

Hardware & Fastener Components WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Fastener World

五金產業新聞

Industry Development

U.S. DoC Announces Final Results of AD Administrative Review for Certain Steel Nail Imports from Taiwan



美國商務部公告對台特定鋼釘反傾銷稅行政複查結果

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC) issued a Federal Register notice on February 1 announcing the final results of its administrative review of the anti-dumping duties on certain steel nails imported from Taiwan. The anti-dumping review period was from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Based on the results of the investigation, the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that the weighted-average dumping margin of Your Standing International, Inc. is 26.28 percent, the weighted-average dumping margin of Shang Jeng Nail Co. Ltd. and World Kun Company Limited is 78.17%, and the weighted-average dumping margin of A-Jax Enterprise Limited and 130 other manufacturers is 26.28%.

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/47wyc5w6> to view the original notice.

Mexico Imposes Temporary Anti-dumping Duty on Chinese Steel Nails

墨西哥對中國鋼釘課徵臨時反傾銷稅



According to the latest announcement of the Mexican Federal Government, on July 27, 2023, Clavos Nacionales Mexico S.A. de C.V. applied to the Mexican Ministry of Economy for an anti-dumping investigation of steel nails (Mexican tariff number 73170099) imported from China. In September of the same year, the Mexican government formally initiated an anti-dumping investigation on the product (the period of the dumping investigation was from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023. The period of the injury investigation was from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2023).

Based on the results of the investigation, Mexico announced on March 15, 2024 that it has preliminarily determined that

the quantity of the products imported into Mexico from China and its market share in the Mexican market are likely to continue to increase in the future, which will have a negative impact on the Mexican industry; and therefore, a temporary anti-dumping duty of 31% will be levied on top of the original 25% tariff, which will take effect on and after the date of the announcement.

Latest Figures of Taiwan Fastener & Hand Tool Exports in 2023

2023年台灣手工工具及扣件出口最新數據

According to International Trade Administration (ITA) of Ministry of Economic Affairs (Taiwan)'s newly released "Analysis of Taiwan's Exports from January to December 2023", Taiwan's fastener export from January to December 2023 amounted to approximately US\$4.6 billion, down 25% year-on-year from the 2022 figure of US\$6.14 billion. Exports of hand tools amounted to US\$3.78 billion, down 18% year-on-year from US\$4.62 billion in 2022. The margins of the export decline in both product categories deteriorated from the 2022 figures, mainly due to the impact of geopolitical conflicts, inflation, and slowing economic growth, which led to conservative orders from customers and thus affected export performance.

However, according to another "International Economic and Trade Situation Analysis Report for January-December 2023" published by ITA, S&P Global forecasts that the growth of global exports and imports will turn positive in 2024 at 5.4% and 6.7%, respectively, with major Asian countries such as China, S. Korea, Japan and Taiwan showing a more significant growing trend of over 5%. In terms of metal prices, due to the gradual realization of the benefits of production reductions by steel mills in the U.S., Europe and China, coupled with the increasing steel prices in Europe and the U.S., the Asian steel market is warming up, and iron and steel prices are expected to stop declining and rebound from the fourth quarter of 2023 onwards.





Association News

China National Hardware Association Holds a Meeting with Association of German Tool Manufacturers in Cologne



中國五金製品協會與德國工具協會於德國科隆舉行會見活動

On March 5th, China National Hardware Association (CNHA) and Association of German Tool Manufacturers met during the International Hardware Fair Cologne. Chairman Zhang, Vice Chairmen and

Secretary General of CNHA and Managing Director Stefan Horst of German Tool Manufacturers Association participated in the meeting.

Both sides respectively talked about the current tool industrial development of China and Germany, as well as changes in their respective market demand, and also discussed the further cooperation between the two sides in the future. The meeting of Chinese and German tool industries this time not only strengthened the communication between both sides and promoted the info exchange and cooperation between the industry and enterprises, but also laid the foundation for resource sharing at international exhibitions and created more opportunities for corporate development in the future.



