

# Fastener World News

惠达特搜全球新闻

compiled by Fastener World

## Industry Development

### EU to Extend Carbon Tax to Fasteners in October 2023

After overnight negotiations, EU countries and European Parliament representatives reached an agreement on December 13, 2022, to impose a tax on CO2 emissions from imported steel and cement and other polluting goods, extending the scope of application from upstream products such as steel, aluminum and cement to downstream products such as screws and bolts. The new mechanism is scheduled to be implemented on a trial basis from October 1, 2023.

The agreement, called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), is a new creation of the European Union in light of the global trend of carbon reduction, and was proposed by the Executive Committee in July 2021. Since EU has set strict carbon reduction requirements for local industries with high carbon dioxide emissions, in order to prevent enterprises from increasing costs from carbon reduction and end up with uncompetitive prices against imported products, CBAM was created, requiring purchase of carbon reduction certificates for foreign high carbon emission products entering the EU market.

### Mexico Issues First Final Ruling on Sunset Review of Anti-dumping of China's Wire Rods

On 19 January 2023, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico) published in a public release the first final ruling on sunset review of anti-dumping of wire rods originating in or imported from China, deciding to maintain the anti-dumping duty of US\$0.49/kg established in the final ruling of the initial review on 28 July 2016. The TIGIE tariff codes of the associated products are 7213.10.01, 7213.20.91, 7213.91.03, 7213.99.99, 7227.10.01, 7227.20.01, 7227.90.99, 9802.00.01, 9802.00.07, 9802.00.13, 9802.00.19 and 9802.00.23. The measure took effect from 29 July 2021 for a period of five years.

On 2 September 2015, Mexico initiated an anti-dumping investigation into wire rods originating from or imported from China. On 28 July 2016, Mexico issued a positive final determination to the case, imposing an anti-dumping duty of USD 0.49/kg on the products involved. On 22 July 2021, Secretariat of Economy published an announcement in a public release, saying to initiate the first sunset review investigation into the case upon the application by Mexican companies including Ternium México, S.A. de C.V., Arcelor Mittal México, S.A. de C.V. and Deacero, S.A.P.I. de C.V.



## JETRO Releases Result of Survey on Overseas Japanese Companies; Auto Parts Industry Tumbles

**JETRO**  
日本貿易振興機構

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) surveyed 7,173 Japanese companies around the world and published "Worldwide Overseas Japanese Companies Survey for 2022" report. The report is a barometer hinting at the future of Japanese companies in overseas markets and it draws three conclusions.

First, 65% of the 7,000 plus Japanese companies operating overseas expected to gain profit for 2022, but the losses in sectors such as auto parts were increasing. As a result of China's Zero COVID policy, more than 40% of Japanese companies in China were facing deteriorating sales, exceeding the proportion of companies having improved results.

Globally, 45.4% of Japanese companies would expand their business in overseas countries. Among them, 70% of the Japanese companies would expand in India and 60% in Vietnam, showing that Japan was continuing to tap into the Southeast Asian market. On the contrary, the percentage of Japanese companies intending to expand in China dropped from 40.9% to 33.4%.

Second, 60% of Japanese manufacturers would re-examine the supply chain. As raw material and transportation costs rise and the risk of supply disruptions became more apparent, Japan would accelerate its localization (self-production) strategy for sourcing, production and sales. In the next one to two years, the number of Japanese personnel dispatched to overseas countries will be reduced by half compared to the pre-epidemic period, while the number of Japanese domestic employees will be increased.

Third, Japan is accelerating carbon reduction. More than 40% of the surveyed companies are already taking action to achieve decarbonization, an increase of nearly 10% over the previous year. Compared with the previous year, this figure increased by nearly 10%. The number of companies making green purchases (requiring suppliers to reduce carbon) has more than doubled. With awareness of carbon reduction spreading rapidly throughout the supply chain, non-compliant companies may face the risk of limited trading opportunities.

## China Tops the World in New Energy Vehicle Production & Sales for the 8th Consecutive Year

According to the latest statistics from China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), China's new energy vehicle production and sales continued to grow exponentially in 2022, with 7.058 million and 6.887 million units produced and sold respectively, up 96.9% and 93.4% year-on-year, topping the world for eight consecutive years. Its market share rose to 25.6%, 12.1 percentage points higher than the previous year, with global sales accounting for over 60% of the total. Of all new energy vehicles, 5.365 million pure electric vehicles were sold, an increase of 81.6% year-on-year, while 1.518 million plug-in hybrid vehicles were sold, an increase of 1.5 times year-on-year.

