

HARDWARE & FASTENER COMPONENTS World News

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Association News

Mr. Wu-Zhi Hsieh Takes Helm of THTMA to Lead Digital and Green Transformation

謝武志接掌台灣手工具公會 引領產業數位與綠色轉型

On September 5, 2025, Taiwan Hand Tool Manufacturers' Association (THTMA) held its 17th General Meeting in Taichung City, electing Wu-Zhi Hsieh, President of Jun Kaung Industries, as the new association Chairman. Hsieh will lead a team focused on driving digital transformation, green manufacturing, and international expansion to meet evolving industry challenges. Hsieh expressed gratitude for members' trust and highlighted the responsibility of his role. Taiwan's hand tool industry is globally recognized for high quality and flexible manufacturing, providing a strong market position. However, fast-changing global affairs like U.S. tariffs, supply chain restructuring, environmental trends, AI, and digital technology are reshaping competition. Hsieh stressed that digital transformation is no longer exclusive to large firms; ERP systems, smart machinery, automation, AI, and big data are key to boosting efficiency. The association will seek government resources to support members' digital adoption toward high-value manufacturing. Green sustainability is now imperative. The association will assist companies in obtaining international environmental certifications to enhance competitiveness in global procurement. Hsieh also emphasized the importance of international market development, partnering with trade and economic ministries to promote overseas exhibitions and digital marketing, shifting from price to value-based competition. Talent cultivation and industry succession remain vital. The association plans to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and training programs, underscoring the promising future of conventional industries and calling for united innovation and value creation.



Market Watch: Tariff

U.S. Tariffs Impact Chinese Hand Tools; Taiwan Has Growth Opportunity

美國關稅對中國手工具衝擊，台灣競爭力或可提升

Secretary-General of the Executive Yuan, Ming-hsin Kung, stated in a press conference that Taiwan's main competitors in hand tools for the U.S. market are

Vietnam and China. Vietnam's current temporary tariffs match Taiwan's at about 23.3%, while China faces much higher tariffs totaling 58.3%. Kung noted China's exports have sharply declined due to tariffs, creating market opportunities for Taiwan. He emphasized Taiwan's competitors are not South Korea or Japan, as South Korea mainly supplies spray guns and Europe and Japan have their own brands. U.S. brands are unlikely to shift sourcing to South Korea, Japan, or Europe despite higher Taiwanese tariffs.

According to Kung, China's hand tool exports to the U.S. dropped by 25%, 34%, and 16% in April, May, and June respectively, indicating market contraction. This provides Taiwan with space to compete more aggressively. If Taiwan expands efforts, it can capitalize on this market shift. Government support toward industrial upgrading is essential to seize this opportunity and grow Taiwan's presence in the U.S. hand tools market.

Mexico Plans to Raise Tariffs on Chinese Imports

墨西哥擬提高中國進口關稅

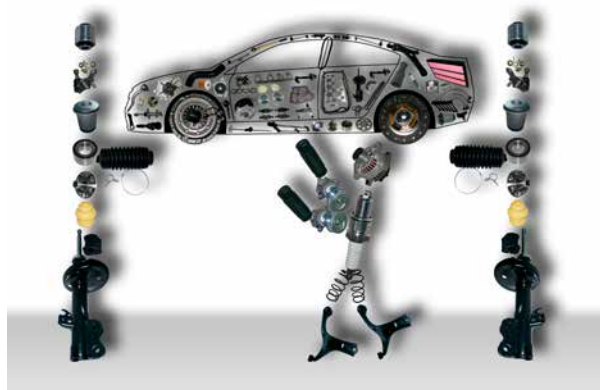
The Mexican government plans to raise tariffs on Chinese imports in its 2026 budget to protect domestic industries from cheap imports and meet U.S. demands. These higher tariffs are expected on goods like cars, steel products, textiles, and plastics to reduce dependency on China and other Asian countries. Mexico's trade deficit with China has grown, and increased tariffs could boost revenue and ease the budget deficit while improving relations in the USMCA trade agreement with the U.S. and Canada. Chinese cars have gained popularity in Mexico, making it the top global market for these vehicles, but higher tariffs may increase prices and reduce affordability. Industry experts suggest quotas for low-tariff Chinese cars to balance consumer access and international pressure. Mexico currently imposes tariffs ranging from 5% to 50% on many Chinese goods, and the planned tariffs aim to further shield its domestic industries.



