

# Hardware & Fastener Components World News

## 五金零組件全球新聞

### ▪ Association News ▪

#### ► HAI Triumphs at 2025 Association and Institute Awards, Secures Best Learning Program

愛爾蘭五金協會榮獲「2025協會與學會獎」下的「最佳學習計劃」大獎

Hardware Association Ireland (HAI) has triumphed at the Association and Institute Awards 2025, winning the prestigious Best Learning/Professional Development Program award. The accolade recognizes the excellence and impact of HAI's Certificate in Hardware Retail & Merchandising and its comprehensive training services that support the Irish hardware and building materials sector. These services include classroom and virtual workshops as well as customized training solutions.

The award reflects the dedication and vision of the HAI team, alongside the collaboration of member companies, trainers, and industry partners contributing to the success of HAI's programs. The judges praised HAI's innovative approach, highlighting the unique requirement mandating students to engage in learning reflection with active mentor and company involvement throughout the course—a model they believe could be replicated in other sectors.



In addition to this major win, HAI was shortlisted for Best Association of the Year, with judges commending its strong community connections, impressive growth, and a wide range of member services. The association's leadership and positive impact on Ireland's hardware sector were also recognized. HAI expressed gratitude to the awards organizers and looks forward to continuing its commitment to raising professional standards and providing accessible, high-quality training to the industry.

### ▪ Market Watch: Trump Tariff 2.0 ▪

#### ► Trump Tariffs Drive Up Power Tool and Fastener Prices, Impacting DIYers and Professionals

川普關稅推升電動工具與扣件產品價格，影響DIY及專業用戶

The reintroduction and escalation of tariffs under President Donald Trump's 2025 trade policies have significantly increased the cost of imported power tools in the United States. These tariffs, ranging from 10% to as high as 50% on various imported goods including power tools, have directly contributed to price hikes imposed by major manufacturers. As a result, power drills and other common electric tools have become notably more expensive for both professional contractors and DIY enthusiasts.

Manufacturers are passing higher import duties onto consumers, making routine repairs and home improvement projects costlier. Many brands have cited the unpredictability and rapid changes in tariff policies as challenges in setting stable prices. The increased costs are compounded by supply chain disruptions already impacting the industry. Retailers warn that these price increases could curb demand and slow market growth in power tool sectors.



Experts note that tariffs aimed at reducing trade deficits have instead pushed up prices for everyday products, often accelerating inflationary pressures on consumers. The power tool industry remains on alert as ongoing trade tensions and potential new tariffs threaten further cost increases.

The tariff has also created uncertainty and pricing difficulties for the fastener wholesale industry. Craig Christensen, president of Trinity Fastener, said that although current inventory cushions the immediate impact, prices may still rise in the future. Importers have already adjusted prices in advance, causing market volatility that makes business management and forecasting very challenging. He hopes the U.S. and its trade partners can reach a stable agreement and establish a reasonable pricing standard together.

### ► Mexican Manufacturer Benefits from Trump's Tariffs Amid Supply Chain Shifts

墨西哥製造商因川普關稅受益，加速供應鏈區域化轉型



Jorge H. Martínez, CEO of Micro Partes, a small manufacturer in Monterrey, Mexico, credits the Trump administration's tariffs for boosting his business amid changing trade dynamics. While many feared tariffs would disrupt markets, Martínez saw an opportunity to thrive by supplying small plastic parts previously imported largely from Asia.

With tariffs raising costs on Asian imports, companies increasingly seek North American suppliers to comply with USMCA rules and avoid penalties. Martínez's company produces essential industrial components like clips, fasteners, and grommets—items vital to assembly lines. To meet demand, Micro Partes invested in new machinery and local resin suppliers, expanding its production capacity.

The tariffs encouraged nearshoring, prompting many businesses to reduce reliance on Asian supply chains and favor regional sourcing. As a result, Micro Partes has seen significant growth, including orders from multinational firms such as LG and Samsung operating in Mexico. This trend underscores a broader shift to strengthen North American manufacturing networks.

