

Hardware & Fastener Components World News

五金零組件全球新聞 *compiled by Fastener World*

Association News



US-Taiwan Reciprocal Tariffs Cut to 15% Without Stacking, Welcomed by Taiwan's Hand Tool and Plumbing Hardware Associations

美台對等關稅降至 15% 不疊加
台灣水五金、手工具協會看好

The US-Taiwan reciprocal tariffs have been finalized at 15% without stacking, bringing Taiwan back to the same baseline as competitors like Japan and South Korea. This move has been praised by Mr. Chia-lich Chang, Chairman of Plumbing Association of Taiwan, as well as Jack Lai, former Chairman of Taiwan Hand Tool Manufacturers' Association as well as current Chairman Mr. Wu-Zhi Hsieh, who sees it as a major boost for the industries. Chia-lich Chang noted that [returning tariffs to the same level puts Taiwan on an equal](#)

[starting line, especially compared to China's 40% tariffs, widening Taiwan's competitive edge.](#) He forecasts that, barring major exchange rate fluctuations, long-term orders will stabilize in Q2, with benefits from redirecting orders from China becoming more evident. Wu-Zhi Hsieh stated that eliminating tariff instability and stacking is excellent news for the industry, with hopes for incoming orders. While Trump tariff rulings remain a variable, the current 15% level matches Japan and South Korea equally, marking a positive development. Though the steel industry remains under the US Section 232 at a 50% tariff, Taiwan CSC remains optimistic. CSC pointed out that for products not covered by Section 232 or with low steel/aluminum content, the reciprocal tariffs dropping to 15% without stacking on MFN rates significantly lowers effective rates, aligning competition with Japan, South Korea, and the EU, paving the way for steady steel market growth.

Market Watch: Tariff

Record China 2025 Trade Surplus Defies US Tariffs

中國 2025 出口貿易順差破紀錄抗美關稅

National Bureau of Statistics of China announced that the Chinese economy grew 5% in 2025, hitting its target, fueled by a historic USD 1.19 trillion trade surplus. Despite Q4 slowing to 4.5%, exports defy Trump tariffs, a slumping property market, and weak consumer spending. However, [analysts call it a "dual-speed economy": robust manufacturing and exports contrast with lagging domestic demand and real estate.](#) Capital Economics suggests the data overstates growth by 1.5 points. Compounding woes, China's births hit a record low of 7.9 million, with the population dropping 3.4 million to 1.4 billion. Natixis (France trade bank) warns low-price exports aren't sustainable. Last December saw home prices fall 2.7%, investment drop 17.2%, and retail rise just 0.9%. The head of National Bureau of Statistics of China acknowledges supply-demand imbalance but expects stability. Beijing plans proactive policies to boost confidence, curb debt, and reduce export reliance.



Canada & Mexico Tariff Barriers Rise, Taiwan Fastener Exports May Face NTD 10 Billion Loss

加墨關稅壁壘高築 台灣緊固件出口恐損百億台幣

Mexico's and Canada's latest tariff policies are severely impacting Taiwan's fasteners industry. Mexico announced import tariff hikes of 5-50% on non-FTA countries starting 2026, while Canada imposed an additional 25% tariff on steel derivatives. [Industry insiders worry that Taiwan's over NTD 10 billion annual North American export momentum is at risk, potentially leading to a complete loss of price competitiveness.](#)

Mexico and Canada account for 2.44% and 3.96% of Taiwan's exports respectively, totaling 6.4%, serving as key gateways into US automotive, aerospace, and construction supply chains. Mexico's move aims to block Chinese transshipment and origin laundering, but Taiwanese firms are caught in the crossfire. Canada's 25% tariff is even more devastating, effectively wiping out the thin margins in the mature fasteners sector and creating over NTD 1.3 billion in tax burdens, severely eroding Taiwan's North American market share. Experts urge Taiwanese manufacturers to accelerate transformation from traditional construction fasteners to high-value aerospace, medical, and EV fasteners to offset tariff impacts through premium pricing. Major firms are evaluating factory setups in Mexico to secure local production and certificates of origin.



