

Fastener World News



compiled by Fastener World

Association News

Scott McDaniel Elected NFDA President For 2024-2025

Scott McDaniel of Martin Fastening Solutions has been elected as the 2024-2025 president of the National Fastener Distributors Association. Ed Smith of Würth Revcar will serve as vice president, Christian Reich of Goebel Fasteners will serve as associate chair, and Jim Degnan of S.W. Anderson will remain on the Board as immediate past president.

Melissa Patel of Field Fastener, Angela Philippart of AFC Industries, and Christian Reich of Goebel Fasteners have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors effective June 12, 2024.

Continuing on the NFDA Board are Steve Andrasik of Brighton-Best International, Gigi Calfee of Copper State Bolt & Nut, Jake Glaser of Sherex Fastening Solutions, Alex Goldberg of AMPG, and Scott Longfellow of Huyett.

Recognition was paid during the meeting to retiring Board members Mike Robinson of LindFast Solutions Group and Nick Ruetz of AIS.

Industry Development

Taiwan Bar Steel & Wire Rod Prices for Q3 2024 Remain Flat

Taiwan CSC held a meeting on June 20, 2024 for the third quarter steel pricing. It was pointed out in the meeting that the global economy has shown a moderate trend of recovery, but since the third quarter is the off-season for industrial demand and considering the changes in the overall global trade situation, in order to ensure the momentum of downstream order intake, the pricing principle of "following the trend to make suitable pricing and ensure industrial stability" will be adopted. It was resolved that the quarterly prices for bar steel & wire rod (low carbon, medium-high carbon, cold-forged, low alloy) will remain flat, while the prices for automotive materials will be adjusted upward by NT\$800 per metric ton.



European Commission Representative Arrives in Taiwan to Clear Doubts Regarding CBAM

CBAM will be officially in effect in 2026. To prevent CBAM from becoming an obstacle for Taiwanese companies in exporting to Europe, Morten Højberg, representative of the Danish Energy Agency and the CBAM Committee of the European Commission, came to Taiwan to clear doubts. He said that Taiwan is actively establishing regulations for carbon emissions and carbon fee collection, compliant to EU's CBAM initiative. If Taiwan levies a carbon fee, it can be deducted in the EU. As for more details of the deduction, the regulations are expected to be released in 2025.

Taiwan's Fastener Export to Mexico is Expected to Increase

Mexico has successively imposed temporary anti-dumping duties on screws imported from China, and this will help increase orders for Taiwanese fastener companies. Without low-price competition from China, Taiwanese fastener companies think the price of Taiwanese screws exported to Mexico can remain at an acceptable level. The total export value is expected to rebound and will benefit Taiwan fastener industry.

At the end of last year, Mexico imposed a provisional anti-dumping tax of 8.02% to 48.08% on fasteners imported from China. From April 23 this year, Mexico imposed a provisional tariff of 35% on bolts and nuts from China for a period of



two years. This move has led to an increase in export of Taiwanese fasteners to Mexico. According to statistics, Taiwan's fastener export to Mexico in Q1 this year totaled 8,800 tons, up 27% year-on-year. This March, the export volume soared to 3,782 tons, an annual increase of 47.6% and up 79% from February. However, in terms of export price, it was US\$4.16 per kilogram in Q1 this year, a year-on-year decrease of 5.23%.

Last year, Taiwan's fastener export to Mexico totaled 31,500 tons, a year-on-year decrease of 5.12%. The export price was US\$4.31 per kilogram, an annual increase of 8.13%. Prices have increased for nine consecutive years. The total export value was US\$136 million, a year-on-year decrease of 2.31%.

Thailand to Impose Carbon Tax Next Year, Starting at 200 Baht Per Ton



Thailand plans to implement carbon tax when the Global Warming Act comes into effect in 2025. The carbon tax rate will be 200 baht per ton.

Thailand's launch of carbon tax will help integrate with Europe's CBAM regulations affecting five commodities in 2026.

Ekniti Nitithanprapas, head of Thailand Excise Department, said that the implementation of carbon tax will adopt international standards and emissions will be taxed at the source. For example, in the past, vehicles were levied based on engine exhaust volume, but now they are levied on carbon dioxide emissions. Vehicles with carbon emissions exceeding 200 grams per kilometer are subject to a tax rate of 35%; vehicles with carbon emissions below 150 grams per kilometer are subject to a tax rate of 25%.

