

# Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World



## Association News

### NFDA Announces 2026 Fastener Professional of the Year Honoree Sebastian Janas



The National Fastener Distributors Association (NFDA) has announced that Sebastian Janas is the 2026 recipient of its “Fastener Professional of the Year” award, recognizing his long standing contributions to the fastener industry and his dedication to improving products and processes over many years. Born in Poland, Sebastian immigrated to the United States with his family at age 11 and demonstrated outstanding determination, completing both high school and college in only three

years each. He began his fastener journey at Rumco, the fastener manufacturing company founded by his father, starting from the shop floor and gradually mastering the full spectrum of production, sales, and management.

Sebastian went on to lead operations at both Rumco and Hi Performance, then became President of Sems and Specials in 2020, remaining closely involved in day to day manufacturing while overseeing sales and management, earning respect as a well rounded industry leader. He was also actively engaged in NFDA, MWFA, and IFI, pursued Six Sigma continuous improvement certification, and strongly supported charitable initiatives. His family will accept the award on his behalf during the NFDA Annual Meeting & ESPS® in 2026.

### UK Unveils CBAM Emissions Calculation and Verification Framework to Ensure Transparency of Import Carbon Costs



UK Government

The UK government has published draft rules on emissions and verification under its CBAM, setting out a clear framework for calculating and validating embedded carbon emissions in imported goods,

scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2027 and cover the entire UK, including Northern Ireland. The draft expresses emissions in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) and allows two calculation methods: if default values are used, emissions are calculated by multiplying the weight of the CBAM goods by the relevant default factor; where actual emissions data are available, a step by step approach is applied, including identifying the monitoring period, calculating total production emissions, converting them into CO<sub>2</sub>e, incorporating emissions from precursor goods, determining emissions intensity, and multiplying by the product



## Market Watch: CBAM

### EU Carbon Price to Rise to €185 by 2035, Pushing Steel and Aluminum Carbon Costs Higher



BloombergNEF’s latest forecast suggests that carbon prices under the EU Emissions Trading System could surge to around €185 per ton by 2035. The average price is projected at about €86 per ton in 2026 and €142 per ton by 2031, indicating that carbon pricing will become a major cost driver for high-emission industries such as steel and aluminum.

The EU is tightening emission caps and cutting free allowance allocations for hard-to-abate sectors covered by CBAM, including steel, cement and aluminum, which will sharply raise carbon-cost exposure for these products. In 2024, iron and steel alone accounted for around 70% of CBAM-covered imports, primarily sourced from China, Turkey, India and the UK. If companies fail to verify and report their actual emissions and instead rely on the European Commission’s conservatively high default values, import costs for steel from certain countries could rise by tens of percentage points; in extreme cases, these default obligations may approach €500 per ton by 2030—equivalent to the steel product price itself—forcing exporters to strengthen carbon inventory and secure EU-recognized certifications to remain competitive in the European market.

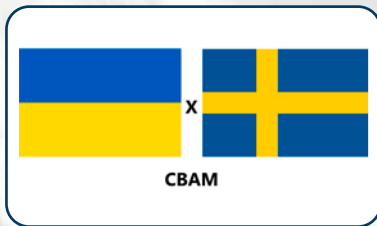
weight. The draft also spells out monitoring and verification procedures, requiring importers to retain detailed records for 6 calendar years, including information on production installations, operators, emissions intensity, monitoring periods, and third party verification reports, with independent accreditation bodies auditing these to ensure technical robustness and independence.



Industry stakeholders warn that if imported steel products are assessed using overly optimistic global default values, high carbon imports could effectively face lower carbon costs than UK domestic steelmakers, who already bear high carbon prices under domestic schemes, potentially undermining decarbonization efforts and weakening domestic supply chain competitiveness. As a result, the sector is urging the government to adopt more conservative, EU style default values, introduce product and production route specific benchmarks, and broaden CBAM coverage to downstream steel products to maintain a level playing field and support long term low carbon development.

## Ukraine and Sweden Agree to Streamline CBAM Verifier Accreditation

Ukraine and Sweden have reached a joint agreement to simplify the accreditation procedures for verifiers under CBAM. The Ukrainian Ministry of Economy stated that this move will allow Ukrainian exporters to verify their greenhouse gas emissions in line with CBAM rules and use actual emission data rather than default, over estimated values, which should help reduce their carbon related costs.