German Auto Industry Hit by U.S. Tariffs, Over 50,000 Jobs Cut

德國汽車業遭美國關稅衝擊 裁員超過5萬人

Germany's automotive industry faces severe challenges due to U.S. tariffs and other factors. A recent report by consulting firm Ernst & Young Global shows that approximately 51,500 jobs were lost in Germany's auto sector over the past year, accounting for nearly 7% of total positions, making it the hardest-hit industrial sector. Major manufacturers like Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen, along with suppliers such as Bosch, Continental, and ZF, have announced cost-cutting plans, while Porsche plans to significantly reduce its battery-powered vehicle business. As of June 30, 2025, total industrial employment in Germany fell by 2.1%, equivalent to about 114,000 jobs, with industrial sales declining for eight consecutive quarters, dropping 2.1% year-on-year in Q2. Ernst & Young Global predicts this downward trend in industrial employment will continue. Industry insiders cite U.S. tariffs, high energy costs, and weak domestic demand as major pressures. Ernst & Young Global's Germany managing partner Jan Bruecher highlights a steep decline in exports to the U.S., posing clear risks to Germany's industrial sector and underscoring the need for caution amid ongoing challenges.



Industry Development

Australia Ends Anti-Subsidy Investigation on Chinese Interchangeable Bolted Clipping Heads

澳洲終止對華可互換夾緊螺栓夾頭反補貼調查



Australian Government
Anti-Dumping Commission

On August 11, 2025, the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission announced the termination of the anti-subsidy investigation on Chinese imports of interchangeable bolted clipping system clip heads. The decision was based on the negligible subsidy margins found for Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products and other Chinese exporters, making the subsidy impact insignificant. The investigation began in June 2024 following a complaint by Australian company Abey Australia Pty Ltd. It covered imports from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, with the injury period starting April 1, 2020. In March 2025, the Commission issued a preliminary affirmative anti-dumping determination, imposing provisional dumping duties which calculated ad valorem at 31.5% for Ningbo Fenghui and 76.8% for other exporters. However, due to insufficient evidence for subsidies, the anti-subsidy probe continued until now. The product's Australian customs code is 7326.90.90.60. The termination of the anti-subsidy investigation provides short-term relief to Chinese exporters, improving their competitive position in the Australian market.

Hyundai Reports USD 600 Million Loss in Q2 Due to U.S. Tariffs

現代汽車第二季因美國關稅損失6億美元

Hyundai Motor reported a 16% drop in operating profit for Q2 2025, reaching 3.6 trillion KRW (about USD 2.64 billion), down from 4.28 trillion KRW in the same period last year. U.S. tariffs on vehicles and parts negatively impacted profits, causing a loss of approximately 828 billion KRW (USD 606 million) in Q2. The company expects even greater impact in the third quarter. The CFO noted the U.S. tariff rate on South Korean cars might slightly decrease from the current 25%, though the extent is uncertain. This tariff challenge highlights ongoing trade policy risks for the automotive sector, with Hyundai actively adjusting strategies to sustain competitiveness.



UK Vehicle Production Hits Lowest Level Since 1953

英國汽車產量創1953年以來新低

UK car and van production in the first half of 2025 has hit its lowest level since 1953 (excluding Covid lockdowns). Car output fell 7.3%, while van production dropped 45% due to Vauxhall's Luton plant closure. Uncertainty over US tariffs caused some manufacturers to slow or halt production. A US-UK tariff deal reducing automotive tariffs from 27.5% to 10% took effect at the end of June, boosting June production slightly. Electric vehicle production grew 1.8%, reaching a record 25% of total output. The UK government reinstated EV grants of up to £3,750, but unclear eligibility criteria have confused manufacturers and consumers. SMMT CEO Mike Hawes described the period as "depressing" but hopes it marks the industry's bottom. He noted that to meet the government's target of 1.3 million vehicles per year by 2035, the UK needs one or two new carmakers. While EV grants aim to support the market, qualification depends on carbon emissions and verified targets, with details yet unclear. The UK automotive sector is tackling challenges from US tariffs and growing Chinese competition.