EVs Flock in Brazil Before New Tariff Takes Effect



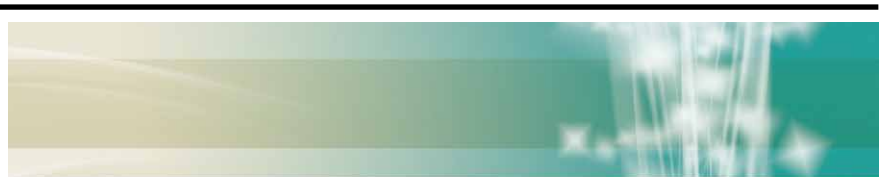
Brazil's car import soared in the first quarter of 2024, driven by an inflow of EVs from China.

The data released by the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services showed that from January to March, Brazil's

passenger car import increased by 46.4% year-on-year, reaching a market value of USD 1.5 billion.

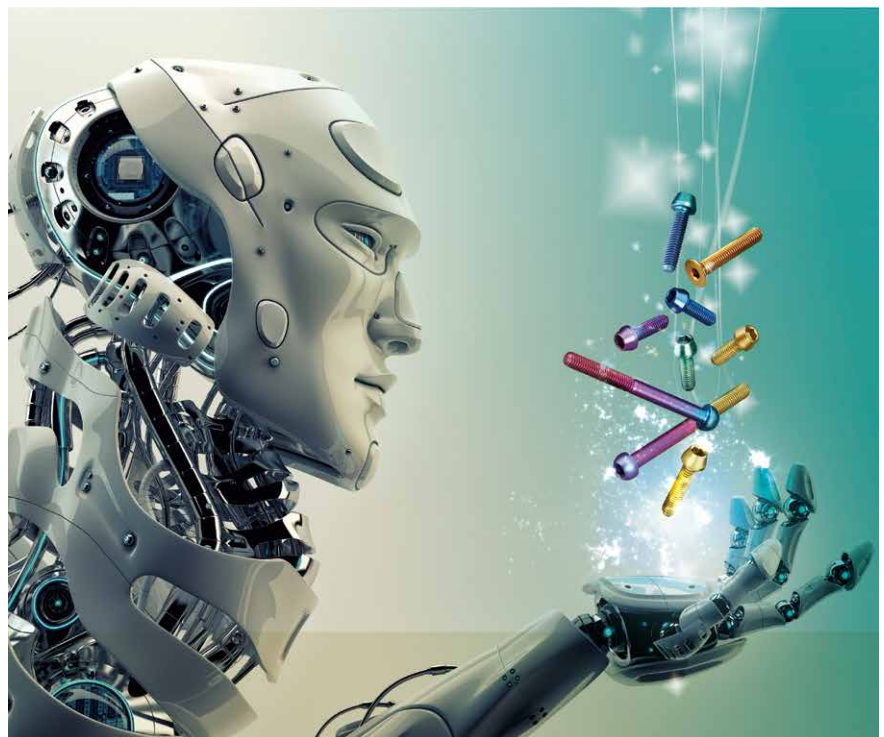
Out of this market value, Chinese cars alone accounted for about 40%, and the import surged by 450% compared with the same period in 2023. The Ministry said the growth in import was driven by cars imported from China, which were mainly pure electric and hybrid vehicles.

The import tax on EVs had been reduced to zero since 2015, but Brazilian President Lula reinstated it this year to encourage the development of the domestic auto industry. Starting in January, the import tariff for pure EVs was 10%, which increases to 18% in July and will eventually reach 35% in July 2026. Hybrid vehicles was subject to a 15% import tax starting this year which rises to 25% in July and will reach 35% in July 2026.



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U.S. to Levy Additional Taxes on USD 1.8 Billion Chinese Products; 100% Tax on EVs

The White House stated on May 14 that the U.S. would impose additional tariffs on US\$18 billion worth of goods imported from China, targeting strategic industries such as EVs, batteries, steel and aluminum, and critical minerals. The tax rate for EVs was expected to quadruple to 100% this year; the rate for semiconductors is expected to increase from 25% to 50% by the end of 2025.

The White House said in a statement that the above actions are aimed at urging China to eliminate unfair trade practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property and innovation. Donald Trump launched the U.S.-China trade war back in his presidential term and imposed additional tariffs on approximately USD300 billion worth of Chinese goods. The White House made the decision after reviewing the tariffs imposed during the trade war. The main tool used by the Trump administration is the so-called Section 301 Investigation. The Biden administration is taking action based on Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act.