Industry Development

India Extends Steel Import Tariffs for 3 Years to Shield Domestic Industry from Chinese Dumping

印度延長鋼鐵進口關稅 3 年，護航本土產業免受中國傾銷衝擊

[India's Ministry of Finance issued an order on December 30, 2025, extending steel import tariffs for three years in its latest move to protect the domestic industry from global oversupply pressures. Tariffs on certain products will remain at 11% to 12%;](#) the original measures were first introduced in April 2025 for 200 days. Facing a flood of low-priced exports from China that have driven global steel prices to multi-year lows, India is the latest country to respond. Cheap imports have hammered local producers like JSW Steel, forcing some smaller mills to shut down despite steady domestic demand. India's steel sector has expanded rapidly over the

past decade, but output remains just a fraction of China's. Producers are banking on long-term gains from urbanization and industrial growth, with these tariffs providing long-awaited relief for mills. Analysts note that the policy bolsters supply chain resilience, supporting steady advancement in the local steel industry and is expected to spur investment and capacity upgrades.



India EV Sales to Hit 22 Million Units by 2035, Penetration Over 50%

印度電動車銷售 2035 年衝 2200 萬輛 滲透率逾五成

KPMG's "Securing the Supply Chain: Preparing for the Electric Vehicle Raw Material Challenge" report predicts India's electric vehicle sales will reach 22 million units by 2035, with penetration exceeding 50% across vehicle segments. [India's 2025 EV sales have neared 1.5 million units, with penetration surging from 0.7% in 2020 to 5.9%.](#) Two-wheelers dominate India's EV market, accounting for 80-85% of sales due to affordability and suitability for urban commuting. Premium electric passenger vehicles with over 500 km range already capture 27% of that segment's sales.

Electric scooters, three-wheelers, and intracity buses now offer lower total cost of ownership than internal combustion engine vehicles; four-wheeler commercial vehicles have achieved cost parity, with personal vehicles expected within the decade. Public charging stations exploded from 5,000 in 2022 to over 26,000 by early 2025. Government FAME and the PM E-DRIVE scheme—launched in September 2024 with INR 10,900 crore funding—has significantly accelerated adoption.



China's Auto Parts Exports Reach USD 86.59 Billion During Jan-Nov 2025

中國 2025 年 1 至 11 月汽車零件出口額 865.9 億美元

China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) reports, based on customs data, that China's auto parts exports hit USD 7.88 billion in November 2025, up 14.3% from the previous quarter and 1.5% year-over-year. For January-November, cumulative exports reached USD 86.59 billion, a 2.7% increase from 2024; on imports, November auto parts inflows totaled USD 1.89 billion, rising 12.6% quarter-on-quarter but down 20.2% annually. The January-November total imports stood at USD 19.49 billion, reflecting a 22.2% year-on-year decline.



Malaysia's Fastener Trade Deficit Widens

馬來西亞緊固件進口逆差擴大

From January to September 2025, Malaysia's fastener trade showed persistent losses, with imports nearing USD 490 million against USD 260 million in exports—the former 1.9 times the latter, resulting in a clear deficit. Third-quarter imports surged while exports held steady, underscoring local capacity struggles to meet booming manufacturing needs.

Exports remained resilient, averaging USD 26-35 million monthly, peaking at USD 31.57 million in August, affirming international competitiveness. Imports accelerated sharply, hitting a nine-month high of USD 59.08 million in September (about 59,080 tons); Q2 hovered around USD 55 million, on

an upward trend. The widening gap stems from manufacturing recovery and infrastructure projects boosting demand for high-strength fasteners; Malaysia's Southeast Asian hub status fueling re-export trade; and global supply chain shifts driving industrial imports. China leads as the primary source, bolstering Malaysian local chains. This signals a Southeast Asian manufacturing boom, urging Malaysia to accelerate localization and narrow the shortfall.

