

Association News

TFTA: Trump Tariffs and EU's CBAM Could Raise Inflation Risks

Taiwan Fastener Trading Association Chairman Arthur Chiang cautioned that U.S. tariffs from the Trump administration and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) could trigger another round of global inflation. Trump viewed CBAM as an "unequal trade arrangement," with the EU and UK taxing imports based on carbon pricing to shield their industries from unfair competition. This policy ensures European companies remain competitive despite domestic carbon costs. Initially scheduled for January 1, 2026, CBAM implementation was postponed by one year, with plans to exempt small importers importing less than 50 tons or emitting under 100 tons of carbon annually, benefiting nearly 90% of importers. This delay offers relief to less-prepared countries in southern Europe. The EU will propose detailed rules in February 2026 and plans to raise fines for deliberate evasion by three to five times. Compliance processes and tax scopes are simplified, with final measures expected by September.



Market Watch: Trump Tariff 2.0

Doubled U.S. Steel Tariffs Raise Concerns Over Canadian Exports

The recent doubling of U.S. tariffs on steel imports—from 25% to 50% since June 2025—has raised alarms in Canada's steel industry about potential exclusion from the U.S. market. The tariffs were imposed amid ongoing trade tensions, targeting steel and aluminum from various countries including Canada. In response, Canada has introduced its own tariff-rate quotas and 50% surtaxes on steel imports beyond set limits from non-free trade partners to protect domestic producers. While some Canadian steel companies are concerned about lost market access, others express confidence that they will adjust by seeking new markets and increasing efficiency. The Canadian government also plans to bolster the use of Canadian steel in domestic projects, including housing and defense, to offset challenges. Despite the uncertainty, industry leaders emphasize collaboration with the government to navigate the evolving trade landscape and safeguard jobs and production in Canada's steel sector.

Steel industry leaders warn that steel dumping—selling ultra-low-priced steel into Canada—is worsening market conditions despite tariffs. Algoma Steel CEO Michael Garcia says existing tariffs harm revenue, and doubling them threatens U.S. business viability. Zekelman Industries' CEO accuses China of rerouting cheap steel through Asian countries to avoid tariffs.



Trump's Steel Tariffs Stifle India's Metal Industry Amid Global Trade Tensions

For years, the US has been a major market for Aditya Garodia, director of Corona Steel Industry Pvt Ltd, exporting over 100 steel products like fasteners from his West Bengal factory. However, after US President Trump imposed tariffs, business slowed significantly. Garodia said clients delayed orders and payments, with 30 percent of orders canceled after the tariff increase. Domestic demand also dropped due to cheaper Chinese competition. He stressed that India's future steel exports depend on negotiating lower US tariffs.



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Foundry owners across India report a steep decline in orders from US clients, describing the tariffs as a “nail in the coffin” for their businesses. Despite vigorous efforts by Indian industry representatives and the government to secure tariff exemptions and explore alternative markets, the trade restrictions remain firmly in place. With ongoing challenges from global trade tensions and economic instability, the tariffs exacerbate pressures on India’s metal industry. The situation highlights the broader risks facing exporters amid shifting international trade policies under US administration changes. Indian foundries are now forced to innovate and seek new opportunities, but the shadow of the tariffs continues to limit growth and profitability. The persistence of these tariffs serves as a cautionary tale about the long-term consequences of protectionist trade policies on global supply chains and developing economies.

