European News

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Fontana Gruppo Acquires KAMAX Group

Continuing its expansion strategy, Fontana Gruppo has signed an agreement for the acquisition of KAMAX Group, strengthening itself as a player of recognised quality and a global leader in the fastener sector. **The transaction – which is subject to approval by the relevant authorities – will further strengthen Fontana's European and global footprint, with Kamax's significant manufacturing presence in Germany, Spain, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and China.** Following the transaction, Fontana Group will have a total of 42 plants, employing more than 9,000 people – generating approximately €2 billion in revenue.

"From a strategic, industrial, and managerial perspective, this acquisition represents an important opportunity for business development, strengthening our distinctive positioning in the fastener sector, while generating significant prospects for growth and value creation," comments Giuseppe Fontana, CEO of Fontana Group. "With its 15 plants, KAMAX brings a significant contribution to the Group in terms of technological capabilities and know-how. This strategic operation represents a further step in the process of our global expansion, which in 2025 also saw the completion of the acquisitions of RTF in India and MNP in the United States."

Martin Burgholte, chairman advisory board at KAMAX Group, adds: "After three generations of building a successful and highly respected company with a unique DNA in the global fastener industry, the shareholders of KAMAX Group are opening a new chapter by transferring all their shares to Fontana Gruppo. We are pleased that, following this decision, KAMAX will become a vital part of an even stronger organisation and remain within the hands of a successful family owned company."

"This is not a transaction born of necessity, but a strategic decision made from a position of strength," concludes Martin. "It was essential for us to find a partner who shares our values and is committed to further developing the KAMAX heritage. We are convinced that this step represents the most logical and effective way to unlock our combined potential and to secure a sustainable leadership position in our industry. Continuity is a cornerstone of this transaction and we firmly believe that the deep expertise and experience of both our teams will provide a strong foundation for future growth."

Hilti Group Enters 2026 Business Year Strong

Hilti Group sales grew 1.9% in local currencies in the 2025 business year. The strong appreciation of the Swiss franc led to a negative currency effect of 4 percentage points on sales. In total, **Hilti reported sales of CHF 6.3 billion (€6.8 billion) (-2.1%). Given continued strong investments and negative currency effects, the operating result dropped by 5.3% to CHF 728 million.** Jahangir Doongaji, CEO at Hilti Group commented: "In a year marked by ongoing global uncertainty, we navigated the radically changed tariff environment, drove productivity in operations and continued to invest significantly in our future. We can thus enter the 2026 business year from a position of strength. With our highly motivated global team, we will stay the course and continue to implement our strategy."

Sales in the Americas region grew 9.3% in local currencies. The business also delivered solid double-digit growth in the US market despite the dynamic tariff environment. In Europe, sales decreased in local currencies (-1.9%) in an overall soft construction market. The Middle East/Africa region reported growth of 12.9% in local currencies, driven by growing construction activity in the Middle East. Sales in the Asia/Pacific region declined by 2.1% in local currencies, mainly due to the challenging environment in North Asia.

Furthermore, Hilti Group continued to strengthen its innovation pipeline, with more than 70 new products and services launched in 2025. Investments in research and development reached CHF 459 million, equalling 7.3% of Group sales. The software business gained further momentum with annual recurring revenue growth of 28% and an established customer base of more than 25,000. In addition, Hilti further expanded its production and supply network in the Americas, eastern Europe and India to secure its long-term supply chain resilience in a dynamic and complex global environment.

The development of the construction market is expected to remain uncertain in 2026. It is likely that the Swiss franc will remain strong due to geopolitical instability and trade barriers. In line with its 'Lead 2030' strategy, Hilti will further strengthen its innovation pipeline in hardware, software and services.

Würth Group Returns to Growth

After a slight decline in sales in 2024, the Würth Group returned to growth in 2025. The globally operating group of companies, leading in the development, production, and sale of assembly and fastening materials, closed the 2025 fiscal year reporting sales of €20.7 billion (2024: €20.2 billion). This corresponds to an increase of 2.3%, or 3.2% after adjustments to reflect currency effects.

Robert Friedmann, chairman of the central management board of the Würth Group, comments: "The global challenges have not diminished and nevertheless, we were able to continue on our growth trajectory. While the manufacturing industry remains in a period of weakness, limiting stronger sales growth, the business units serving the skilled trades continued their stable development."