In addition to EVs and semiconductors, Washington's tariffs on certain steel and aluminum products, as well as lithium-ion EV batteries and battery components, have also increased to about three times their original levels.

China's Ministry of Commerce issued a statement on this result, which states that China firmly opposes and has made strong protest to the U.S. The Commerce of China said that the U.S. abused the Section 301 tariff review process out of domestic political concerns to further increase the tariffs on some Chinese products, and politicized and instrumentalized economic and trade issues. The Commerce attributed it to typical political manipulation and expressed strong discontent. The Commerce of China said WTO has already ruled that Section 301 tariffs violate WTO rules, and that China will take resolute measures to defend its rights and interests.



Mexico Levies Tariff on Chinese Fasteners, Effective Immediately

Mexican President López Obrador signed an act to impose temporary import tariffs of 5% to 50% on 544 items, including fasteners, steel, and aluminum. Mexico News Daily reported that new tariffs are imposed on hundreds of imported products from countries with which Mexico has not signed a trade agreement, and said that this move seems to be mainly aimed at China.

The act is effective from April 23 and will be valid for two years. According to the act, fasteners will be subject to a temporary import tariff of 35%. The fastener products involved include: square head screws, other wood screws, hook screws and ring screws, self-tapping screws.

Goods imported from regions and countries that have signed trade agreements with Mexico (including the U.S., Canada, EU,

as well as CPTPP signatory countries such as Australia, Chile, Japan, and Vietnam) will enjoy preferential tariff treatment if they meet the relevant provisions of the agreement.

Companies Development

Rexlen to Build Its New Headquarters in Kaohsiung City

The 3,513-square-meter land located near Dream Mall has been purchased by Kaohsiung-based Rexlen for NT\$1.041

billion for building the corporate headquarters. Rexlen is a relatively large hardware and fastener company in Taiwan. As the company gradually expands, it hopes to build the corporate headquarters to enhance corporate identity and optimize the working environment of employees. Meanwhile, it is optimistic about the future prospect of Asia New Bay Area and therefore increases investment in Kaohsiung.



NAFCO Gains Traction in Aerospace Deployment



Aerospace fastener manufacturer NAFCO

recently announced that it has obtained qualified supplier certification from international aerospace engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney, which is expected to enhance NAFCO's future development and deployment in the global aerospace market. Pratt & Whitney is a manufacturer of military and civilian aerospace engines and one of the three largest aerospace engine manufacturers in the world. NAFCO is one of the few international aerospace engine fastener manufacturing companies certified by Pratt & Whitney in the Asia-Pacific region.

NAFCO is a manufacturer certified to aerospace NADCAP, AS9100 aerospace quality system and IATF16949 automotive management system. It provides various aerospace fasteners and components to major global aerospace engine manufacturers including GE, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce and Safran Group.

NAFCO said that in recent years, it has continued to improve process technology and develop high-value-added precision manufacturing capabilities for machined aerospace products. To date, more than 8,000 NAFCO aerospace products have passed customers' certification, making it a qualified supplier to four largest aerospace engine manufacturers in the world.

Taiyo Fastener (Japan) Completes a Logistics Center in Tokushima City

Taiyo Fastener has built a new logistics center near its factory in Tokushima. The Tokushima factory can produce 100 million

stainless steel screws per month, including standard products, original brand products, and products with special uses and shapes. Since the existing warehouse space was full, a logistics center was set up nearby and launched in February this year.

The center covers an area of 2,500 square meters and has introduced the latest rack-type fully automatic system, which can accommodate up to 4,000 pallets. Thanks to the adoption of "Warehouse Control System", the Osaka headquarters can transmit orders to the logistics center in real time, prevent shipping errors, and achieve ultra-high speed. The automatic rack is 15 meters tall, having 14 levels of storage spaces. The height of the lower spaces is lower than that of the upper spaces. The lower spaces are used to store low storage pallets and empty pallets.



Fastener Leader BUMAX Goes Even Greener

Swedish premium fastener manufacturer BUMAX makes further energy, water and cost savings in its ambitious long term effort to reduce the company's environmental impact. After more than halving its electricity use between 2007 and 2019, the latest investments at the BUMAX factory in Åshammar in central Sweden annually save an additional 90 MWh of electricity. It is part of the company's work to strive for cleaner, greener and more efficient stainless steel fastener manufacturing.