Following a working meeting with Oleksandr Krasnolutsyki, Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine, Swedish Accreditation Body SWEDAC, and the European Commission, the parties agreed that SWEDAC will grant accreditation to Ukrainian verification bodies by relying on the technical infrastructure and expertise of Ukraine's National Accreditation Agency (NAAU). This flexible cooperation model will bypass logistical hurdles arising from the inability of foreign experts to visit Ukraine under martial law, significantly shortening the certification timeline for local industrial exporters and helping them maintain competitiveness in the EU market. The two sides are now moving to the legal phase, with NAAU and SWEDAC experts expected to hold the first technical consultations to finalize the joint working framework.

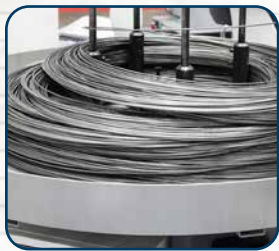


## Industry Development

### Countdown: EU “Digital Product Passport (DPP)” Becomes a Gateway to Europe

DPP is set to roll out, requiring products destined for Europe to carry a traceable, verifiable digital ID. In the future, scanning a QR code will allow access to comprehensive lifecycle information, including raw materials, carbon emissions, repairability, and recycling instructions, making supply-chain transparency and circular-economy a requirement. For Taiwan, only those who build product and carbon data systems early will retain EU orders; others risk being eliminated from the market.

### China to Cut Steel Exports by 10 Million Ton, Giving Taiwan CSC a Supply Side Tailwind



The global steel market is approaching a key turning point as Chinese steel exports shift from peak volume to contraction. Market estimates indicate that China's overseas steel shipments in 2026 will fall by around 10 million ton, an annual decline of more than

8%. This pullback is expected to lift export volumes and prices for Taiwan steelmakers, including Taiwan CSC, strengthening the overall supply-demand balance in Asia.

CSC analysts point out that China's steel exports reached a record 119 million tons in 2025, yet the average unit price still dropped by over 8% year on year, highlighting a competitive landscape heavily reliant on low price dumping. If China's 2026 export volume shrinks by 10 million tons, Taiwan's mills will gain a dual benefit on price and volume. In the short term, this should support a steadier upward trend in steel prices and improved margins; in the longer run, it will help Taiwan shift competition from low grade commodity steel to higher value niche products, allowing Taiwanese steel suppliers to reclaim part of the Asian market footprint.

### World Steel Association Downgrades 2026 Steel Demand Outlook



The World Steel Association (worldsteel) has trimmed its growth forecast for global steel

demand in 2026 to just 0.3%, with total demand expected at 1.724 billion tons—significantly slower than the prior estimate of 1.3%. Demand is then projected to accelerate by 2.2% in 2027 to 1.762 billion tons, signaling a shift from a prolonged structural adjustment to a more modest recovery. Alfonso Hidalgo Calcerrada, chairman of worldsteel's Market Research Committee, said that after years of structural changes since 2022, steel demand has likely bottomed out and is now rebounding, yet uncertainty remains high.

Excluding China, global steel demand growth in 2027 is expected to reach 4.0%, a recent high, driven primarily by India, Africa, Europe and North America. In contrast, China's steel demand contraction is forecast to narrow to about 1.5% in 2026 and then be roughly flat in 2027, ending the steep downturn that began in 2021 and marking a transition from a China driven market to a new pattern led by both emerging and mature economies.



**Indian Railways to Adopt AI and Indigenous Fasteners to Overhaul Track Maintenance**



Indian Railways, under the guidance of Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, will integrate smartphone enabled AI applications to monitor turnout and track health in real time. The move places priority on safety and maintenance, with explicit instructions to avoid compressing train schedules at the expense of risk.

Meanwhile, the Indian Railways network will fully adopt domestically produced “Bharat Fasteners” brand components to enhance track performance and strengthen local supply chain self reliance. The reforms also include allocating sufficient maintenance time windows and building on existing digitization and rail technology upgrade policies to improve overall safety and operational efficiency.



**Companies Development**

**Ta Chen International’s Operations Continue to Scale New Heights**



TA CHEN reported March 2026 revenue of NTD 11.376 billion, up 25.12% year on year and the highest level since April 2022. First quarter consolidated revenue reached NTD 31.217 billion, rising 19.62% year on year and 27.91% quarter on quarter. The company benefited from higher aluminum and stainless steel prices, coupled with stronger shipment volumes, driving both revenue and profit into an upward trajectory with solid operating momentum.