Companies Development

SUMEEKO

Tariffs Ease, Sumeeko Aims for Recovery with European Factory Boosting Annual Operations

關稅降溫拚復甦 世德在歐洲設廠助攻年營運回穩

Automotive fasteners leader Sumeeko welcomes a turning point. The U.S. Section 232 grants Taiwan preferential treatment, slashing export tariffs to the U.S. from 50% to 15%. With customers progressively agreeing to tariff subsidies, Sumeeko's profit structure improves significantly this year, paving the way for operations to return to normal levels. Sumeeko's consolidated revenue last year reached NTD 2.554 billion, down 7.64% year-over-year, mainly due to advance payments for high tariffs and the ongoing optimization of its German plant. Around 60-70% of revenue comes from OEM clients. Last year, exports from its Taiwan plant to Europe and the US remained stable, but the model of shipping goods to U.S. warehouses first and awaiting client's replenishments required the company to advance the tariffs, severely impacting profits. In the second half, Sumeeko actively negotiated with clients; some have agreed to cover tariffs, while others adjusted shipping strategies. With the Taiwan-US tariff situation finalized, pressures have clearly eased.

Sumeeko announced that its German subsidiary, MAX MOTHEs GmbH, invested €1.8 million to establish a wholly-owned new subsidiary, Beco Group GmbH, targeting acquisitions of suppliers to German OEM clients. This is expected to add €3-5 million in annual revenue, directly boosting this year's revenue and profits. Positive news also came from the US plant, which is undergoing customer certification and is slated for production in the first quarter, aligning with localization demands. Sumeeko's operations look promising this year, with the market optimistic about these dual positives driving a recovery.



Simpson Strong-Tie Inaugurates USD 125 Million New Plant in Gallatin

Simpson Strong-Tie 啟用投資 1.25 億美元建設的蓋拉廷新廠

Structural connectors and building solutions manufacturer Simpson Strong-Tie celebrated the grand opening of its latest manufacturing plant on January 15. The new plant launched with 227 employees, including machine operators, maintenance technicians, heat treatment technicians, and engineers, and is expected to add 20 more positions this year. Company CEO Mike Olosky stated that the facility significantly enhances production capabilities and the distribution network. "This is a one-of-a-kind manufacturing and training center in the construction industry, achieving end-to-end fastener production under one roof with the latest equipment and technology." This advanced 500,250 square-foot facility, built with a USD 125 million investment, will focus on testing and producing anchor bolts, fasteners, and "Quik Drive" fastening tools.

Ironline Metals Expands Hampton County Operations, Investing USD 6.5M to Create 20 New Jobs

Ironline Metals 擴大漢普頓郡營運 投資 650 萬美元創 20 新職

US precision steel framing manufacturer Ironline Metals announced a USD 6.5 million expansion of its Hampton County plant in South Carolina, set to come online in Q2 2026. The project will add 20 jobs and boost capacity for cold-formed steel framing, studs, metal decks, fasteners, and ties.

President Sebastian Higdon stated: "South Carolina offers a superior workforce and business climate. We're proud to expand, enhancing customer service and creating opportunities for local families." The news drew enthusiastic support from local and state leaders. Governor Henry McMaster praised: "This expansion highlights South Carolina's manufacturing success, bringing growth opportunities to Hampton County families." Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Steve Murdaugh added: "Ironline's deep roots here prove our region's labor and business strengths—we welcome their future growth."

Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, Ironline specializes in steel framing products. The expansion will strengthen the local economy and manufacturing sector.



Bosch 2025 Profit Margin at Risk of Falling Below 2%, Hit by Layoffs and Transformation Pressures

博世 2025 利潤率恐跌破 2%，裁員與轉型壓力重

Global leading automotive components supplier Bosch is facing a severe financial crisis. CEO Stefan Hartung admitted in an internal email that the company's 2025 operating profit margin will be significantly below 2%, far short of initial targets. The 2024 margin had already slid from 4.8% in 2023 to 3.5%.

Hartung pointed to restructuring costs of €3.1 billion (3.5% of sales), mainly for layoffs and organizational adjustments, as the primary cause of shrinking profits. 2025 revenue is projected at €91 billion, up slightly from €90 billion in 2024, but growth stems largely from the Johnson Controls Hitachi acquisition (€4 billion contribution); excluding this, core business revenue actually declined, signaling weakening momentum. Hartung had already issued a warning on January 8, forecasting ongoing 2026 challenges with the 7% long-term margin target reachable no earlier than 2027. He blamed soaring tariffs and sluggish global growth for curbing auto demand.

To tackle the crisis, Bosch is ramping up layoffs: In October 2025, it announced 13,000 job cuts in its mobility division by end-2030, following 9,000 reductions in 2024. Weak EV demand, phasing out internal combustion engines, and fierce Chinese competition are key drivers.



