

Hardware World News

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compiled by Fastener World

五金產業新聞

Industry Development

歐盟對原產於中國的鋼鐵扣件下調徵收反傾銷稅率幅度

EC Revises the Anti-dumping Margins of Certain Iron or Steel Fasteners Originating in China

In a final disclosure document released on December 14, 2021, the European Commission revised the anti-dumping margins of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in PR China to a range of 22.1%-86.5%, slightly lower than the previously disclosed 23.9%-89.8% range in November.

The involved products are: certain iron or steel fasteners (excluding stainless steel fasteners), including wood screws (excluding square head screws), self-tapping screws, other screws and bolts with heads (with or without nuts or washers, excluding railroad screws and bolts) and washers.

The involved product codes are:

CN codes 7318 12 90, 7318 14 91, 7318 14 99, 7318 15 58, 7318 15 68, 7318 15 82, 7318 15 88, ex 7318 15 95 (TARIC codes 7318 1595 19 and 7318 15 95 89), ex 7318 21 00 (TARIC codes 7318 21 00 31, 7318 21 0039, 7318 21 00 95 and 7318 21 00 98), ex 7318 22 00 (TARIC codes 7318 22 00 31, 7318 22 00 39, 7318 22 00 95 and 7318 2200 98).



| Companies | Definitive Anti-dumping Margins |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Jiangsu Yongyi Fastener Co., Ltd. | 22.1% |
| Ningbo Jinding Fastening Piece Co., Ltd. | 46.1% |
| Wenzhou Junhao Industry Co., Ltd. | 48.8% |
| Other cooperating companies | 39.6% |
| All other companies | 86.5% |

南非對進口鋼鐵六角頭螺栓作出徵稅終裁

South Africa Makes Final Determination to Impose Taxes on Imported Iron or Steel Hexagon Bolts

International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC, representing SACU members including Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and Botswana) has made the final determination to impose taxes on imported bolts with hexagon heads of iron or steel for a period of 3 years. The product code involved is 73181543. The respective tax rates for certain periods are: 31.8% from December 10, 2021 to December 9, 2022; 30.8% from December 10, 2022 to December 9, 2023; 29.8% from December 10, 2023 to December 9, 2024.



中國海關：歐盟等32國不再給予普惠制關稅優惠

32 EU States Have Terminated GSP Treatment to China

According to a notice of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), it has stopped GSP certificate of origin for goods (Form A) to the EU, the UK, Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, and Liechtenstein since Dec. 1st 2021, which indirectly verifies the fact that 32 countries including the EU have terminated GSP treatment to China. Currently, only Norway, New Zealand, and Australia still offer the treatment to China (Note: The Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP, is a preferential tariff system which provides tariff reduction on various products. GSP provides tariff reduction for least developed countries). GACC applauded with this move and said this means other advanced economies have recognized China as a non-low-income and non-lower-middle-income country, and also means that Chinese products are competitive on the market and do not require extra protection.

With the fast development of Chinese economy and better living quality of its people, China, according to the criteria of the World Bank, no longer belongs to a low-income or lower-middle-income economy. As a result, the EU and many other countries have sequentially announced the cancellation of GSP treatment to China. After the treatment is cancelled, goods exported from China will not be issued with a GSP certificate of origin anymore.



塔塔鋼鐵：未來十年的鋼價可能遠高於過去十年

Tata Steel: Steel Prices Could Rise Much Higher in the Next Decade

The Indian Tata Steel CEO T.V. Narendran said steel prices in the coming years could rise much beyond the past few years. The CEO explained the steel market is going through several changes, including cost increase and China's role change in this market. "The last 10 years have been dominated by exports out of China. Now, there's far more stability in world steel trade."

At its peak, China exported more steel than India produced, Narendran said. China's steel exports have since halved to around 60 million tons a year, and could fall further as the country pursues its net-zero carbon emissions goals, and for "the first time in many years," steel demand is not being driven by China, said Narendran. The World Steel Association expects growth in steel consumption this year comes from countries other than China. "With the Western world investing in infrastructure, that's positive for steel demand as well."



