Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

Association News

Ed Smith Elected NFDA President for 2025-2026

Ed Smith of Wurth Industry USA has been elected as the 2025-2026 president of the National Fastener Distributors Association. Melissa Patel of Field will serve as vice president, Christian Reich of Goebel Fasteners will continue as associate chair, and Scott McDaniel of Martin Fastening Solutions will remain on the Board as immediate past president.

Lisa Breton of DB Roberts, Scott Camp of Atlas Distribution Services, and Jennifer Sturm of Empire Bolt & Screw have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors effective June 11, 2025.

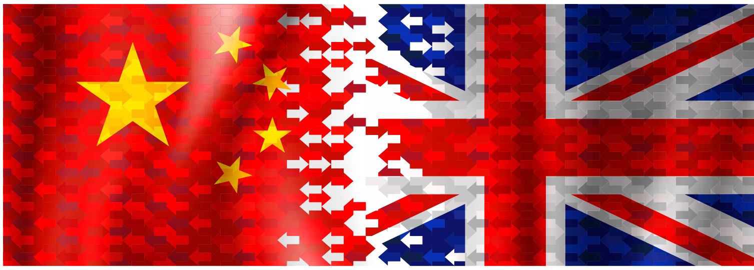
Continuing on the NFDA Board are Steve Andrasik of Brighton-Best International, Alex Goldberg of AMPG, Scott Longfellow of Huyett, and Angela Philippart of AFC Industries.

Market Watch: Trump Tariff 2.0

U.S. Tariff on Steel and Aluminum Imports Increases to 50% from June 4

U.S. President Trump announced on May 31st that in order to promote the development of the U.S. domestic steel industry and stimulate local production, the tariff on steel and aluminum products imported from all over the world would be further increased to 50%, which came effective from June 4th. The move also means that the 25% tariff originally imposed under Section 232 is doubled, which is bound to put the global steel and aluminum product industry under greater cost pressure again. Although the U.S. Court of International Trade has ruled that the reciprocal tariffs imposed by President Trump under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) exceeded the President's authority and must be stopped immediately, the Trump administration has filed an appeal. The steel and aluminum tariffs are based on a different law and therefore are not affected by this appeal.

Chinese Firms Boost Exports to UK Amid US Tariff



Chinese firms are significantly increasing exports to the UK, reaching levels not seen in years, as a result of tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. Official data from both China and the UK show a rise in Chinese exports, indicating a rerouting of goods to avoid the high US tariffs. UK imports from China hit £6 billion in April, the highest in over two years, reaching nearly US$2 billion in the first five months of 2025. This shift may help reduce UK inflation by increasing cheaper goods supply but also risks undercutting domestic manufacturers. UK Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds is monitoring the situation to prevent dumping, especially in sectors like steel. The trade diversion reflects how demand for Chinese goods shifts geographically rather than disappearing due to US trade barriers.

Tariffs Push Screw Prices Higher, Impacting Everyday Consumers and Businesses

The recent surge in tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, reinstated by the Trump administration, has sharply increased the price of screws and other industrial fasteners, affecting both manufacturers and everyday consumers. An example comes from a recent encounter at a Home Depot, where a customer wearing a T-shirt with an American flag lamented, “Screws are so expensive right now,” highlighting how tariff-driven price increases are felt by ordinary Americans trying to complete simple projects like building a chicken coop. This anecdote underscores how tariffs ripple down to everyday purchases, not just large industrial buyers.

The tariffs have forced manufacturers and suppliers to either absorb higher costs or pass them on to customers, pushing up prices for construction firms and small businesses reliant on screws and bolts. Some contractors warn that rising fastener prices may delay projects or force cancellations, tightening margins in an already challenging economic environment. The Federal Reserve noted tariffs have contributed to a 0.3% rise in consumer prices this year, with many companies selectively raising prices on affected items to offset increased import costs. While tariffs aim to protect domestic industries, the unintended consequence is inflationary pressure on essential components like screws, impacting both industry and consumers alike.