"We have sourced 100 percent renewable electricity for our operations at Åshammar since 2011 and we continuously work to optimize energy efficiency," explained Anders Sjölund, Manager Production Projects & Production IT at BUMAX. "Two of our recent investments have not only significantly reduced our electricity use, but also made water and cost savings." The 90 MWh electricity savings from these two investments are equivalent to around 7 percent of the site's total electricity use in 2023 and are enough to power four and a half typical Swedish family homes each year.

BUMAX installed a new fastener carrier coating bath in the autumn of 2022 that is super insulated to reduce heating demand and is fully enclosed to minimize evaporation. The investment is part of the ongoing improvements in its operations. In its first full year in operation in 2023, the bath saved BUMAX around 50 MWh and more than 70,000 liters of water compared with its old bath. The carrier coating bath has fully automated heating and ventilation systems with energy saving modes. A pump stirs the bath solution, which is much more energy efficient than the pressurized air circulation system in the old bath.

BUMAX also replaced its central domestic hot water electric boiler with four smaller boilers that produce hot water close to where it is consumed. The hot water is used for the kitchen, washrooms and showers at the BUMAX factory in Åshammar, Sweden. The new boilers save around 40 MWh of electricity per year compared with the old central boiler.

Fastener SuperStore Opens New Headquarters in Downers Grove, IL



Fastener SuperStore, a 20-year veteran of online selling and distribution of hardware solutions, has announced the opening of their new headquarters and primary distribution center in Downers Grove, IL. Founded in 2005, Fastener SuperStore's business model focuses on on-demand shipping of bulk industrial fasteners such as screws, bolts, nuts, washers, spacers and standoffs.

Fastener SuperStore has recently added services such as kitting, painting and plating to expand their product offerings. While the relocation won't alter the essence of Fastener SuperStore's operations, the expansion into a larger and better-equipped warehouse offers exciting opportunities for availability and productivity. With an increased inventory capacity, the new headquarters will allow Fastener SuperStore's warehouse to better meet the evolving needs of customers.

With the recent expansion, Fields says customers can continue to count on the same level of reliability and quick service that Fastener SuperStore has always delivered. Fastener SuperStore ships more than 95% of online orders same-day and has recently increased their catalog by 1,000+ products. Fastener SuperStore's new headquarters has been fully operational since June 2024.



The Fastener Mart

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The Fastener Mart Expands Its Selection of Fasteners and Hardware

A leading fastener distributor, ASAP Semiconductor is proud to announce its plan to expand the selection of offerings featured on The Fastener Mart, a leading platform it owns that is dedicated to providing an extensive collection of specialty fasteners and hardware that find use in industrial processes, aviation operations, and other rigorous applications.

Presently, The Fastener Mart offers a comprehensive selection of hardware part types, including nuts and bolts, aircraft fasteners, and various forms of industrial hardware. With the planned expansion of offerings made through market analysis and monitoring industry trends, the website will be able to provide access to an even larger inventory, making it easier for customers to find the precise parts they need for their projects.



As the demand for reliable fasteners continues to grow, The Fastener Mart remains at the forefront, offering a wide range of products that meet the highest standards of quality and performance. With its expanded inventory and unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, The Fastener Mart is poised to continue its growth as a reputable platform for specialty fasteners and industrial hardware.

Auto Fasteners Expands Presence with Warwick Unit

Auto Fasteners, a global supplier of fasteners and metal-engineered components to the automotive sector, has expanded its presence in Southam by leasing 15,000 sq ft of space at a new industrial scheme.

Already operating five units in Southam, Auto Fasteners has signed a 10-year lease on three additional units at Sucham Park, facilitating its ongoing growth. These units will serve as a warehouse, assembly, quality inspection, and office space for the company, which supplies parts to a range of automotive manufacturers including Volvo Group, Scania, Daimler Group, Ford, Stellantis, VW Group, Aston Martin, and Jaguar Land Rover.

Scott Simpson, founder and managing director of Auto Fasteners, said: "We're growing with our long-term customers and gaining new customers too, which has contributed to year-on-year turnover growth and a need for more space to support our expansion. It gives us the option to keep expanding and explore new opportunities. We have business in North America, Brazil, India, Japan and all over Europe."