On the supply side, steel production costs are at "historic high levels" because of coal prices. Iron ore prices, however, have weakened and should trade within the \$100 to \$120 per ton range in the long term, he said. Steel prices may also be pushed up by the increasing carbon cost in Europe. "I expect to see steel prices at a much higher level than we've seen in the last 10 years, over the next 10 years."

世界鋼協下修2022年鋼鐵需求增幅

World Steel Association Revises Steel Demand Growth Margin for 2022 Downward

World Steel Association (WSA) released its Short Range Outlook (SRO) for 2021 and 2022. Global steel demand within this time frame is revised downward due to China's economic slowdown in H2 2021 and restriction in supply. Apart from China, global steel demand will return to the pre-pandemic level this year earlier than expected.

Compared with the forecast made last April, the projected global steel demand for 2021 has been revised downward from 5.8% to 4.2% by WSA and reached 1.85 billion tons. The growth for 2022 has been revised downward from 2.7% to 2.2% and will reach 1.89 billion tons.

According to the Association, steel demand will continue to recover in 2022 as the world speeds up vaccination. However, this could be altered if the developing nations slow down vaccination or if China's economic slowdown continues further.

worldsteel
ASSOCIATION



扣件訂單旺 多家大廠年營收破百億

Fastener Manufacturers Report Over NT\$10 Billion Revenue as Fastener Orders Surge

Since 2021 Taiwanese fastener industry has felt the strongly growing demand for fasteners from U.S. and European clients. Although the lack of containers and port congestion remains unsolved, sales and unit prices of their exports still showed a significant growth. Last year, the entire export volume and value of Taiwanese fastener industry both reached a new high. According to the database of Taiwan Customs, Taiwan exported nearly 1.7 million tons of fasteners to the world (roughly up 18% from 2020); if calculated by value, it exported around US\$5.55 bn worth of fasteners to the world (up around 34% from 2020).



Many leading export-oriented Taiwanese fastener companies (e.g., BBI, Boltun, Chun Yu, Tycoons, and so on) reported that their annual revenues were over NT\$ 10 bn in 2021. Among these companies, BBI even achieved the record of over NT\$20 bn. According to several leading fastener companies, due to the strong and growing demand for fasteners from automotive, construction, and many other industries in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, as well as fully booked capacities, and the expectation for a better situation regarding the port congestion issue in Q2 2022, the outlook for 2022 is very likely to turn really well.

Companies Development

Trifast擴大投資強化歐洲製造產能

Trifast Invests to Increase Its European Manufacturing Capacity

International fastener specialist TR VIC spa, part of the Trifast plc group of companies, has once again benefited from a significant investment at its manufacturing site in central Italy. In expanding the TR Viterie Italia Centrale (TR VIC spa) site in Fossato Di Vico in Umbria, Trifast is further increasing its capacity to meet the growing European white goods market. They have experienced unprecedented demand, which has been fueled by the increase in consumer driven home improvements during Covid that shows no signs of abating.

The investment is largely focused on securing new machinery at the site, all locally sourced from Italian manufacturers, and this will increase the production capacity by some 33%. It builds on an earlier move back in January 2021 to implement additional multi-station cold forming machinery in their heading section. This will result in their ability to produce an additional 500 million pieces annually over the next 12 months. The site is focused on being 'Industry 4.0 compliant' creating a greener and more efficient workspace, providing a modern, fresh and diverse environment. The work is to be completed in two phases in 2022 and 2023 which includes extending the manufacturing footprint on the site.

Andrew Nuttall, European Managing Director of TR Fastenings, said: "The order book has increased dramatically over the past two years. As more people work from home, they are investing in their domestic appliances and not spending so much on holidays etc and instead enhancing their home environment. This means that the demand for white goods has significantly increased. Our major customers want to see shorter and more agile supply chains. The lead times out of Asia have increased significantly during Covid and freight costs and container issues have meant that we had to react and onshore more products. This investment strategy allows us to better meet our customer needs, now and for the future. The investment has been well received locally, creating new jobs and this has piqued the interest with local Government and the Media giving us the recognition that we are an important manufacturing company in this key area of Italy. We are proud of the fact that we have chosen Italian companies to supply the new machinery."