In 2022, the share of domestic sales of new energy passenger cars made by independent brands reached 79.9%, an increase of 5.4 percentage points year-on-year; 679 thousand new energy vehicles were exported, an increase of 1.2 times year-on-year. China accounted for three of the world's top ten companies in terms of sales volume of new energy vehicles. China's new energy vehicles have entered a period of full market expansion and are expected to continue to grow at a faster pace this year.



## Thailand Becomes the Latest EV Competing Ground

As the South Korean Hyundai Motor is enhancing deployment in Southeast Asia, its opponent BYD from China is making its way into Thailand to build a new factory, making Thailand a new ground for the face-off between South Korean and Chinese EV makers. BYD, the second largest EV maker in the world, is locked on the rapid growth of EV market in Southeast Asia and has decided to invest USD 491 million in its first overseas plant in Thailand. The plant is expected to launch in 2024 and manufacture 150 thousand units per year. Thailand has set the target to raise the proportion of new EV car sales to 30% by 2030. Last March, Hyundai launched a plant in Deltamas Industrial park in Bekasi. It is Hyundai's first manufacturing plant in ASEAN and manufactures the new BEV called IONIQ 5.



## New EV Competitor, World's First Solar Energy Car from the Netherlands

The speed of EV revolution could go beyond our expectation. A startup EV brand from the Netherlands rolled out the first solar energy car Lightyear 0. Production began from November 30, 2022. Unlike general EV cars that have to be pulled over for recharging, Lightyear 0 can recharge on the go under the sun. Even if the battery runs out, it can go ahead running on solar energy. With solar power, it can go 11,000 kilometers on flat grounds each year. Lightyear 0 is manufactured at Valmet Automotive Group's plant in Finland. The current estimated capacity is 946 units. It uses 60 kWh batteries and runs 625 kilometers after a full recharge.





## (China) Hebei Yongnian Fasteners Industrial Zone Reports Increased Export by 70% in 2022

The Chinese fastener enterprises in Yongnian are deeply engaged in overseas markets, and their products are exported to more than 110 countries and regions, such as the United States, Japan, Egypt and Dubai (UAE). At present, the Yongnian district encompasses 476 fastener enterprises with independent export license. There are more than 50 large factories specifically dedicated to export sales and 5 industry-leading fastener enterprises which have established their overseas warehouses. In 2022, Yongnian district generated about 158.6 million U.S. dollars worth of fastener export, a year-on-year increase of 70.8%, up against the nation-wide downtrend. In 2022, the annual output of fasteners in the region reached 5.6 million tons, with an output value of RMB 38.5 billion. By participating in exhibitions, Chinese fastener enterprises have received a large number of overseas orders at major international exhibitions.

## High Strength Fastener Industrial Park Phase III Project in Gangyu District (China)

Located in Gangyu District, the construction of the Phase III high-strength fastener industrial park was put into production starting February 2023. This industrial park costs a total investment of RMB 4 billion, covering an area of 410 acres. The third phase of the project is invested and constructed by Jiangsu Hengyue Hardware Technology Co Ltd and two other companies. The total area of the park is 170 acres. The total area of structures is about 90,000 square meters and the total investment is RMB 1.02. The industrial park can produce 200 thousand tons of high-strength fasteners annually with an annual output value of RMB 1.6 billion as well as a tax revenue of about RMB 20 million.

So far, the main structure and auxiliary construction of Jiangsu Hengyue Hardware Technology whose annual output capacity is 60,000 tons of high-strength fasteners have been completed and put into use since February 2023.



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## China's Automotive Production and Sales Top the World in 2022 for 14 Consecutive Years

China's total automotive production and sales achieved 27.021 million units and 26.864 million units respectively, an increase of 3.4% and 2.1% year-on-year, achieving a modest annual growth ranking first in the world for 14 consecutive years.

China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said, "In 2022, the automotive industry was impacted by a number of factors, but under the effective momentum from a series of policies to stabilize growth and promote consumption, and with the joint efforts of enterprises across the industry, the overall recovery of the automotive market is improving. Passenger cars achieved faster growth, contributing an important force for the steady development of the industry." In 2022, China's passenger car production and sales achieved 23.836 million units and 23.563 million units, a respective increase of 11.2% and 9.5% year-on-year, a higher growth rate than the industry as a whole.

