

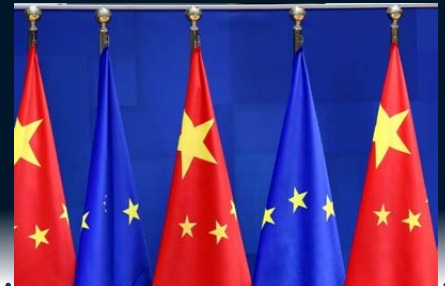
Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

Industry Update

EU's AD Investigation on China May Benefit Fastener Plants in Taiwan and Southeast Asia

Due to the influence of U.S.-China trade war, the total amount of goods sold from China to the U.S. has been significantly reduced. Plus, the EU's antidumping investigation against certain Chinese fasteners is still ongoing, so Chinese suppliers maintain a comparatively conservative attitude toward reinforcing their current sales to the European market. If the European Commission makes an affirmative final determination in the beginning of next year, China may encounter a higher tariff barrier and fastener plants at Taiwan and Southeast Asia may see more overseas orders switched to them.



32 EU States Have Terminated GSP Treatment to China

According to a recent notice of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), it will stop GSP certificate of origin for goods (Form A) to the EU, the UK, Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, and Liechtenstein starting from Dec. 1st. this year, which indirectly verifies the fact that 32 countries including the EU has terminated GSP treatment to China. Currently, only Norway, New Zealand, and Australia still offer the treatment to China (Note: The Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP, is a preferential tariff system which provides tariff reduction on various products. GSP provides tariff reduction for least developed countries). GACC applauded with this move and said this means other advanced economies have recognized China as a non-low-income and non-lower-middle-income country, and also means that Chinese products are competitive on the market and do not require extra protection.

With the fast development of Chinese economy and better living quality of its people, China, according to the criteria of the World Bank, no longer belongs to a low-income or lower-middle-income economy. As a result, the EU and many other countries have sequentially announced the cancellation of GSP treatment to China. After the treatment is cancelled, goods exported from China will not be issued with a certificate of origin anymore.

Taiwan CSC Increases Prices for Q4

Taiwan CSC has stepped into its conventional high season, Q4. Although it originally expected that the demand from end-users would continue to increase, the actual situation in Southeast Asia heavily impacted by the pandemic and the severe delay of global logistics influencing the downstream production and sales are likely to slow down the appearance of upcoming demand. Considering the market supply & demand and price level of every product item quoted on a regular monthly or quarterly basis, as well as considering material costs, exchange rate fluctuations, and its current price level compared to other competitors on the global stage, Taiwan CSC has determined to adjust the current prices of certain items for October and Q4, making the average price adjustment go up by 1.32%. The table below shows the price adjustments of certain items quoted on a quarterly basis.

The price of low carbon wire rod remains unchanged; medium-to-high carbon steel wire rod is up NTD 500 per ton; cold forged and low alloy steel wire rod is up NTD 1,000 per ton; and the price of automotive materials is also up NTD 1,500 per ton.



Products	
Item	Price Adjustment (NTD/Ton)
Wire rod (low carbon)	0
Wire rod (medium-to-high carbon)	500
Wire rod (cold forged and low alloy steel)	1,000
Automotive materials	1,500





Taiwan MOEA: IPI Growth Margin Reduced Due to High Base Period

According to Taiwan MOEA's statistics, domestic manufacturing continued to show a vibrant development in Sep. and saw year-on-year IPI increase of 7.9%-12.3%. It is forecast that in Q3 this year the year-on-year IPI increase will be 12.6%-14.1%. To analyze the month-on-month fluctuations, it reveals that the IPI of machinery and auto parts industries were both on a decline (machinery was down 0.21% and auto parts was down 12%, mainly due to seasonal reasons such as annual renovation of material suppliers). However, both the macro month-on-month ratio and global economic activities did not appear a significant decline, and the shrinking increase margin was mainly due to the high base period last year.

In terms of traditional industries, they were benefited by the global economic recovery and continuously growing demand from end-users, and the basic metal industry saw an YoY IPI increase of 18.14%; the machinery industry saw an YoY ratio of 31.61% due to company owners' growing interest in investing; The automotive and auto parts industry saw an YoY IPI increase of 29.86%, due to the fact that Taiwan's phase-6 emission standards for heavy-duty diesel cars has been carried out this Sep., facilitating car retailers' sales promotion activities and car manufacturers' production to meet increasing market demands.