"We are currently going through the process of opening a facility in North America, but our headquarters will always remain here in Southam, Warwickshire. The location of Sucham Park is perfect for us, it's a stone's throw from our existing space in Southam and the units are a good size for what we are looking to do."

Alabama Aerospace Opens Distribution Facility in Southern California

Alabama Aerospace, a Birmingham Fastener company, is expanding to California with the opening of a facility, Alabama Aerospace West, in Santa Fe Springs. This new facility will help businesses in the western United States that have aerospace, military and rocket projects access inventory quicker.

Alabama Aerospace West will distribute quality parts used in aircrafts, manned spacecrafts, missiles, land vehicles and more. It is conveniently located in between Los Angeles and Anaheim. The facility specializes in locating hard-to-find items while providing an extensive inventory of manufacturer-specific parts such as screws, bolts, nuts, washers and more.

Michael Dominguez will lead the team as site manager. He has over 25 years of experience in manufacturing, supply chain and

logistics, including previously supervising a distribution center with 120+ employees.

Alabama Aerospace West is AS9100 compliant and working toward achieving the certification for its quality management system. The facility also offers fast turnaround on customizable kitting and assembly services.

Acquisitions

Blue Ribbon Fastener Acquires Nationwide Fastener Systems



Blue Ribbon Fastener, a full-service distributor of fasteners and other Class-C components, announced its acquisition of Burlington, Wisconsin-based Nationwide Fastener Systems. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

For more than three decades, Nationwide Fastener Systems has provided OEM clients with quality Class-C fasteners, inventory management services and other custom solutions that improve supply chain efficiency. The strategic partnership will support growth for Nationwide customers and provide advantages to their clients.

Nationwide Fastener Systems was founded by the late Thomas Lipecki Sr. The family business was purchased and carried on with his son, the late Richard Lipecki, and his wife, Deb.

AFC Industries

AFC Industries Acquires California Aerospace Fastener Distributor

AFC Industries announced that it has acquired Meg Technologies Inc. (MTI), a Southern California distributor of fasteners to the aerospace industry. AFC officials said the deal bolsters its position in the aerospace sector. MTI provides military-standard aerospace fasteners to OEMs, Pentagon contractors, maintenance facilities and other aerospace distributors. MTI officials, meanwhile, said the combination would provide new opportunities for its team. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

AFC, an Ohio-based distributor of fasteners and C-Class components, has pursued a strategy of aggressive merger and acquisition activity in recent years. It acquired seven companies last year alone, and the MTI deal marks its second this year after adding Philadelphia-based Globe International in March.





Acquisition of South Carolina-based Fastener Manufacturer Supports Portland Bolt's Expansion into the Southeast

Portland Bolt & Manufacturing Co., LLC, a leading domestic manufacturer and global provider of anchor bolts and nonstandard, custom fasteners, announced it has acquired the South Carolina manufacturing and galvanizing operations of Southern Anchor Bolt Co.

The acquisition highlights Portland Bolt's strategy to expand its US-based manufacturing footprint into the East, while continuing to offer customers industry-leading delivery times, service, and enhanced dependability. The combined company will offer an increased selection of made-to-order galvanized or plain anchor bolts, rods, studs, and other manufactured and distributed products. Together, the footprint will allow the companies to reach 100% of the US customers within 2 business days.

Leslie Yanizeski, President of Southern Anchor Bolt, will continue to manage the daily operations.



Threaded Fasteners Inc. Acquires Ricco Fasteners

Threaded Fasteners Inc. announced the acquisition of Ricco Fasteners, located in Thomasville, Georgia. This move marks the seventeenth branch location for Threaded Fasteners and elevates its mission to create value in and for the people they serve, as they continually position themselves for additional growth and innovation.

Founded in 1998, Ricco Fasteners has been a steadfast member of the fastener community recognized not only for its commitment to excellence but its dedication to its team and community. The acquisition will mark Ricco Fasteners' transition into a Threaded Fasteners branch and manufacturing location. As a member of the fastener industry for over 26 years, Ricco Fasteners' primary focus has been to provide its customers with the products they need to run their operations and a level of service that helps them meet their goals.

"This acquisition marks a milestone in our continued plans to invest in additional distribution and manufacturing locations across the country," said Threaded Fasteners COO Jerrad Douberly. "Together, we plan to utilize the current wide range of Ricco's inventory and manufacturing capabilities to further expand our product offerings to the Thomasville and greater Georgia area. We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in such a wonderful team and community." ■

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