ISANTA Expands Scope to Include Battery Powered Fastener Driving Tools

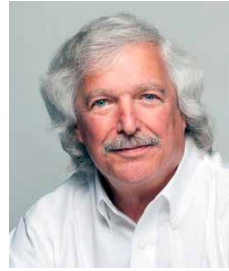
國際鐵釘工具協會擴大服務涵蓋範圍至電池驅動扣件鎖固工具

One of ISANTA's business priorities in 2023 was to review ISANTA's scope and assess the impact of the emergence of new product lines. Respondents to the 2023 ISANTA membership survey expressed support for expanding scope to be inclusive of battery powered fastener driving tools. During their October 2023 meeting, the ISANTA Board of Directors took action to include Battery Powered Fastener Driving Tools as part of ISANTA's scope. This was presented to the membership during the 2023 ISANTA annual business meeting in Denver. While pneumatic tools will remain ISANTA's primary focus, ISANTA will look to provide complementary services that support battery powered tools as well.

Kempton H. Roll PM Lifetime Achievement Award: Thomas F. Murphy, FAPMI

Thomas F. Murphy獲粉末冶金產業聯盟頒發Kempton H. Roll冶金終生成就獎

Thomas F. Murphy, FAPMI, Senior Scientist, Research and Development, Hoeganaes Corporation, has been selected to receive the Kempton H. Roll Powder Metallurgy (PM) Lifetime Achievement Award by the Metal Powder Industries Federation (MPIF). The award will be presented during the combined PowderMet2024



(International Conference on Powder Metallurgy & Particulate Materials) and AMPM2024 (Additive Manufacturing with Powder Metallurgy) conferences, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the Opening General Session on Monday, June 17.

Murphy is one of the few recognized experts in the field of ferrous PM microscopy throughout the world. He has been instrumental in developing sample preparation, characterization methods, and testing for both metal powders and PM components. He continues to perform a vital role in educating the industry about the effects of microstructure on the entire PM process. More recently, his research efforts have expanded to include the effects of microstructure with the additive manufacturing process.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, named in honor of Kempton H. Roll, founding executive director of MPIF, was established in 2007 to recognize individuals with outstanding accomplishments and achievements who have devoted their careers and a lifetime of involvement in the field of PM and related technologies. This will only be the fifth time the award has been given since its inception.

Michael Stucky Becomes New President of Metal Powder Industries Federation



Michael Stucky當選粉末冶金產業聯盟(MPIF)新理事長

MPIF installed new presidents at the conclusion of the 2023 PM Management Summit and 79th Annual MPIF Business Meeting.

The new MPIF President is Michael Stucky. MPIF Executive Director/CEO James Adams presented the Crystal Award to Past President Rodney Brennen.

Michael Stucky, Business Unit Director, Norwood Medical, Bellbrook, Ohio, has been elected the 32nd president of the Metal Powder Industries Federation, succeeding Rodney Brennen, Metco Industries, Inc., St. Marys, Pennsylvania. His two-year term began at the conclusion of the Federation's 79th annual MPIF Business Meeting, October 28-30, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Stucky has worked at Norwood for the past 11 years. Previously, he worked for 11 years at NetShape Technologies and 10 years at PCC Airfoils, Inc. Mike is very active within MPIF and the Metal Injection Molding Association (MIMA), having served on the MPIF Board of Governors as MIMA President. He is Chairman of the MIMA Standards Committee, MIMA representative on the MPIF Technical Board, and was a co-chair of the PowderMet2023, MIM2017, and MIM2018 conferences. Over the years he has served on the PowderMet and AMPM Technical Program Committees. Mike received the Distinguished Service to Powder Metallurgy Award in 2019.



Elemental Connectors Becomes ISANTA's Newest Member

Elemental Connectors 成為國際鐵釘工具協會 (ISANTA) 新會員



Elemental Connectors specializes in the manufacturing of galvanized wire & collated nails for a broad variety of industrial applications, ranging from infrastructure, fencing to housing construction industry.

Established as the result of investors, talented professionals come together to plan, build and operate trustworthy systems for superior customer experience.

With its integrated manufacturing facility in Hyderabad India, Elemental Connectors strives for excellence in wire products, establishing a formidable presence in both domestic and international markets across North America as true partner of choice.

accomplishment of being named 2023's best-in-class supplier at Fastenal's Supplier Awards".

The award marks a remarkable milestone in the over 20-year-long partnership between Nord-Lock and Fastenal. With the award, Nord-Lock's North America division heads into 2024 with an energizing tailwind, inspired to improve on its already market-leading position in everything supply-related while continuing to offer the world's safest bolting solutions.

