

FASTENER WORLD NEWS



Market Watch: Tariff

Korean Fastener Exporters Hit by U.S. Steel Tariffs

K-BIZ Korea Federation of SMEs South Korean small and medium-sized manufacturers are facing significantly higher U.S. tariffs after Washington revised its tariff calculation method for steel-intensive imports. **According to a survey by the Korea Federation of SMEs, 20.8% of 600 surveyed companies reported higher tariffs, with an average increase of 16.2 percentage points.**

Products with high steel content—including fasteners, molds, and automotive parts—have been among the hardest hit. Under the revised rules, tariffs are now based on the customs value of the finished product rather than the value of its steel content. Products made entirely of steel, aluminum, or copper are subject to a 50% tariff, while those containing at least 15% of these materials face a 25% tariff.

A Korean fastener manufacturer said the change doubled its tariff burden from about 25% to 50%, squeezing profit margins as customers resisted sharing additional costs. Another automotive parts supplier reported losing new business opportunities as U.S. buyers increasingly shifted sourcing to domestic suppliers to avoid higher import tariffs.

Association News

Melissa Patel Elected NFDA President for 2026-2027

Melissa Patel of Field has been elected as the **2026-2027 president of the National Fastener Distributors Association.** Angela Philippart of AFC Industries will serve as vice president, Scott Camp of Atlas Distribution Services will serve as associate chair, and Ed Smith of Wurth Industry USA will remain on the Board as immediate past president.



Kevin Hochstetler of Martin Supply, George Hunt III of Brighton Best International, Tim Roberto of LindFast Solutions Group, and Brandon Wiley of NAPPCO Fastener Company have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors effective June 17, 2026. Continuing on the NFDA Board are Harry Doherty of Fasco Inc., Christian Reich of Goebel Fasteners, and Jennifer Sturm of Empire Bolt & Screw.

Recognition was paid during the meeting to retiring Board members Steve Andrasik of Brighton Best International, Alex Goldberg of AMPG, Scott Longfellow of Huyett, and Scott McDaniel of Martin Supply.

Industry Development

FWPA Launches New Standard for Timber Fastener Testing



Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has introduced FWPA

Standard T01, a new industry testing standard that establishes a unified method for evaluating the performance of timber fasteners and connectors. Developed by the ARC Advance Timber Hub at the University of Queensland in collaboration with the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia, the standard provides consistent procedures for measuring strength, stiffness, ductility, and slip behavior in timber connections.

Covering both sawn timber and engineered wood products, **T01 includes testing for lateral and axial loading as well as individual fasteners and complete connection assemblies.** The resulting data can be used for structural design under AS 1720.1. Rather than replacing existing Australian Standards, T01 complements them by providing reliable testing methods until the next comprehensive revision of AS 1649. Released as the 2026 first edition, it currently covers Category A and B fasteners, helping improve the consistency, transparency, and comparability of test results across the timber construction industry.





India Faces Industry Pushback Over Fastener Quality Rules

India's Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has called for the withdrawal of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on fasteners, citing rising costs, supply disruptions, and limited quality gains. **GTRI said the current "one-product-one-licence" system is ill-suited to an industry characterized by high product variation and small-batch production, leading to duplication and compliance delays.** Fasteners, though accounting for less than 1% of production costs, are critical inputs across sectors including automotive, construction, and aerospace, where shortages can halt operations.

Industry groups warned that compliance costs are escalating, with multiple certifications required for different product specifications, adding significant financial burden on manufacturers, particularly MSMEs. The regulatory framework has also prompted some foreign suppliers to exit the Indian market, tightening supply of specialized fasteners and driving up prices.

GTRI noted that India both imports and exports fasteners, reflecting complementary capabilities rather than dependency. It cautioned that restrictive regulations could undermine manufacturing competitiveness and hinder the "Make in India" initiative by increasing costs for essential industrial inputs.



EU Tightens Steel Import Safeguards, Impacting Swiss Exporters

The European Union has introduced stricter steel import safeguard measures from July 1, following approval by the Council of Member States. The new rules reduce duty-free steel import quotas by approximately 47% and increase tariffs on imports exceeding those quotas from 25% to 50%. Under the revised system, up to 18.3 million metric tons of steel can still enter the EU duty-free each year. Imports above the quota, however, will face the higher tariff rate.

The measures are also expected to affect Swiss steel exporters, as Switzerland is not exempt from the revised safeguards. According to the European Commission, Switzerland and the EU are currently negotiating duty-free quota arrangements for Swiss steel products. The new rules are intended to strengthen protection for the EU steel industry while reshaping trade conditions for overseas suppliers, including Swiss manufacturers.