The TR VIC site serves 24 countries around the world and the site will also have capacity to serve more Health & Home and Light & Heavy Vehicle sectors. TR VIC is a member of the European Fastener Distributor Association (EFDA) and has IATF 16949 accreditation.



Bossard中歐區執行長將於2022五月離任

Head of Central Europe to Leave Bossard in May 2022

There will be a change in Bossard Group's executive committee in 2022: After 29 years as a member of Bossard Group's management and 15 years of successful work as CEO Central Europe and member of the executive committee, Beat Grob will leave Bossard Group at his own request at the end of April 2022 to devote himself to non-executive activities in the future. The region will be directly managed by Group CEO Daniel Bossard in a dual function.

Beat Grob joined the company in 1990 as an active family member and head of group projects. After a study visit to the USA from 1992-1995, he prepared the entry into the Asian market. He then took over as head of global logistics. In 2005 he was appointed CEO Bossard Switzerland and one year later CEO Bossard Central Europe, thus taking a seat on the executive committee. Since 2006 Bossard Central Europe has developed very nicely under Beat Grob's leadership, making a significant contribution to the Group's success. The board of directors and the executive committee would like to express their sincere thanks to Beat Grob for his tireless and successful work.



崧騰2022年營收可望改寫新高

Taiwanese Solteam Incorporation's Revenue Could Set a New Record in 2022

Solteam Incorporation is a long-time partner with Makita on developing power components and power control modules. In recent years it has moved its focus from consumers electronics to hand tools, white appliances, automotive and medical industries, aiming at saving power, environmental protection and the automotive field. Currently, products for electric hand tools and white appliances are the main drivers for the company's revenue growth. Thanks to a strong demand for electric hand tools, Solteam's revenue in Q1 2022 will be higher than in Q4 2021. Besides increasing products for electric hand tools, the company will gradually increase products for electric vehicles. Its revenue for 2022 stands a good chance to set a new record.



Ace Hardware在墨西哥開設首間加盟分店

Ace Hardware Opens First Store Under New Franchise Model in Mexico

As Ace Hardware continues to grow globally, Ace Hardware International Holdings, Ltd., a subsidiary of Ace Hardware Corporation, announces it opened its first store in Monterrey, Mexico on October 28, 2021, with a plan to open 13 additional stores by the end of 2022. The store is the first under Ace's new turnkey franchise model announced in 2020. Ace now operates in approximately 70 countries and has opened more than 900 stores globally in the past five years.

The new Ace Hardware store, located at Urban Village, Avenida Eugenio Garza Sada 3431, local SA009, Colonia Arroyo Seco, brings Ace Hardware's knowledgeable, helpful service, convenience, and quality brands to the growing Mexico market.

With 15 employees, the new Ace Hardware store occupies more than 14,000 square feet, with 2,000 square feet dedicated as a showroom featuring decorative tile, plumbing fixtures and bath accessories. Quality, consumer sought brands, such as Stihl, Big Green Egg, Milwaukee, DeWalt, Sayer, Hilti, Clark & Kensington, Bosch, Philips, Hunter, Steel Grip, and Grill Mark will be available to customers.

美國Avantus出售複合材料事業 將專注C零件領域

Avantus Divests Composites Business to Focus on Expansion into C-Class Components

Avantus Aerospace continues its transformation into a 'pure-play' C-Class parts manufacturer, having recently completed the divestiture of its non-core composites business line. Two U.S.-based structural composites companies – Performance Plastics (San Diego, CA) and Angeles Composite Technologies (Port Angeles, WA), were sold to JW Hill Capital, a Scottsdale, Arizona-based private equity firm. SDM Composites (Hermosillo, Mexico) was sold to Groupe Latécoère, headquartered in Toulouse, France. The Avantus Group has facilities in the U.S. and Europe and provides shims, detailed parts, specialty fasteners, precision machining, and elastomer gaskets to the aerospace and semiconductor industries.

Brian Williams, CEO of Avantus, said: "As we position ourselves for the ramp-up in aerospace production, Avantus is focused on growing our core businesses and capabilities. We're certain that the new homes for our composites companies will likewise give them exceptional focus for growth and expansion."