COMPANIES DEVELOPMENT



Arrow® Expands Product Offering with New Hand Tools

Arrow®擴展產品線推出新系列手工具

Arrow Tool Group, a trusted name in fastening solutions for nearly 100 years, has expanded its product range by launching its first line of Arrow-branded hand tools. Known primarily for the iconic T50® staple gun, this new collection caters to DIY enthusiasts, homeowners, and the growing community of thrift-store treasure hunters. The hand tools are designed to make home improvement, quick repairs, and creative upcycling projects easier and more accessible. CEO Roberto Izaguirre highlights that these tools deliver the durability professionals expect while being friendly and easy to use for DIYers. The collection showcases a variety of essential tools: adjustable wrenches and lock pliers, multi-bit screwdrivers in various sets, and more. In partnership with a DIY influencer of a blog called Thrift Diving, Arrow promotes the hand tools through engaging tutorials and challenges designed to inspire confident and enjoyable projects. This new line represents Arrow's commitment to quality, innovation, and broadening accessibility for home improvement enthusiasts.

UF-Tools Launches Bulk Order Solutions for Precision Screwdriver Kits

UF-Tools推出全球批量訂購螺絲起子的方案



UF-Tools, a professional precision screwdriver manufacturer, announced new bulk order solutions to support international retailers, distributors, and e-commerce sellers worldwide. The well-received products highlight UF-Tools' reputation as a reliable Chinese manufacturer offering high-quality tools at competitive prices. To meet growing global demand, UF-Tools now offers large-volume orders with customized services, including logo printing, packaging design, and private-label branding, providing OEM and ODM options that enable partners to build their brands. All screwdriver kits comply with international standards such as CE certification for Europe and North America, ensuring product safety and market readiness. With streamlined production and global shipping, UF-Tools facilitates efficient bulk purchasing for overseas buyers. A company spokesperson emphasized that these bulk order solutions empower partners to access precise, durable, and market-ready tools, cementing UF-Tools' position as a trusted partner in the global hardware market.

St. Clair TEC Enhances Construction Trades Program with USD7,800 in Tools and Safety Gear Donation

美國聖克萊爾技術教育中心獲贈價值7,800美元工具及安全裝備



St. Clair TEC's Construction Trades program recently received a generous donation of tools and personal protection equipment (PPE) valued at over USD7,800 from the Marshall E. Campbell Company and its industry partners. This contribution will provide students with access to professional-grade equipment essential for their training and future careers.

The donation process started with a visit by a Marshall E. Campbell representative who toured the program's tool storage area with instructor Ken Sygit to assess specific needs. Based on this assessment, the company supplied a variety of high-quality tools and PPE.

On September 10, Marshall E. Campbell staff delivered the initial donation valued at USD7,375, including items such as a saw, impact drill, sawhorses, hand tools, gloves, and other safety gear. Stanley Black & Decker's industrial account manager Scott Schillag accompanied the delivery. The program's key staff—Lesley Murphy (CTE Director Principal), Ken Sygit (Construction Trades Instructor), and Caleb Howell (Construction Trades Paraprofessional)—were present to receive the equipment. A follow-up donation of USD500 in tools and PPE was made possible through Milwaukee Tool, coordinated by Josh Richardson, with additional safety gear contributions from MCR Safety's Terry Reed.

Lesley Murphy expressed gratitude for the support, emphasizing that these tools will allow students to train with the same professional-grade equipment they will encounter in the workforce. While the donation primarily benefits the Construction Trades program, the impact extends across TEC as students share resources between programs, enhancing overall career readiness and hands-on learning opportunities.



Stanley Black & Decker Names Christopher Nelson as Next CEO

Stanley Black & Decker任命
Christopher Nelson為新任執行長

Stanley Black & Decker announced Christopher Nelson as its president and CEO effective October 1, 2025. Nelson, who served as chief operating officer, executive vice president, and president of the Tools & Outdoor business, succeeds Donald Allan Jr., CEO since July 2022. Upon taking the CEO role, Nelson also joins the board of directors.