Security Fasteners

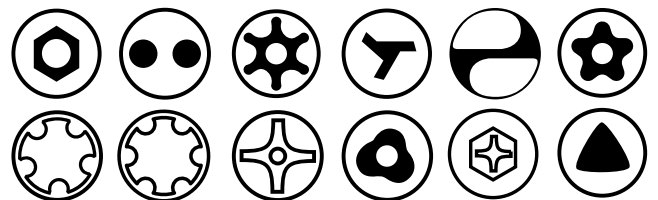


Tamper Proof Fasteners

CO₂
Emissions report

Product
Drawings

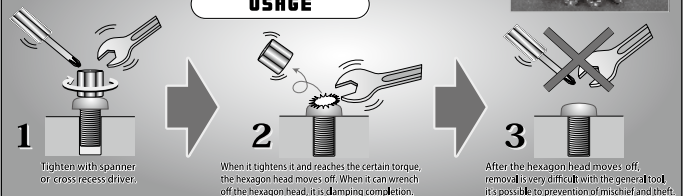
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Companies Development

Chun Yu: Strong Outlook for Steel Structure Fastener Orders



Fastener manufacturer Chun Yu stated at its June 28 shareholders' meeting that, driven by robust demand from

domestic tech plant expansions, commercial buildings, and public infrastructure projects, order visibility for steel structure fasteners has extended into next year, supporting stable operations. Chun Yu has established production bases in Taiwan, China, and Indonesia, each with distinct market positioning, focusing respectively on domestic sales and Southeast Asia, creating strategic regional advantages. **The company maintains a leading market share in Taiwan's construction fasteners sector, benefiting from ongoing expansions by major tech firms such as TSMC, which have kept demand elevated.**

Despite cautious overseas customers due to uncertainties surrounding U.S. tariff policies, the company maintained core profitability in Q1. However, global demand recovery remains slow amid high interest rates and inventory adjustments. With inventory levels in Europe and the U.S. gradually normalizing and demand from infrastructure and energy transition projects emerging, the market is expected to improve in the second half of the year, for which Chun Yu is well prepared.



Targets High-End Smart Vehicle

Fasteners to Drive Long-Term Growth

Boltun is actively expanding into the smart vehicle sector, aiming to capture opportunities arising from AI-driven autonomous driving applications. The company noted that as electric and autonomous vehicles evolve, requirements for precision, fatigue resistance, and lightweight design are increasing, with high-end fasteners priced up to 10 times higher than those used in traditional internal combustion engine vehicles, making them a key growth driver.

Although automakers are adopting vertical integration and part reduction strategies to lower component counts, advanced vehicles demand higher quality and performance, benefiting high value-added products. Boltun continues to invest in R&D to strengthen its technological capabilities and position itself for long-term market opportunities. In terms of performance, May revenue reached NT\$968 million, up 2.99% year-on-year, while cumulative revenue for the first 5 months totaled NT\$4.82 billion, up 2.04%. Q1 EPS stood at NT\$0.61, reflecting stable overall operations.

Aerospace Demand Surge Fills Capacity, NAFCO Sees Strong Growth Momentum



NAFCO is benefiting from record backlogs

at Boeing and Airbus, along with increased replacement demand driven by longer flight routes amid geopolitical tensions. May consolidated revenue reached NT\$469 million, up 11.86% month-on-month and 56.16% year-on-year. Cumulative revenue for the first 5 months totaled NT\$2.093 billion, up 32.13%, both hitting record highs for the period.

Analysts noted that amid tight supply of aircraft engines and structural fasteners, NAFCO is operating at full capacity, with order visibility extending up to 5 years. The company is also advancing smart manufacturing upgrades across its facilities, while accelerating the ramp-up of its new Malaysia plant to expand capacity. **As labor shortages and inflation continue to strain Western aerospace supply chains, production is increasingly shifting toward Asia. With key certifications such as AS9100 and Nadcap, NAFCO stands among a limited number of globally qualified suppliers. Rising maintenance bottlenecks and a surge in component replacement demand are further strengthening its order momentum.**

Rising Wire Rod Prices Boost Operations, Tycoons Group Sees Improved Sales and Profitability



Tycoons stated at its investor conference that the recent NT\$1,000 per ton increase in wire rod

prices by Taiwan CSC for Q3 has lifted inventory values, while growth in wire processing and high value-added products has strengthened overall operating momentum, with further profit expansion expected. The company noted that its strategy focuses on wire processing, integrated one-stop services, and product upgrades, supported by a diversified footprint across Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and China. Its Thailand operation, positioned in the ASEAN market, continues to benefit from stable demand and serves as a key growth driver.

Financially, Q1 consolidated revenue reached NT\$3.46 billion, up 57% year-on-year and 35% quarter-on-quarter, reflecting clear improvements in orders and shipments. Ongoing global inventory destocking in the fastener industry, coupled with gradually recovering demand in Europe and the U.S., as well as China's steel output control policies, will help rebalance supply and demand, positioning Tycoons to benefit from the industry upturn.