Kaohsiung City Government and MOEA Hold Virtual Fastener & EV Industry Forum and Business Matchmaking Activity

On Sep/28, in order to promote the development of local fastener and electric vehicles (EV) industries, the Economic Development Bureau (EDB) of Kaohsiung City Government collaborated with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) of Taiwan, and American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)



to give a 2021 virtual industry experts forum and business matchmaking event for fastener and EV industrial clusters in Taiwan and the U.S., offering an online platform to at least 60 companies such as Chun Yu, Sheh Fung, Sumeeko to interact one by one with world's leading EV related companies such as Optimal Inc., Altair Engineering Inc., as well as South Carolina Department of Commerce from U.S. main automotive industry manufacturing heartland, thus helping local Taiwanese companies to penetrate into the global EV supply chain.

Taiwanese fastener industry has been promoting industrial upgrade & transformation and the development of high value-added products in recent years. According to Bloomberg News, the total number of EV on roads in the world will reach 14 million units by 2025 and each of the EV will have to be installed with around 2,500 to 3,000 pcs of fasteners. According to MIH Open EV Alliance CTO Mr. William Wei, the value of the global EV market will reach US\$ 600 billion by 2025. Hon Hai Technology Group and MIH will not only demonstrate 3 EV models assembled with MIH platforms, but also will launch the mass production in the U.S. and Thailand in 2023. In the U.S., they have been in collaboration with Fisker, and expect that the preliminary annual capacity will be around 150 thousand units, which will be also progressively increased to 500 thousands units. MIH Open EV Alliance will try its best to search for collaborative partners in anticipation of getting at least 5% of the global EV market share.

EU to Impose Carbon Tax Starting 2026: Taiwan's Steel Industry to Face the Biggest Impact

EU proposed CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) this July which will be gradually implemented from 2023 and which initially applies to imported steel, aluminum, cement, electricity among other highly carbon-leaking products. The transition period only requires importers to report the level of carbon emission on the imported products and no fees will be incurred. In 2026 when CBAM is in effect, importers must purchase a CBAM certificate from the EU to pay the fees for carbon emission of the imported products. MOEA (Taiwan) estimates 212 product items to be subject to the CBAM with an impact range of around NTD 24.5 billion which takes up 3.6% of the products exported to the EU, mostly steel products.

Additionally, the Ministry will propose the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act as an amendment to include carbon taxation and to collect NTD 300 each ton. The new regulation will enact carbon tax collection, but details including the tax rates, methods and procedures will wait until the sub-Act is determined.





12 Taiwanese Companies Awarded NADCAP Certificates in Kaohsiung

On Oct. 18-20, Economic Development Bureau (EDB) of Kaohsiung City Government held a “NADCAP Heat Treatment Certification Program” in Kaohsiung and awarded 12 companies on Oct. 20 with certificates. These companies were: Gongin Precision Industries, Drewloong Precision, The Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC), Magnate Technology, JYR Aviation Components, NFT Technology, Chaheng Precision, Fusheng Precision, Taiwan Hodaka Technology, S-Tech, Aerowin Technology, and NAFCO.

According to EDB Director-General Tai Hsiang Liao, the metalworking industry in Kaohsiung has established its own aerospace components manufacturing cluster focusing on engine components, structural parts, fasteners, and forged parts, which represents around 30% of the total production value of Taiwanese aerospace industry. In the future, the nearby Renwu Industrial Park and Ciaotou Science Park will welcome more aerospace related companies to set up operations, while EDB of Kaohsiung will also continue to hold relevant certification programs in order to organize a strong team in Kaohsiung dedicated to the aerospace industry.

According to EDB, in addition to the past “NADCAP Heat Treatment Certification Program” this year, another programs on “Basics of NADCAP” and “Basics of AS9100” were also given on Nov. 9-10, hosted by a speaker from BellCERT Group to help more companies enter the aerospace industry.

Companies Development

Taiwan MOEA’s “SME Investment Boosting Program” Benefits E. Chain



In order to encourage SME to reinforce investment in Taiwan, Taiwan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) recently proposed the “SME Investment Boosting Program.” E Chain Industrial Co., Ltd. also joined this program for upgrading its production lines and enhancing market deployment.

E. Chain Industrial Co., Ltd. specializes in production and sales of screws, nuts, and hardware, which are used in automotive, petroleum, construction, and safety fence system industries. It sells products to Europe, USA, India, the Middle East, etc. and supplies most of its customized fasteners to U.S. construction industry. In recent years, E. Chain has successfully tapped into the IATF 16949 supply chain. Expecting the growing demand in the electric vehicle market, it has invested over NTS 0.2 bn in establishing its 2nd plant located at Gangshan Dist. (Kaohsiung) and introducing Big Data, AI manufacturing procedure, automated warehousing systems and relevant software & hardware. Thus far, it has also become a leading company in the R&D of high-end automotive fasteners on the global stage.