Young Mobility Wins Ford Q1 Certification: First in Korean Fasteners Industry, Eyeing Global Expansion

Young Mobility 奪福特 Q1 認證 韓國螺絲業首例開拓全球商機

South Korean fastener maker Young Mobility (YM) announced on November 18, 2025, that it has become the first domestic company to earn Ford Motor Company's top-tier Q1 certification. This award follows rigorous evaluation of quality, production capabilities, and supply chain management, designating YM as an official primary partner with rights to bid on new business. YM formed a cross-functional task force last October spanning quality, production, and sales, achieving certification after about one year. Currently supplying bolts for Ford Europe's (Germany, UK) powertrains, YM now targets North America and Ford Thailand for new opportunities. Ongoing projects with global giants like Hyundai-Kia (largest ICE and EV customer), Schaeffler, LG Magna, and BorgWarner continue expanding. YM is ramping up sales with Ford, GM, and Rivian, driving steady export and revenue growth.



Nitto Seiko's India Vulcan New Plant Launches, Boosting Cold Forging Capacity for Japanese Clients

日東精工の印度 Vulcan 新廠啟用 強化壓鑄產能 穩供日系客

Nitto Seiko announced that its Indian subsidiary Vulcan Forge's Jhajjar plant in Haryana began production in December 2025.

Anchored by 5S systems, it strengthens customer engagement to optimize quality, delivery, and costs, integrating with group operations to enhance local manufacturing and supply stability. Located in Reliance MET City industrial park near the capital region—a smart city hub drawing major Japanese firms—the facility produces nuts and special cold-forged parts. Designed with second-floor expansion potential for future scaling. Future plans include accelerating client development for reliable Japanese supply; installing solar panels to cut power costs and emissions; consolidating HQ functions for optimized staffing, shorter lead times, and lower logistics expenses; and rolling out group training to build on-site personnel cohesion. This strategic move solidifies Nitto Seiko's Indian footprint, supporting global forging chains.

Sterling Tools CFO Pankaj Gupta Steps Down, Effective End of 2025

Sterling Tools 財務長 Pankaj Gupta 於 2025 年底卸任

India's Sterling Tools Limited announced Group CFO Pankaj Gupta's resignation, effective December 31, 2025. Having served nearly five years at the Faridabad plant, Gupta submitted his resignation to Chairman Atul Aggarwal, stating it is purely to pursue new opportunities aligned with his long-term career goals, with no other material reasons. He expressed gratitude for the company's trust and support over five years and committed to a smooth handover. Founded in 1979, Sterling Tools is headquartered in New Delhi, with its Faridabad facility producing automotive fasteners. As Key Managerial Personnel, Gupta's departure triggers regulatory requirements for a new appointment, which the company has yet to announce. This leadership change comes at a pivotal time for automotive industry transformation. The market is watching whether Sterling Tools' new financial leadership can stabilize operations. Deeply embedded in the automotive fasteners supply chain in recent years, the CFO role is crucial, and the successor's selection is under close scrutiny.



STERLING TOOLS LIMITED



U.S. Army's Tool for M1 Abrams Tank Maintenance: Aircraft Dynamics' Battlefield-Tailored Impact Wrench

美軍維修 M1 艾布蘭戰車的秘密武器：Aircraft Dynamics 公司專為戰場生產的衝擊扳手

When it comes to impact wrenches, most people think of popular civilian brands, but the U.S. Army actually relies on the Roboimpact impact wrench from Aircraft Dynamics' Robotools brand. This wrench doesn't chase maximum torque; instead, it prioritizes battlefield durability, safety, and adaptability. It ditches delicate gears and bearings for a rugged planetary gear system, traditional bearings, and an independent hammer mechanism—engineered for harsh environments to keep running even under extreme rough handling. Compared to civilian high-end cordless tools delivering 1,200 ft-lbs, the Roboimpact's "military-grade" ethos stands for reliable endurance over raw power. This maintenance tool, serving since the 1980s for tanks still in action today, embodies the engineering philosophy of military tools.

