

FASTENER WORLD NEWS

compiled by Fastener World

Association News

Fastener Training Institute Announces Würth Sponsorship



The Fastener Training Institute (FTI), has announced Würth Industry North America (WINA) continues as sustaining sponsor in 2023. This will mark the fifth year of partnership between the two organisations.

“Würth’s continued support is instrumental to our ability to offer frequent and robust educational opportunities which enhance knowledge, safety and reliability across the fastener industry,” said John Wachman, Managing Director for FTI. Thanks to Würth’s support, FTI will continue to offer an extensive menu of in-person fastener training classes taught by leading industry expert instructors.

“Our partnership demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the importance of quality fastener education. We are thrilled to move into our fifth year of partnering with the Fastener Training Institute and helping to support the education of seasoned and new professionals within the fastener industry,” said Tracy Lauder, Director of Marketing and Communications for Würth Industry North America.

Industry Development

Taiwan Fastener Companies Girding up Loins for Upcoming CBAM

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is expected to go on trial implementation this October. Taiwan fastener industry emits up to 750,000 tons of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) a year, and it has to improve equipment and speed up on carbon inventory.

General manager of fastener manufacturer Chun Yu said carbon reduction is a huge work that the industry has to put focus on. Each company's products and processes are different, and the entire fastener industry processing chain is long, ranging from material source which is Taiwan CSC manufacturing steel billets, all the way down to a dozen processes such as pickling, annealing, heat treatment, electroplating, each causing carbon emissions. Therefore, the corresponding work on carbon inventory and carbon footprint requires professional assistance.

The director of Taiwan MIRDC (Metal Industries R&D Center) said that CBAM will soon be implemented on a trial basis and importers must report carbon emissions data, but currently there are no clearly specified specifications and form examples. One thing that is certain is that manufacturers should do carbon inventory and carbon footprint tracking as soon as possible.

MIRDC and private entities can help the industry on carbon inventory. The director pointed out that companies can do reports on their own, but if the supply chain requires reports to be verified by third-party labs, domestically it will have to be done by Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF). Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs estimates that by the end of this year, there will be about 18 Taiwanese entities that can provide accreditation services. The director said that, in addition to reporting carbon emissions, importers will have to purchase CBAM certificates for products exported to Europe. Plus, Taiwan’s Climate Change Legislation is expected to charge carbon fees on those products. Taiwanese fastener companies hope for the government to make carbon fee regulations compatible with CBAM and provide a way to offset the fees to avoid being charged twice.





Airbus Requests Aeronautical Certifications to Suppliers

Airbus is developing its local or regional materials platform for different strategic commodities, but suppliers will need to have the necessary certifications such as AS-9100. “Without those certifications it will be impossible to do business with an aeronautical company like Airbus. And it is very important to have suppliers mainly from Mexico, or from the United States and Canada,” said Carlos Rivera Villalba, the company’s Global Supply Chain Manager.

During the seminar “Be an Aerospace Supplier”, organized by Femia, at CETYS University, Mexicali campus, Rivera added that they are looking for aluminum suppliers in sheets, plates, rivets, nuts, screws and bolts, among others.

Airbus has a presence in Queretaro with a manufacturing plant and a training center in Mexico City and another in Merida. Today there are 150 Airbus aircraft in operation in the country and 200 in the order book and take up 60% of the Mexican market. “It was forecast to close 2022 with 354 aircraft for the different airlines in Mexico, which represents a 12% increase against 2021. The country is part of the top 20 markets,” he said.

U.S. to Impose 200% Tariff on Russian Aluminum

Aluminum is often used in fuselage, bolts and window & door frames. In a thorough effort to combat Russian circumvention of sanctions, U.S. White House announced a 200% tariff on Russian aluminum and related aluminum products, which has been effective since March 10. Russian aluminum accounts for about 1/10 of U.S. imports, and buyers range from the automotive to construction industries. The White House said it is planning to extend the sanctions to Russian metals and mining industries, but the move must be carefully planned to minimize the impact on the market.



Companies Development



Stronger Fastener Demand Drives NAFCO's Q1 Revenue up 64%

Last year NAFCO benefitted from the easing of the pandemic and reopening of borders, as well as a gradual increase in aerospace customers' demand. Its consolidated revenue reached NTD2.193 billion, a 53.76% increase compared to the same period last year, marking a three-year high and the third highest in its history, and close to the revenue level in 2018 before the pandemic. Profitability benefited from a higher utilization rate and the appreciation of the U.S. dollar, with gross profit margin of 23.33% last year, an increase of 11.68 percentage points; operating income was NTD127 million turning a loss into a profit, with operating profit margin of 5.78%; net profit after tax was NTD150 million.