### ► Trump Tariffs Reshape Global Economic Landscape

川普關稅重塑全球經濟格局

Trump's high tariffs are significantly reshaping global supply chains and international trade. Since early 2025, the average U.S. import tariff has surged to about 15%, hitting an 80-year peak, forcing multinational companies to revise production and logistics. Industrial supplier Fastenal has to split imports into multiple shipments, resulting in higher supply chain costs; Nike expects to pay one billion US dollars in import taxes this year, is working on cost reduction, and plans moderate price increases.



Tariffs fuel inflation and strain U.S. trade relations, pushing Europe to seek alternative markets and bypass the U.S. Emerging supply chains are relocating from China to Southeast Asia and Mexico, marking a profound transformation in the global trade order. Although tariffs have increased U.S. government revenue, manufacturing investments and employment have not improved as expected. The long-term consequences remain uncertain amid ongoing economic shifts.



## ▶ Trump Tariffs Slash GM and Stellantis Profits, Impacting the Auto Industry

川普關稅削減通用與Stellantis利潤 汽車產業受創

General Motors (GM) reported a significant decline in its second-quarter profits, falling over 34% compared to last year, primarily due to USD 1.1 billion in losses caused by tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. GM's net earnings dropped to USD 1.9 billion, while sales slightly increased by 7.3%. The company expects tariff-related costs to total between USD 4 billion and USD 5 billion for 2025. GM CEO Mary Barra announced plans to invest USD 4 billion in U.S. plants to increase production and shift production of key models such as pickups and SUVs back to the U.S., aiming to reduce tariff exposure.



Similarly, Stellantis, owner of brands like Chrysler, Jeep, and Dodge, revealed tariff costs of around €300 million (USD 350 million) in the first half of 2025. The tariffs have caused production halts and a 10% decline in U.S. sales for Stellantis during the second quarter. Industry experts warn these tariffs are squeezing automakers' profitability, as companies absorb costs without immediately raising vehicle prices.

## ▪ Industry Development ▪

### ▶ Tariff Policies Reshape Hand Tool Supply Chains, Opening New Opportunities for Taiwanese Manufacturers

關稅政策重塑手工具供應鏈 台灣廠商迎轉單契機

In 2025, ongoing U.S. tariff policies and appreciation of the Taiwan Dollar are challenging Taiwanese hand tool makers, but also creating new opportunities from redirected orders. Major Taiwanese companies like Basso Industry, Chiu Ting Machinery, and KHgears International are witnessing order shifts due to rising tariffs on China and increased market uncertainty. The hand tool supply chain is mainly centered in China and Taiwan, with the U.S. as the primary sales target market. The recent tariff tensions have prompted American customers to reconsider their heavy reliance on Chinese suppliers. As a result, some new project models and replacement parts are being relocated to Taiwan and Vietnam.



Basso Industry sees no clear order increases yet but expects contributions from new electric tool products by year-end. KHgears International's Vietnam plant benefits from supply chain restructuring, gaining orders from Stanley Black & Decker. Chiu Ting Machinery notes that moving production from China back to Taiwan could present growth opportunities if tariffs on Taiwan remain reasonable.

### ▶ High Labor Costs Prevent Tool Manufacturing from Returning to U.S., Chinese Experts Say

中國專家表示高勞動成本阻礙工具製造業回流美國



According to Chinese executives, tool manufacturing will not return to the U.S. due to high labor costs. GreatStar Industrial's senior VP Li Feng noted U.S. labor costs are several times higher than in China or Vietnam. After acquiring U.S. hand tool company Arrow Fastener in 2017, they observed U.S. worker costs are prohibitively expensive. Chervon Holdings' CEO Pan Longquan said manufacturing in the U.S. would increase production costs by at least 50%. The U.S. lacks core component manufacturing and suitable lithium battery supply chains for power tools. Further, U.S. import tariffs on industrial materials push costs even higher. Tools made in China or Vietnam sell for tens of dollars in the U.S., while U.S.-made tools cost hundreds, making reshoring unfeasible. To cope, Chinese toolmakers like Chervon and GreatStar are expanding production in Vietnam and building inventories in the U.S. Vietnam factories aim to meet U.S. demand while China focuses on exports to Europe and other markets.