Acquisitions

Click Bond Partners with Brighton Science: Adhesion and Fastening Tech United for Strength



Click Bond 攜手 Brighton Science 黏合緊固技術

U.S. adhesive fastener specialist Click Bond has acquired surface intelligence and materials science firm Brighton Science, combining adhesion science with fastening innovation to boost scientific validation from surface to structure. Click Bond CFO Brandon Perlich stated: "Brighton Science brings exceptional scientific expertise to our engineering and manufacturing. Together, we'll make bonding more reliable, scalable, and trusted across industries." Post-acquisition, Brighton Science will operate independently, with its surface analysis research fueling Click Bond's R&D, product design, data science, and customer solutions—helping high-performance manufacturers achieve lighter, stronger, more efficient designs. Brighton Science CEO Andy Reeher noted: "Our surface analysis tech has enabled predictable bonds across industries for over a decade. Teaming with Click Bond merges our customer ties and tech leadership to deliver innovations that build manufacturing confidence." This strategic alliance arrives amid critical lightweighting demands in aerospace and automotive sectors, positioning Click Bond as a leader in adhesion-fastening solutions and driving product upgrades and market growth.



pgb-Holding Acquires Dutch Fasteners Leader GebuVolco, Expanding European Footprint

pgb-Holding 併購荷蘭緊固件龍頭 GebuVolco 歐洲版圖再擴張



Germany's pgb-Holding Group has announced the acquisition of Dutch fasteners distributor GebuVolco, further strengthening its European market presence. Post-acquisition, GebuVolco will maintain independent operations, retaining its brand, organizational structure, and business contacts to offer customers a broader product range and customized solutions.

SHI GANG ENTERPRISE CO., LTD.

Wherever you are,
we can always save your time
for more solutions.



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www.fastener-world.com/en/supplier/shigang

pgb-Holding stated that this move perfectly aligns with its growth strategy, consolidating European leadership through an expanded portfolio while creating sustainable value for customers, employees, and partners. GebuVolco distributes renowned brands like Silvermate and QZ while manufacturing hardware clamps and brackets, holding a leading position in the Netherlands' private label market. Under Mr. Dirk De Pijper and his team's leadership for over 30 years, GebuVolco traces its roots to 1947 when Gebu began producing fixing products. The 2000 acquisition of Volco International expanded its fasteners lineup, leading to the 2010 merger forming GebuVolco. This strategic alliance combines both firms' expertise, poised to drive product innovation and market penetration, especially in hardware and fastener applications. pgb-Holding thereby deepens its Dutch market foundation amid Europe's active M&A wave in the sector.



Swift Aerospace Sold to Clarendon Specialty Fasteners, Strengthening Aerospace Fasteners Supply Chain

Swift Aerospace 售予 Clarendon Specialty Fasteners，強化航太緊固件供應鏈

Swift Aerospace has completed its sale to Clarendon Specialty Fasteners, a subsidiary of Diploma Group. Swift Aerospace is a global aerospace distributor with operations across the UK, Europe, and Asia, specializing in approved fasteners and hardware. With over 30 years of experience, the company supplies products and services to some of the industry's largest original equipment manufacturers and has earned a reputation for sourcing hard-to-find specialist components.

Headquartered in Royal Wootton Bassett, Clarendon Specialty Fasteners is a leading supplier and distributor of fastening systems to manufacturers in the aerospace, defense, and motorsport industries. It is owned by FTSE 100 company Diploma, which employs 3,400 people across 17 businesses in the US, Canada, UK, Europe, and Australia. This investment will expand the product range, enhance supply chain resilience, and boost global service capabilities. Swift's international footprint and specialist products perfectly complement Clarendon's existing offerings, supporting Diploma's growth strategy. ■

CNC Auto Lathe

Major Products: Fiber-optic Telecommunications Equipment, Hydraulic/Pneumatic Components, Shafts, Mechanic Components, Electronic Components, Wire-cutting, Housing, Computer Connectors, Auto/Motorecycle Parts, Radio Wave Launchers, Radio Frequency Generators

Materials: Phosphor Bronze, Aluminum, Copper Beryllium, Free Cutting Copper, Stainless Steel

.SMA	BNG
.SMB/SMC	TNC
.MCX	1.0/2.3
.MMCX	1.6/5.6
.N	7/16

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