

Fastener World NEWS

Compiled by Fastener World

is at a relative low. Steel price and supply is bound to go higher in the first quarter of 2024. Considering the rise in steel-refining material cost and international steel prices, Taiwan CSC has raised the price for January 2024 as appropriate to cope with the increased material costs. The first-quarter price in 2024 has been reflected in accordance to the status of downstream industries.

► Association News ◀



Tim Weller Elected as New BHMA President

BHMA
builders hardware manufacturers association

Members of the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (BHMA) gathered and approved the 2023-2024 Board of

Directors during the association's annual Fall meeting on October 18th, 2023 in San Diego, California. Members who were elected to the 2023-2024 BHMA Board of Directors include Board President: Tim Weller, Allegion; 1st Vice President: Justin Crotzer, Dormakaba; 2nd Vice President: Mark McRae, Hager Companies; and Past President: Mark Bloom, Spectrum Brands HHI.

The new Board members join the Directors: Scott James, CompX International Inc.; Robert Strong, Dormakaba USA Inc.; Ernie Mitchell, TownSteel, Inc.; Dick Kreidel, ASSA Abloy Group; and Mark Berger, Securitech Group, Inc.

"I'm looking forward to what we will accomplish together," noted Weller. "As BHMA nears its 100th anniversary, builders hardware safety and standards are more important than ever – and our organization has an incredible opportunity to continue being a leading voice for our industry." BHMA's new Board President, Tim Weller (AHC, CDC, FDAI), Manager of Codes, Standards and Sustainability at Allegion, brings more than 40 years of industry experience where he, amongst many things, is responsible for developing the product sustainability strategy to meet market requirements for Allegion's products and solutions. Weller is active in numerous industry organizations such as the Steel Door Institute National Fire Protection Association, ASTM International, the U.S. Green Building Council, and more.

► Industry Development ◀

Taiwan CSC's Wire Rod Price up NTD 800 in Q1 2024

According to Taiwan CSC's report, the global steel industry has hovered low for a year and a half and stockpile in the downstream



Price adjustments for Q1 2024 by Taiwan CSC	
Products	Price Adjustment (NTD per ton)
Wire rod (low/mid/high carbon, cold headed, low alloy steel)	+800
Automotive materials	+500

Taiwan's International Carbon Credit Trading Platform is Now in Official Operation

In order to assist domestic Taiwanese enterprises to reduce carbon emissions and create a fair, safe and transparent carbon credit trading system, Taiwan Carbon Solution Exchange (TCX), jointly invested by Taiwan Stock Exchange and National Development Fund of the Executive Yuan of Taiwan, has officially launched its "International Carbon Credit Trading Platform" on Dec. 22, 2023, with trading hours from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays, and the related execution details were also announced, officially announcing that Taiwan has entered a new era of carbon credit trading.

Unlike other countries having carbon credit trading platforms that operate on a for-profit business model and in order to avoid market speculation, the buyers on this platform are only limited to domestic legal entities (which are only allowed to hold, cancel, and transfer carbon credits but reselling) and this platform is not open to the general public, while the sellers have to be foreign or domestic legal entities. Carbon credits trading and payments are processed in the form of advance receipts. Carbon credits are sold according to quotations. The unit of transaction is 1 ton of CO2 equivalent and is traded in U.S. Dollars.

For the sellers' part, they are specifically required to meet the relevant standards for carbon credits (incl. the carbon credit issuer should be accredited by TCX, the vintage of the carbon credits should be within 5 years, and the carbon credit projects should meet at least 3 of the UN' Sustainable Development Goals...etc.). TCX hopes that through the establishment of this platform, it can effectively match supply and demand, create incentives for enterprises to reduce carbon emissions, and further promote the development of low-carbon production technologies and innovative industries.





Carbon Emission Fee for Evergreen Marine and YangMing Marine Out

Evergreen Marine, YangMing Marine, and a number of large container shipping companies have notified their customers of the EU carbon emission fee, with Evergreen charging €27, YangMing charging €24, and CMA CGM Group charging €25 per container (20-foot) for the Asia-Europe route, which is the largest in terms of scale of operation.