As the peak season begins in the second quarter, newly expanded capacity at the Texas aluminum plant will ramp up from end April, while increased in house production rates will help lower costs, supporting wider product price spreads and margins. Revenue and earnings are expected to maintain double digit growth. Looking ahead, the company plans to strengthen its local manufacturing and channel integration advantages, fully realize the benefits of its Texas plant, and leverage high gross margin products and a platform based business model to support EPS growth of roughly half a share after 2027, with target prices raised to NTD 45, keeping operations on a steady growth path.

**Spec Products Secures Major Screw Order from European Automaker, Revenue Poised for 10% Growth**

Fastener maker Spec Products has scored a major win. By indirectly entering the supply chain of a European automaker through a client, the company has clinched a large fastener order that will significantly boost this year's performance. Analysts forecast the company's 2026 revenue to rise 5% to 10% year-over-year, with EPS rebounding to NTD 4-5, signaling strong recovery momentum. About 75% to 80% of the products are customized auto parts. Last year, despite currency fluctuations, the impact was relatively mild compared to peers' 8%-12% declines. Revenue reached NTD 2.443 billion, up 1.44%; gross margin was 17.48%, down 2.64 points; net profit after tax NTD 169 million, down 32.03%; EPS at NTD 3.75.

Looking ahead, order visibility stands at 4 months. European market, after last year's slump, has cleared inventories to healthy levels with demand warming up gradually; Asia's recovery lags slightly. Embracing the industry's "The Big Gets Bigger" trend, the company is pursuing M&A opportunities via horizontal integration to scale up. If successful, "we could see something good this year!" Spec Products aims to sharpen its edge for global challenges.



**NAFCO’s Orders Overflow: March Revenue Tops NTD 450M, Hits All-Time High**

Taiwanese Aerospace fastener leader NAFCO reported March consolidated revenue of NTD 453 million, up 25.13% MoM and 31.17% YoY—smashing through the NTD 400 million mark and setting a new historical record! Cumulative Q1 revenue reached NTD 1.204 billion, up 5.44% QoQ and 28.66% YoY, fueled by redirected orders and surging aerospace demand, showcasing robust growth momentum.





Order visibility now exceeds one year, with Taiwan and Shanghai plants running at full capacity. Beyond these hubs, the Malaysia plant will drive 2026 growth: Phase one M1 facility slated for mass production in Q2, and Plant 3 by end-Q4. Clients include all four major global aircraft engine makers, plus automotive Tier 1 suppliers like AVIO, AVIALL, IHI, SAMSUNG, EATON, FAURECIA, and INFASTECH. Over 90% of products power aircraft engines, spanning aerospace, space, land-based power generation, and marine vessels. With this strategic positioning, NAFCO solidifies its aerospace fastener dominance—bright prospects ahead.

**Taiwan CSC’s Wire Rods Secure Two EPD Certificates, Boosting Green Orders for Fasteners**

As global environmental awareness rises, a product’s “carbon footprint” and related environmental impact figures have become key purchasing criteria and a requisite to entering international markets. Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are based on ISO 14025 standard, using life-cycle assessment (LCA) to precisely quantify impacts on items such as ozone depletion, acid rain, eutrophication, and climate change across stages from raw-material extraction to disposal, then publishing these figures after verification by independent third-party bodies so downstream buyers can evaluate products more transparently. Europe, the U.S., and Southeast Asian countries have tightened environmental regulations for steel products, and Taiwan CSC has actively participated to accelerate EPD certification for its various steel products.



The company has collected environmental-footprint data for steel plates, hot-rolled, cold-rolled, hot-dip galvanized steel, and electrical steel coils, obtaining certificates from UL Solutions and The International EPD System last October, covering key applications such as building structures, public infrastructure, and motors. In addition, the company has recently completed EPD certification for wire rods, electro-galvanized, and hot-rolled pickled steel coils, allowing downstream fastener, electronic component, and automotive-parts manufacturers to enhance their green competitiveness, securing business opportunities within global supply chains.