Ford and Automakers Warn of Slow Decision-Making Amid Trump Tariff Pain

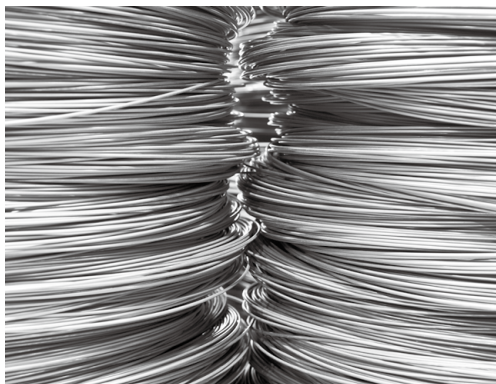
Automakers such as Ford are feeling the deepening effects of the sweeping tariffs imposed during the Trump administration, which were intended to protect U.S. manufacturers but are now causing widespread challenges. Ford projects a net tariff cost of USD 2 billion in 2025, despite manufacturing 80% of the cars it sells domestically. CEO Jim Farley highlighted that these tariffs disproportionately hurt Ford by giving Japanese rivals a significant cost advantage, especially as the U.S. recently lowered tariffs on Japan from 25% to 15%. The resulting price gap means Kentucky-built Ford vehicles may cost thousands more than comparable Japanese models, impacting competitiveness. In addition to rising costs, industrial leaders are warning about “slow decision-making” due to uncertainty in trade policies. Companies face difficulty planning long-term investments and supply chains because many tariff agreements remain incomplete or vague, creating a “napkin deals” problem — agreements so preliminary they could be jotted on a cocktail napkin but falter under scrutiny. This regulatory unpredictability is exacerbating operational challenges for carmakers and other sectors, potentially leading to spending pullbacks and slower growth. Automakers are increasingly looking at regionalizing production and sales to manage tariffs differently across continents. However, the combination of tariffs and evolving regulations is prompting some companies to reconsider globalized strategies entirely, underscoring a fundamental shift in international trade that could slow the automotive industry’s innovation and expansion.



Industry Development

Industry Leaders Unite to Drive Asia’s First Carbon Capture and Storage Initiative

A pioneering cross-industry consortium comprising global steelmakers, energy giants, and mining companies has initiated Asia’s first independent, industry-led study to explore Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) hubs across the region. Participants include BHP, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, JSW Steel, Hyundai Steel, Chevron, and Mitsui & Co. The study aims to identify large-scale CCUS projects with strong potential for CO2 storage and commercial use, focusing on hard-to-abate sectors like steelmaking. By leveraging shared infrastructure and economies of scale, the initiative targets cost reduction and economic viability. The year-long project will also examine regulatory frameworks, cross-border CO2 transport, and commercialization pathways. This landmark effort seeks to accelerate decarbonization efforts in Asia’s steel sector and create practical solutions that contribute to regional climate goals while supporting economic growth and industrial sustainability.



China’s Steel Exports Breach Trade Barriers and Reach Record High in Q2 2025

China’s steel exports hit a record 30.7 million tons in the second quarter of 2025, marking an 11% year-over-year increase and surpassing export levels from a decade ago. Despite trade barriers imposed by Asia, Europe, and the U.S., Chinese steelmakers boosted exports by shifting focus to non-tariffed products and emerging markets such as Southeast Asia and the Middle East. In the first half of 2025, total steel exports grew 9% year-over-year, helping stabilize production amid weakening domestic demand due to a sluggish real estate market. Semi-finished steel exports surged over 300% in the first five months of 2025. Forecasts suggest total steel exports in 2025 could reach 125 million tons. Analysts highlight that trade defense measures have had limited impact on curbing China’s export growth, underscoring export activity as a crucial pillar for China’s steel industry.

Companies Development

SUMEEKO's Q2 Profit Pressured; U.S. Plant Product Certification Ongoing

SUMEEKO

SUMEEKO, a manufacturer of automotive fasteners, experienced profit pressure in Q2 2025 due to prepayment of tariffs for OEM clients, new plant expenses in the U.S., and exchange losses from New Taiwan Dollar appreciation. Despite this, the North American market demand remains stable, supporting operations. The company's U.S. facility, currently undergoing product certification, secured around USD 17 million in orders, but revenue contribution this year is expected to be limited. The Taiwan plant, which exports mainly to the U.S., showed relatively strong performance despite currency challenges, while the German facility aims to improve operations and reach breakeven this year. Approximately 60-70% of SUMEEKO's revenue comes from OEM clients, with most U.S.-bound products facing tariffs below 20%, and a minority between 20-25%.