According to the levy announced by Evergreen, Evergreen charges €14 for the return trip to Europe, €23 for the trip to Mediterranean and USD 9 for the return, while YangMing charges €11 for the return trip from Europe, €18 for the trip to Mediterranean and €8 for the return. The return trip charges are more than halved because the EU only charges 50% carbon tax on European exports.

Last year EU planned to have shipping included in the ETS from January 1, 2024, which requires shipowners or commissioned companies to purchase emission allowances and pass these costs on to shippers and renters, which, as DNV Maritime Vice President Rasmus Stute pointed out earlier, could expose mid-sized shipping companies to millions of dollars in liability each year. In addition to ETS, regulations such as the Carbon Intensity Index (CII) need to be considered as having a significant impact on the economic and financial position of small and medium-sized shipping companies.

EU Imposes Harbor Carbon Tax from January 2024

Last year EU planned to include ships traveling to European ports in the ETS program starting January 1, 2024, which is estimated to bring in US\$3.6 billion in the form of carbon emission compensation for Europe in 2024. In other words, shipping companies will have to purchase carbon offsets for the emissions produced by ships traveling between two EU ports; for ships traveling between EU and non-EU ports, they will have to bear 50% of the emission fee.

However, seven EU countries, including Spain and Italy, sent a letter to the European Commission calling for a suspension of the program to prevent shipping companies from avoiding European routes and shifting trade to nearby Mediterranean ports such as Tangier in Morocco, or Port Said in Egypt, which are less than 300 nautical miles from the EU coast. According to the latest estimates by Shipping Consultants, assuming a carbon price of €90 per ton, the ETS cost for a container shipping between Europe and Asia in 2024 is estimated to be as high as €810 thousand.

Despite the high cost of ETS, it is reported that Maersk, the container leader, made a profit of US\$30 billion in 2022. The bill generated by ETS is only a drop in the bucket when compared with the revenue of international shipping, so it may not have much impact on the end price. However, some EU countries on the Mediterranean coast, including Portugal, Greece and Cyprus, have publicly said that the ETS program, which comes into effect in 2024, could shift carbon emissions to other parts of the world, and that companies may take longer routes to avoid stopping at EU ports, and may even increase greenhouse gas emissions as a result.



Canada

CBSA Initiates Anti-dumping Re-investigation on Certain Carbon Steel Fasteners Originated from China and Taiwan

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has initiated a re-investigation to update the normal values and export prices of certain carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China and Taiwan, and the amounts of subsidy of certain carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China. The products subject to the CITT's injury order (falling within HS codes 7318110000, 7318120000, 7318140000, 7318150010, 7318150042, 7318150045, 7318150049) are listed as below.

Where an exporter of subject goods does not provide sufficient information to determine specific normal values or does not permit verification of information submitted, anti dumping duties will be assessed at the rate of 170% of the export price of the subject goods imported into Canada. Similarly, in cases where the Government of China or exporters in China fail to provide complete and accurate submissions enabling the determination of specific amounts of subsidy, the amounts of subsidy will be determined in accordance with a ministerial specification pursuant to subsection 30.4(2) of Special Import Measures Act (SIMA). Exporters that are not the manufacturer of the subject goods (e.g. trading companies, vendors, etc.) will receive normal values and specific amounts of subsidy



only to the extent that their suppliers/manufacturers provide sufficient information to the CBSA to permit the determination of normal values, export prices and amounts of subsidy.

Products	Imperial (inches)		Metric (millimetres)	
	Diameter	Length	Diameter	Length
Wood screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 8"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 200 mm
Square and hex lag screws	#14 to #24 (1/4" to 0.386")	3/4 to 4"	M6 to M10	20 mm to 100 mm
Sheet metal/tapping screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 8"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 200 mm
Thread forming screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 3"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 75 mm
Thread cutting screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 3"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 75 mm
Thread rolling screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 3"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 75 mm
Self-drilling tapping screws	#4 to #24 (0.112" to 0.386")	3/8 to 3"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 75 mm
Machine screws	#4 to 3/8" (0.112" to 3/8")	3/8 to 8"	M3 to M10	10 mm to 200 mm
Flange screws	1/4"; to 5/8"	3/8 to 4"	M6 to M16	10 mm to 100 mm

Any importers or exporters who have not received a letter from the CBSA, and who wish to provide a response to the RFI are advised to contact CBSA officers at simaregistry-depotlmsi@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca to obtain a copy of the RFI.

