

European News

Compiled by Fastener World

SFS SFS Reports Significant Sales and Profit Increase

Carried by a dynamic market environment, SFS Group has generated a strong half year result with sales of CHF 957.8 million (€883.3 million) generated in the first half of the year – corresponding to year-on-year growth of 23.8%.

SFS states that the signs of recovery in the market environment, which were visible from the third quarter of 2020, continued unchanged during the first half of 2021. All three business segments participated in the solid demand seen in nearly all end markets and regions, with some business units actually exceeding the expectations substantially.

The SFS Group's long-term 'Local-for-Local' strategy and its decision to make predominantly temporary adjustments to production capacity during the Covid-19 pandemic have proven to be prudent. By using the instruments available to temporarily reduce capacity during the financial year 2020, the Group was able to preserve jobs, expertise and production capabilities. That, in turn, enabled it to respond swiftly to the recovery in demand and benefit from the economic environment. Short time working was discontinued during the reporting period in all areas except Aircraft.

The Engineered Components segment benefited from high demand across the board that exceeded expectations in most end markets. This positive development was particularly strong in the Automotive and Electronics divisions. Overall, this resulted in organic growth of 29.1% compared with the first half of 2020.

Both divisions in the Fastening Systems segment succeeded in taking advantage of the extraordinarily dynamic market environment and pent-up demand. Strong demand in the construction industry caused delivery bottlenecks and cost increases along the entire supply chain. The Riveting division operated in a similarly challenging environment. It benefited not only from pent-up demand in the automotive industry, but also good recovery in demand from industrial customers.

Total segment sales amounted to CHF 293.1 million, corresponding to year-on-year growth of 25.3%. Thanks to the high-level of capacity utilisation and the comprehensive measures of the previous years to improve performance, an EBIT margin of 17.7% was achieved (prior year period: 9.5%).

Assuming a continuous dynamic development in the second half of the year, SFS expects sales growth to a level of around CHF 1.9 billion for the full 2021 financial year at an EBIT margin of approximately 15%. This corresponds to sales growth of approximately 5% per year since 2019, which is in line with the medium-term growth targets announced.

SFS concludes that the outlook for full year 2021 remains fraught with uncertainties and risks due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. That is why SFS' management focus on protecting employee health and safeguarding delivery capacity, with further efforts to pursue investment and innovation projects, will still be given top priority.

BOSSARD

Proven Productivity

Bossard Back on Growth Course

In the first half of 2021, Bossard Group recorded a sales increase of 23.9% to CHF 494.8 million (previous year: CHF 399.4 million). The pace of growth accelerated slightly in the second quarter and was supported by a broad-based economic upturn.

For the first half of 2021, Bossard Group expects an EBIT of around CHF 67 million, corresponding to an EBIT margin of 13.5%. Bossard Group reports that this is the best half year result in the company's history.

In Europe, Bossard generated sales of CHF 146 million in the second quarter, an increase of 42.3% (in local currency: +39%). In the first half of the year, sales increased by 24.6% (in local currency: +22.2%) to CHF 293.7 million.

Business in America showed strong sales growth of 30.4% (in local currency: +37.5%) to CHF 55.8 million in the second quarter. In the first half of the year, sales increased by 14.5% (in local currency: +21.4%) to CHF 110.8 million. The weakening of the US dollar had a negative impact on sales development.



Growth in Asia remained at a high-level in the second quarter. Sales increased by 37.3% (in local currency: +35%) to CHF 48.2 million. In the first half of the year, sales increased by 35% (in local currency: +34.6%) to CHF 90.3 million. Bossard's focus on growth segments led to gains in market share. As a result of strong global demand, the supply market situation remains tense, which is currently reflected in further price increases and longer delivery times. The Covid-19 situation also remains a factor of uncertainty due to rising infection rates in various market regions.