LSK Supplies Expands Fastener Range with Rapierstar Partnership

Glasgow-based LSK Supplies, Scotland's largest independent supplier of architectural ironmongery and building materials, has partnered with construction fastener specialist Rapierstar to add their products to LSK's portfolio for the first time. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025, LSK operates nine trade counters across Scotland, offering over 5,000 products including fixings, ironmongery, tools, PPE, and plumbing supplies. The Rapierstar range includes

StarFix masonry screws for window and door frames, StarTurn premium wood screws, and StarDeck decking screws. This addition aligns with LSK's strategy to offer respected brands across all trades. To support growth, LSK is also expanding with a new distribution center and upgraded trade counters in Glasgow. The launch of LSK's online store now offers UK-wide access to their full product range with technical support. LSK's operations manager, Ryan Cairley, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership and the enhanced product availability for customers, while Rapierstar's technical consultant affirmed the strong relationship and future growth prospects.

IKEA Leads Sustainability Shift by Replacing Plastic Fitting Bags with Paper Bags for Fastener Packaging

IKEA has started replacing the plastic bags used for packaging screws and fittings with paper-based bags made from production waste, aiming to eliminate virgin plastic usage by 2028. This change is part of IKEA's "Plastics Out Agenda," which seeks to phase out plastic consumer packaging. The new paper bags, produced in IKEA's factories in Slovakia and China, include a thin plastic coating for durability but remain recyclable, with ongoing efforts to replace the coating with renewable materials. The initiative began in 2025 with new product launches such as the STOCKHOLM 2025 collection and parts of the PAX and KALLAX ranges. This shift will reduce IKEA's annual virgin plastic consumption by approximately 1,400 tons. Packaging Development Leader Maja Kjellberg emphasized that even small changes like this are vital steps toward a sustainable future by inspiring broader packaging innovations. IKEA's move signifies a major advance in its commitment to using only renewable or recyclable materials in all packaging by 2028.



Modern Fence Technology Launches High-Quality American-Made Fence Hardware

Modern Fence Technology (MFT) announced its line of American-made fence hardware and accessories, designed to offer contractors, retailers, and DIY enthusiasts durable and visually appealing fencing solutions. With a growing consumer preference for U.S.-made products linked to superior craftsmanship and quality, MFT stands out by producing reliable, high-grade hardware meeting strict standards. Their product range includes gate hinges, latches, fence brackets, PVC post caps, and finishing pieces critical for fence integrity. Highlighted products include the 5" x 5" New England Cap, providing decorative and weather protection for posts, and the Bolt & Nut Combo, engineered for long-lasting and secure

connections in gates and hinges. Customer testimonials praise MFT's quality, pricing, and service, emphasizing hardware longevity and community values. The company continues to support domestic manufacturing as demand for American-made fence products rises.





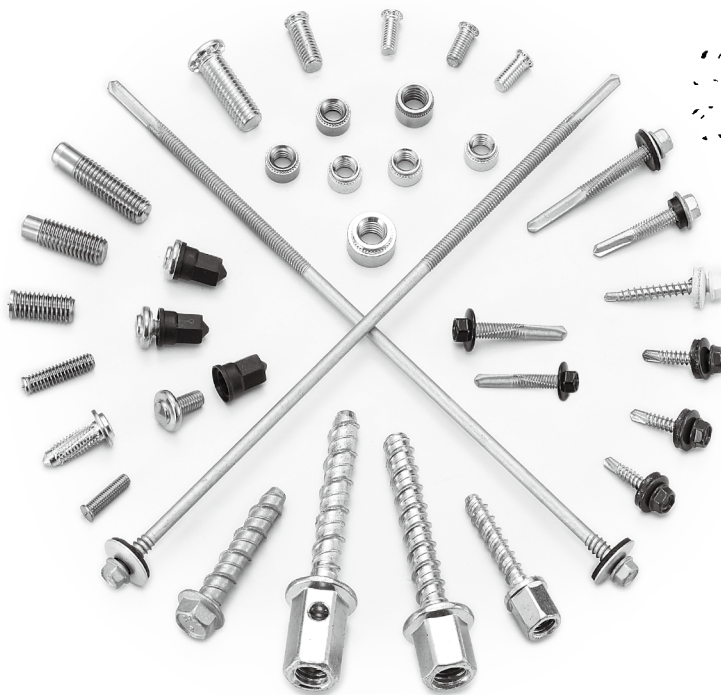
FDH Hardware and MS Aerospace Extend Fastener Supply for F-35 Program