Avantus acquired three specialty fastener companies over the last 22 months (including two during the pandemic) – Fastener Technology Corporation, California Screw Products, and Fastener Innovation Technology – and will continue to expand its range of C-Class components, both organically and via further acquisitions. With tremendous emphasis on operational excellence and customer service, the acquired companies have already achieved industry-leading performance in terms of quality, lead-times, on-time delivery, and customer responsiveness.





日本OSG與瑞士Coat-X SA成立合資公司

Japanese OSG Forms a Joint Venture with Swiss Coat-X SA

OSG invested in Swiss Coat-X SA (CEO: Andreas Hogg) through its subsidiary OSG Coating Service CO., Ltd. Additionally, both parties have reached an agreement to form the joint venture Coat-X Japan.

Based in La-Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, Coat-X SA provides high-performance coating. OSG invests 51% and Coat-X SA invests 49% to form the joint venture Coat-X Japan in Shinshiro City of Aichi Prefecture, in order to develop high-performance, water and heat resistant coating for electronic components in Japan and Asia.

數位手工工具大廠數泓科登錄戰略新板

Taiwanese Digital Hand Tool Maker Eclatorq Technology Now on Pioneer Stock Board



Eclatorq Technology reports revenues of the first three quarters in 2021 at NTD 295 million, up over 40% from the same period in 2020. It made its way to the Pioneer Stock Board (PSB) at a value of NTD 79 per stock. PSB is an additional route for new businesses to enter the stock market with more convenience.

Expectation for Eclatorq Technology is positive in that the company has a diverse customer base and product portfolio and its business operation is less prone to the impact of individual industry fluctuation. The company's future is worth anticipating with the increase in hand tool demand. According to the Global Hand Tool Industry Research report by Allied Market Research, the global non-powered hand tool market scale reached USD 22 billion in 2019 and the CAGR from 2020 to 2027 is 4.1%. The market scale for 2027 is expected to reach USD 30.4 billion. The growth is mainly driven by increased demand for hand tools for use with car maintenance and repair, as well as the advancement in hand tool manufacturing technology.

日本手工工具研發大廠Engineer Inc.推出「螺絲救援」諮詢服務

Engineer Inc. Rolls out Screw Rescue Consultation Service



Engineer Inc. is the innovator of "Neji-Saurus" Screw Pliers and tools for screw removal. The company now provides "Screw Rescue" consultation service for those who have damaged and unremovable screws when they operate hand tools at home or at work. The company will evaluate customers' situations and provide solutions or screw removal hacks, or recommend appropriate specialty tools. Furthermore, customers are welcome to take their objects (cars, bikes, water heaters, pressure cookers, vacuum machines, computers, etc.) they are troubled with to the company or simply mail them to the company for repair. No repair fee is charged except for the cost of mail delivery. With such consultation service, this Japanese hand tool innovator and manufacturer becomes a solution provider reaching further into the everyday lives of people.

日產汽車將採購提前至設計階段執行，降低新車開發成本

Nissan Brings Procurement Forward to the Design Phase for Car Development Cost Reduction

Competition in the Japanese automotive industry is intense in an era of EVs and lightweighting. Nissan established a new mechanism where it selects component suppliers starting in the car design phase. The motive is to exchange opinions at the beginning of car development and lower the chance of altering design drawings afterwards to reduce cost and improve quality. A peculiar thing about this phenomenon is that design is a critical stage for materializing new car concepts and normally would not be shared with external suppliers.

The EV industry seeks connectivity, self-driving, sharing and electrification which continue to add up development cost. Nissan embarked on a structural reform that places quality over quantity because it is necessary to enhance collaboration with suppliers in order to increase the profit from each new vehicle.

Nissan began restructuring the new car development process two years ago, and this year it started to collaborate with component suppliers early in the confidential development phase. This could well improve new vehicle and component production to improve profits for both Nissan and its suppliers.



