

European News

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MEKR'S Acquires HOPE fix

MEKR'S s.r.o has acquired HOPE fix A.S, bringing the company into the MEKR'S group and strengthening its position in the fastening market, whilst also enabling customers to get larger quantities of standard fasteners more reliably.

Czech Republic-based HOPE fix supplies standardised fasteners to the wholesale trade, including screws, nuts and bolts, washers, threaded rods, rivets, turnbuckles and anchors. HOPE fix exports to the central European market such as Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Serbia.

The HOPE fix catalogue of around 5,000 standard fasteners will be added to MEKR'S catalogue of approximately 60,000 items. By joining forces, the MEKR'S Group can now supply bigger volumes of commonly used products, helping businesses avoid delays and shortages.

"Customers in manufacturing, construction, and retail, will now benefit from faster deliveries and more secure access to essential fasteners," comments MEKR'S. "This acquisition ensures projects can keep moving smoothly, with the materials needed available when they are needed. With HOPE fix now part of the MEKR'S Group, we can meet growing demand for standard fasteners and offer customers a stronger, more reliable supply."



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Hop@fix

Norm Ranked Among the World's Top 10 Performers

Norm Fasteners has reached a significant international milestone by being ranked among the world's top performing companies in continuous improvement at the KAIZEN™ Global Awards 2025. Widely recognised as one of the most respected distinctions in Lean management and continuous improvement, the KAIZEN™ Awards honour organisations that successfully integrate Kaizen principles into operational and managerial practices.

Norm Fasteners secured its place on the global stage after being named the overall winner at the KAIZEN™ Award Türkiye 2025, following evaluations conducted during the KAIZEN™ Türkiye Conference by a jury of industry leaders and Kaizen experts. This national success qualified the company to represent Türkiye at the 7th Edition of the KAIZEN™ Global Award, where 33 national champions, selected from more than 1,500 applications worldwide, competed for global recognition. After an extensive and multi-dimensional assessment process, Norm Fasteners was ranked sixth worldwide, positioning the company among the top 10 Kaizen-driven organisations globally.





M. Selim Göksu, head of fasteners at Norm Fasteners, comments: “Customer focus is a core value for us, and Kaizen is embedded in the way we operate every day. This recognition reflects the commitment, discipline and ownership demonstrated by our teams across operations, production and process management. Achieving global recognition following our success in Türkiye is a great source of pride for both our company and our country.”

This achievement further strengthens Norm Fasteners’ Lean transformation vision and its capability to compete at a global level. Through a Kaizen-driven culture of continuous improvement, the company continues to create sustainable value in productivity, quality and long-term performance.

NORMA Begins Voluntary Redundancy Programme

NORMA Group has reached an agreement with the Group Works Council on a voluntary redundancy programme in Germany, to generate savings in personnel costs in a manner that is as socially acceptable as possible.

Starting in January 2026, the voluntary programme intends to reduce at least 61 and up to 70 jobs. CEO Birgit Seeger comments: “NORMA Group is in the process of transforming itself into an industrial powerhouse, a leading industrial supplier for a number of industries. We are reviewing our cost structures and are working together to ensure we are an excellent partner and competitive supplier for our customers. With the voluntary redundancy programme, we have collaborated with employee representatives to put together a socially responsible package and made it as attractive as possible under the circumstances.”



The agreement is valid for salaried employees of NORMA Group’s sites in Maintal and Marsberg, Germany. NORMA Group has also reached an agreement with employee representatives to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Germany as a production location. Over the course of the next two years, the company and the Works Council will work together to develop appropriate measures as part of a collaborative improvement process.

The voluntary redundancy programme is part of NORMA Group’s global transformation programme announced in May 2025. **The company is reducing costs and reviewing site capacities in order to return to long-term profitable growth. Based on current plans, the company expects to cut around 400 jobs globally by 2028. The transformation process will save the company a cumulative total of between € 82.5 million and € 91.5 million by 2028.**

CELO Expands Capacity

CELO Befestigungssysteme is strengthening its production site in Aichach, Germany, with a strategic investment in modern manufacturing technology, including three new Engel high performance injection moulding machines that combine maximum efficiency with sustainable energy savings.



CELO’s new machines enable more flexible set-up processes and enable the use of large tools on smaller tonnages – a significant advantage in daily operations. Particularly noteworthy is the energy balance, with the modern drive technology reducing energy consumption by up to 70%, as power is only drawn when actually needed.

All new machines have been equipped with the same control software. This enables employees to be trained uniformly and efficiently, set-up times are shortened, and processes are significantly more standardised. At the same time, optimal conditions are created for training future process mechanics for plastics and rubber technology, who can work with state-of-the-art technology from the very beginning.

With this investment, CELO underlines its commitment to Aichach and remains true to its standards: Production at the highest level – Made in Germany. ■

