the world attended the forum, discussed the challenges, opportunities and countermeasures in depth and constructively.

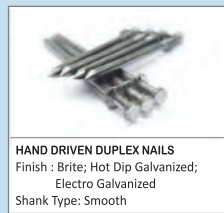
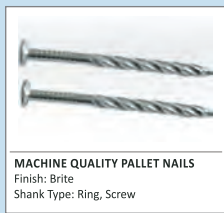
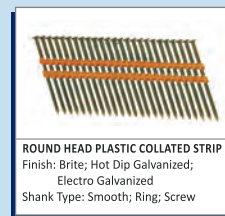
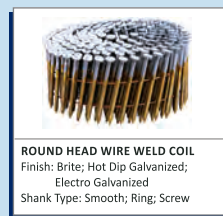
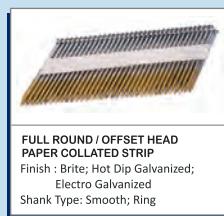
Since the weight of the car has a direct impact on its fuel efficiency, the automotive industry seeks advanced materials and technology to reduce vehicle weight. However, traditional fastening solutions are difficult to use with new materials. Bossard's regional engineering & business development manager spoke about lightweight fastening solutions bigHead® Lean Bonding & ecosyn BCT®. These solutions won “Best Lightweight Solutions Innovation Award.”

Taiwan's Fastener Export in Q1 2018 Reaches New High

According to the statistics of Taiwan Customs, in March 2018 Taiwan exported 143,604 tons of fasteners, which is much more than the export volumes in Jan. or Feb. this year and is the 3rd highest record in the history of Taiwanese fastener industry. The average export price in March reached USD 2.889 per KG, which is also the highest record in a single month. If viewed by quarter, Taiwan exported 403,178 tons of fasteners in Q1 2018 and the average export price reached USD 2.864 per KG, which is also the highest record in a single quarter. Considering the current market development and trend of Taiwanese fastener industry, many Taiwanese fastener companies have confidence in the possibility of reaching another new high in the future.



We manufacture & export specialty fasteners to global markets.



In descending order according to 2017's figures

Fastener Trade Statistics of the EU in 2017

Source: EU Trade Helpdesk

Indicators	Import Value to the EU/MS (Euro)	Import Value to the EU/MS (Euro)	Import Value to the EU/MS (Euro)	
Partners	Years	2015	2016	2017
Total EXTRA-EU28		4,762,118,030	4,715,562,795	5,214,228,712
Taiwan		1,242,678,577	1,198,787,924	1,320,776,794
China		633,327,622	689,416,847	920,501,453
United States		779,866,404	739,929,536	799,983,066
Switzerland		462,513,930	456,058,643	485,068,639
Turkey		204,148,436	228,333,257	259,529,850
India		309,194,949	272,921,324	250,636,157
Japan		196,126,787	216,869,472	228,329,874
Vietnam		229,587,458	213,576,184	224,872,093
S. Korea		141,714,957	149,537,021	161,438,667
Thailand		112,893,687	111,838,893	109,386,991
Liechtenstein		75,185,332	90,778,027	93,745,302
Malaysia		97,833,552	88,660,857	88,464,399
Indonesia		33,869,303	34,706,261	37,773,775
Bosnia and Herzegovina		27,637,922	28,250,370	34,594,105
Canada		33,251,463	33,795,572	33,892,641
Norway		45,884,834	32,484,211	30,525,224
Philippines		27,760,703	25,916,501	21,631,932
Brazil		10,655,999	13,057,313	16,999,871
Serbia		10,143,608	12,176,987	15,980,497
Mexico		7,505,303	7,743,877	9,420,105