**POSCO and JSW Join Hands to Build 6 Million Ton Integrated Steel Mill in India**

South Korea’s steel giant POSCO will team up with India’s leading steelmaker JSW Steel to build a integrated steel mill in Odisha, eastern India, with an annual capacity of 6 million tons. The total investment is estimated at around KRW 10.7 trillion, with both parties holding 50% stakes and POSCO contributing roughly KRW 5.3 trillion. The facility is scheduled for completion by 2031 and will integrate all major processes—from ironmaking and steelmaking to hot rolling, cold rolling, and galvanizing—aimed at meeting India’s rising demand for steel and high-value-added products and further strengthening the global supply chain.

In addition, the partners plan to introduce POSCO’s low-carbon and smart-factory technologies, combined with JSW’s renewable-energy infrastructure, to power part of the mill with green electricity, thereby enhancing environmental competitiveness, countering the rise of global trade protectionism, and positioning the joint venture to capture high-end steel markets under the prevailing carbon-reduction trend.



**Fabory Expands Lubrinox Range with Over 1,200 New Lubricated Stainless Fasteners**



Global industrial supply leader Fabory has significantly expanded its Lubrinox portfolio of pre-lubricated stainless steel fasteners, adding more than 1,200 new items including machine screws, hex connecting nuts, set screws and flange nuts, all designed to serve high demand sectors such as food processing, dairy, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and general machinery.

All new products are stocked to common DIN and ISO standards with full batch traceability. They feature a factory-applied, high performance lubrication coating that greatly reduces friction and seizing risk while remaining dry, odorless and invisible, and performs reliably across a wide temperature range, from deep cold storage to high temperature processing. Fabory notes that the pre-lubricated design slashes maintenance labor, reduces machine downtime and lowers total cost of ownership, helping equipment manufacturers and end users maintain stable operations in harsh environments and improving overall assembly and service efficiency.



## RCF Bolt & Nut Invests in New CNC Lathe, Boosting Both Delivery Lead Time and Production Capacity

UK industrial fastener manufacturer RCF Bolt & Nut has installed the Lynx 2100LB, a compact, high precision 2 axis CNC lathe from DN Solutions, distributed by Mills CNC, significantly increasing turning capacity and improving on time delivery performance. This FANUC controlled lathe is dedicated to single point threading operations and has reduced average machining cycle times by around 50%, effectively freeing up capacity on higher end multitasking machines and resolving the production bottlenecks that emerged after the company's relocation in 2022.



As part of the TGM Industrial Group, RCF specializes in high pressure, high specification sectors such as power generation, oil & gas, and rail, producing high strength bolts, nuts, all thread rods, and other engineered fasteners. Leveraging its in house hot forging and integrated machining shop, RCF can respond quickly to small batch, custom orders while maintaining high accuracy and efficient delivery performance.

## A Century Old Fastener Giant Makes a USD 23.5M Bet on New Jersey

Global industrial fastener distributor Brighton Best International has announced a USD 23.5 million land purchase at Logan North Industrial Park in Logan Township, New Jersey, to build a 190,000 square foot build to suit distribution center, aimed at strengthening East Coast supply chain efficiency and inventory capacity. Headquartered in Long Beach, California, the company has grown since its founding in 1925 from a regional supplier into a global enterprise with 31 locations across 6 countries serving more than 7,000 distributors worldwide, offering fasteners, anchoring systems, construction products, safety supplies and professional grade tools.

The new site is located near the intersection of Route 322 and Interstate 295, adjacent to the Philadelphia and New York markets, with quick access to Philadelphia International Airport as well as the ports of Philadelphia and Wilmington, making it well positioned for transatlantic and North American logistics. Peggy Hsieh, COO of Brighton Best International, said the location's strategic advantages and the expertise of its development partners will help significantly improve delivery efficiency and customer service.



## Caterpillar Awards 2025 Supplier Excellence Recognition to SPIROL



Precision fastener and engineered components manufacturer SPIROL has received the 2025 Supplier Excellence Recognition Award from Caterpillar, honoring its outstanding performance in quality, on time delivery, cost management, continuous improvement, and compliance with environmental and sustainability standards. This prestigious award is reserved for strategic suppliers that meet world class supply chain standards;

SPIROL has maintained high level global supply performance since first achieving Caterpillar's Supplier Quality Excellence Process (SQEP) certification in 2011.