美國MW Components推出高效電商精密零件24小時採購平台

MW Components Launches Streamlined eCommerce Experience for Precision Components, MW OnDemand



MW Components, the Charlotte-based precision component manufacturer, announced that it has launched a new eCommerce experience, MW OnDemand. MW OnDemand is a one-stop online resource that streamlines the entire discovery-to-delivery process of precision component supply. With tens of thousands of standard items in stock, intuitive search to make finding them easy, and rapid order delivery, MW OnDemand delivers the parts customers need, fast.

MW OnDemand combines over one million parts from well-known brands such as Century Spring, Accurate Screw Machine, RAF Electronic Hardware, Servometer, and Maudlin into a single location. Customers can select and purchase products from across the MW Components portfolio, simplifying the entire component sourcing process.

MW OnDemand eCommerce inventory includes one of the widest ranges of components and related parts available. Customers can shop spring designs along with fasteners, metal stampings, and more. A wide range of standard and specialty materials, over 40 finishes, and optional services such as passivation are also available for a variety of parts. Free CAD downloads and 3D drawings are available for many parts. The majority of stock parts available from MW OnDemand offer same-day shipping, while custom quotes have a turnaround as fast as one to two business days.

The MW OnDemand eCommerce platform enhances the customer experience and provides exceptional flexibility for component sourcing. Combined with MW Components' custom manufacturing expertise, customers can now purchase stock, standard, and custom components from a single location.

Mergers & Acquisitions

TriMas併購TFI Aerospace

TriMas Acquires TFI Aerospace



TriMas Corporation and TriMas Aerospace have successfully completed the acquisition of TFI Aerospace based in Orangeville, Ontario Canada. Located near Toronto, Canada, TFI is a leading manufacturer and supplier of specialty fasteners used in a variety of applications for aerospace and other industrial end markets. TFI previously operated as a private, family-owned company, and has generated approximately \$6 million in revenue over the past year. This acquisition will further expand TriMas Aerospace's fastener product lines with the addition of complimentary niche products that have an exciting growth trajectory resulting from TFI's new program wins and overall market recovery. TriMas also anticipates TFI's customers will benefit from the added innovation and manufacturing depth offered by TriMas Aerospace, while TriMas Aerospace's customers will enjoy additional product offerings.

TFI Aerospace will continue to operate as an independent manufacturing site at its current location in Canada, led by VP General Manager, Thomas Squires, who along with his father Ted have been building and leading that business for several years leading up to this point. TriMas Aerospace president John Schaefer and some other key TriMas Aerospace senior leaders will be working closely with Thomas and the rest of the TFI team to integrate the business into TriMas Aerospace over the coming months. While relatively small in size compared to some of their other sites and businesses, TFI has some exciting growth opportunities in the next few years that they look forward to supporting.

美國MW Industries併購Ideal Fasteners拓展螺紋扣件業務

MW Industries Expands Threaded Fastener Products Through Acquisition of Ideal Fasteners

MW Industries, a leading provider of precision components, announced the acquisition of Ideal Fasteners, a global manufacturer of threaded fasteners. The acquisition of Ideal Fasteners closed on December 10, 2021 and expands MW Industries' existing US-based manufacturing locations to provide precision components for worldwide distribution. The combined company will offer an increased selection of stock, standard, and custom socket caps, button sockets, flat socket caps, and other threaded fasteners along with a wide variety of highly engineered metal and plastic components.

"Ideal Fasteners is the perfect addition to the MW Industries family. At a time when customers want components faster than ever before, businesses need to be able to quickly source a variety of parts from a single provider. Ideal Fasteners allows us to offer a greater breadth of products so we can provide the diversity of products customers need. We are excited to integrate the Ideal Fasteners product lines into our portfolio," said Simon Newman, CEO of MW Industries.





RS Components新經銷中心盛大啟用

RS Components Marks Official Opening of Extended Distribution Centre

RS Components (RS), a trading brand of Electrocomponents plc (LSE: ECM), a global omni-channel provider of product and service solutions, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the expansion of the company's distribution centre (DC) at Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

RS has made a significant investment over the past two years to create one of the company's largest distribution centres in its global supply chain network, fully automated and equipped with state-of-the-art technology. At the official opening event, customers and suppliers were invited to see the highly automated stock processing capability and warehouse management system now installed at the site.