Looking at this year, the company said that the demand for aerospace fasteners continues to be strong, with most orders visible for more than a year, and if market conditions do not change much, it is expected to maintain good growth in revenue and profitability this year, and the company will continue to increase production capacity in response to customer demand. In addition to aerospace fasteners, NAFCO has also been actively developing its automotive fastener business in recent years, and the parts and components designed in cooperation with Tier 1 car manufacturers are expected to gradually increase in volume and fuel revenue growth. The company recently announced its March 2023 revenue, which reached NTD263 million in a single month, an annual increase of 78.8%; the cumulative revenue for the first three months reached NTD 696 million, an annual increase of 64.02%.

QST International and Boltun Raise Capital for Plant Expansion to Pursue Transformation

QST International and Boltun Corporation jointly commissioned 3 Taiwanese banks to co-sponsor a NT\$12 billion worth ESG-linked syndicated loan project, which was completed on March 1, 2023. In the trend of environmental protection and energy saving, the companies have extended from conventional fasteners to new products combining light metal, engineering plastic and carbon fiber to meet the needs of vehicle manufacturers for lightweighting, automatic assembly, reduction of assembly process and energy saving and carbon reduction, and have continued to enhance the value of their products. Leveraging on their experience in EV fasteners and certification by international automakers, the companies are actively participating in customer-collaborative R&D and supplier orientation programs, gradually moving from OEM to ODM.

In view of their long-term development needs and to enhance global flexibility and competitiveness, the companies will set up an overseas production base in Vietnam, acquiring about 35 hectares of land in an industrial zone with an initial investment of US\$100 million. Construction of the plant is expected to begin this year and production will begin in the first half of 2024.



Taiwanese Lamvien Winfull in Vietnam Provides High Quality Customized OEM Fasteners



Lamvien Winfull Co., Ltd., a Taiwanese manufacturer located in Vinh Phuc Province, Vietnam, serves an extensive list of clients including TOYOTA, Honda, YAMAHA, Kawasaki, Polaris, Vinfast, TOTO, Daikin, Ariston, Sumitomo, Pigaiao, ... etc and related T1, T2 customers. It is an IATF16949 / ISO14001 / ISO50001 certified and authorized OEM manufacturer of various customized forging bolts, nuts, screws, pins and patching for worldwide major brands of the automotive, motorcycle, safety parts, heavy industry, home appliance, and electronic fields, and has been specialized in customized precision forging parts for nearly 60 years.

It provides one-stop and in-house manufacturing process including cold forging, threading, machining, heat treatment, de-phosphating, surface treatment, and dehydrogenation for worldwide leading customers. The capability to manufacture specialized fasteners effectively complements its value for achieving quality excellence. Obviously, its experience facilitates the abilities to fulfill more difficult orders, and clearly sets it apart from other fastener providers.



Cheersson 瑞玛

Suzhou Cheersson Sets up a New Branch in Shanghai

Suzhou Cheersson Precision Metal Forming announced to set up a branch in Shanghai in order to meet its business development needs and further optimize its strategic deployment, making it more convenient to get closer to the market and the front line of technology, and better collect industrial and technical intelligence.

The company's name is Suzhou Cheersson Precision Metal Forming Co., Ltd. (Shanghai Branch). The scope of business includes: hardware products R&D; technical services, technology development, technology consultation, technical exchange, technology transfer, technology promotion; import & export of goods; sales of dies; sales of communication equipment; hardware products retailing; hardware products wholesaling; electronic components retailing; electronic components wholesaling; fasteners sales; mechanical parts and components sales; metal materials sales.



Zhejiang Mingtai Development Holding Plans to Trade on Shanghai Stock Exchange

Zhejiang Mingtai intends to be listed on Shanghai Stock Exchange with a fund raising of RMB 920 million. The raised fund is intended to be used for the R&D and production of Ritai (Shanghai) Auto Standard Component, the annual production of 33,000 tons of new special high strength automotive fasteners, and the construction of the new material fastener R&D center for Ritai (Shanghai) Auto Standard Component.

The company focuses on the R&D, production and sales of fasteners, and has upgraded from supplying bicycle fasteners to motorcycle fasteners, and to automotive fasteners over the past 30 years. The products are mainly used in the automotive field, with high strength, high precision, corrosion-resistant and other high-end fasteners as the main products. The company provides customers with collaborative development, testing, after-sales service, etc.



LISI Appoints New Chairman

Following LISI's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, the Board of Directors met today to acknowledge the non-renewal of Mr. Gilles Kohler's mandate as Chairman due to the age limit set by the company's bylaws, and to appoint his new Chairman. After 38 years as a member of the Board of Directors and 24 years as Chairman of the Board, the latter thanked Mr. Gilles Kohler for the immense task accomplished during all these years and expressed his gratitude to him. To succeed Mr. Gilles Kohler, the Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Jean-Philippe Kohler as Chairman for the duration of his 4-year term of office. His appointment is effective as of today. Mr. Jean-Philippe Kohler joined LISI Group in 1991 and since 2016 has been the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of LISI Group in charge of Risk Management, Human Resources and Internal Audit.