## Companies Development



### Changhua Holding Group's 1st Phase High Strength Automotive Fastener Production Line

Changhua Holding Group (formerly Zhejiang Changhua Auto Parts) intends to invest a raised capital of RMB351 million in building a production line with an annual capacity of 2 billion pieces of high-strength automotive fasteners. Upon completion of Phase I, the production line will be able to produce 925 million pieces of high-strength fasteners per year, which will provide important support for the Company's strategic development goal towards high-end and automated fastening products.

The main plant has been completed and two fully automatic electroplating production lines have been installed. The installation of a wastewater treatment system together with the electroplating line has been completed. Also completed is the installation of a spheroidized annealing furnace with protective atmosphere imported from Japan, with a production capacity of 1,900 tons per month.

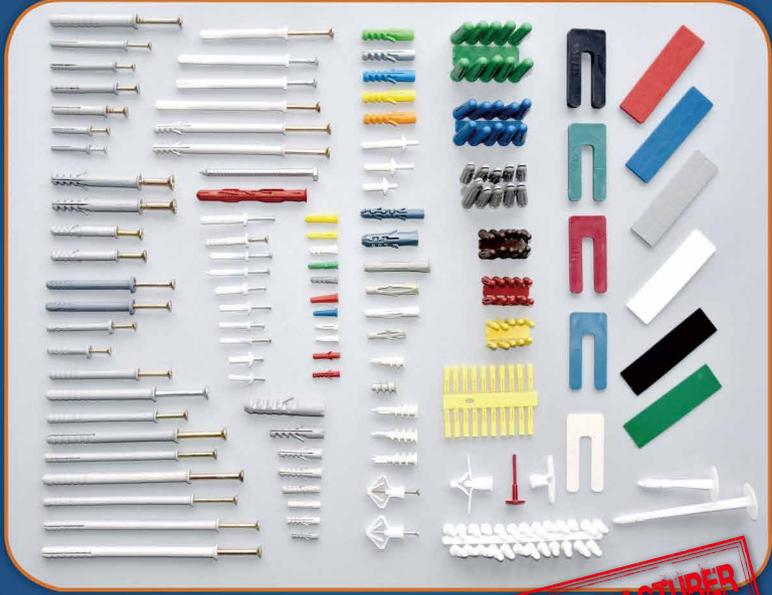



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## Zhejiang Huayuan (China) Intends to Raise RMB 300 Million to Expand Capacity



Zhejiang Huayuan Auto Parts intends to be listed on the Growth Enterprise Market of Shenzhen Stock Exchange, raising RMB 300 million for the production of automotive fasteners, mainly to increase production capacity, expand market share and enhance competitiveness. The company's main products are special fasteners and locks for automobiles, and is one of the few companies in China that specializes in the research and development of automotive seat locks. Its products are widely used in car chassis and power systems, security systems, intelligent electronic systems and others. At present, the company has a customer base including Guangzhou Auto Honda, Changan Mazda, Great Wall Motor and well-known first-tier suppliers such as Lear, Adient, Faurecia, Magna. In the future, they will increase the development of new customers such as new energy customers and intelligent electronics customers to lay a good foundation for the new production capacity.

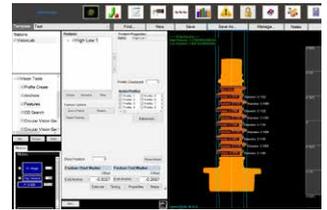
## Non-Contact Gauging System Measures High/Low Threads

General Inspection, LLC recently added a new high/low thread measuring algorithm to its VisionLab. The 3D fastener gauging system, has the most comprehensive thread measurement capabilities, including all pertinent system-22 requirements, lobular shaped threads and now a specific algorithm for high/low threads.

Greg Nygaard said, "by popular demand, we've added a tool to our VisionLab system to make measuring high/low threads as simple as a press of a button". The VisionLab allows manufacturers and distributors to measure all critical part features including high/low threads in less than 5 seconds.

In addition to threads, the VisionLab measures all profile features, including GD&T characteristics. An optional "end view" inspection measures and detects defects on both ends of parts including features such as recesses, inner/outer diameters, through holes and counterbores. Optional surface control is used to detect visual defects, such as bad plating, thread patch presence/quality as well as measuring knurl width, gap and height. Optional upper tooling and bit kit are available for uneven parts or parts with a recess drive.

For time savings, traceability and removing error, the VisionLab creates customized, thorough reports with graphs and data charts which can also be uploaded to 3rd party SPC packages.



