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# **FASTENER** +FIXING MAGAZINE

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# LISI Group Sales up for H1

LISI Group achieved sales of €903.6 million in the first half of 2024, up 10% compared to 2023, with LISI AEROSPACE up 21.8% compared to the same period of last year, and LISI AUTOMOTIVE and LISI MEDICAL finishing down 2.5% and 0.8% respectively.

LISI AEROSPACE sales totaled €505 million at the end of the first half of the year. The 'Fasteners' segment grew in Europe by 26.2% and 22.9% in the United States on an already high comparison basis in H1 2023. As well as this: the 'Structural Components' segment grew by 17.1%.

The good long-term outlook for the global commercial flight of the aeronautical market is reflected in high order levels among manufacturers. The increases in monthly production rates for single aisle aircraft were revised downwards at the end of the half year with no

impact on the division. The significant return of long haul orders, as well as the good performance of the helicopter and military market segments, are also supporting demand over the long-term.



LISI AUTOMOTIVE's sales amounted to €310.6 million. Order intake for new products remains at the high-level of 13.6% of sales over the half year (14.2% in 2023) which equates to €42 million (€45.2 million in 2023). The LISI AUTOMOTIVE division thus confirms its positioning in electromobility and its ability to quickly adapt its product ranges. These performance results also testify to its increased diversification with Chinese or American OEMs and manufacturers, for braking systems or interior fittings.

The LISI AUTOMOTIVE division is expected to experience a slowdown in demand from its main customers during the second half of the year in a market experiencing profound technological and geographic changes. Added to this is strong pressure on prices across the entire automotive industry with the will to lower the manufacturing costs of electric vehicles. The LISI AUTOMOTIVE division will therefore have to continue to demonstrate discipline and adaptation while ensuring the development and ramp-up of new products resulting from record order intake in recent years.

LISI MEDICAL's sales amounted to €88.5 million in H1 2024. In addition to this unfavorable comparison basis in the first quarter was a movement to adjust the inventory levels of the division's main customers and production disrupted by difficulties in sourcing raw materials.



# **Würth Group Satisfied with First Half of 2024**

The Würth Group reported sales of €10.2 billion in the first half of 2024, which corresponds to a year-over-year decrease of 3.2%, and a minus of 2.6% adjusted for currencies.

The sales volume generated by the German companies of the Würth Group amounted to €4 billion compared to €4.2 billion in the same period last year, with companies outside Germany reporting a slight drop in sales of 1.8% year-over-year. Within Würth Group's core business, the Auto Division reported positive growth of 4.2%.

At €525 million, the operating result of the Würth Group is down year-over-year (2023: €680 million) as a result of the lower sales volume in the first half of the year.

Over the past twelve months, the Group has also created over 300 jobs in the fields of digitalization and IT. Currently, the Würth Group has 88,616 employees worldwide, with 44,437 employees working in sales. Around 1,200 employees joined the company through acquisitions.

Robert Friedmann, chairman of the central managing board of the Würth Group highlights: "Our sales development continues to be strongly influenced by the economic situation, which is particularly noticeable in the manufacturing units that supply to the automotive industry, for example. Nevertheless we are sticking to our countercyclical strategy: We invest when others scale back. We are continuing to expand our sales activities across all channels such as the sales force, shops, and eBusiness, while also investing in IT and promoting digitalization. The promise of readily available products to our more than four million customers worldwide is our top priority."

# **New President and CEO at Bulten Group**

The board of Bulten AB has appointed Axel Berntsson as the new President and CEO of Bulten Group – starting no later than 22nd January 2025.

Axel comes most recently from the position as President and CEO of Absolent Air Care Group, which he has held since 2018. Prior to this, he was CEO of the subsidiary Absolent AB for two years. Axel also has experience in senior roles within ESAB and CPS Color, and has worked as a management consultant at Accenture.

"The board is very pleased with the recruitment of Axel Berntsson. He has solid experience from several global industrial companies and has great experience of change management, as well as of creating long-term shareholder value. With his background and leadership, I am convinced



### TR Fastenings Opens New Facility in China

TR Chai Yi Precision Fastenings Manufacturing, now part of the Trifast Plc Group of companies, is celebrating the launch of its Chinese manufacturing facility in the key industrial city of Dongguan, within the Guangdong Province, capitalizing on years of increasing demand in the region.

Guangdong is a vibrant world class center of innovation and technology, providing the perfect place for TR to produce its precision engineered screws to OEM's and their sub-contractors, whilst leveraging its global scale on a local basis.

The new 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of manufacturing space houses 44 cold forging machines and 36 thread rolling machines producing 0.6mm to 4mm micro screws and thread forming screws, in steel, stainless and titanium, with an output of around 1 billion pieces per annum.

TR Chai Yi is proud to have achieved the globally recognized ISO 9001 certification demonstrating it meets the stringent criteria required for quality, safety and efficiency standards for its products and services to customers in the region. The accreditation affirms the team is committed to providing the highest level of quality across the organization and are continually looking at ways to improve.

Jeremy Scholefield, Asia Pacific managing director, explains: "We're delighted to open this new facility and in such a renowned area, it's such a positive move for TR as a Group. Our focus is on producing competitive products and continuing to build a strong capability in China and across the Asia Pacific region to meet market demands. Here in Guangdong, one of our key differentiators is our technical engineering knowledge to produce very precise and often complex components, those that are manufactured to exact measurements and mass produced. This latest investment is key for us, as it highlights TR's robust development in the region and our commitment to staying close to key customers here."

The new China plant is the company's seventh global manufacturing facility with factories now also in Italy, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia.



that he will successfully develop the company in new customer segments and markets," says Ulf Liljedahl, chairman of the board.

"Bulten is a well managed company with a long history and strong position and has a clear growth strategy. I am proud to have the opportunity to lead and further develop the company towards new goals, together with new colleagues," states Axel Berntsson.