FDH Hardware, a division of FDH Aero, has signed a two-year supply agreement with MS Aerospace, a leading manufacturer of high-strength fasteners for critical aerospace and defense applications. The contract designates FDH Hardware's Arlington International Aviation Products (AIAP) brand as the primary supplier of MS Aerospace fasteners for the Lockheed Martin F-35 program, one of the largest military aircraft initiatives globally. This agreement introduces fixed-price fasteners for F-35 manufacturing partners, aiming to improve pricing stability and streamline the supply chain. As AIAP consolidates demand across its customer base, fixed pricing is expected to extend to other MS Aerospace fasteners and clients. Rick Ferguson, AIAP Vice President of Sales, highlighted their shared commitment to quality,

consistent pricing, and on-time delivery. Mike Ross, Director of Sales at MS Aerospace, expressed optimism about growing this partnership. This collaboration strengthens both companies' positions in the aerospace market and exemplifies FDH Aero's commitment to responsive supply chain management and customer service.

ASAP Semiconductor Expands Inventory to Meet Growing Demand for Aircraft Fasteners

ASAP Semiconductor, a California-based distributor, is expanding its inventory to meet the growing global demand for aircraft fasteners. Serving aerospace, aviation, defense, and related industries, ASAP is increasing stock of key fasteners including pins, screws, bolts, nuts, and washers made from steel, bronze, titanium, and other materials. This move responds to rising aircraft production, fleet expansions, retrofits, and MRO activities, alongside supply chain disruptions and geopolitical challenges. By leveraging data analytics of industry trends, procurement behaviors, and market conditions, ASAP refines its offerings to meet evolving aerospace requirements. The company is also enhancing its online platform with advanced search features and catalog improvements to simplify customer procurement. Internally, ASAP is investing in workforce growth, warehouse optimization, and real-time inventory management to provide timely delivery, especially for urgent Aircraft-on-Ground situations. CEO Joe Faruqui emphasized the critical role of fasteners in structural safety and assured commitment to reliable supply for aerospace customers worldwide.



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Howmet Aerospace Announces Major Expansion in Tennessee

At the Paris Air Show, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Economic Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter, and Howmet Aerospace Inc. officials revealed plans for a significant expansion in Morristown, Tennessee. This marks Howmet Aerospace's second expansion in under a year, adding 217 new jobs following the 50 positions announced in Hamblen County in July 2024. Howmet Aerospace is a global leader in advanced engineered solutions for aerospace and transportation, producing jet engine components, fastening systems, forged aluminum wheels, and more. The company already employs over 1,000 people in Hamblen County, making it one of the largest regional employers. Governor Lee emphasized the importance of workforce development in securing the state's economic future and welcomed the creation of hundreds of high-quality jobs. Commissioner McWhorter praised local partnerships, including the city, county, TVA, and state legislature, for facilitating the expansion. Merrick Murphy, president of engine products at Howmet Aerospace, highlighted the critical role of Morristown operations in developing next-generation quieter and cleaner engines. The expansion reflects Howmet's commitment to growing its presence in East Tennessee with strong community and government support.