The LISI Group Posts Organic Growth of 15.5% for the Second Consecutive Year and Achieves Its Financial Objectives in 2023

LISI集團銷售收入連2年成長15.5%，達2023年目標



Sales revenue reached €1,630.4 M (+14.4% compared to 2022), driven by sustained organic growth identical to that of 2022 (+15.5%) and increases in sales prices in the Group's three lines of business;

- At €90.7 M, EBIT is €1.6 M higher than in 2022;
- The operating Free Cash Flow is positive at + €22.2 M, thanks to the strong performances of the LISI AUTOMOTIVE and LISI MEDICAL divisions.
- Future outlook: The Group should benefit from the positive dynamics of the various markets in which it is well positioned; In an environment where inflationary pressure is expected to subside, the Group aims to improve its key financial indicators: EBIT and Free Cash Flow.

Companies Development

Nord-Lock Group Rewarded at Fastenal's 2023 Supplier Awards

Nord-Lock集團獲Fastenal頒發2023年度供應商獎



Nord-Lock® wedge-locking washers have always been an exceptional choice for manufacturers when looking for the safest, most reliable bolt-securing solution. And to ensure that the washers get to those who need them, Nord-Lock has always put a lot of effort into maintaining and streamlining productive, reciprocal collaborations with its partners and distributors. During the Fastenal's 2023 Supplier Award, that strive was recognized by honoring the North American team with the prestigious "Supplier of the Year" award.

Based on a thorough scorecard evaluating 25 different metrics, such as order acknowledgment, labeling, and a range of others, Nord-Lock came out on top in a category consisting of 97 suppliers. So, in addition to their superior washers, the award serves to recognize Nord-Lock's simultaneous market-leading position for providing smooth, customer-oriented supply and customer services. A more detailed look at 2023 shows that the Nord-Lock team outperformed the competition in ten of twelve months.

"When you pair a superior product with an incredible team, amazing things happen," says Shea Usher, Head of Sales North America. "So proud of my team and their

Würth Group Sets a New Sales Record in 2023 Würth集團2023銷售再創新紀錄



The Würth Group, the global market leader in the development, production and sale of assembly and fastening materials reported annual sales of more than EUR 20 billion for the first time in its corporate history according to its preliminary financial statements on the 2023 fiscal year. Despite the tense global economic and political situation, the Group was able to grow again, even though the difficult conditions had an impact on the operating result. Sales grew by 2.4 percent. Adjusted for currencies, sales growth came out at 3.5 percent. The operating result is expected to remain below last year's result at EUR 1.4 billion (2022: EUR 1.6 billion), the second-best result in the history of the Group.

"Given the cooling global economy, we are satisfied with the past fiscal year. The sales mark of EUR 20 billion is a special milestone for us. We were able to double our sales volume over the past nine years," said Robert Friedmann, Chairman of the Central Management Board of the Würth Group. "Last year, the Group's heterogeneous structure across different industries and regions and our business model were once again the basis of our success. The construction sector, an important industry for the Würth Group, showed a slow sales development, which could be compensated for by other strategic

business units such as the Electrical Wholesale unit.”

In addition to the ongoing conflict between China, Taiwan, and the US, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, inflation-driven cost increases, especially for energy and raw materials, and high lending rates that hampered demand in the construction industry also had a negative impact on the result.

“Achieving these results in such an environment shows that our more than four million customers greatly appreciate our products and services. They trust us and that is our most important objective. The Würth Group has proven in the past that it can overcome major challenges successfully. The solidarity of our employees and the support of the family, especially by Prof. Reinhold Würth and Bettina Würth, give us the necessary stability,” emphasized Robert Friedmann.

Hilti Group Outperforms the Market in a Challenging Year

喜利得集團挑戰中依舊表現亮眼



With the sales growth of 9.0 percent in local currencies (2.7 percent in Swiss francs), the Hilti Group closed 2023 with a turnover of more than CHF 6.5 billion. With this result, Hilti clearly outperformed the market and gained market share. Once again, the appreciation of the Swiss franc led to a significantly negative currency impact of 6.3 percentage points on sales. The operating result grew by 5.3 percent and reached CHF 770 million. Despite economic and geopolitical uncertainties, Hilti significantly invested into sales capacity, innovation and long-term strategic projects.