## ▪ Companies Development ▪

### ► Fusheng Precision Expands into Hand Tools, Aiming for Over NTD 10 Billion Revenue

復盛應用布局手工具市場，目標營收突破百億元

Fusheng Precision, a Taiwanese golf equipment OEM, has officially acquired Proxene Tools this year and is actively expanding into the hand tool market. Leveraging Proxene Tools as a key base, the company plans to integrate group resources and aggressively pursue a hand tool business revenue exceeding NTD 10 billion. It is currently in talks with two to three major Taiwanese hand tool manufacturers for potential cooperation, with one deal expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

The company revealed it started developing titanium alloy hand tools five years ago, which now contribute nearly 10% of its revenue. By forming alliances with other industry players, Fusheng Precision aims to capture at least 10% market share in Taiwan's hand tool sector, whose annual output value exceeds NTD 100 billion. The strategy centers on resource and technology integration to scale operations and enhance global competitiveness.



### ► Solteam Incorporation Sees Steady Hand Tool Orders Amid Uncertain Market

崧騰手工具訂單穩定，市場環境充滿不確定性

Despite ongoing global economic uncertainties and tariff pressures, Solteam Incorporation, a notable Taiwanese manufacturer specializing in power module mechanical components, reports stable hand tool orders with a visibility of approximately 3 to 4 months. Currently, shipments slightly exceed customer orders as key clients continue to maintain steady production levels with inventories remaining at historically low levels. This cautious inventory management reflects concerns about economic volatility and fluctuating demand, leading to some variability between order and shipment volumes. Nevertheless, urgent reorder demand persists, underpinning a baseline level of activity within the hand tools segment. Solteam Incorporation's management remains attentive to market signals and continues working closely with customers to balance supply and demand effectively amid these challenges. The company's ability to sustain order stability despite macroeconomic headwinds highlights its resilient operations and solid positioning in the industrial components market.

### ► Basso Industry Adopts Cautious Outlook Amid Tariff and Currency Pressures

鑽全受關稅及匯率影響短期謹慎看待

Basso Industry, a leading Taiwanese manufacturer specializing in nail guns, expressed a cautious short-term business outlook due to ongoing tariff issues and the sharp appreciation of the New Taiwan Dollar. The typical peak season effect for orders in July and August has not yet materialized. However, new development projects for electric tools continue steadily, with research and development expenses indicating an expected increase in electric tool contributions in the fourth quarter. The international tariff situation has prompted adjustments in major global manufacturers' supply chains, creating opportunities for Basso Industry to develop new products and attract new customers.

As of the end of May 2025, the company's consolidated revenue totaled NTD 1.298 billion, matching last year's level. While the company proactively converted US dollars to New Taiwan Dollar at its previous peak exchange rates (NTD 32-33), foreign exchange losses may still arise due to currency fluctuations. The recent rise of the New Taiwan Dollar exchange rate to NTD 29.5 to USD 1 may also affect gross margins, though these depend on product mix and material costs.



► **Acme Tools Expands with New Store Opening in Eagan, Minnesota**

Acme Tools擴展版圖開設  
明尼蘇達州伊根新門市



Grand Forks-based Acme Tools is expanding its footprint with the opening of a new retail location in Eagan, Minnesota. The new store aims to better serve professional contractors, industrial users, and DIY customers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area by offering a broad selection of power tools, hand tools, accessories, and tool storage solutions.

Acme Tools is recognized for its extensive inventory of quality brands and knowledgeable staff committed to customer service. The Eagan store opening marks the company's continued growth strategy to increase accessibility and convenience for customers through physical locations in key regional markets. The company also plans to leverage this expansion to strengthen local partnerships and provide expert support for trades requiring reliable tools. This new site complements Acme Tools' existing network and highlights its ongoing commitment to meeting the diverse needs of professional and hobbyist tool users.

► **Snap-on Announces Q2 2025 Financial Results**

Snap-on公司公布2025年第二季財報



The company reported stable net sales of US \$1.179 billion, matching the previous year's figures. However, operating earnings before financial services declined to US \$259.1 million, representing 22.0% of net sales, down from 23.8% last year. Diluted earnings per share fell to US \$4.72 from US \$5.07 in Q2 2024.