Date	Event
2023/11/30	Initiation of CBSA's re-investigation
2024/01/02	Importer responses to CBSA's request for information due
2024/01/08	Exporter and government responses to CBSA's request for information due
2024/04/08	Closing of the record
2024/04/15	Case arguments due from all parties
2024/04/22	Reply submissions from all parties in respect of the case arguments
2024/05/23	Conclusion of CBSA's re-investigation

► Companies Development ◀

Ta Chen Group Invests in Aluminum Plant in Texas



TA CHEN
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Ta Chen Group (Taiwan) said carbon steel price has been going up lately, and

stainless steel may follow suit, but it will be until January 2024 before the situation turns clear. What is certain is that business performance will be better in H1 than in H2 2024.

Ta Chen Group is continuing on expanding its aluminum plant in Texas. The group acquired the Texas plant from Alcoa for USD 350 million in October 2018, invested USD 260 million in July 2021 to increase the plant's capacity and add the second cold-rolling line. The cold-rolling line expansion was completed at the end of 2023 with a capacity up from 18 thousand to 31 thousand tons. Further, the group previously announced another investment in building a hot-rolling line for USD 131 million which was completed in 3 years expanding from 13 thousand to 31 thousand tons in capacity.

The group's subsidiary Brighton-Best International (BBI) sells carbon, steel, stainless steel and alloy steel fasteners which altogether share 60% of the U.S. market. Its revenue per day slipped 10% in 2023 from USD 3 million to somewhere between 2.6 to 2.7 million. STAR which is the second largest local counterpart with USD 70 thousand daily revenue is currently held by a private equity firm. The private equity firm has less than 7 years to handle STAR and it will make for an opportunity for BBI to acquire STAR and increase gross profit margin by 3 to 5 percentage points from 35%.



NAFCO to Build Malaysia Plant

NAFCO, a leading Taiwan-based manufacturer of fasteners for aerospace and high-end industrial applications, announced on October 27, 2023 that it plans to invest in a Malaysian subsidiary in response to the company's future operational development and planning. The initial investment is expected to be approximately US\$5 million and the plant will specialize in the production of automotive and aerospace fasteners.

Founded in 1977, NAFCO currently has two production bases in Taoyuan, Taiwan and Jiangsu, China. The completion of the Malaysian plant will further enhance its production capacity in the automotive and aerospace fastener fields. The company has also obtained international certifications such as IATF 16949:2016, ISO 9001:2015, AS 9100:2016, ISO 17025, Nadcap, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 14064-1:2018, ISO 27001, etc. The quality of its products has been recognized by many customers around the world.



Mitsuchi SUMEEXO

New Joint Venture Between Mitsuchi and SUMEEXO in Discussion

Mitsuchi has held detailed discussions on establishing a joint venture with Taiwan's TPEX listed company SUMEEXO Ind. Co., Ltd. The company's board of directors passed a resolution on October 31, 2023 and decided that the basic guidelines of the joint venture are as follows. The specific details will be adjusted after a formal agreement with SUMEEXO is reached in the future.

1. Background

Mitsuchi has manufacturing plants in Thailand, the United States and China, and has been producing and selling auto parts for Japanese auto parts manufacturers in the respective regions. SUMEEXO, which has no business relationship with Mitsuchi, is planning to manufacture fasteners locally for American EV manufacturers. In the process of expanding global orders, Mitsuchi is in line with SUMEEXO's intentions. In September, the two parties began discussions to establish a joint venture with Mitsuchi's production base MICA in Tennessee, U.S.A. After multiple discussions, Mitsuchi decided to establish a joint venture with SUMEEXO under the following framework, and will coordinate subsequent details after obtaining the formal consent of SUMEEXO.

2. Basic Guidelines

The joint venture (hereinafter referred to as the "New Company") will be jointly owned by MICA and SUMEEXO at a ratio of 3:7 and will use part of the land and buildings owned by MICA as its production base. The new company's premises are leased by MICA. The new company will be a joint venture and produce fasteners for U.S. automakers.

3. Future prospects

If this transaction materializes, the impact on Mitsuchi's consolidated results for the year ended June 30, 2024 will be minimal. However, Mitsuchi believes it will help improve operating performance.

