

American News

compiled by Fastener World

SENCO to HQ in Cincinnati

KYOCERA SENCO Industrial Tools is expanding its 500,000 sq ft facility in Newtown, OH, with a 32,000 sq foot addition and an 8,000 sq ft renovation of existing space.

The expansion will add offices for sales, marketing and administrative staff, bringing all Cincinnati-based employees under one roof and making the Broadwell Road facility KYOCERA SENCO's official worldwide headquarters.



"This is a great move for us to bring all our employees back together after working in separate buildings for decades," stated CEO Cliff Mentrup. "We see a great benefit in putting our U.S. manufacturing and Cincinnati-based business operations under one roof."

Scheduled for completion by the summer of 2022, the project includes an employee cafeteria serving hot meals and a training, product education and innovation center.

"Part of our management philosophy at KYOCERA SENCO is to provide opportunities for the material and intellectual growth of all our employees," Mentrup added. "It is our hope that creating a campus-like environment that encourages our team to collaborate and innovate furthers that goal."

Parent company Kyocera Corp. of Japan, which acquired SENCO in 2017, has invested millions of dollars in the Broadwell Road facility to support manufacturing equipment and R&D projects over the past three years.

Established in 1948 by Albert Juilfs, SENCO designs and manufactures fasteners and power fastening tools for residential, commercial, manufacturing and construction applications. SENCO's manufacturing and marketing are concentrated in the U.S. and Europe, with products sold in more than 40 countries.



Brighton-Best Unveils Its Vending Program

Brighton-Best International unveiled its new vending program.

Preferred Vending solutions utilizes coil and locker machines to offer customers 24/7 access to essential products.

"Delivers the power of automated distribution by reducing supply cost, controlled product usage and state of the art technology," the company stated.

As the largest fastener importer in the U.S., BBI is poised to influence the distribution market by utilizing technology to leverage its market position.

BBI joins major fastener distributor Fastenal, which created its FAST Solutions industrial vending program in 2009, revolutionizing its growth model from stand-alone stores to installed machines distributing products on demand within customer facilities.

Currently Fastenal has installed approximately 81,000 vending devices.

Owned by Ta-Chen International, BBI is a master distributor and importer supplying 7,000 distributors through 31 locations in six countries, including the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Australia and the UK.

The company's global headquarters is in Taiwan, and the U.S. headquarters is at 5855 Obispo Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805.

MacLean-Fogg Buys Metal 3D Printing Supplier

MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions acquired the assets of Formetrix, LLC of Mansfield, MA, for an undisclosed sum.

The deal includes Formetrix's metal powder intellectual property portfolio that will broaden MacLean Fogg's capabilities to service new and existing OEM, Tier 1 and 2 customers, as well as tool and die makers in automotive, EV, industrial, agriculture, heavy truck and construction markets.



The new business entity will be known as MacLean Formetrix and will be based in the Detroit suburb of Macomb Township.

The unit will be led by GM Greg Rizzo. Harald Lemke, formerly of Formetrix, has joined MacLean Formetrix as product management director.

"As a previous customer of Formetrix, we were able to implement technical cost break-throughs with their material and process innovations that others in the additive manufacturing business claimed were impossible," stated CEO Duncan MacLean. "We couldn't be more excited to continue to make their innovations available for our internal users, as well as serve other innovative manufacturers and tool makers."

These materials, combined with advanced 3D printing processes, allow for tool-and-die makers and manufacturers to realize cost, time, and weight savings, as well as tool-to-tool repeatability by replacing traditionally fabricated hard tools with durable printed steel tools and inserts.

Additionally, with the multi-dimensional design and manufacturing freedom that 3D printing allows, tool designers can realize new coolant channels and shapes.

A division of the MacLean-Fogg Co., Mundelein, IL-based MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions manufactures fasteners, engineered components and plastics for automotive, heavy truck and other diverse industries.





Howmet Aerospace Cuts Emissions & Energy Consumption

Howmet Aerospace released its 2020 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) report highlighting the company's approach to sustainability.

"For Howmet Aerospace, ESG is about generating meaningful change for a more sustainable future through proprietary technologies that help the aerospace and commercial transportation industries reduce fuel consumption and cut carbon emissions," stated co-CEO John C. Plant.

"Social concerns remained an important issue during 2020 and we reaffirmed our commitment to employee and community safety in light of the pandemic as well as focused on diversity, equity and inclusion."

Among the highlights in the ESG Report:

- 4.8 million Howmet Aerospace BobTail lockbolts were used to assemble wind turbines in North America and Europe, representing a 33% increase over 2019 usage "due to growth in the industry and greater use and adoption of our fasteners across European and North American installations."
- 115 million Howmet Aerospace BobTail lockbolts and 25 million Howmet Aerospace BOM blind fasteners were used to assemble 6.9 gigawatts of solar arrays, diverting 170,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Howmet Aerospace Foundation approved more than \$5.2 million in STEM focused-grants and disbursed more than \$2.3 million to nonprofit organizations in communities around the world.
- A 19.2% decrease in GHG emissions and 17% decline in energy consumption compared to 2019.
- A 21% reduction in total recordable incidents and a 4% decline in days away, restricted and transfer rate compared to 2019.
- 88% of Howmet's key suppliers have sustainability programs considered leading or active.

The report was prepared in alignment with guidance from the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and standards from the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and is available online.

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Howmet Aerospace's primary businesses focus on jet engine components, aerospace fastening systems and titanium structural parts for aerospace and defense applications, as well as forged wheels for commercial transportation.

