

# EUROPEAN NEWS

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## Slight Growth in a Challenging Environment

Bossard Group recorded organic sales growth in an environment marked by geopolitical and economic uncertainties. While acquisitions contributed to additional sales growth, the appreciation of the Swiss franc had a negative impact. Sales in the financial year 2025 increased by 8.6% to CHF 1.068 billion (€1.173 billion) – compared to CHF 984.1 million the previous year. In local currency, growth amounted to 12.2%. Adjusted for acquisitions, sales in local currency increased by 2% compared to the prior year. In the fourth quarter, sales increased by 9.2% to CHF 257.8 million (prior year: CHF 236 million), corresponding to a growth of 13.9% in local currency and an organic increase of 6.8%. The challenging market environment was particularly impacted by geopolitical uncertainties and the tariff situation, which led to planning uncertainty for many market participants. Despite these conditions, Bossard consistently continued to implement its Strategy 200. This included strengthening its market position in key industries, expanding regional presence and proximity to customers, as well as continuing the technological advancement of its services. This ongoing enhancement of competitiveness is the foundation for Bossard Group's sustainable, profitable growth. In Europe, the Group achieved a sales increase of 11.2% in the fourth quarter to CHF 151.1 million (in local currency: up 11.5%). Adjusted for acquisitions, this resulted in a slight decrease of 0.4% in local currency. **The economic environment in Europe continued to be marked by uncertainties. However, a gradual stabilisation became apparent in the second half of the year.** The aerospace, railway and electronics sectors continued to record positive growth rates in the fourth quarter. German-based Ferdinand Gross Group, consolidated since the beginning of the year, made a significant contribution to the growth of Bossard Group. **In Asia, sales in the fourth quarter of 2025 remained stable compared to the prior year at CHF 49 million (in local currency: up 9.4%). In China, the recovery in demand continued at a slower pace, while US import tariffs had a negative effect on demand from export-oriented customers in India. Malaysia continued to benefit from production relocation trends.** The appreciation of the Swiss franc against Asian currencies also resulted in a negative currency effect in this region.

# BOSSARD

Proven Productivity



## Würth Group Reports Record Sales in 2025

According to the preliminary annual financial statements for the 2025 fiscal year, Würth Group reported sales growth to approximately €20.7 billion, thus achieving another record in sales while also gaining market share. This marks an increase of 2.3% over the same period last year. Adjusted for currencies, sales grew 3.2%, whilst the operating result remained at previous year's level (€940 million before tax). In Germany, Würth Group generated sales of almost €8 billion (up 0.8%). The companies outside of Germany achieved sales growth of 3.3% (€12.7 billion). As for Würth's core business activities, **the Auto division reported positive development, while the Construction division returned to growth with an increase of 6.4% following a decline in the previous year.** Among the Group's Allied Companies, the

Electrical Wholesale, Electronics and Chemicals units are developing particularly well – all growing at higher rates than the overall Würth Group. “Würth Group looks back on a challenging fiscal year characterised by geopolitical uncertainties and a weak economy. Against this backdrop, we are very satisfied with this result,” explains Robert Friedmann, chairman of the central management board of Würth Group. He adds: “However, **we are still lacking economic momentum in industrial production. We feel the repercussions of this, too.** Even so, we are focusing on what lies ahead and are striving to maintain the momentum from 2025. With this strong push, Würth will continue to gain market share in 2026.”