TriMas Appoints New General Manager of Its Allfast Fastening Systems Business

ALLFAST[®] FASTENING SYSTEMS

TriMas announced the appointment of William "Bill" Carrigan to the position

of Allfast Fastening Systems General Manager, effective December 1, 2023. He will report directly to Vitaliy Rusakov, recently hired as President of TriMas Aerospace. Carrigan has a proven record of success in elevating performance within the aerospace fastener sector. He has held operating positions of increasing responsibility at leading aerospace companies, including Howmet Aerospace, previously a division of Arconic and Alcoa, and Consolidated Aerospace Manufacturing. Throughout his career, Carrigan has consistently driven revenue growth and performance improvement, while committed to operational excellence. He earned a dual undergraduate degree in Operations Management and Management Information Systems from the University of Wisconsin.

"With a proven track record in the aerospace fastener industry, Bill brings a breadth of leadership experience and industry expertise, making him a valuable addition to our Allfast team and TriMas Aerospace group," said Thomas Amato, TriMas President and Chief Executive Officer. Allfast Fastening Systems is a leading global manufacturer of solid and blind rivets, blind bolts, temporary fasteners and installation tools for the aerospace industry with content on substantially all commercial, defense and general aviation platforms in production and in service.

TriMas Aerospace, TriMas' second largest reportable segment, is a leading designer and manufacturer of a diverse range of products, including, but not limited to,

U-JUNE-INSTRUMENT CO., LTD.

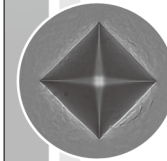
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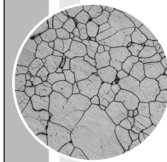
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highly-engineered fasteners, collars, blind bolts, rivets, ducting and connectors for air management systems, and other highly-engineered machined parts and components, for use in focused markets within the aerospace industry.



**BRIGHTON-BEST
INTERNATIONAL**



Brighton-Best, Parker Fasteners Announce Strategic Partnership

Brighton-Best International and Parker Fasteners announced the formation of a strategic partnership, starting in 2024, on Oct. 10, 2023. This partnership is likely to revolutionize the fastener industry by having quicker lead times. Parker Fasteners, a manufacturer with a strong foothold in the U.S. domestic market, has been operational for over a decade and has earned a reputation for being customer-centric. Brighton-Best International has been in business for nearly 100 years and is known for nationally high levels of stock. The agreement will focus on promoting the expansion of BBI's stainless steel lines. The partnership is expected to support distributor companies to expand their reach and increase their revenue and product offering of stainless steel.

Specialinsert® Honored with 'Chiave A Stella' Award



Specialinsert® has won the honorable mention in the 2023

edition of the 'CHIAVE A STELLA' Award, as 'Best Example of a Technological Solution in the Digital Field'. The Prize, now in its 15th edition, is open to all micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Piedmont. It is awarded annually through a call for entries promoted by API Torino, Fondazione Magnetto and the newspaper 'la Repubblica', in collaboration with the UniCredit Bank, the Turin Chamber of Commerce and CONFAPI Piemonte, and with the scientific support of the Turin Polytechnic and the School of Management and Economics of the University of Turin. The initiative is of primary importance because it aims to promote Piedmont's small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and their ability to generate wealth and knowledge on the territory in a responsible manner.

NORD-LOCK Strengthens **GROUP** Its Industry- leading Position with Unique CE Marked Securing Washers

When Nord-Lock, part of the Nord-Lock Group, introduced the innovative wedge-locking technology in 1982, the company swiftly rose to its current market-leading position as the global leader for bolting solutions. Now, the company is once again breaking new ground by announcing the addition of CE marking to its wedge-

locking washers. Today, no other global supplier offers CE-marked securing washers, and that Nord-Lock now accomplishes the feat puts the company in a unique position in the building and construction industry.

The CE marking is a requirement for anyone supplying products to the building and construction industry within the European Union (EU), ensuring that products comply with the EU's rigorous safety and quality regulations. The milestone of attaining the CE mark reinforces Nord-Lock's reason for existence – protecting customer investments and keeping people safe. By implication, it also reassures the already established perception of Nord-Lock being the given partner when safety and reliability really matter. "We are thrilled to introduce CE marking for our wedge-locking washers, reinforcing our commitment to delivering excellence in engineering and design. This achievement demonstrates our dedication to compliance and safety, providing our customers with a competitive edge in their operations." – Graham Souter, Vice President and head of the Nord-Lock Business Unit.

