

European News

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A Mood of Cautious Optimism

Würth Group's preliminary figures for the first half of 2025 indicate a slight trend towards a return to growth. In the first half of 2025, Würth Group was able to increase its consolidated sales by 2.2% to €10.4 billion (adjusted for currency effects, growth was 2.7%), while generating an operating result of €475 million.



Overall, Würth Group reports that the business climate appears to be improving slightly, despite the erratic US economic policy. The number of orders the Group received over the past few weeks points to an acceleration in growth in the second half of 2025. For now, Würth Group is entering the coming months with cautious optimism. Measures taken by Germany's newly elected federal government are fostering a sense of optimism in the national economy, which could quickly replace the previous pessimism and dissatisfaction among the population.



Fontana Gruppo Acquires MNP Corporation



FONTANA GRUPPO
FASTENING THE FUTURE



MNP
CORPORATION

Giuseppe Fontana, CEO at Fontana Gruppo, outlines: "We are continuing our strategy of expanding into the local markets served by our customers, who demand timely and efficient service. Thanks to this acquisition, we will be able to significantly increase our production capacity while maintaining our high-quality standards, becoming the largest fasteners manufacturer in North America and worldwide."

Giuseppe continues: "With strong roots in Italy, we have always pursued a localisation strategy that allows us to seize opportunities on every continent, keeping our minds and eyes open to the world. In this regard, the United States, where we have had a presence for many years, continues to represent a strong market."

Just a few months after announcing the acquisition of Right Tight Fasteners, a key player in the Indian market, Italian-based Fontana Gruppo is continuing its growth strategy with the acquisition of US-based MNP Corporation, a company specialised in the design and production of fasteners for the automotive, earthmoving and agricultural sectors.

Founded by Larry Berman and headquartered in Utica, Michigan, MNP Corporation is a leading manufacturer in the fastener industry. Today, it employs 1,000 people and operates five production facilities in Michigan and Illinois. Terri Chapman, CEO at MNP Corporation, states: "This company has been my family's legacy since 1970, and I'm proud to pass it on at a time of strength, with confidence in its future."





La.Ro Srl Joins the KEA Industrial Group

La.Ro Srl has officially joined the KEA Industrial Group, representing a strategic step for both parties and forming a new European hub specialised in cold forming – with KEA already having production sites in France and Poland.

This new collaboration, through the integration of their respective expertise and production structures, gives rise to a European industrial group highly specialised in the production of complex cold formed components for various industrial sectors. The companies within the group boast a long and solid history in the industry. Bonioni SAS has been active for over 70 years and La.Ro for more than 50 years. This industrial heritage reflects technical competence, organisational solidity, as well as deep market knowledge. The benefits of this new industrial configuration include integration of highly qualified technical know-how, greater production capacity and flexibility, as well as consolidated commercial presence across key European markets. A distinguishing feature of this project is also the participation of the Ghezzi family – founders of La.Ro – in the KEA holding, as well as their continued operational role within the new structure. This ensures strategic and managerial continuity, preserving the values that have always characterised the company. “This new collaboration strengthens our ability to innovate, expand and respond even more effectively to the needs of our customers,” comments La.Ro. “We are particularly excited to embark on this new journey with KEA. We believe that one of the strengths of this new Group lies in the people – a cohesive, competent and passionate team that have built solid and recognised companies over time. This transition represents an opportunity to further enhance our human capital and foster the development of new skills in an international context.”



Bulten Reports Stable Q2



Bulten Group has reported net sales amounted to SEK 1.337 billion (€119.8 million) for the second quarter of 2025, a decrease of 8.8% on the same period the previous year (Q2 of 2024: SEK 1.466 billion). Operating earnings totalled SEK 61 million, equating to an operating margin of 4.6% – with restructuring costs of approximately SEK 8 million having a negative impact on operating earnings.

Bulten Group is a leading global manufacturer and distributor of fasteners to the automotive industry, as well as other industries – such as consumer electronics. Headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, the company has approximately 1,900 employees around the world. Axel Berntsson, president and CEO at Bulten Group, reports: “Our Q2 results were in-line with both the previous year and the previous quarter. Sales to segments, such as medtech and consumer electronics were strong, while volumes for light vehicles fell slightly as a result of the downturn in the automotive sector.” In June, Bulten also decided to initiate a strategic review of which products should be manufactured in-house versus externally sourced in the future, as well as how the company should be organised. The review includes an assessment of the potential consequences of consolidating and/or divesting one or more of the Group’s manufacturing facilities.



BUMAX Announces Strategic Partnership with Leading Turkish Distributor



Swedish premium fastener manufacturer BUMAX has strengthened its market presence in Türkiye, following the signing of a new strategic agreement with Standart Civata (STD) – a renowned distributor of high-quality fasteners.

The partnership marks a significant milestone in the BUMAX international growth strategy, aimed at strengthening its distribution network and brand presence in key markets. “We are thrilled to partner with Standart Civata, a company that shares our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction,” states Jacob Bergström, regional sales manager at BUMAX. “This collaboration will enable us to better serve our Turkish customers and expand our footprint in this important market.” Kuntay Ayberkin, general manager of Standart Civata, adds: “BUMAX’s premium stainless steel fasteners are a perfect fit for the Turkish market, and we are excited to work together to bring these high performance products to our customers. The technical training and local support provided by BUMAX will be invaluable in ensuring the success of this partnership.”

BUMAX recently held an in-depth training session for the Standart Civata team in Izmir, Türkiye, to raise awareness of the unique characteristics and capabilities of BUMAX fasteners. This included a deep dive into the full range of BUMAX grades and products, and how they can overcome particular customer challenges by providing properties, such as high strength, corrosion resistance, anti-galling and temperature resistance. Founded in 1982, Standart Civata operates as part of Norm Holding – Türkiye’s market leader in fasteners, hardware and customised fastening solutions. With a trade-focused model and a dedicated team of over 160 experts, Standart Civata is committed to delivering top tier service and product quality. With more than 45,000 pallets of capacity in its sales and logistics centres and 15,000 tonnes of inventory spread across strategic hubs in İzmir, Manisa, Kocaeli, and Ankara, Standart Civata ensures fast delivery to all provinces of Türkiye and exports to over 50 countries worldwide. Its logistics operations are supported by its own fleet and third-party warehouse and distribution partners. ■