Expands Midwest Footprint with New Indianapolis Distribution Hub

Packer Fastener has opened a new 40,000 sq. ft. distribution center in Lebanon, Indiana, strengthening its presence in the U.S. Midwest and enhancing regional supply capabilities. The Green Bay-based fastener and industrial supply distributor said **the Indianapolis-area facility will support growing demand from commercial contractors, manufacturers, and fabricators, particularly in fast-expanding sectors such as data centers, renewable energy, and power generation.**

By positioning inventory closer to customers in a key manufacturing corridor, the new hub is expected to reduce lead times, improve delivery speed, and enhance supply chain reliability. The company emphasized its strategy of expanding into high-growth markets while building localized inventory and service capabilities. The Indianapolis expansion follows the opening of a distribution center in Columbus, Ohio, just over a year ago, reflecting Packer Fastener's ongoing growth momentum and commitment to strengthening its national distribution network.

U.S. Army Tests Show IperionX Titanium Fasteners Outperform Grade 8 Steel

IPERIONX IperionX has reported that its titanium fasteners exceeded the performance of high-strength SAE Grade 8 steel in independent tests conducted by the U.S. Army DEVCOM Ground Vehicle Systems Center and Westmoreland Mechanical Testing & Research. The evaluation found that **the Ti-6Al-4V titanium fasteners delivered torque-to-yield values of 563–615 ft-lbf, 20% higher than comparable Grade 8 steel fasteners.** In some cases, the titanium fasteners did not yield within initial Army test limits, indicating superior strength.

Tensile testing also showed yield strength of 135–137 ksi and ultimate tensile strength of up to 152 ksi, surpassing typical aerospace-grade titanium benchmarks while matching or exceeding steel performance. In addition to strength, titanium fasteners offer 40–45% weight reduction and enhanced corrosion resistance, making them attractive for defense, aerospace, and industrial applications.

The company said the results validate its patented titanium processing technologies and support the development of a fully domestic U.S. titanium supply chain. IperionX aims to scale production of high-performance, cost-competitive titanium components for critical sectors.

West Special Fasteners Wins UK King's Award for Manufacturing Innovation



West Special Fasteners, a UK manufacturer of high-integrity fasteners and precision components, has received the 2026 King's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category, the nation's highest business honor. **The company was recognized for developing an advanced forging and heat treatment process that enables the production of fasteners from corrosion-resistant alloys, including super duplex and high-nickel materials.**

The innovative hot forging technology improves energy efficiency while reducing material waste by up to 40%. Designed for demanding applications in offshore energy, subsea, nuclear, and defense industries, the company's fasteners are used in landmark projects worldwide, including the Triton Submarine, Singapore's Helix Bridge, and Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower.

Founded in 1999 and based in Derbyshire, West Special Fasteners produces around 850,000 fasteners annually. The company said its long-term commitment to continuous process improvements and material innovation has enabled it to remain competitive in an evolving global market while delivering reliable fastening solutions for extreme operating environments.



Opens Integrated Fastener Manufacturing Plant in India

Super Screws Pvt. Ltd. has commissioned a new vertically integrated cold forging fastener manufacturing facility in Bawal, Haryana, significantly expanding its production capacity and product range. Designed as a greenfield project, the plant integrates the entire manufacturing process—from raw material processing to finished fasteners—enhancing quality, efficiency, and supply reliability. **The new facility produces fasteners from M2 to M28 with lengths up to 500 mm, serving industries that require high-performance and precision-engineered components. Super Screws is also entering**



the precision component segment, strengthening its ability to provide end-to-end manufacturing solutions.

Equipped with advanced cold forging lines, integrated heat and surface treatment, and automated inspection systems, the plant emphasizes operational excellence and quality assurance. It was also built in line with ESG principles, incorporating energy-efficient technologies, optimized resource use, waste reduction, and high workplace safety standards. The company said the investment will improve manufacturing flexibility, support growing customer demand in India and overseas, and reinforce its long-term strategy for sustainable growth and advanced manufacturing.

Hillman Breaks Ground on New Ohio Distribution and Office Campus



Hillman Solutions Corp. has begun construction of a new 715,000-square-foot campus in Forest Park, Ohio, marking a major expansion of its operations in the Cincinnati area. **The multipurpose facility will serve as the company's distribution center while also housing offices and operational support functions.**

As the sole tenant, Hillman plans to consolidate several regional operations into one centralized location to improve collaboration, operational efficiency, and customer service. The site also offers room for a future expansion of up to 162,000 square feet.

The project is being developed with Hillwood Investment Properties on the former Forest Fair Mall site. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2027. Hillman said the new campus reflects its long-term commitment to employees, customers, and the local community while supporting future business growth. The project will also help transform the former retail property into a modern logistics and operations hub.