Indicators	Import Qty to the EU/MS (Kg)	Import Qty to the EU/MS (Kg)	Import Qty to the EU/MS (Kg)	
Partners	Years	2015	2016	2017
Total EXTRA-EU28		1,524,647,000	1,622,604,000	1,725,711,000
China		347,356,000	442,435,000	549,037,000
Taiwan		521,813,000	516,091,000	524,984,000
Vietnam		120,869,000	121,995,000	124,806,000
India		131,270,000	127,399,000	107,041,000
Turkey		63,154,000	67,298,000	79,646,000
Thailand		69,359,000	72,923,000	68,081,000
Malaysia		54,630,000	51,231,000	48,871,000
S. Korea		33,465,000	37,498,000	38,299,000
United States		39,680,000	38,563,000	35,112,000
Japan		30,212,000	32,668,000	33,147,000
Switzerland		31,207,000	29,586,000	32,700,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina		10,914,000	12,210,000	14,498,000
Liechtenstein		9,475,000	12,525,000	12,657,000
Indonesia		9,694,000	11,566,000	10,238,000
Norway		9,244,000	8,792,000	9,040,000
Serbia		6,736,000	7,228,000	7,969,000
Philippines		9,437,000	8,805,000	5,855,000
Ukraine		5,271,000	6,044,000	5,488,000
Belarus		3,423,000	3,170,000	4,114,000
Canada		2,677,000	2,692,000	2,775,000

Indicators		Export Value from the EU/MS (Euro)	Export Value from the EU/MS (Euro)	Export Value from the EU/MS (Euro)
Partners	Years	2015	2016	2017
Total EXTRA-EU28		3,620,453,022	3,770,137,232	4,244,990,473
China		690,326,232	779,532,559	879,468,944
United States		673,631,986	636,128,958	726,084,514
Switzerland		258,584,549	279,709,061	308,295,592
Turkey		217,623,638	218,672,545	239,593,900
Mexico		141,431,987	156,627,350	201,675,271
Russian Federation		147,373,575	156,046,304	197,759,941
Brazil		146,633,897	140,838,183	167,061,073
India		127,352,818	136,210,729	153,369,309
Norway		123,718,976	119,185,903	121,649,628
South Africa		77,607,908	73,283,401	84,389,305
Liechtenstein		58,190,903	64,649,294	74,948,192
Morocco		49,986,548	63,778,134	74,395,346
Canada		66,216,738	69,613,507	70,898,909
Singapore		51,377,725	48,695,955	67,286,103
S. Korea		48,601,958	50,775,797	56,084,013
Japan		43,804,207	54,050,855	55,265,978
Australia		44,684,926	44,762,831	54,979,086
United Arab Emirates		51,457,129	51,315,571	52,408,777
Thailand		29,618,861	44,009,234	47,618,529
Saudi Arabia		69,489,699	60,640,047	43,703,482

Indicators		Export Qty from the EU/MS (Kg)	Export Qty from the EU/MS (Kg)	Export Qty from the EU/MS (Kg)
Partners	Years	2015	2016	2017
Total EXTRA-EU28		468,019,000	486,508,000	550,225,000
China		90,797,000	100,679,000	111,450,000
United States		72,856,000	69,017,000	77,972,000
Switzerland		37,113,000	38,721,000	42,094,000
Turkey		35,945,000	36,071,000	40,434,000
Russian Federation		26,259,000	28,303,000	36,161,000
Brazil		22,850,000	22,517,000	28,869,000
Mexico		18,729,000	20,257,000	27,720,000
India		18,974,000	20,848,000	23,464,000
Norway		17,723,000	18,676,000	20,199,000
Liechtenstein		9,951,000	11,246,000	12,153,000
South Africa		9,971,000	10,701,000	11,843,000
Morocco		7,652,000	9,029,000	10,596,000
Serbia		5,649,000	5,972,000	6,753,000
Thailand		3,847,000	4,931,000	5,972,000
United Arab Emirates		5,746,000	5,086,000	5,917,000
Argentina		6,618,000	4,992,000	5,704,000
Australia		3,388,000	3,515,000	5,494,000
Ukraine		2,736,000	3,780,000	4,790,000
Canada		5,314,000	5,210,000	4,589,000
Iran		1,291,000	2,296,000	3,711,000