## fischer Grows with Fixing Systems

fischer group successfully concluded the 2025 financial year with a €1.05 billion turnover, despite the sale of its automotive division – with growth of 3% on a currency adjusted basis for its largest business unit – fastening

systems. Among the outstanding projects in 2025 were the fastening of the façade of the Solitaire Mall in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the supply of installation systems for the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Chile – the world's largest telescope. Digital solutions also met with high demand. fischer's Baubot robots automatically created boreholes, for example, during the construction of the Cartesius urban district in Utrecht and in the Engelberg Tunnel in Leonberg near Stuttgart. The company also secured the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title with its robot. Operating continuously for 24 hours, the Baubot drilled 3,717 holes in concrete walls, floors, and ceilings, setting new standards for construction robotics. Furthermore, fischer's sensor integrated fasteners proved their worth in numerous projects, including the 'blue fire Megacoaster' at Europa-Park in Rust, Germany. fischer also launched numerous new products and systems in 2025 including HybridPower, which combines the advantages of steel anchors and plastic dowels – strong and versatile at the same time. Simultaneously, the company consistently advanced the use of Artificial Intelligence, robotics and digitalisation in the construction industry. Looking ahead, the fischer Group of Companies also plans for revenue growth in the 2026 financial year. With a new subsidiary in Saudi Arabia, fischer has recently established a presence in one of the world's most dynamic markets. It is also the company's 51st operating subsidiary worldwide and is headquartered in the capital, Riyadh. Growth this year is also expected to be shaped by geopolitical conditions beyond the direct control of industry. In Germany, further challenges continue to arise from high energy costs and significant bureaucratic hurdles within the EU.

## POMMIER Acquires TITGEMEYER's Vehicle Component Business

POMMIER Group has acquired TITGEMEYER's vehicle component business, including RIEKO GmbH. With this strategic acquisition, both companies are creating clear added value for their customers through consistent specialisation, long-term continuity, as well as an even stronger focus on their respective core competencies. POMMIER, one of Europe's specialist suppliers of equipment and components for car body



construction, is financing the acquisition from its own funds, with the purchase price remaining confidential. The aim of the transaction is to further expand POMMIER's expertise in the field of vehicle components and to strengthen its presence in the German market in the long-term. With effect from 1st April 2026, POMMIER will continue to operate the vehicle components division, also known under the GTO brand. Osnabrück will become the new headquarters of POMMIER Germany. As part of the transaction, POMMIER will also become the owner of RIEKO GmbH, which has a production site in Pliezhausen, Germany. Founded in 1963, REIKO specialises in the development and manufacturing of roller shutters and system solutions for special purpose, emergency and commercial vehicles. Around 20 employees will transfer to POMMIER as part of the takeover, ensuring continuity, expertise and established customer relationships. Through the acquisition, POMMIER gains a fifth production site in Europe and expands its industrial base with recognised German expertise. This enables even closer support for existing customers, improved on-site service and additional innovation and growth potential. Existing projects and supply relationships will be organised and reliably continued during the transition. For TITGEMEYER, the transaction is a logical step in the strategic development of the company. In future, TITGEMEYER will focus even more strongly on its core business as a leading international supplier of fastening technology, automation solutions, with in-house production, and industrial components. This clear focus creates significant advantages for TITGEMEYER and its customers, including resources in development, as well as production and service becoming concentrated specifically on core areas. Customers will also benefit from additional innovative strength, faster implementation of technical developments and further enhanced support for customer specific solutions.



Exponent



## Exponent Acquires Optimas International

Exponent, a European private equity firm, has reached an agreement to acquire Optimas International, carving out the international operations from its US-headquartered parent Optimas Solutions. Marking a significant milestone in the company's evolution, this strategic move highlights the growing success of Optimas International as a standalone entity. The transaction remains subject to the finalisation of the appropriate employee representative processes and the standard regulatory approvals. Today, the business serves more than 1,500 customers globally across multiple production sites and geographies, boasting an average 20-year tenure with its top customers, reflecting excellent service levels and high customer satisfaction. Optimas supplies over 2.2 billion parts per year across 40,000 SKUs, sourced from 1,200 suppliers. Optimas International's journey towards independence began in 2019 with the decision to regionalise operations into Americas and international divisions – an operating model which

has enabled the company to thrive. The transaction, expected to close by the end of Q2 2026, will not affect the day-to-day operations of Optimas International. The company's leadership team, led by Mike Tuffy, along with its dedicated employees, will remain in place to ensure a seamless transition and uninterrupted service for customers. ■