In addition, the Board of Directors confirmed the renewal of Mr. Emmanuel Viellard's mandate as Chief Executive Officer for a period of 4 years. In order to carry out his mission, Mr. Emmanuel Viellard relies on the LISI Group Executive Committee, which he chairs and is composed of:

- Mrs Anne-Delphine Beaulieu, Chief Sustainability Officer & Digital Transformation of LISI Group
- Mrs Cécile Le Corre, General Counsel of LISI Group
- Mr. Christophe Lesniak, Senior VP Industrial & Purchasing manager of LISI Group
- Mr. François Liotard, Chief Executive Officer of LISI AUTOMOTIVE
- Mr. Emmanuel Neildez, Chief Executive Officer of LISI AEROSPACE
- Mr. Alexis Polin, Chief HR Officer of LISI Group
- Mr. Lionel Rivet, Chief Executive Officer of LISI MEDICAL
- Mr. Raphaël Vivet, Chief Financial Officer of LISI Group

This new governance will continue the deployment of the LISI Group's long-term strategy, which remains focused on innovation and operational excellence.



OFCO's Fastener Business Sees Gradual Return of Demand

According to OFCO, a fastener manufacturer under Taiwan Steel Group, the demand for fasteners will begin to bounce up as customers gradually clear up their inventory. OFCO is also optimistic that the huge reconstruction demand after the Russian-Ukrainian war will trigger another wave of inventory replenishment. With the Group's continuous integration, the fastener business outlook is promising.

OFCO's revenue last year was NTD 4.817 billion, an annual increase of 28.1%; the net income after tax was NTD 284 million, an annual increase of 119%, and the EPS was NTD 3, a 10-year high. The revenue of the fastener business increased 87% year on year, and the gross margin came to 23.3%, an increase of 9.5%, boosting the operating profit to NTD 324 million, a YoY increase of nearly 7.6 times.



BYD Japan Responds to the Use of Hexavalent Chromium

BYD uses a solvent containing hexavalent chromium to prevent rusting of bolts, nuts and other parts on its five electric buses, including the J6, a minibus sold in Japan. BYD Japan said it is working with BYD headquarters to investigate whether hexavalent chromium was used in the pure electric passenger vehicles that went on sale in Japan at the end of January.

Hexavalent chromium is a chemical substance that is widely used in automotive parts for applications such as electroplating to prevent rusting of metal surfaces. It is considered to be highly toxic and harmful to humans. Although there is no domestic law prohibiting the use of chromium in automobiles, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association has prohibited its use since 2008 as an industry-independent restriction. After the same year, hexavalent chromium is no longer used on new cars in general.

In order to provide greater safety and peace of mind for passengers, BYD Japan said the use of hexavalent chromium will be discontinued on the new models of J6 and K8 electric buses which will be launched by the end of 2023.



Packer Fastener Owner Named CEO

The Packer Fastener family of companies, including Green Bay-based Packer Fastener and Packer Freight and Chicago area-based Albolt Manufacturing, announced promotions of four key executives.

"Packer Fastener is well-known as having the biggest nuts in town, but our family of companies continues to grow beyond the nuts and bolts of industrial fasteners," said CEO Terry Albrecht. "Today, we offer a comprehensive range of fasteners and industrial supplies through Packer Fastener, logistics and freight brokerage services through Packer Freight, and the production of customized fastener solutions through Albolt Manufacturing. By restructuring our leadership model and promoting talent from within, we've set the foundation for future growth and expansion."

As part of these changes, Albrecht will continue in his role as principal owner and will now serve as the chief executive officer of the three sister companies. Albrecht was one of the original founding partners of Packer Fastener in 1998. He went on to found Packer Freight in 2019, and Albolt Manufacturing in 2022. His family of companies now employs 155 individuals in 11 different cities throughout the Midwest.

Acquisitions



Generational Equity Advises Fasteners, Inc. in its Sale to Monroe Engineering

Generational Equity, a leading mergers and acquisitions advisor for privately held businesses, is pleased to announce the sale of its client, Fasteners, Inc. to Monroe Engineering. The acquisition closed January 31, 2023.

Fasteners, Inc., located in Colorado, and founded in 1965, is a wholesale fastener distribution company. The Company's extensive inventory is available for prompt, accurate delivery or shipment in materials ranging from aluminum to stainless to heat-treated steel.

Headquartered in Michigan Monroe Engineering (Monroe) is an ISO 9001:2015 & AS9100D certified global industrial manufacturing company offering a broad product line and has a diverse customer base of manufacturers and distributors across several vertical markets including aerospace/defense, automotive, medical, transportation and many more. ■