“2023 was a successful year for the Hilti Group. We achieved strong growth in local currencies and increased our operating result, despite the challenging economic environment, the strong Swiss franc

and the continued high level of investment. As we enter 2024, we are confident that we can continue to grow faster than the market”, summarizes CEO Jahangir Doongaji.

At a regional level, Europe managed to close the year with sales growth of 8.7 percent in local currencies, primarily driven by the strong contribution from Southern Europe. The Americas region grew by 9.1 percent, while Asia/Pacific was at 13.8 percent. China recovered slowly from COVID-19 lockdowns, while the rest of the region achieved solid growth rates. The ongoing war in Ukraine had an impact on the entire Eastern Europe / Middle East / Africa region, resulting in a growth of 3.1 percent.

An important growth driver was the completion of the global rollout of the new cordless platform Nuron. In addition to more than 70 tools launched in 2022, 30 new tools were brought to the market. Investment into research and development reached CHF 454 million (+3,9%), equal to 7.0 percent of the Group’s sales and underlining Hilti’s strong focus on innovation. Following the acquisition of Fieldwire Inc. in 2021, Hilti acquired 4PS Group in 2023, a Netherlands-based local market leader in developing and providing business

CNC Auto Lathe

Major Products: Fiber-optic Telecommunications Equipment, Hydraulic/Pneumatic Components, Shafts, Mechanic Components, Electronic Components, Wire-cutting, Housing, Computer Connectors, Auto/Motorecycle Parts, Radio Wave Launchers, Radio Frequency Generators

Materials: Phosphor Bronze, Aluminum, Copper Beryllium, Free Cutting Copper, Stainless Steel

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management solutions for the construction industry. As of the end of the year, Hilti Group had 34,111 team members, an addition of 1,624 (+5.0%) compared to the previous year.

The operating result increased by 5.3 percent to CHF 770 million while net income decreased by 0.9 percent to CHF 560 million. The return on sales (ROS) improved by 0.3 percentage points, reaching 11.8 percent (2022: 11.5%). The return on capital employed (ROCE) increased by 0.1 percentage points to 13.3 percent (2022: 13.2%).

Construction market forecasts point to a further softening with negative real growth in several geographies. The ongoing geopolitical tensions and the volatility in the financial markets will likely lead to a further appreciation of the Swiss franc and hence, another year of significantly negative currency impacts. To live up to the Group's purpose of "Making Construction Better", Hilti will continuously invest in driving innovation in both hardware and software solutions and building up its market reach resources. In 2024, the Hilti Group expects mid-single-digit sales growth in local currencies and a similar ROS level in Swiss francs compared to 2023.

Indian Sterling Tools Signed MoU with Korean Yongin Electronics



印度Sterling Tools與韓國Yongin Electronics簽署合作備忘錄

Indian automotive fastener producer, Sterling Tools Limited, has recently signed an MoU for EV components facility with S. Korean key component supplier, Yongin Electronics Co., Ltd., through its subsidiary, Motor Control Units (MCUs) in India.

According to Sterling Tools, the agreement signed by both sides will play an important role in advancing the domestic manufacturing of EV and electronics components in India, and a new facility for EV components will also be set up soon. Yongin's technological expertise will also benefit the growing EV industry sector in India.

"This MoU demonstrates Sterling's commitment to developing the EV and Electronics ecosystem and contributing to "Make In India". We are one step closer to our goal of strengthening our presence and offerings as a provider of green energy solutions in the automotive industry," said Anish Agarwal, Director from Sterling Tools Limited.

"We recognize the significant potential within the Indian EV market. It brings us great pleasure to announce our partnership with Sterling through the signing of an MoU. We are prepared to embark on a journey of mutual growth and collaboration within the Indian EV industry, contributing positively to its advancement," said CEO KH Kim of Yongin Electronics.

Acquisitions

Stanley Black & Decker Completes Sale of Attachment Tools Business to Epiroc AB

Stanley Black & Decker完成出售連接工具事業部門給Epiroc AB

StanleyBlack&Decker

Stanley Black & Decker announced that it has completed the previously announced sale of STANLEY Infrastructure to Epiroc AB for US\$760 million in cash. Stanley Black & Decker expects to utilize the cash proceeds, net of modest taxes, to reduce debt.