The biggest upside of these washers now carrying the CE marking is that any building and construction business, in any EU market, can seamlessly reap the renowned benefits of these washers when compliance with regulations is assured throughout the assembly process. With a locking mechanism that uses tension instead of friction, Nord-Lock washers keep bolted connections tight and secure. Even when subjected to severe vibrations or dynamic loads, operators can rest assured that their bolts will stay in place.



250 Guests in India at fischer's First International Expert Forum

The fischer Group of Companies held its first International Expert Forum in India on 24 November, 2023. The family-owned company organised the all-day event in the capital New Delhi together with its Indian subsidiary. Around 30 journalists from various specialised media in the country attended the forum. The forum focused on the construction industry, including earthquake safety, fire protection and standards, and brought together experts from all over the world. The speakers and more than 250 guests in the packed hall focused their questions on future construction trends, various innovative construction methods and the importance of connections in various areas of construction.

Professor Konrad Bergmeister, who heads the Institute of Structural Engineering at the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, said: "fischer has organised a very successful forum here in India. It will attract attention in the construction industry throughout the country and will certainly increase demand. The mix of construction industry, planning engineers and science was very successful." Professor Akanshu Sharma from



Purdue University in the USA said: "Events like the 'International Expert Forum' are of fundamental importance for India and its construction industry. fischer will benefit a great deal from this forum here in the country."

Dr. Oliver Geibig, Managing Director Business Units and Engineering at fischer, introduced the fischer Group of Companies to the guests and said: "It is a great honour for me to welcome so many industry experts here with us at fischer in India." Mayank Kalra, Managing Director of fischer India, said: "At fischer India, innovation, responsibility and reliability are essential in the construction industry. We are all about empowering our customers to achieve their construction goals with us." Uday Shikhare, Technical Director, fischer India, moderated the event and said, "We are honoured and overwhelmed by the response to fischer's first International Expert Forum in India."



Optimas to Develop Fastener Manufacturing Facility in Monterrey

Mexico to Support Regional Sourcing Strategies That Minimize Supply Chain

Optimas Solutions, a global industrial manufacturer/distributor and service provider, announced it will open a cold form manufacturing plant in Monterrey, Mexico in the second half of 2024. The Mexico production center will complement world-class fastener manufacturing facilities in Wood Dale, IL, and Droitwich Spa in the United Kingdom and continue the company's near-shoring efforts to minimize supply chain risk.

"More than ever, resource availability has given way to accessibility in the form of regionalization," said Daniel Harms, CEO of Americas. "Our expanding localization strategy enables us to be more agile with our manufacturing and sourcing capabilities for industrial customers and suppliers." "We took great care to design our Mexico facility to mirror our capabilities at our manufacturing operations in Wood Dale so they can effectively play off each other," said Ricardo Alonzo Rodríguez, vice president and general manager of Optimas in Mexico. "This ensures customers and suppliers have access to the same engineering, tooling, manufacturing and quality processes regardless of where we produce the fasteners."

Optimas Solutions is one of only a few companies with in-house cold forming in the US, UK, and now, MX, which complements global distribution for fasteners and C-Class parts procurement. By working with a full-service distributor that is also a manufacturer, industrial producers can take advantage of multiple procurement paths and be supported by automated replenishment services, predictive analytics, engineering creativity, a certified quality management system and existing carrier relationships that ensure reliable delivery. "The ability to dual source adds significant strength to a customer's procurement strategies because you can combine the breadth and depth of sourcing with the ability to manufacture more complex parts locally," said Harms. "With fluctuations in demand occurring at an ever-increasing rate, procurement specialists depend on business partners that are flexible to meet production requirements."



Bulten Establishes Operation in India

Through Joint Venture Company

Bulten is establishing manufacturing operations in India through a newly formed joint venture company – Bulten Radium Industries Private Ltd. – alongside two partners: Radium Fasteners Private Ltd. (Radium) and ZJK Precision Parts HK (ZJK). The driver is an increased need for domestically produced micro screws among international customers in the electronics sector with production in India.