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## Goldwind Cooperates with Local Government in Yunnan on Wind Power Projects

Tianrun, a wholly owned subsidiary of Goldwind, signed a cooperation framework agreement with Fengqing County Government in Yunnan. The two parties will make full use of Fengqing's wind energy resources to establish a long-term strategic partnership in decentralized wind power development, in order to achieve resource sharing and mutual benefits.



It is worth noting that on September 5, 2022, Goldwind also officially signed an Investment Cooperation Agreement with Yunnan Yunxian Government for the Yunxian Flange Fastener Plant Project. Fengqing has location advantages, huge market potential and a favorable business environment, and the development prospect of decentralized wind power projects is promising. Both sides hope to continuously broaden the collaboration and enrich the results.

## Zhejiang Ronnie Precision Machinery Establishes a Wholly-owned Subsidiary



According to the company's strategic development plan, Ronnie Precision Machinery announced to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary. The company's main business is R&S, manufacturing and sales of precision metal parts such as precision fasteners, connectors and structural parts, mainly providing precision metal parts to customers in downstream applications such as 3C, automotive, communications and power equipment.

In recent years, China's major projects such as West-to-East Gas Transmission, South-to-North Water Transfer, High Speed Railway and West-to-East Electricity Transmission have been fully rolled out, and the local automobile, machinery, home appliance, shipbuilding and transportation industries have continued to grow. The strong demand for production and construction will drive significant growth in the fastening industry.

## Finework (Hunan, China) New Energy Technology to Set Operations in Hong Kong and Vietnam

Finework New Energy Technology is a company specializing in the development and manufacture of high strength fasteners and provides total fastening solutions to customers. The company intends to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary, Finework International, in Hong Kong with a capital of HK\$20 million. After the establishment of Finework International, the company intends to use Finework International to co-found Finework (Vietnam) Fastener Manufacturing (capital: US\$2 million) in Vietnam with another company, where Finework International accounts for 95% of the capital and the other company accounts for 5%.



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Hex Nuts

Thin Nuts  
2H Hex Nuts  
Square Nuts  
Lug Nuts  
Non-Standard Nuts





## TR Fastenings Opens New Facility in Hungary

TR Fastenings Hungary Kft, part of the Trifast plc Group, is celebrating the opening of its new purpose-built facility in Budapest, building on years of rising demand in the region.

Located in the southern suburb of Szigetszentmiklós, Budapest, TR Fastenings Hungary Kft is a fastener and Cat. C supplier to international OEM's and their subcontractors not just in Hungary but in the seven countries that border them. The new 3,500 sq. metre modern facility has 9.5 metre eaves in the warehouse and is a high-capacity distribution facility that is ready to support TR's future European growth strategy.

TR Hungary was first established in 2000 and has grown considerably in that time, quickly outgrowing two previous locations. Its rapid growth has been a real success story for TR and the region alike. It has come about through rising demand from large multinational household brands, many of which TR supplies to elsewhere in the world. Hungary has historically been a lower cost production region but with a highly skilled available workforce making it ideal for this kind of strategic investment. Hungary has a central location in Europe with seven countries on its border, which is perfect for distribution hubs.

The TR Hungary team is fully supported by the Group encompassing Sourcing, Technical and Design, Commercial, Financial, HR and Marketing support.

## NORMA Group Receives Major Order for Joining Solutions in Electric Cars



NORMA Group has won a new major order for joining solutions in electric vehicles. From July 2023 until 2030, NORMA Group will equip several of the customer's battery-electric premium models with hose connectors, hose adapters and quick connectors. The order has a total volume of around EUR 34.6 million. CEO Dr. Michael Schneider: "In our strategic business unit 'Mobility and New Energy', we consistently focus on the requirements of our customers. With our experience as a development partner and our certified production standards, we are very well positioned to support our customers in their technological transition towards emission-free mobility."

NORMA Group's connection products are installed in cooling water lines and are used to cool various units in the vehicle, including the battery. The hose connectors and quick connectors have been part of NORMA Group's portfolio for many years. Development engineers at NORMA Group specially adapted them for this order in cooperation with the customer. The joining products are manufactured at NORMA Group's plants in Maintal, Germany, and in Pilica, Poland. Some of the parts include a temperature sensor in order to ensure optimal operating temperature. In order to meet the increased demand, NORMA Group is investing in injection molding production at the Maintal site, in new assembly machines for quick connectors and in training employees.