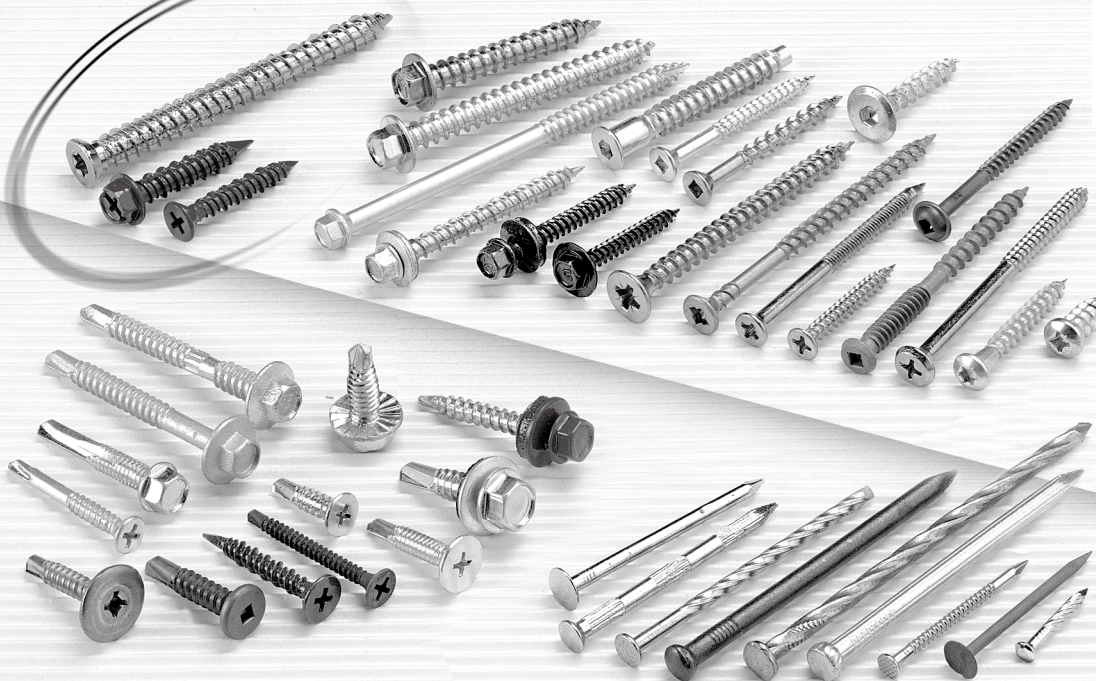


UK-Ghana Industrial Partnership Strengthened as British High Commissioner Visits Springs and Bolts Factory

British High Commissioner Harriet Thompson visited Springs and Bolts Co. Ltd. in Kumasi, Ghana, marking a significant milestone in UK-supported investments in Ghana's manufacturing sector during her farewell tour in the Ashanti Region. The visit underscored the UK's role in advancing Ghana's ambitions as a competitive manufacturing hub in West Africa. Through the UK's Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) program, implemented by the Palladium Group, Springs and Bolts received technical support and grant funding, enhancing its capacity and enabling investor readiness.

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Early this year, the company secured significant follow-on investment via the Ghana Investment Support Programme (GhISP), enabling construction of a new, modern factory for large-scale production of automotive leaf springs and launching Ghana's first fasteners manufacturing plant. This expansion will boost local value chains, create over 200 skilled jobs, and expand exports to five new West African markets. CEO Derrick Asamoah Boahen praised UK's support for enhancing investor confidence and enabling growth and diversification. Commissioner Thompson highlighted the factory as a prime example of British investment fostering local businesses, innovation, and stronger UK-Ghana ties. Springs and Bolts aims to begin full production by the end of 2025.



Businesses Including Deepak Fasteners Plan Rs 15,000 Crore Investment in Madhya Pradesh