Ze Xin Fasteners

Product Range:
Screws / Bolts / Open die parts / Customized fasteners

Size M3-M24 **Length** 9.5mm~300mm

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"Our ambition is to increase sales, primarily of micro screws, to companies in the electronics industry. India is a growing market for this segment, as many international manufacturers of electronics are locating more and more of their Asian production in India. This is the driver behind our new operation in India, and we plan to begin production during the first half of 2024," says Anders Nyström, President and CEO of Bulten.

The operation will be based at a new production plant currently being constructed in Jamnagar, in the western Indian state of Gujarat. The aim is to be fully up and running during the second quarter of 2024, and to have about 50 employees. The building will be leased by Bulten Radium Industries Private Ltd. and therefore involves only limited investment costs for Bulten. Bulten has a 51 percent holding in the newly formed joint venture company. ZJK has previously been a partner to Bulten for the manufacture of micro screws in China, and Radium is a newly formed company owned by experienced players in the fastener industry in India. As well as the newly started JV company, Bulten also operates in India through the newly acquired distribution company Exim Mfr & Enterprise.

Deepening Supply Chain Relationships with Taiwan, Adolf Würth Holds Supplier Day 2023



The Würth Group, which has more than 400 companies and 85,000 employees in more than 80 countries and supplies more than 125,000 products such as fasteners, tools, DIY products, assembly materials, and industrial parts and components to customers in various industries, gave a Supplier Day event on Nov. 10, 2023 at the new site of its Taiwan branch located in Zuoying, Kaohsiung.



The support and cooperation from Taiwan fastener suppliers has always been the key to the Würth Group's stable revenue and growth year after year. Therefore, a number of executives from the Würth Group's parent company, reps from the procurement/quality/products/R&D departments of the Group's overseas subsidiaries and affiliates, Managing Director Andreas Dierolf of Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. Taiwan Branch, CEOs of Würth Taiwan Co., Ltd. and Würth Industry Taiwan Co., Ltd. were all present to interact with 90 partner suppliers and almost 250 guests from the fastener industry. Executive Director Axel Limberg of Delegate of German Industry & Commerce Taiwan and Chairman Tu-Chin Tsai of Taiwan Industrial Fasteners Institute also attended the event.

The Supplier Day was the first large industry networking event of Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG Taiwan Branch after it moved to the new location in Zuoying. In addition to food and wine, two workshops and seminars on the topics of "Helping Suppliers to Implement Würth's Online Quality System" and "CBAM Requirements, Implementation and Impact" were held in the hope of deepening the exchange of information and close cooperation between Würth and its Taiwanese suppliers.

Managing Director Andreas Dierolf of Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG Taiwan Branch particularly praised the Taiwanese suppliers as one of the best in Asia in terms of service, quality and innovation. In the opening speech he said, "This is the 6th Supplier Day in Kaohsiung in the 11 and a half years since the establishment of Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG Taiwan Branch. We'd like to thank everyone for their support and understanding. The success of our bilateral cooperation is mainly due to the support of the fastener specialists present here, who continue to produce and supply us with high quality fasteners, and we're able to assist you in the sale of fasteners produced all over the world. We're truly grateful for the partnership and the long-lasting friendship we have enjoyed with you."

The Würth Group says that the fastener industry has had a tough year due to the slowdown in the global economy and regional wars, but is confident that it will be able to see the light of day in close cooperation with its suppliers.

► Acquisitions ◀

Auveco Expands Presence with Acquisition of ClipLizard Systems

Auveco, a leading force in the automotive fastener and body hardware aftermarket, proudly announces its recent acquisition of ClipLizard Systems, headquartered in Spencer, IN. This strategic move solidifies Auveco's position in the Collision and Paint, Body, and Equipment (PBE) markets. ClipLizard Systems, recognized for its innovation and commitment to quality, specializes in sourcing and distributing automotive clips and fasteners to PBE distributors. Their licensed software solution, Materials Manager, enhances PBE inventory management. The successful transaction, finalized on November 1st, 2023, marks a pivotal moment for both companies.