Sales growth was mixed across business segments. The Tools Group and Repair Systems & Information Group saw sales increases of 1.9% and 2.3% respectively, driven mainly by the U.S. market. Conversely, the Commercial & Industrial Group experienced a 7.6% sales decline due to weaker activity in Asia Pacific and Europe.

Snap-on's CEO Nick Pinchuk remains optimistic, highlighting the company's focus on product innovation, strengthening dealer networks, and strategic investments to drive future growth despite market challenges.

► **Grainger Appoints Melanie Tinto as Chief Human Resources Officer**

Grainger公司任命Melanie Tinto  
為首席人力資源官



Grainger, a leading distributor of maintenance, repair, and operating products, has appointed Melanie Tinto as Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, effective April 28, 2025. Melanie will join the Grainger Leadership Team and oversee all HR strategies, including talent management, succession planning, compensation, organizational performance, and benefits. Melanie brings over 30 years of human resources experience, having previously served as CHRO at WEX, where she transformed HR into a strategic partner. She also held senior roles at Medtronic, Hewlett-Packard, Walmart, and Bank of America. Grainger's Chairman and CEO, D.G. Macpherson, highlighted that Melanie's leadership will support Grainger's culture of engagement and development, ensuring every employee has opportunities to grow and succeed. Melanie will relocate to Chicago later in 2025 as she takes on this key leadership position.

► **Grainger Downgraded by Wolfe Research Amid Tariff Concerns and Slowing Momentum**

因關稅壓力與動能放緩，Grainger公司遭Wolfe Research下調評級



Grainger was downgraded to "Underperform" by Wolfe Research in April 2025. Wolfe Research cited concerns over new U.S. tariffs that could pressure Grainger's import-heavy cost structure, potentially compressing profit margins for the full year 2025. Although Grainger attempts to offset tariff impacts through price increases and enhanced productivity, Wolfe Research remains cautious about the company achieving the higher end of its operating margin guidance of 15.1-15.5%. The downgrade reflects a tough setup ahead of Grainger's first-quarter earnings report. Despite strong fundamentals, including a gross margin of 39.36% and a long dividend streak, tariff risks and slowing momentum contributed to the rating cut, signaling investor caution amid these challenges.

► **Hilti Vadodara Plant Achieves India's First DGNB Gold Certification for Sustainable Industrial Construction**

Hilti 梵多拉工廠榮獲印度首座DGNB金級永續認證



Hilti Manufacturing India's plant in Vadodara, Gujarat, has become the first industrial facility in India to receive the prestigious DGNB Gold Certification from the German Sustainable Building Council. This certification recognizes Hilti's commitment to sustainability across environmental, economic, and social dimensions throughout the building's

lifecycle—from planning and construction to operation and eventual decommissioning. The Vadodara plant features advanced energy-efficient technologies such as a chilled beam and radiant floor HVAC system using water as the cooling medium, passive cooling elements, and a centralized building management system that optimizes energy usage. The site also includes a 1500 MWh photovoltaic system, rainwater harvesting with 100% water recycling, a zero-discharge policy, and a Miyawaki forest covering 25% of the campus to promote biodiversity.

Designed with inclusivity in mind, the facility offers barrier-free access, gender-sensitive amenities, excellent indoor air quality, acoustic comfort, and employee wellness zones including childcare and fitness areas. Hilti's CEO emphasized that the gold certification marks a new benchmark for sustainable industrial construction in India and reflects the company's vision to combine performance with purpose.

► **State Grid Launches Innovative Bolt Loosening Soundprint Detection Technology for Power Tower Maintenance**

國網山西推出創新發螺栓鬆動聲紋檢測技術，提升鐵塔保修效率



State Grid (China) announced the successful application of its self-developed bolt loosening soundprint detection technology for power transmission towers. This breakthrough allows accurate inspection of over 10,000

critical tower bolts within just 20 minutes, dramatically improving efficiency and safety compared to traditional manual methods.

Historically, bolt inspections on towering structures requiring 3 operators working at heights took about 2 hours for around 20,000 bolts. The new technology is based on the principle of vibration acoustic wave analysis and, combined with acoustic wave sensors, achieves high-precision detection of bolt conditions, fundamentally transforming the traditional methods. This technology promotes the intelligent and automated maintenance of power transmission lines, significantly reducing labor risks and costs while enhancing the safety and stability of power grids.