As part of this transition, Allan becomes executive chair of the board from October 1, 2025, while current board chair Andrea Ayers becomes lead independent director and continue chairing the executive committee. Allan planned to retire October 1, 2026, after which the board would return to an independent chair governance structure.

Board chair Ayers praised Allan's 26 years of leadership, emphasizing his vital role in transforming Stanley Black & Decker and stabilizing the business through tough times. Allan remains an important resource as executive chair to support Nelson and the board. Nelson expressed honor in leading the iconic American company, citing his deep understanding of customer needs and confidence in the company's strong foundation for sustainable long-term growth. Since joining in 2023, Nelson has been instrumental in optimizing the company's core businesses and strategic roadmap. He looks forward to driving growth and innovation globally.

Ingersoll Rand Welcomes Aurobind Satpathy to Board of Directors

Ingersoll Rand歡迎Aurobind
Satpathy加入董事會

Ingersoll Rand, a global provider of mission-critical flow creation and life sciences and industrial solutions, announced the appointment of Aurobind Satpathy to its Board of Directors, effective immediately.



Satpathy currently serves as a senior partner at McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm. During his nearly 30-year career with McKinsey & Company, Satpathy led multi-billion-dollar mergers, guided companies through public-to-private transitions, and architected growth strategies that resulted in increases in market capitalization. In addition, Satpathy led global technology-enablement efforts within McKinsey's Operations practice and held leadership roles across several offices, practices, and global committees.

"Aurobind's leadership in high-impact engagements across diverse industries demonstrates his deep expertise in aligning strategy with execution," said Vicente Reynal, chairman and chief executive officer of Ingersoll Rand. "We look forward to leveraging his strategic mindset, and his ability to unlock value through bold, data-driven insights will be a welcome addition to our Board."

This appointment underscores Ingersoll Rand's ongoing commitment to maintaining a robust and dynamic Board of Directors focused on innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth.



Grainger's Earnings and Outlook Takes Impact from Macro Economy

Grainger盈利和展望受宏觀經濟困境衝擊

Shares of tool company Grainger fell 12% in premarket trading after its second-quarter earnings missed Wall Street expectations, impacted by tariffs, and its full-year forecast came in below consensus. Grainger posted earnings per share of USD 9.97 for the quarter, slightly below analysts' average estimate of USD 10.06. Revenue rose to USD 4.55 billion, narrowly topping expectations of USD 4.53 billion. For the full year, Grainger expects earnings between USD 38.50 and USD 40.25 per share, below the consensus estimate of USD 40.54. It also forecasts revenue of USD 17.9 billion to USD 18.2 billion, compared with expectations of USD 17.94 billion. "Performance was impacted by some tariff-related factors which are also flowing into our updated outlook," said CEO D.G. Macpherson, noting the ongoing macro backdrop remained challenging.



Fastenright Celebrates 15 Years Supporting Major Projects in South Africa

Fastenright慶祝15周年 助力南非重大工程

Fastenright, South Africa's leading stainless steel fastener supplier, celebrates 15 years of steady growth and success. Founded with a vision to provide unmatched quality and service, Fastenright now stocks about 10,000 products across four warehouses, with a fifth under construction, ensuring swift delivery for diverse industries where even small fastener failures can cause costly downtime. Managing Director Rainer Lutz reflects on the challenges of building a specialized supplier and credits his team and key partners for their dedication. Fastenright's products are vital in major projects, such as supplying over 15,000 fasteners for Milnerton's historic wooden bridge restoration and securing the corrosion-resistant MeerKAT radio telescope in Northern Cape. The company specializes in high-grade stainless steels including acid-resistant A4-80 and duplex grades 2205 and 904L, with select sizes stocked for urgent orders. Fastenright also supplies fasteners for water treatment, marine, and industrial applications. Looking ahead, Fastenright aims to expand in renewable energy sectors, particularly solar, by partnering with global leaders to offer a reliable local alternative with extensive inventory and fast delivery. Lutz reaffirms the company's commitment to quality, service, and lasting customer relationships in South Africa and beyond.