Auveco CEO, Jeff Gilkinson, expressed enthusiasm, stating, "The partnership with ClipLizard aligns seamlessly with our values of innovation and exceptional service. This strategic fit will bolster our ability to serve customers across North America." Ray Wilhoite, CEO of ClipLizard, echoed this sentiment, saying, "Joining forces with Auveco allows us to combine our strengths, offering an enhanced product and service portfolio to our channel partners." The collaboration opens new channels to market for both Auveco and ClipLizard, providing access to a broader product portfolio. The companies foresee increased opportunities for new product introductions by leveraging core best practices.

Founded in 1916, Auveco has grown to become a predominant provider of automotive fasteners, serving thousands of wholesale distribution customers. ClipLizard, founded in 2003 by Ray Wilhoite, has developed a loyal following through its extensive portfolio of specialty clips and fasteners, catering to the needs of body shops.



Great Lakes Fasteners Group Acquires Frontier Fastener



The Great Lakes Fasteners Group has acquired Frontier Fastener, Inc. of Buffalo, New York, to continue its rapid growth plans serving manufacturers and other customers throughout the Northeast. Frontier Fastener has been a Western New York fastener favorite for over 50 years serving a wide variety of customers across many segments. Frontier specializes in special fasteners designed to customer specifications. Paul Kramer has been with Frontier for over 50 years, having started working alongside his father. Paul's career started with odd jobs around the warehouse, and he worked his way to becoming President.

"Aligning with the Great Lakes Fasteners Group just felt like a natural fit for me and the Frontier team," said Paul Kramer, Frontier President. "Kevin and the Great Lakes team care deeply about their customers, just as we do, and together shared several fastener stories, including heroics performed for our customers!" "I am also delighted to stay on and be able to expand the products and services we now have available with Great Lakes," continued Kramer.

"There are times when you just know it's a solid match as we share the same drive and grit to make it happen for the customer," states Kevin Weidinger, President of the Great Lakes family of distributors. "Frontier has great talent, a diverse group of loyal customers, and matches our core values perfectly!"

"We are excited to add Frontier to our Nut & Bolt Fastening team in Buffalo!" continued Weidinger. Beginning Monday, December 4, 2023, Frontier Fastener has integrated with the existing Buffalo-based Nut & Bolt Fastening Solutions nestled on historic Connecticut Street. Nut & Bolt is a prominent brand in the fastener distribution group owned by Kevin Weidinger. The group operates Great Lakes Fasteners, Nut & Bolt Fastening Solutions, Lakeshore Shore Fastener, Hodges Fastener Corporation, and Connection Service Company. The group is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, with distribution and manufacturing centers in Ohio, New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

The consortium strives to maintain a distributor's local identity and presence in their communities yet leverages the collective strength, size and abilities of the enterprise. Customers enjoy a vast inventory of standard and special fasteners plus bundled lean production services, including kitting, packaging, sub-assembly, and managed inventory programs (VMI). Headquartered in Cleveland (Twinsburg), Ohio – The Great Lakes Fastener Group is a full-line fastener distribution and manufacturing company that offers its clients a comprehensive portfolio of standard, metric and made-to-print fasteners, packaging services and innovative inventory solutions. The group maintains a quality management system to the ISO 9001:2015 and AS9100 standard.

ENDRIES INTERNATIONAL INC. Acquires Alliance Nut & Bolt

Alliance was founded in 1978 by Leon and Kevin Oshman. From the beginning, the business set out with a passion and commitment to provide the marketplace with an unparalleled level of customer service. In 1999, Kevin purchased his father's stock, securing complete ownership, and embarked on a journey of growth. Today, that passion, commitment and drive for growth remains core to Alliance, which operates facilities in Salina, Kansas, and Okarche, Oklahoma.

Alliance Nut & Bolt's major fulfillment offerings include vendor-managed inventory, dock-to-dock managed inventory and kitting solutions. Rick Ambrosier, a 20-year veteran with the company, will continue in a leadership position as branch manager. Kevin Oshman will remain with the company during a transition period. Endries is a leading distributor of fasteners and Class-C parts serving industrial original equipment manufacturers and the Industrial marketplace worldwide. From its headquarters in Brillion, Wisconsin, and 11 U.S. and international distribution centers, Endries provides over 500,000 SKUs to its customer base. Endries operates primarily through a vendor-managed inventory model, managing C-part categories for its customers across diverse industrial end markets. Endries partners with customers through robust replenishment systems that provide products and support services, which are critical to maintaining the manufacturing process. ■