Streamlining Mitigates Effects of Negative Macroeconomic Factors

Bulten AB has reported that its streamlining, along with a new Full Service Provider contract that was signed during 2020, have largely compensated for negative macroeconomic factors currently impacting the market. Bulten achieved net sales of SEK 910 million in Q2 of 2021, an increase of 106.2% on the same period last year. However, the company was quick to point out that the comparison quarter was severely affected by the pandemic. Compared to Q1 2021, which was more representative of Bulten's performance in a normalised market, net sales fell by 17.5%, due to lower production among customers during the quarter. Anders Nyström, president and CEO at Bulten, commented: "The progressive recovery that characterised the global automotive market from the second half of 2020 was interrupted during the second quarter of this year. The shortage of semiconductors is now a clearly inhibiting factor for production across the automotive industry, something both we and others in the industry have warned of previously. Underlying demand in the consumer stage remains strong, but at present vehicle production cannot keep up with demand." He continued: "The shortage of semiconductors, along with price rises for steel and shipping, are three macroeconomic and partly geopolitical factors that have resulted in an extreme situation for the entire global industry. These factors are expected to have a further negative impact on Bulten's sales and margins during the second half of 2021. We are continuing to focus on what we can control and are continuing to strengthen Bulten's position and offering."



New Polish production unit

Bulten has also started the construction of a new production unit in Radziechowy-Wieprz, Poland. With production start-up planned for the first half of 2023. This will give Bulten a facility with world-class surface treatment processes in terms of efficiency, quality, and sustainability. The facility is a vertical integration of Bulten's existing plant in Bielsko-Biala and will further strengthen its competitiveness.

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MKS Instruments to Acquire Atotech

MKS Instruments Inc and Atotech Limited have announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement pursuant to which MKS will acquire Atotech. The equity value of the transaction is US\$5.1 billion and the enterprise value of the transaction is approximately US\$6.5 billion (€5.48 billion). John T.C. Lee, president and CEO at MKS, commented: "Together MKS and Atotech will be uniquely positioned to drive faster, better solutions and innovations for customers in advanced electronics. By combining leading capabilities in lasers, optics, motion and process chemistry, the combined company will optimise the PCB Interconnect, a significant enabling point of next-generation advanced electronics that represents the next frontier for miniaturisation and complexity. We anticipate the addition of Atotech will position MKS to enable roadmaps for future generations of advanced electronics devices. The acquisition of Atotech also provides MKS with a recurring revenue stream from a consumables portfolio for leading-edge devices" "The combination of Atotech's expertise in electroplating and chemistry and MKS' strengths in lasers, laser systems, optics and motion will enable innovative and ground-breaking solutions for customers in the areas of materials processing and complex applications," said Geoff Wild, CEO of Atotech. "This transaction is an excellent outcome for our shareholders, and we believe it will provide immediate value and the opportunity to benefit from the upside potential of the combined company." Atotech, headquartered in Berlin, Germany, has a team of 4,000 experts in over 40 countries generating annual revenue of US\$1.2 billion in 2020. It has manufacturing operations across Europe, the Americas, and Asia.

fischer innovative solutions

Proven Fireproof Conduit Fastenings

Conduit installations must retain their load-bearing capacity for a sufficient length of time in the event of fire. fischer has therefore helped develop the European Assessment Document (EAD) 280016-00-0602 for pipe support systems and optimised it for fire protection, which is serving as the basis for the European Technical Assessment (ETA) for fischer products.

Significant deformation can occur on rail constructions when exposed to fire. Conduit installations in escape and rescue routes must therefore be designed to withstand fires, which can save lives. fischer contributed to modifying the European Assessment Document (EAD) 280016-00-0602 published by the German Institute for Structural Engineering (DIBt) and optimised the document for fire protection purposes.

This now allows European Technical Assessments (ETAs) for approved conduit fastening products to be created with CE Marking, while the fire resistance of installations is assessed and proven according to up to date technical knowledge. During this process, each construction product of a fischer pipe support system is tested and assessed by a specially accredited institute before being transferred into an ETA.

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防水螺絲 OEM 埋入射出 OEM 華司墊片 Own Product

尼龍壁虎 Own Product 刀具盒 Own Product 吸塵產品 OEM

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