Optimas Relocates Ohio Distribution Center to Enhance Supply Chain Efficiency

Optimas Solutions has relocated its Ohio distribution center from Lockbourne to a new 44,385-square-foot facility in Grove City, aiming to improve logistics efficiency and strengthen supply chain responsiveness. Located near major transportation routes, the new site is expected to provide faster service for customers, suppliers, and carriers.

The facility has been designed around 5S workplace organization principles, with optimized inventory layout, material flow, and workspaces to improve operational efficiency and safety. The existing Lockbourne team will continue operating the new center, ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining service continuity.

The relocation is part of Optimas' broader strategy to enhance its distribution network and support future growth. Headquartered in Wood Dale, Illinois, the company reported US\$577 million in 2025 revenue and supplies fasteners, C-Class components, engineering, inventory management, manufacturing, distribution, and quality services to customers worldwide.



Sterling Tools Appoints Sandeep Bist to Lead HR for Fasteners Business

Sterling Tools Limited has appointed Sandeep Bist as Head – HR & Administration for its fasteners business. The appointment strengthens the company's leadership team as it continues expanding its automotive fastener operations.

Bist brings extensive human resources experience from the automotive and manufacturing sectors. Before joining Sterling Tools, he served as Head of Talent Acquisition at Spark Minda, leading leadership hiring, employer branding, and talent management initiatives. His previous roles also include senior HR positions at MOTUL, RACL Geartech, Oerlikon Graziano Trasmissioni India, Prearey Lall & Sons, and Shriram Pistons & Rings, where he gained expertise in talent acquisition, performance management, employee engagement, organizational development, and HR strategy.



Sterling Tools said Bist's experience will support the company's people development and administrative functions while strengthening its fasteners business. Founded in 1979, Sterling Tools is one of India's leading automotive fastener manufacturers, supplying standard, chassis, and engine fasteners to OEM customers in India and international markets, including the U.S., Europe, South America, and the Middle East.

vossloh Wins Contract for California High-Speed Rail Fastening Systems

Vossloh AG has secured a contract worth more than €40 million to supply concrete sleepers and rail fastening systems for the first construction section of the California High-Speed Rail project, the first purpose-built high-speed railway in the United States. The contract covers a 192-kilometer section and includes the delivery of 335,000 concrete sleepers equipped with integrated fastening systems designed for trains operating at speeds of up to 350 km/h. Production will take place at Vossloh's facility in Pueblo, Colorado, with deliveries beginning in the third quarter of this year.

The company said the fastening systems are engineered to provide high reliability, long service life, and reduced maintenance requirements. CEO Oliver Schuster noted that the project represents a key milestone for Vossloh in the U.S. market and is expected to strengthen its position for future high-speed rail projects. The contract also highlights growing investment in U.S. high-speed rail infrastructure and the increasing adoption of proven rail technologies from international suppliers.

Acquisitions



Rox Capital Acquires Interstate Threaded Products to Build Industrial Fastener Platform

Rox Capital Partners has acquired U.S.-based Interstate Threaded Products, marking the launch of its industrial fastener platform. The Dallas-headquartered company manufactures and distributes specialty threaded fasteners for sectors including infrastructure, power generation, construction, telecommunications, and industrial manufacturing. Founded in 1973, Interstate is led by President Rick Stone, who will remain in his role to ensure continuity. The company is recognized for its strong customer relationships and diversified end-market exposure across North America.

Rox Capital said the acquisition provides a foundation for future expansion through both organic investment and add-on acquisitions. The firm highlighted Interstate's established market position and operational strength as key drivers for long-term growth. Rox brings prior fastener industry experience, having previously invested in Amifast, a U.S. distributor acquired in 2017 and later sold in 2021. With this transaction, Rox aims to scale its presence in the specialty fastener segment and capitalize on ongoing demand from mission-critical industries. ■

MURO Expands U.S.

Distribution Through Colony Hardware Partnership

Canadian fastening equipment manufacturer MURO has expanded the availability of its auto-feed screw driving systems in the United States through a new distribution partnership with Colony Hardware. The agreement provides U.S. contractors and industrial customers with direct access to MURO's full range of auto-feed tools and collated fasteners via Colony Hardware's nationwide supply network.

Designed for high-volume applications such as roofing, framing, marine construction, transportation, and infrastructure projects, MURO's integrated fastening systems combine screw drivers and compatible collated fasteners to improve productivity while reducing sourcing complexity and downtime. The expansion strengthens MURO's presence in North America, building on its distribution network across more than 16 countries. By leveraging Colony Hardware's established sales and logistics infrastructure, the company aims to improve product accessibility and provide faster, more reliable supply for construction and industrial customers throughout the U.S. market.