## Howmet Aerospace Board Approves Preferred Stock Dividend



The Board of Directors of Howmet Aerospace declared a dividend of 93.75 cents per share on the outstanding US\$3.75 Cumulative Preferred Stock ("Class A Stock") of the Company, paid on January 1, 2023, to the holders of record of the Class A Stock at the close of business on December 9, 2022.

Howmet Aerospace Inc., headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a leading global provider of advanced engineered solutions for the aerospace and transportation industries. The Company's primary businesses focus on jet engine components, aerospace fastening systems, and airframe structural components necessary for mission-critical performance and efficiency in aerospace and defense applications, as well as forged aluminum wheels for commercial transportation. With nearly 1,150 granted and pending patents, the Company's differentiated technologies enable lighter, more fuel-efficient aircraft and commercial trucks to operate with a lower carbon footprint.

## Fastener Tool & Supply, Inc. Launches Its New Website



Fastener Tool & Supply, Inc. — a nationwide leader in fastener distribution — is proud to announce the launch of their brand-new website. The foundation of Fastener Tool & Supply's business has been rooted in their commitment to operational excellence and customer service since 1977. Additionally, their focus on innovation, quality, and continuous improvement has helped grow their reach across North America. Now, their website is also centered around these fundamental principles.

The focus of the redesigned website is to put the user in control, adding useful elements and features that improve functionality, accessibility, and user experience. This investment reinforces Fastener Tool & Supply's promise to deliver high-tech, user-friendly solutions to help streamline processes and boost efficiency. Fastener Tool & Supply, Inc. is a trusted distributor of fasteners and related products and services. Headquartered in greater Cleveland, Ohio, they offer over 150,000 fasteners and supply chain solutions that help improve quality and boost productivity. These advanced technologies have propelled them into many cutting-edge industries, such as aerospace, alternative energy, automotive, industrial commercial, construction, high performance, military, and power generation.



### BBI Relocates Its Montreal Facility and Doubles Its Toronto Warehouse

BBI-Montreal has moved from a 90,000 sq ft facility into a 154,000 sqft building and BBI-Toronto has doubled its warehouse space to 164,000 sq ft facility enhancing just-in-time deliveries into Canada.

Brighton-Best is currently located in 31 locations in 6 countries and supplies over 7,000 distributors throughout the world.



### Optimas Solutions Elevates Mike Tuffy and Daniel Harms to Dual-CEOs

Optimas Solutions, a global industrial manufacturer/distributor and service provider, announced the elevation of Mike Tuffy to CEO, International, and Daniel Harms to CEO, Americas. The decision to implement a dual-CEO structure evolves the organizational model established in 2020 with autonomous, yet connected, business units.

By design, this structure has brought Optimas closer to customers and suppliers and created greater community within the organization. It also better reflects the scope of Harms and Tuffy's roles and the contributions they've been making to Optimas for over a year.



### SYNEGIC (Japan) Launches TriLead Crack-free Woodworking Screw

The patent-pending TriLead screw, with a special bit shape newly developed by SYNEGIC, can cut wood and discharge wood chips to perfectly drill into MDF or particle boards without cracking the wood or creating burrs during the drilling process. There is no need to drill holes in the wood before use.

TriLead screw adopts chromate surface treatment, and can be used with hexagonal bits, suitable for wood with the thickness of 10-20mm, including shelves and other household furniture.

### Japanese Fukui Byora Invests JPY 7.5 Billion in EV-related Field

In August 2022, Fukui Byora established a logistics center in Shiga Prefecture to provide just-in-time delivery to the Tokai and Kansai regions. The company will capture the demand for EV parts, which is expected to expand significantly. The company will build a new plant located in Katayamazu in summer 2023 as a production base for EVs and high voltage battery parts. They will respond to new demand in the automotive field by utilizing its specialty in cold forging technology.



## Acquisitions

### German MMG's Shares to be 100% Acquired by Taiwanese SUMEKO by July 2023

SUMEKO announced on November/16/2022 that it is to acquire the other 49% shares of Max Mothes GmbH (MMG), a subsidiary of CS Beteiligungs GmbH, for 6.24 million euros in cash. The process is expected to be completed in July 2023 and after that MMG will be fully owned by SUMEKO.

Through an adjustment period of 2.5 years, MMG is back on track with profits gained in 2021 thanks to orders from European carmakers. Previously, SUMEKO acquired 51% shares of MMG (a Tier 1 supplier for German automakers) for 6.5 million euros, which was completed in July 2018. By fully acquiring MMG shares, SUMEKO can tap into the supply chains of Ford, Benz, BMW, Volkswagen, Bosch and Siemens. ■