▪ **Acquisitions** ▪

► **Stellar Industrial Supply to Acquire Rocky Mountain Cutting Tools, Expanding Colorado Presence**

Stellar Industrial Supply收購Rocky Mountain Cutting Tools 擴大科羅拉多市場佈局



Stellar Industrial Supply, a Washington-based distributor specializing in MRO and tools, announced plans to acquire Rocky Mountain Cutting Tools (RMCT), a Colorado metalworking distributor. The acquisition will add RMCT's Frederick, Colorado location as Stellar's 18th regional hub, further strengthening Stellar's footprint in the Denver/Colorado Front Range market. John Wiborg, Stellar's President and CEO, described the deal as an important step in expanding the company's reach and enhancing customer value. He highlighted the mutual learning opportunities between the two organizations. Bryan DeAngelo, President of RMCT, expressed excitement over Stellar's expanding presence and commitment to maintaining the customer-focused values RMCT is known for across Colorado. The acquisition has been closed on June 30, 2025. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.





► **Ideal Tridon Group Acquired by Nautic Partners to Accelerate Growth**

**Ideal Tridon集團被Nautic Partners收購  
加速成長布局**



Ideal Tridon Group, a Tennessee-based engineered components supplier, has been acquired by private equity firm Nautic Partners. Nautic purchased the company from TruArc Partners for an undisclosed amount, partnering with Ideal Tridon's management on the acquisition. Ideal Tridon produces over 60,000 SKUs of engineered components used in critical sectors such as process manufacturing, facility automation, power systems, and water management. Their product portfolio includes clamps, brackets, metal framing systems, fittings, couplings, industrial hose connections, and hygienic flow control components. CEO Rick Stepien emphasized their dedication to quality, service, and innovation, while also expanding with new products like EV battery cooling components and customized support systems. Nautic Partners expressed enthusiasm about working with the strong leadership team and supporting Ideal Tridon's next growth phase. This acquisition is expected to enhance Ideal Tridon's market presence and accelerate innovation across industries.

► **Spartan Fastener Acquires American Jebco to Strengthen Product and Market Presence**

**Spartan Fastener收購American Jebco  
強化產品線與市場布局**



Spartan Fastener, a fastener manufacturer and distributor based in southeastern Wisconsin, has acquired American Jebco, a specialty fastener and rivet supplier located in Cicero, Illinois. This acquisition immediately expands Spartan's product lineup, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chain efficiency, enhancing its position in key markets across North America. Founded in 1903, American Jebco serves various industries including automotive, construction hardware, and fire safety equipment. The company focuses on precision specialty fasteners and shifted away from high-volume rivets in 2015 to prioritize engineered, custom components. Key leadership from American Jebco, including Vice President of Sales Eddie O'Connor and Materials Manager Pete O'Connor, will remain in place to ensure operational continuity and maintain valued customer relationships. Spartan Fastener's CEO Tim Cash described the acquisition as a major milestone in the company's growth strategy, emphasizing a shared commitment to quality and service. Eddie O'Connor expressed optimism about the combined strengths positioning the companies for a strong future.

► **AFC Industries Acquires Cavanaugh Government Group to Expand Military and Defense Services**

**AFC Industries收購Cavanaugh Government Group  
擴展軍事與國防服務**



AFC Industries announced the acquisition of Cavanaugh Government Group (CGG), a Chicago-based provider specializing in parts sourcing and distribution for military and defense applications. Founded in 2012, CGG offers logistics services across all government sectors, strengthening AFC's footprint in the aerospace and defense market. AFC CEO Kevin Godin expressed enthusiasm about welcoming Mike Cavanaugh, Dina, and the CGG team into the AFC family, emphasizing that the acquisition aligns with the company's strategic focus on expanding defense capabilities. He highlighted CGG's expertise and customer-centric approach, which goes beyond stocking parts to partner with clients in solving problems and streamlining processes. Mike Cavanaugh, owner of CGG, stated that joining AFC provides resources and culture to accelerate growth, expressing confidence and excitement for the next chapter. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. AFC Industries is owned by private equity firm Bertram Capital and continues to expand globally with over 100 locations in eight countries. ■