Headquartered in the USA, Stanley Black & Decker is a worldwide leader in Tools and Outdoor, operating manufacturing facilities globally. The company's more than 50,000 diverse and high-performing employees produce innovative end-user inspired power tools, hand tools, storage, digital jobsite solutions, outdoor and lifestyle products, and engineered fasteners to support the world's builders, tradespeople and DIYers. The company's world class portfolio of trusted brands includes DEWALT®, CRAFTSMAN®, STANLEY®, BLACK+DECKER®, and Cub Cadet®.

Martin Supply Acquires Trinity Hardware Headquarters



Martin Supply併購Trinity Hardware總部

Martin Supply, one of the nation's leading providers of custom-tailored solutions for maintenance, repair, operation, and production supplies, proudly announces its acquisition of Trinity Hardware Headquarters (THHQ) from Agrisolutions (AGS), a leading global manufacturer of wear parts, components, and accessories.

Based in Waukesha, Wisconsin, THHQ specializes in the supply of standard and custom components through catalog distribution, customized inventory management programs and product delivery services. This acquisition marks a significant milestone in Martin Supply's dedication to bolstering its presence within the fastening market and growing in this geographic region.

Commenting on the acquisition, Douglas Ruggles, Co-CEO of Martin Supply, stated, "We are excited to welcome THHQ to Martin Supply. This acquisition aligns seamlessly with our mission to deliver unparalleled quality and service to our valued customers. We are committed to upholding the legacy of excellence that THHQ has established."

The transition from AGS to Martin Supply promises continuity and reliability for customers. With meticulous planning and attention to detail, Martin Supply guarantees minimal disruption to the services customers depend on. Utilizing industry leading technology, Martin will drive the flow of products, services and information across the supply chain resulting in excellence in operations.

Reflecting on the acquisition, Demi Mantas, Sales Director, Hardware at AGS, expressed confidence in the transition, stating, "We are confident that Martin Supply will uphold the same level of quality and commitment our customers have come to expect. With Martin's 90-year history, expertise, and commitment to excellence, we anticipate even greater value and innovation for our customers."



House-Hasson Signs Letter of Intent to Acquire Midwest Wholesale Hardware Distributor Bostwick-Braun

House-Hasson 簽署收購美國中西部五金批發商 Bostwick-Braun 意向書



House-Hasson Hardware, America's largest independent regional hardware distributor, has signed a letter of intent to acquire Bostwick-Braun Hardware, a Midwestern U.S. wholesale hardware distributor, officials of both companies have announced. The acquisition will include warehouses and inventory.

Steve Henry, president and CEO of House-Hasson, and Pete Richichi, CEO of Bostwick-Braun, said the letter of intent was signed Tuesday, March 19.

House-Hasson's main warehouse is at its Knoxville, Tenn., corporate headquarters; a second warehouse is in Prichard, W. Va. With the addition of Bostwick-Braun's West Helena, Ark., and Ashley, Ind., warehouses, House-Hasson will have more than 1.1 million square feet of warehouse, receiving and shipping space.

The acquisition described in the letter of intent will be complete after a period of due diligence. The pending acquisition's cost is being privately handled between the two companies.

The 56,000 stock keeping units (SKU) in Bostwick-Braun's warehouses will be incorporated into House-Hasson's system. House-Hasson presently has 55,000 SKUs in its two warehouses.

TFC Acquires Supaseal UK



TFC 併購
Supaseal UK

An AFC Industries Company

TFC, a leading provider of vendor managed inventory solutions and technical engineering products, has made a further acquisition in the O-Rings and Seals market, acquiring Midlands-based Supaseal UK Ltd.

Supaseal is a major player in the rubber seals industry, growing a business which started in 1991 to now supplying a wide range of O-Rings, Rotary Shaft Seals, Bonded Seals, Circlips, and associated products to customers in the UK, Europe, the U.S., Middle and Far East.

TFC, an AFC Industries Company, had already acquired EAP Seals located in Manchester in April 2023 and this move adds to TFC's market share in rubber sealing products and strengthens the technical components category.

Supaseal currently have more than 50,000 inventory lines and 15,000 live stock lines supplying a varied customer base having developed strong relationships with a variety of manufacturing partners in the UK and overseas. They offer non-stock products as well as off-the-shelf products. Their complementary products include specially moulded parts and bespoke kits to client specification.

The company will continue to be run by its current management team and operate out of its existing premises in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. □

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