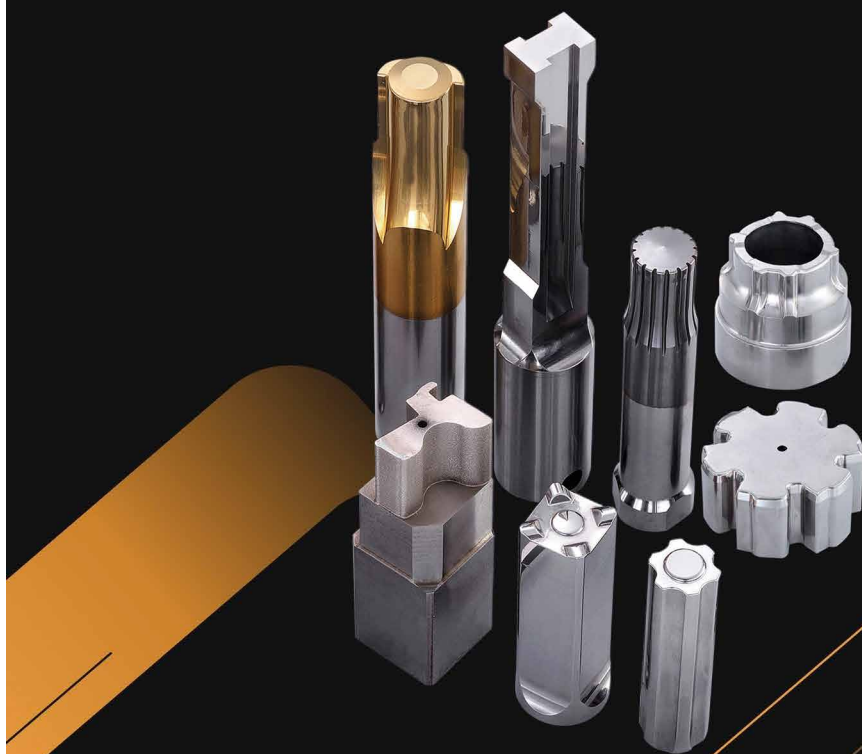
Newly inducted Punjab Industry Minister Sanjeev Arora faces a challenge as several Ludhiana-based industrialists plan to invest Rs 15,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh (MP) over the next five years. This surge follows MP Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav's recent visit to Ludhiana, where discussions with business leaders led to this investment boost. Concerned about Punjab's investment outflow, MP Vikram Sawhney stressed the need to build a strong local ecosystem with world-class infrastructure and industrial zones to retain investment and jobs.

The move threatens Punjab's economy. Gurmeet Singh Kular, president of the Federation of Industrial and Commercial Organizations (FICO), criticized the Punjab government for insufficient support, citing issues with promised fiscal incentives and refund schemes excluding major sectors. Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal highlighted lawlessness and gang violence in Punjab as reasons for the exodus, accusing political instability of damaging the state's economy. Key investors committing to MP include Deepak Fasteners (Rs 1,300 crore) and others, with expected employment for 20,000 youth. An industrialist noted better subsidies and safer conditions in MP compared to Punjab, influencing investment decisions.

WEP Advances PFAS-Free Coating Trials for Automotive Industry

Wolverhampton Electro Plating (WEP), part of the Anochrome Group, is conducting PFAS-free coating trials for a major automotive fastener manufacturer supplying leading OEMs. The initiative supports the automotive industry's efforts to phase out harmful Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in coatings due to their environmental persistence and health risks. Over the past six months, WEP has been testing PFAS-free zinc flake coatings using advanced equipment such as cyclic corrosion systems, salt spray chambers, and friction testing tools. The trials assess coatings from GEOMET NOF, Magni, Dörken, and electroplated topcoats from Macdermid. WEP collaborates closely with fastener engineers to validate that PFAS-free options deliver equal or superior performance compared to traditional coatings.

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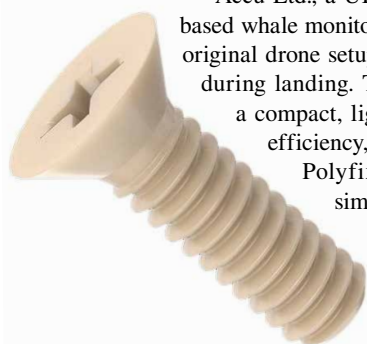
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Denis Rainbird, WEP's general manager, emphasized the group's technical expertise and state-of-the-art facilities, showcasing their commitment to sustainable manufacturing. The ongoing trials, led by technical and support managers from WEP and Anochrome, aim to facilitate safer, eco-friendly automotive components while complying with evolving regulations. Eliminating PFAS supports environmental safety by reducing soil and water contamination, aligning industry practice with responsible manufacturing goals.