Today, SPIROL supports Caterpillar's 35 global facilities through multiple manufacturing sites, including Stow and Danielson in the U.S. and South Shields in the UK, supplying over 600 part numbers under a nearly four decade long partnership that highlights both companies' commitment to operational excellence and innovation. SPIROL aims to reach the highest level of Supplier Excellence certification by 2026 and continues to deliver high quality, reliable, and high value solutions for Caterpillar and its end customers worldwide.





Acquisitions

German Vossloh Partners with Tanzania to Build East–West Standard Gauge Railway



German rail equipment group Vossloh has announced it has secured a key supply contract for Lots 3 and 4 of Tanzania’s new railway, with a value of approximately EUR 30 million. The company will deliver around 130 sets of switches and 840,000 sets of ties and rail fastening systems for the Makutupora–Tabora and Tabora–Isaka sections, covering a total distance of 424 kilometers on the standard gauge line. The switches will be manufactured at Vossloh’s facility in Ystad, Sweden, while the rail fastening systems will be supplied from the group’s “Factory of the Future” in Werdohl, Germany, supporting local contractor Yapi Merkezi in completing the main corridor linking Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean coast with Mwanza on the shores of Lake Victoria in northern Tanzania.

This standard gauge rail corridor will connect the capital Dodoma with western Tanzania and is planned to extend further into neighboring Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. By leveraging electrification and high specification track equipment, the project aims to significantly reduce transit times and strengthen regional trade and freight capacity, delivering structural upgrades to Tanzania’s and the wider region’s economic development and logistics networks.

Italian Poggipolini Acquires Indian Aero Fasteners



Italian industrial group Poggipolini has announced the acquisition of a majority stake in Aero Fasteners Pvt. Ltd., formally entering India’s aerospace and defense manufacturing market; the financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Aero Fasteners specializes in manufacturing critical fastening systems for aerospace, space, and defense applications and will continue operating under its existing management team, serving both Indian and international customers.

Poggipolini said the investment is aimed at expanding its presence in India and the broader Asia Pacific region, focusing on enhancing Aero Fasteners’ capabilities in designing and manufacturing high value fastening systems. The collaboration will support India’s “Make in India” policy by strengthening local production and exports, while meeting the growing demand from global aerospace original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and Indian based OEM customers.

UK Industrial Fastening Platform CTB Changes Hands; Watermill and Waterland to Drive Next Stage Growth

British industrial fastening solutions provider Cooper Turner Beck (CTB) has been sold by Boston based private investment firm Watermill Group to European private equity firm Waterland Private Equity, with financial terms undisclosed. During Watermill’s ownership, CTB expanded from operations in 3 countries to 8, grew to 21 global facilities, doubled its workforce, and strengthened its position as a leading supplier of safety critical fastening systems in energy, power generation, and heavy industrial markets, with profitability and market share rising over multiple quarters—drawing strong interest from several potential buyers.

Following the acquisition, Waterland will support CTB in further expanding its global footprint and technical capabilities in industrial and energy sectors, setting the stage for organic growth and strategic acquisitions. Watermill Group said the transaction reflects its “grow and then transition” investment model, as it continues to focus on building market leading businesses that can find the right new partner at each stage of their development.



Cooper Turner Beck  
FASTENERS FOR SAFETY CRITICAL APPLICATIONS



## Engineering Group Clarity Takes Over Fastener Supplier Cofast, Saving Over 60 Jobs

UK engineering group Clarity Group has announced the acquisition of Cofast, a fastener and engineering supplies supplier based in Plympton, Plymouth, and its sister company NDB Engineering, both taken out of administration as part of the deal, at an undisclosed price. The two businesses together employ 64 staff and generate roughly £7 million in annual revenue from fasteners and turned parts, supported by a portfolio of around 20,000 engineered consumables, serving critical sectors such as nuclear and defense, with customers including major global corporations and government programs.

Clarity Group Chairman Kevin Robinson said the acquisition strengthens the group's presence in heavy industry markets and will enable investment in robotics and automation to boost productivity and efficiency, while preserving Cofast's and NDB's long standing relationships in defense and nuclear.

Going forward, Cofast will continue to operate under its existing brand and will seek funding to expand its involvement in decommissioning projects, large domestic naval programs, and new infrastructure initiatives, with aerospace identified as a key growth target. Leveraging group resources and technical integration, Clarity aims to capture opportunities in next generation engineering and infrastructure markets. ■





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