Loose Bolts Prompt Tesla Recalls

Tesla recalled nearly 6,000 U.S. vehicles because brake caliper bolts could be loose, potentially causing a loss of tire pressure, Reuters reports.

The recall covers certain 2019-2021 Model 3 vehicles and 2020-2021 Model Y vehicles. Tesla's filing with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it had no reports of crashes or injuries related to the issue and that the company will inspect and tighten, or replace, the caliper bolts as necessary, according to Reuters.

Tesla said that loose caliper bolts could allow the brake caliper to separate and contact the wheel rim, which could cause a loss of tire pressure in "very rare circumstances." The company said if vehicle damage from a loose or missing fastener occurs, it would arrange for a tow to the nearest service center for repair.



The filing with NHTSA said Tesla was made aware in December of a field incident involving a 2021 Model Y vehicle with a missing fastener on the driver-side rear brake caliper.

The company has since taken measures during assembly to prevent loosening of the bolts, Reuters reports.

In related news, Tesla also issued two recalls covering nearly 8,000 vehicles with potentially faulty seat belts.

One recall covers certain 2018-2020 Model 3 sedans, along with certain 2019-2021 Model Y crossovers. That recall covers 5,530 vehicles with front seat belts that may be improperly secured to the b-pillar (the vertical section between a car's front and rear windows).

The second covers 2,166 2019-2021 Model Ys where the second-row seat belt retractors may be improperly fastened to the car's body.

Both occurred due to problems fastening seat-belt components to the correct torque specification during manufacturing.

Birmingham Fastener Acquires Steel City Bolt and Screw

Birmingham Fastener, Birmingham, AL, USA, announces the acquisition of Steel City Bolt and Screw. With over 100 years of combined fastener production, the acquisition strengthens Birmingham Fastener's product offering, equipment depth, and most importantly it allows us to add teammates to our world class staff. Brad Tinney, Owner of Birmingham Fastener says, "With this acquisition we continue to double down on domestic manufacturing and provide our customers with a domestic solution on any fastener requirement they have. This equipment will assist in our expansion into the Carolinas and continue to expand our east coast footprint. Our customer base is second to none and we will ensure their needs are met and expectations are exceeded." Operations of Steel City Bolt and Screw will be consolidated into the production facility at corporate headquarters in Birmingham. In doing this, the level of service Birmingham Fastener can offer its valued customers will be increased. Customer service remains paramount at Birmingham Fastener, and in-turn, all Steel City Bolt and Screw customers will become valued partners of Birmingham Fastener and be serviced as a top priority. Birmingham Fastener continues to invest in the future and make strategic moves and acquisitions that will yield long term benefits for our customers. The plan is to take this 100 years

of customer service and turn it into 200 years of outrageous service for the entire family of customers. Customers will see a lot of information in the coming days and Birmingham Fasteners says it will build and strengthen new partnerships with the customers of Steel City Bolt and Screw.



MW Industries Unites 21 Brands to Create New Division

MW Industries, the Charlotte, NC, USA-based precision component manufacturer, announced that it is bringing together 21 of its businesses under a single umbrella, MW Components. The new division is on a mission to help manufacturers accelerate and simplify the entire process of creating, buying and managing the complex task of getting the precision parts they need. It means that, whether a customer wants to create a custom component for a specific application or order a stock part from one of the country's largest inventories, they can do so from a single trusted supplier. MW Components will be led by Chris Fillmore, an industry veteran with over 15 years' experience in delivering high-precision components for demanding industries including aerospace, medical and oil and gas. The combined business has over 100 highly-skilled engineers on hand to provide feedback on design for manufacturability, cost and performance. And specialist production capabilities span a wide variety of precision components including high-performance springs, fasteners, bellows, wire forms and virtually any custom-designed parts manufacturers require. MW Components brings together experts from industry leaders including Century Spring, Accurate Screw Machine and USA Fastener Group into a single expanded team dedicated to doing whatever it takes to help customers succeed. It will enable a more holistic view of customer needs, opening up valuable access to greater knowledge, expertise and innovations from right across the division's 20-plus facilities.



Peak's John Medcalf to Chair ASME B18 Subcommittee

Peak Innovations Engineering is honored to congratulate its Principal Engineer, John Medcalf, as he was selected as the Chair of ASME B18 Subcommittee 4-US TAG to ISO/TC 2. This subcommittee coordinates and represents the USA position in the International Organization for Standardization Fastener Standards Committee (ISO/TC 2). The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is the globally recognized source of standards used around the world. Medcalf has served as a member of the subcommittee since 2013 including serving as one of a handful of delegates to the international standards committee meetings. In addition to leading the subcommittee to coordinate USA positions on ISO fastener standards, Medcalf's role will see him act as the head of the USA delegation at international meetings. Peak acknowledges Medcalf as a great asset to Peak Innovations Engineering and the industry.

Fastener Industries Subsidiaries Install New ERP System

Fastener Industries Inc., subsidiaries, Ohio Nut and Bolt, Buckeye Fasteners Co. and Modern Fasteners Co. recently installed a new ERP system. The new Microsoft Navision (NAV) system is helping the fastener companies streamline and automate in house processes as well as improving communications between the companies and their customers. The system took roughly one year to install. It went live in June 2020. There has now been enough time elapsed in the new system to call it success story. The Employee Owners of Fastener industries Inc., the parent company to the Fastener Group (Modern, Ohio, Buckeye), are now working with customers to tailor the new system to meet supply chain challenges and streamlined scheduling.



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