German companies of the Würth Group closed the 2025 fiscal year reporting sales of €8 billion, a slight increase of 1%. The companies outside Germany recorded growth of 3.2% (4.7% adjusted for currency effects), achieving sales of €12.6 billion. The eBusiness segment also recorded above average growth. Sales through the Group's digital sales channels totalled €5.2 billion, bringing their share in total Würth Group sales to a new high of 25.2%.

"Against a challenging backdrop, our customers expect intelligent, practical solutions across the board," continues Robert. "By consistently leveraging modern technologies, digitalisation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), we provide tangible relief and help strengthen our customers' competitive position. Our customers are increasingly sourcing products through digital channels. At the same time, our field sales representatives remain the central points of contact for our customers. Digital solutions and AI help them fulfil this role even more effectively."

Böllhoff Acquires Stöger Automation

With effect from 1st April 2026, Böllhoff has taken over the business operations of Stöger Automation GmbH, to expand its portfolio in the field of joining technology to include screwdriving technology and flow drill insertion systems.

With over 35 years' experience, Stöger Automation from Königsdorf, Bavaria, is an experienced specialist in screwdriving, insertion, riveting and feeding technology. The company will be integrated into the Böllhoff Group as an independent associated company. The Stöger site in Königsdorf will remain in operation, thereby securing around 70 jobs in Bavaria, whilst also continuing Stöger's existing customer relationships and expertise.

Within the Böllhoff Group, Stöger will work closely with Böllhoff Systemtechnik, Böllhoff's business unit specialising in automated processing systems for a wide variety of fasteners. In the medium term, this is expected to drive growth in the whole area of Setting Technology at Böllhoff Group, with all customers benefiting from an even broader range of services.

"The acquisition of Stöger fills a gap in our technology portfolio and strengthens our position as a competence leader in 360° Joining Technology," comments Dr. Ralf Adenstedt, managing director at Böllhoff Systemtechnik. "Screwdriving technology and flow drill insertion systems are a logical addition to our product range – a clear sign that we continue to grow as a group of companies."

First CBAM Certificate Price Now Available

The European Commission has published the first price of CBAM regulation certificates for 2026 Q1, set at €75.36 per tCO_2e – marking an important milestone in the implementation of CBAM and enabling companies to calculate CBAM related costs with greater certainty, particularly when using default values.

For 2026, CBAM certificate prices will be determined on a quarterly basis. Therefore, there will be four prices in 2026 (one per quarter). Each price will only apply to emissions in CBAM goods imported into the Union during the quarter it relates to.

"Each quarterly price will be calculated by the Commission as the average of EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) auction clearing prices," comments the European Commission. "This ensures a fair and consistent alignment with the EU carbon market. From 2027 onwards, the Commission will calculate and publish weekly prices."

Although authorised CBAM declarants will only begin purchasing CBAM certificates from February 2027 (covering their 2026 imports), the Commission hopes that early publication of these costs will enhance transparency, provide stakeholders with timely information and reduce the risk of inconsistent or unofficial price estimates circulating in the market.

"By making these prices available in advance, the Commission establishes a clear and reliable reference point for all stakeholders, helping them plan ahead. A full overview of all 2026 price publication dates is available online," concludes the Commission.

Fabory Acquires Metrik

Fabory has acquired Metrik Fasteners B.V and Stern Instruments B.V (together, "Metrik"). **The acquisition strengthens Fabory's specialist support for customers across the Benelux petrochemical and energy markets, reinforcing its position as a leading supplier of high-quality, critical fastening solutions.**

Metrik has established a strong reputation in sectors where safety, compliance and reliability are paramount, including petrochemicals, power generation, renewable energy and offshore. The business is recognised for its technical expertise, specialist product portfolio and close collaboration with leading manufacturers.

The combined capabilities of Fabory and Metrik will provide customers with greater technical depth in performance critical applications. **While Fabory and Stokvis are strongly positioned in large-scale turnarounds and MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Operations) supply, Metrik brings additional expertise in complex fastening applications and specialist energy projects.**

Martin Verdegaal, CEO of Fabory, said: "We are proud to welcome Metrik to Fabory. Its expertise in the energy and petrochemical markets aligns closely with our strategy to grow further in critical segments. Together, we bring enhanced technical knowledge, specialist supply capabilities and a shared commitment to reliability and long-term partnership." ■