Environmental considerations have been a priority in this expansion project, and the facility is equipped with a 6000 m² solar powered system and a green (grass seeded) roof. Furthermore, the number of products held in closer proximity to customers in Continental Europe has almost tripled to circa 500,000. This will not only contribute to a substantial reduction in the company's carbon footprint but will also ensure that service levels are of the highest standard, with delivery reliability to match EU and global demands.

The distribution centre is equipped with an extensive computerised, multi-shuttle system, and a conveyor system of two kilometres in length. The system is capable of managing 300,000 storage trays that can be stored and retrieved at a rate of 9,000 trays per hour.

Situated in the heart of Europe, this leading-edge facility has been expanded by approximately 16,000 m² to create a storage area of around 37,000 m². This allows additional space for a vastly increased product range and stock levels, benefitting suppliers and customers with improved service and delivery.

GreatStar Tools USA併購高效專業手工具品牌 SK Professional Tools

GreatStar Tools USA Acquires High-Performance Professional Hand Tools Brand, SK Professional Tools

GreatStar Tools USA, a leading manufacturer of hand tools serving DIY, professional and industrial markets worldwide, announced its acquisition of SK Professional Tools, a leading provider of high-quality hand tools for professionals across a variety of industries, most notably the automotive industry. As part of the acquisition, which officially took place on June 30, 2021, GreatStar plans to invest in SK Professional Tools product innovation and expand distribution, offering customers more opportunities to purchase these tools.



"GreatStar is thrilled to have the opportunity to reinvigorate another iconic American tool brand with the acquisition of SK Professional Tools, leveraging our unique position in the US hand tool market to bolster both product innovation and distribution," said Gary DuBoff, Group President and CEO, GreatStar Tools USA. "For more than 100 years, SK Professional Tools has cultivated a loyal following that goes back for generations, and we're committed to maintaining the same legendary quality and outstanding service that customers expect."

Dedicated to maintaining US-based manufacturing, GreatStar will transition a large portion of SK Professional Tools product line to its manufacturing center in Williamsport, PA, in 2022. The facility currently produces heavy-duty wet/dry vacuums for category leader Shop-Vac, which was acquired by GreatStar in December 2020.

GreatStar adds SK Professional Tools to its growing portfolio of US tool brands including Pony Jorgensen woodworking clamps; Goldblatt concrete, masonry and tile tools; Arrow Fastener stapling tools, glue guns and rivet tools; Prime-Line Products window and security hardware; and Shop-Vac wet/dry vacuum cleaners.

Brighton-Best併購Vertex Distribution

Brighton-Best International Announces the Acquisition of Vertex Distribution

The America's largest fastener distributor Brighton-Best International, Inc. (BBI) announced last year that in order to expand the operating scale of the company and reinforce the market share of its products in the market it would acquire all of the assets of an U.S. stainless steel fasteners distributor, Vertex Distribution for US\$ 32 million. Vertex Distribution mainly supplies bolts, screws, nuts, rivets, etc. The deal has been completed last year.

According to BBI, "Through consecutive acquisitions, the company can benefit from a larger economic scale, reduced operating costs, and maximized profit. In addition, high-quality products at cheap prices can be also provided at reasonable gross margins, creating entry barriers for competitors and oligopoly."



美國LINC Systems併購Air-O Fasteners

Purchase of Air-O Fasteners Marks LINC Systems' Sixth Acquisition

Center Rock Capital Partners, LP ("Center Rock") is pleased to announce that its industrial fastener and industrial packaging distribution platform, LINC Systems, LLC ("LINC"), has acquired Air-O Fasteners ("Air-O"), in a transaction that expands LINC's presence in the Western U.S. Family owned and operated since 1978, Air-O Fasteners is a distributor of fastening equipment and consumable products serving the construction and general industrial markets.



"The acquisition of Air-O expands LINC into the rapidly growing Utah market and deepens LINC's presence in the Western U.S." Dave Mitchell, President of Air-O, added, "We've built a great team that shares LINC's service-driven culture, and we are excited to join the LINC platform," said Kelly Evans, CEO of LINC.

