

Fastener Suppliers Among Winners from GM Award

General Motors announced online in the early second half of 2021 the list of those awarded to the Quality Excellence Award 2020, which includes just suppliers that serve this giant automaker in South American operations.

In total there were 133 suppliers, and 107 of them were from Brazil, 16 from Argentina, 7 from Colombia and 3 from Ecuador. Some of these suppliers, as listed below, were companies in Brazil that manufacture fasteners.

Progeral (metal clamps) received the 7 Star Special Recognition.

In Propulsion/Powertrain category, the fastener players awarded were:

- Irmãos Parasma: 6 stars
- Rudolph Usinados: 5 stars
- Böllhoff Brazil: 4 stars
- Lipos Fasteners: 4 stars
- Metalac SPS: 3 stars
- Continental Fasteners: 2 stars
- Refal Rivets: 1 star

Brazilian Steel Company Wins World Metallurgy Award 2021

At the end of October 2021, the Global Metals Awards, from S&P Global Platts, announced the current award receivers, which included Aço Verde do Brasil (AVB). Manufacturing long carbon neutral steel, this Brazilian steel company, a subsidiary of Ferroeste Group, was recognized to the main awards for the sector.

The main products manufactured at the company's plant - located in northeast Brazil, in Açailândia town, Maranhão State - include wire rods and rebars (CA-50 and CA-60). With more than 2,300 employees, the company being the first steel mill in the world to produce carbon neutral steel, won in the ESG Development category.

The AVB's carbon emission for steel production for the years 2019 and 2020 were respectively 0.06 and -0.04 tons of CO² per ton of crude steel. Another 11 companies competed in the same category, including Alcoa, JMW Steel, Rio Tinto and Posco.

"The carbon neutral certification and this award were just our first steps. We will continue to invest in the implementation of innovations with a new plant to produce briquette of co-products for use in our blast furnaces, aiming to be the first carbon neutral and zero residue plant, with 100% solid residues being reused in such operations", said Sandro Raposo, the AVB Industrial Director.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, the AVB staff avoided the trip to the ceremony held in London, UK. It was up to the General Secretary of the International Iron Metallurgy Association, John Atherton, to get the Award.



John Atherton





The Sun Shines Again for Trade Fairs in Brazil

The Covid pandemic placed the uncertainty as the only answer in recent times, especially when it comes to events in which relationship is the key to success. So, we can describe as bold and "pioneering" the action of the organizers and the exhibitors of the event dedicated to the solar energy sector. The Intersolar South America was able to start the first trade fair since March 2020.

Months before, the exhibitors had to sign an agreement to put their teams and investments into the event without knowing if it would take place or not, a common question around the world, especially in Brazil this was deeply hit by infection and deaths.

However, vaccination in Brazil has been a big success, with a high acceptance level, and the case number was already in a deep fall when the Intersolar was held, in October 18-20, in São Paulo City, SP.

The 2021 edition had a little more than 250 exhibitors and around 28 thousand visitors from 29 countries. Among the exhibitors, some were main fasteners companies with local factories and/or offices – including ARaymond, BelEnergy (from Belenus Group), Boltinox, Inox-Par, LuduFix, Max Del, Walsywa and others – showing their news on products and services to this emerging and highly promising sector, still almost unexplored in Brazil with a big potential for business in the next 5 to 10 years.

The company was founded by Michael Kleber and Enéas Henrique, when they were practically teenagers.

In early 1990, Kleber and Henrique were employees at a fastener small store, separating and arranging several kinds of fasteners. Soon, the duo was working in sales.

On normal conditions, corporations celebrate when they achieve ten years from foundation, also 15, 20 years...and so on. New-Fix, a young and very successful fastener manufacturer in Brazil, was celebrating 21 years.



Michael Kleber and Enéas Henrique (New-Fix President and CEO)

Fastener Imports into Brazil Won't Reach US\$ 1 Billion

However, in the first nine months of 2021, the fastener imports into Brazil totalled US\$ 693.62 million (151,487.7 tons), a result of 38.92% up from US\$ 499.27 million (104,052.1 tons) in 2020; and 11.57% higher than the record for the 12 months in 2019 which was US\$ 621.65 million (123,923.4 tons).

The 2021 performance was good, but not enough to break the record. After all, the Brazilian currency has depreciated. Also, many circumstances have caused an impact, such as some production halts with automotive and auto parts companies, and the shortage of containers does not allow the imports to go beyond.

New-Fix Celebrates 21st Anniversary





In 1994 they founded their own fastener store to sell as a specialist in rivets. In 2000, the store had its own production to supply to some important customers. In 2002, an opportunity emerged to purchase a modest company named “NeoFix”, consolidating the current trademark New-Fix.

Currently operating with more than 540 employees, it is forecast to achieve more than 15 thousand tons in production for 2021, including bolts, screws, nuts, as well as rivets in which New-Fix is the Brazilian leader.

Jomarca Does not Stop Expansion

Located in Guarulhos City, SP, around ten minutes from International São Paulo Airport, the huge area owned by Jomarca was amplified with the purchase of a neighbouring area of 6,800 m², the space once occupied by a chemical industry that already moved to another address.

Jomarca, one of the biggest Brazilian fastener manufacturers, has invested in expanding its industrial plant to 51,000 square meters in total.

“This expansion directly impacts the production of fasteners for furniture industries. The new facilities have more machines to process raw materials to manufacture fasteners overall. In addition, this new space is to be occupied by new lines for painting and surface treatment,” said Ricardo Marques Castelhana, CEO of Jomarca.



Ricardo and João Marques Castelhana (CEO and President of Jomarca)





Ingepal: Deck Screws

Decks surrounding swimming pools, porches, and gardens have a plastic resin composite which greatly expands and contracts when exposed to the weather.

For secure and long-lasting fixation without impacting the aesthetics in the construction or renovation of decks, the Brazilian fastener manufacturer, Ingepal, presents its line of exclusive screws for this type of application.

The company is the only one in Brazil that has developed this type of screws in hardened steel, an item capable of resisting expansion and contraction.

João Pedro Schrott
(President of Walsywa)



Walsywa: Moving and Expanding

A fastener player in the construction and solar energy markets, Walsywa, operates in its new headquarters in Jundiaí town, around 90 km from the state capital, São Paulo.

The modern and new address has a 13-meter high ceiling, and more than 8,000 pallets and eight docks, where the company can move batches with greater speed. It is very close to two of the five busiest highways in the country. The office is a modern and open environment with high floors, in addition to rooms for taking a rest and playing games, thus generating greater interaction with the collaborators. It has a very modern laboratory which is still under construction. ■



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