Accu Ltd. Enables Whale Conservation with Lightweight Fasteners for Drone Technology



Accu Ltd., a UK manufacturer of specialized threaded fasteners, played a critical role in advancing Whale Wise's drone-based whale monitoring project. Whale Wise monitors humpback whales to study threats like fishing gear entanglement. Their original drone setup for capturing lidar and photographic data was heavy and bulky, limiting flight time and risking damage during landing. To solve these issues, Tandem Ventures Ltd., partnered with Mouser Electronics, designed WHASER—a compact, lightweight lidar and camera module that attaches to drones without impairing flight. To maximize flight efficiency, Accu Ltd. supplied high-performance fasteners specifically engineered for marine environments. Accu's Polyfix screws, made from corrosion-resistant A2 stainless steel, eliminated the need for embedded nuts, simplifying assembly and reducing weight. More notably, Accu replaced heavier bolts with lightweight PEEK bolts—six times lighter than traditional stainless steel—significantly extending drone flight times. These precision-engineered fasteners streamlined WHASER's design, minimized material usage, and aligned with Whale Wise's sustainability goals. Thanks to Accu Ltd.'s expertise, the drones can better monitor whale size, health, and entanglement scars, improving conservation efforts for these majestic creatures.

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ZJK Industrial Triples Captive Screw Production Efficiency with New Semi-Automatic Equipment

ZJK Industrial Co., Ltd., a high-tech precision parts manufacturer, announced the deployment of newly developed semi-automatic punching equipment for captive screw production. This advanced technology has increased production efficiency by over three times while reducing manual labor by 50%, significantly cutting costs. Captive screw production traditionally involves complex assembly and manual punching due to multiple components and quality challenges.

The new system uses a circular workbench with an adjustable stamping mechanism, allowing integration into automated assembly lines without manual intervention. ZJK's innovation addresses manufacturing complexity and meets strong market demand for these

fasteners. This advancement enhances ZJK's competitive edge in sectors including AI infrastructure, consumer electronics, electric vehicles, and aerospace.

Acquisitions

Spartan Fastener Acquires American Jebco to Strengthen Product and Market Presence

Spartan Fastener, a fastener manufacturer and distributor based in southeastern Wisconsin, has acquired American Jebco, a specialty fastener and rivet supplier located in Cicero, Illinois. This acquisition immediately expands Spartan's product lineup, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chain efficiency, enhancing its position in key markets across North America.

Founded in 1903, American Jebco serves various industries including automotive, construction hardware, and fire safety equipment. The company focuses on precision specialty fasteners and shifted away from high-volume rivets in 2015 to prioritize engineered, custom components.

Key leadership from American Jebco, including Vice President of Sales Eddie O'Connor and Materials Manager Pete O'Connor, will remain in place to ensure operational continuity and maintain valued customer relationships. Spartan Fastener's CEO Tim Cash described the acquisition as a major milestone in the company's growth strategy, emphasizing a shared commitment to quality and service. Eddie O'Connor expressed optimism about the combined strengths positioning the companies for a strong future.



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Gabriel India Expands into Fasteners Market with Strategic JV

Gabriel India has formed a joint venture (JV) with South Korea's JINHAP by investing 26.8 crore to acquire a 51% stake in Jinhap Automotive India Private Limited (JA IPL). This JV, expected to close by October 2025, marks Gabriel India's entry into the automotive and industrial fasteners market, a segment critical for vehicle assembly and safety. The venture aims to manufacture high-quality fasteners, tapping into India's substantial import market for these components.

Gabriel India targets revenue of 200 crore by 2030 through this initiative. The JV also gains access to proprietary fastener manufacturing technology via a license from JINHAP. This strategic move diversifies Gabriel India's portfolio beyond its core shock absorbers and ride control systems, aligning with industry trends for advanced, lightweight, and corrosion-resistant fasteners. With automotive manufacturers seeking integrated solutions, this partnership strengthens Gabriel India's market position domestically and internationally. ■