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Sheh Fung's Revenue Reaches New High This Sep., with a YoY Ratio Touching 35.48%

Sheh Fung Screws reported its Sep. revenue this year, which reached NT\$ 0.207 bn with a slight 0.05% YoY ratio. The cumulative revenue in Jan.-Sep. 2021 reached NT\$ 2.114 bn, showing a significant 35.48% growth from the same period last year. Both the revenue in Q3 and the cumulative revenue in Q1-Q3 this year climbed to a new high in the company's history.

According to Sheh Fung, the gradual recovery of American market from the COVID pandemic boosted the order demand from the construction industry sector, facilitating the sales result in the construction market in Q1-Q3 this year to reach a YoY ratio of 48%. The percentage of sales in the construction market among its total revenue was up 6% from last year's same period to 66%. In addition, Sheh Fung is actively expanding its order acceptance capability, working with its clients to develop the bestseller screws, and continuously optimizing its product manufacturing efficiency. In response to the increase in wire rod prices in the upstream, Sheh Fung has also adjusted the prices of its products upward, which later helped sustain the continuous growth of its consolidated operating result. In addition, although the entire fastener industry is influenced by some external uncertainties such as upstream raw material supply, exchange rates, shipment costs and schedules, the order demand from Sheh Fung's major clients in the field of DIY home improvements and construction still remains stable and keeps a healthy growing trend.



PennEngineering®

PennEngineering Announces Global Expansion in Japan

PennEngineering® announced it has expanded its global presence, launching its first PEM® location in Tokyo, Japan. The expansion reflects PennEngineering®'s commitment to the region, and its focus on providing direct access to PEM® and Haeger® products.

In 2019, PennEngineering® acquired Tokyo-based Eurotec Ltd., a specialty technical reseller of clinch and sheet metal fasteners and fastener installation systems. Eurotec Ltd. has transitioned to PEM® and continues to support the Company's growth initiatives in the automotive, automotive electronics, consumer electronics and sheet metal fabrication markets.

"It is important for us to strengthen our relationships and establish a permanent presence in the region. This will enable us to collaborate directly with our Japanese customers," shared Leonard Kiely, CEO of PennEngineering®.

With PEM's expansion in Japan, PennEngineering®'s global footprint now includes facilities in 17 locations around the world, including locations throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

MW Components Launches Streamlined eCommerce Experience for Precision Components, MW OnDemand

MW Components, the Charlotte-based precision component manufacturer, announced that it has launched a new eCommerce experience, MW OnDemand. MW OnDemand is a one-stop online resource that streamlines the entire discovery-to-delivery process of precision component supply. With tens of thousands of standard items in stock, intuitive search to make finding them easy, and rapid order delivery, MW OnDemand delivers the parts customers need, fast.



MW Components

One of the country's largest inventories of stock components

MW OnDemand combines over one million parts from well-known brands such as Century Spring, Accurate Screw Machine, RAF Electronic Hardware, Servometer, and Maudlin into a single location. Customers can select and purchase products from across the MW Components portfolio, simplifying the entire component sourcing process.

MW OnDemand eCommerce inventory includes one of the widest ranges of components and related parts available. Customers can shop spring designs along with fasteners, metal stampings, and more. A wide range of standard and specialty materials, over 40 finishes, and optional services such as passivation are also available for a variety of parts. Free CAD downloads and 3D drawings are available for many parts.

Accelerated shipping and delivery

The majority of stock parts available from MW OnDemand offer same-day shipping, while custom quotes have a turnaround as fast as one to two business days.

A single source for stock and custom components

The MW OnDemand eCommerce platform enhances the customer experience and provides exceptional flexibility for component sourcing. Combined with MW Components' custom manufacturing expertise, customers can now purchase stock, standard, and custom components from a single location.



Ford to Upgrade UK Plant into an Automotive Component Base for an Investment of USD 316 Million

Ford announced to invest USD 316 million to revamp the Halewood plant into an automotive component plant which will be the first assembly plant directly involving electric vehicles (EVs). The EV component assembly plant, upon completion, will supply general and commercial EVs sold in Europe to help Ford progress towards electrification.

This February, Ford announced its new tactics for the European market in which Ford will only manufacture commercial EVs in Europe by 2024 and only sell EVs in Europe by 2030. To this end, Ford upgraded its Cologne assembly plant for USD 1 billion.