Optimas Launches QuickShip Program to Address Fastener Inventory Shortages

Optimas推出QuickShip計劃 解決扣件庫存短缺問題

Optimas Solutions launched its QuickShip program to solve inventory shortages affecting OEMs and distributors. Operating from their Wood Dale, Illinois facility, the program offers a rapid lead time of 1 to 4 weeks for externally threaded fasteners sized 2mm to 20mm diameter and 5mm to 220mm length. QuickShip integrates Optimas' engineering, tooling, cold heading, threading, and local secondary processing—including heat treatment and plating—to dramatically reduce the usual 8 to 16-week lead times. Daniel Harms, CEO of Optimas Americas, said the program offers a seamless, efficient solution that prevents downtime from part shortages. Featuring over 40 thread styles and 6 licensed drive types with IATF and ISO certifications, QuickShip ensures high-quality parts. VP Chris Martens emphasized the program's agility and cost-effectiveness, enabling manufacturers to quickly access precision-engineered components to keep operations smooth. Ranked 8th in fasteners on MDM's 2025 Top Distributors list, Optimas reported USD 635 million in 2024 revenue, reflecting its strong position in the market.

Zhengshan Intelligence Successfully Develops 718 Nickel-Based Alloy Bolts



正山智能成功研製718鎳基合金螺栓

Zhengshan Manufacturing Innovation recently announced successful product validation of 718 nickel-based alloy bolts, marking a significant breakthrough in domestic high-end fasteners and breaking long-term foreign monopolies. The bolts use high-temperature resistant alloy materials with carefully balanced iron, nickel, chromium, and molybdenum, offering excellent pressure and corrosion resistance suitable for aerospace, petrochemical, and other advanced sectors. Supported by a national laboratory and over 50 advanced testing devices, the company achieves over 99% product testing coverage. Their self-developed digital management platform ensures over 95% equipment connectivity, enhancing R&D efficiency and product quality. The company holds three intellectual property rights related to data and optimizes production costs through multi-process integration. It plans to continue advancing technological innovation, expand global competitiveness, and promote the domestic substitution of high-end fasteners.

Acquisitions

Riverspan Acquires United Titanium to Boost Specialty Alloy Fastener Market

Riverspan收購United Titanium 推動特殊合金扣件市場發展



Riverspan Partners has acquired United Titanium, a leading manufacturer of fasteners and components for aerospace, defense, and medical industries. Founded in 1962 and headquartered in Wooster, Ohio, United Titanium offers over 14,000 SKUs made from specialty metals like titanium, zirconium, and tantalum. Products include hex head bolts, socket head cap screws, and pipe fittings, used where corrosion resistance and strength are critical. Led by President Mike Reardon, United Titanium has built strong market positions and long-term customer relationships. Riverspan's partner Dave Thomas expressed commitment to enhancing innovation and service to support continued growth. According to Verified Market Research, the global titanium fasteners market was valued at USD 4.3 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach USD 7.2 billion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 7.5%. Growth is driven primarily by aerospace and defense demand for lightweight, strong, corrosion-resistant materials, along with expanding automotive, medical, and marine sectors. Founded in 2022 and based in Chicago, Riverspan focuses on lower middle-market industrial companies with EBITDA between USD 5 million and USD 35 million. This acquisition positions United Titanium for further expansion and strengthens Riverspan's industrial portfolio in specialty alloy fasteners.



Mesa Fastener Inc. Acquired by Investment Firm

聖地牙哥扣件經銷商被投資公司收購

San Diego fastener distributor Mesa Fastener Inc. was acquired last month by investment firm Raymond Capital Management, according to a recent announcement from the company's advisory firm Generational Group.

Generational Group stated that Mesa, founded in 1977 as a provider of tapping screws for mobile home awnings, now stocks over 10,000 unique products and supplies commercial threaded fasteners—including blind rivets, bolts, nuts, anchors, washers, and other specialty items—to various industries across the Southwest.

The announcement noted that Raymond Capital Management builds "resilient, high-performing industrial brands" through acquisitions and expertise. The St. Louis-based firm offers distribution, inventory management, custom manufacturing, and analytics capabilities.

The deal, which closed on August 11, did not disclose its terms. ■