The Halewood plant by schedule will start manufacturing automotive components by mid 2024 and produce 250 thousand vehicles per year. The plant has all of its products exported and therefore Ford has a shot at becoming one of the largest exporters of engines and transmission gears in UK after the plan is implemented.



Acquisitions

MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions Announces the Acquisition of Coventya

Element Solutions Inc (“Element Solutions”), a global and diversified specialty chemicals company, announced that it has closed its previously announced acquisition of Coventya Holding SAS (“Coventya”), a global provider of specialty chemicals for the surface finishing industry. Coventya will join the MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions business within ESI’s Industrial & Specialty segment.

Coventya operates in 60 countries on five continents. The business has manufacturing sites in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Coventya’s products serve customers worldwide across a diverse set of end-markets including automotive, fashion, construction, electronic, consumer goods, energy and aerospace / defense.

Ben Gliklich, Chief Executive Officer of Element Solutions Inc, said, “Coventya is an excellent fit for our organization. It brings a long, successful history and tradition of creating value for plating

and finishing customers with innovative and high-quality technical solutions. Not only are their technologies complementary to ours, but we also share similar values based on innovation, exceptional service and a people-centric, customer-focused culture. This acquisition will extend our capabilities and enable us to support further growth with existing and new customers. In addition, through this transaction, we acquire extraordinary talent which we are excited to welcome into our organization.”



The acquisition of Coventya is strategic to MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions and is part of its continuing investment in technology, innovation, and talent. MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions remains focused on developing and providing the highest performing sustainable solutions for surface finishing applications in markets such as automotive, construction, industrial, consumer goods and electronics.

Brighton-Best International Announces the Acquisition of Vertex Distribution

The America’s largest fastener distributor Brighton-Best International, Inc. (BBI) recently announced that in order to expand the operating scale of the company and reinforce the market share of its products in the market it has acquired all of the assets of an U.S. stainless steel fasteners distributor, Vertex Distribution for US\$ 32 million. Vertex Distribution mainly supplies bolts, screws, nuts, rivets, etc. The deal has been completed on Oct. 31st this year.



According to BBI, “Through consecutive acquisitions, the company can benefit from a larger economic scale, reduced operating costs, and maximized profit. In addition, high-quality products at cheap prices can be also provided at reasonable gross margins, creating entry barriers for competitors and oligopoly.”

Purchase of Air-O Fasteners Marks LINC Systems’ Sixth Acquisition

Center Rock Capital Partners, LP (“Center Rock”) is pleased to announce that its industrial fastener and industrial packaging distribution platform, LINC Systems, LLC (“LINC”), has acquired Air-O Fasteners (“Air-O”), in a transaction that expands LINC’s presence in the Western U.S. Family owned and operated since 1978, Air-O Fasteners is a distributor of fastening equipment and consumable products serving the construction and general industrial markets.



“The acquisition of Air-O expands LINC into the rapidly growing Utah market and deepens LINC’s presence in the Western U.S.” Dave Mitchell, President of Air-O, added, “We’ve built a great team that shares LINC’s service-driven culture, and we are excited to join the LINC platform,” said Kelly Evans, CEO of LINC.

Expanding Market Presence in the Benelux Countries

The Bossard Group has acquired Dutch company Jeveka B.V. (“Jevaka”), substantially expanding its presence in the Benelux countries.



Jevaka B.V., headquartered in Almere, the Netherlands, is a leading supplier for product solutions as well as engineering and logistics services in industrial fastening and assembly technology in the Benelux countries. Founded in 1937, the company has 117 employees and primarily serves customers in the mechanical engineering and in high-tech segments. Jevaka expects net sales of around EUR 27 million for the current financial year.

“A decades-long partnership unites us with Bossard. By joining the Bossard Group, we are pleased to deepen this relationship and also to broaden the range of products and services we can offer our customers,” as Jevaka’s former owners Stephanie and Adriaan Veltkamp point out.

The acquisition of Jevaka is in line with the Bossard Group’s strategic approach of broadening its market presence in technologically advanced end markets. In Jevaka, Bossard is acquiring a company well experienced in the market that will facilitate the successful continuation of Bossard’s profitability-oriented growth strategy and open up further development and growth potential.

“Jevaka is not only a strong partner who will help us significantly expand Bossard’s market presence in the Benelux countries, but also a company that has lived Bossard’s “Proven Productivity” philosophy for years,” states Bossard CEO Daniel Bossard.

The acquisition is being financed through the use of existing credit facilities. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price for the transaction concluded on October 22, 2021.



Martin Inc. Acquires Capital Bolt & Screw

MARTIN Inc., announces the acquisition of Capital Bolt & Screw (CB&S), headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi. CB&S was founded in 1963 and has grown into one of Mississippi's oldest and diverse privately held distributors in the south.

Jerry Gibson, President of CB&S, purchased the company in 1981 and has grown it into a successful OEM fastening distributor with services that include vendor managed inventory (VMI), 3PL services for international customers and integrated services.

"For 40 years, CB&S has held true to our core value of appreciating customer relationships and operating all aspects of our business with the utmost integrity," said Jerry. "When we decided to sell CB&S, we wanted to ensure our customers would continue to receive that same level of outstanding service. We've found that with Martin."

In 1997, Martin added the Fastening Solutions line of business to its operations with headquarters in Jackson, Tennessee.

"We've invested heavily in our OEM/Fastening Solutions business unit over the last five years and established a foundation we can build on," said Douglas Ruggles, co-owner of Martin Inc. and President, Martin Fastening. "The next step in our evolution has been to look for the right distributor to join our current business and help us expand our OEM fastener footprint and customer base. I knew CB&S was a great fit from the start. Their core values and ours line up seamlessly. We cannot be happier to have the entire CB&S Team become part of the Martin Team and to offer our complete portfolio of products and services to their customers to help them operate better."

CB&S is the fourth acquisition for Martin in the past two years.

Association



NFDA Launches Its New Logo and Website

Under the tireless work of the NFDA Marketing Committee this past year, NFDA is thrilled to announce the launch of its new logo and website.

"We are very excited to launch this new logo, which connects people, groups, and organizations and fosters networking relationships within our industry with diverse backgrounds coming together as one, representing teamwork," said Jodie Thinnis, NFDA Marketing Committee Chair. ■

E.Full Loksert® Keylocking Insert

by Gang Hao Chang, Vice Editor-in-Chief of Fastener World

E-FULL In terms of fastening, the susceptibility to loosening of fastening parts is an issue that has vexed many users for long. This issue can be now completely solved after E.Full Enterprise Co., Ltd., through technical collaboration with an U.S. leading company and with 8 years of R&D, developed the "Loksert® Keylocking Insert." For certain fastening applications around the globe where loosening is absolutely not acceptable (aerospace, automotive, defense or semiconductor, for example), the release of this new product will be definitely great news.

Distinguished from other existing inserts without keys which are prone to loosening during vibration, the new Loksert® Keylocking Inserts features a unique "key" design, allowing a solid and stable fastening between the fastened workpiece and the insert when keys are driven into the workpiece, which prohibits the insert from spinning clockwise or counterclockwise to achieve permanent fastening, create excellent stability of products, and eliminate potential loosening-induced safety risks due to vibration.

"Processing this product requires high-level technique and must utilize special manufacturing procedures in order to achieve both superior quality and significant cost reduction. E.Full Enterprise is the only one in Taiwan that has successfully developed this product thus far," said E.Full Sales Manager Tony Wang. He added, "The key feature of this product is its dove-tail groove, which prevents the keys from dropping off. Through a computer to control riveting between the keys and grooves, the mass production with consistent fastening strength can be achieved and predicaments like key separation due to less strength or key breakage due to excessive strength won't occur."

A New Solution for Locking and Heat Resistance

Frequently used in the aerospace sector before, large amounts of inserts have been also used in the automotive field recently. E. Full can not only supply carbon/stainless steel inserts whose int./ext. threads are compliant with military and automotive standards, but is also dedicated to the development of Inconel Loksert® keylocking inserts for automotive turbo engines, propellers, and other high-temperature applications. The one-piece design provides an alternative to previous fastening requirement for "one screw with one nut" which would need larger fastening space, and the flush insertion surface also creates more possibilities for user's product design, allowing them to achieve aesthetics, safety, and practicality. E.Full expects to release this new product half a year later at the earliest.

Wang added, "We mainly supply to overseas industries and are in collaboration with domestic automotive/ semiconductor industries and NCSIST as well. Our monthly capacity for Loksert® is approx. 30,000 pcs/month and is still on the rise. In addition, as this insert must be fastened with a specialty tool, E.Full can also provide pneumatic/hand tools and technical support according to customers' actual applications and demand.

"Production of precision keys that steadily fit with the main insert body and threads of the highest precision are both what we're very proud of."

"With better performance of various transport vehicles and flourishing development of aerospace and defense industries, if fasteners cannot keep pace with the trend, it'll be a secret concern," Wang noted. "However, if global customers can make the most of this product, the added value of their products will definitely be upgraded." ■

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