AIA AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Aerospace Industry Warns New US Tariffs Could Threaten Air Safety and Supply Chains

The US aerospace and airline sectors have warned that new tariffs on imported commercial aircraft, jet engines, and parts could jeopardize air safety and disrupt critical supply chains. Following Trump’s imposition of a 10% tariff on nearly all imported planes and parts in April, the Commerce Department launched a “Section 232” investigation into national security risks posed by these imports. This could lead to even higher tariffs. The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), representing Boeing, Airbus, GE Aerospace, and hundreds of others, urged the Commerce Department to extend the public comment period by 90 days and delay new tariffs for at least 180 days. Industry groups stressed that higher tariffs risk dismantling the recovering aviation supply chain, increasing counterfeit parts, and causing unintended consequences. They also highlighted challenges in sourcing parts domestically, with new suppliers potentially taking up to 10 years to meet safety certifications. The AIA highlighted how a fire at a Pennsylvania aerospace fastener supplier in February has impacted production and the difficulties in sourcing parts from new suppliers. Airlines warned that tariffs could raise ticket prices and weaken US economic and national security.

Industry Development ↘

Taiwan CSC Lowers Wire and Automotive Steel Prices for Q3 2025

On June 19, Taiwan CSC held its pricing meeting for Q3 2025. While prices for steel plates remain unchanged, the company announced price reductions across other steel products. Specifically, wire prices are cut by NT$800 per ton, and automotive steel prices are lowered by NT$500 per ton. Taiwan CSC cited ongoing market uncertainty driven by U.S. tariffs as a key factor behind the adjustments, noting that Taiwan’s exports are also slowing due to currency exchange rate pressures. In addition, European steel prices have declined due to seasonal demand softness, and Asian steel exports have weakened. As a result, the global steel market is entering a period of adjustment. To help customers remain competitive amid these challenges, Taiwan CSC decided to reduce prices on most steel products.

EU Imposes Provisional Anti-Dumping Duties on Headless Screws from China

On June 13, 2025, the European Commission adopted Regulation (EU) 2025/1189 to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of headless screws originating from China. The investigation was initiated on October 17, 2024, following a complaint by the European Industrial Fasteners Institute, citing evidence of dumping and material injury to the EU industry. The product under investigation includes screws and bolts without heads made of iron or steel (not including stainless steel and excluding coach screws and other wood screws, screw hooks and screw rings, self-tapping screws, and screws and bolts for fixing railway track construction material), widely used in automotive, renewable energy, electrical appliances, and construction sectors.

The Commission selected samples of Union producers, unrelated importers, and Chinese exporting producers to gather data. Some Chinese exporters failed to cooperate, leading to adjustments in the sample. The investigation period covers July 1, 2023, to

June 30, 2024. The Commission granted anonymity to certain EU producers fearing retaliation from customers sourcing from China. This provisional measure aims to protect the EU screw industry from unfair competition while the investigation continues.

CITT Announces Notice of Expiry Review on Carbon Steel Screws from China and Taiwan

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) gives notice that it will initiate an expiry review of its order, concerning the dumping of certain carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China and Taiwan and the subsidizing of such products originating in or exported from China. In this expiry review, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will first determine whether the expiry of the order with respect to the subject goods is likely to result in the continuation or resumption of dumping or subsidizing of the subject goods. If the CBSA determines that the expiry of the order with respect to any goods is likely to result in the continuation or resumption of dumping or subsidizing, the Tribunal will then determine if the continued or resumed dumping or subsidizing is likely to result in injury to the domestic industry. The CBSA will provide notice of its determinations within 150 days after receiving notice of the Tribunal's initiation of the expiry review, that is, no later than October 2, 2025. The Tribunal will issue its order and its statement of reasons no later than October 17, 2025. The Tribunal will hold a hearing relating to this expiry review commencing on January 5, 2026. The type of hearing will be communicated at a later date.

South Africa's Proposed Tariff Hike on Fasteners

The South African government is considering increasing import tariffs on various fasteners to 30%. This move aims to stimulate domestic production and create jobs. However, industry bodies like the South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (Sapvia) have expressed concerns that higher tariffs may increase costs for solar panel and battery manufacturers, potentially hindering renewable energy growth. The proposal reflects a balancing act between protecting local industries and supporting the country's green energy ambitions.

In specifics:

- **Other wood screws are currently duty-free, but tariffs could be raised up to 15%.**
- **Self-tapping screws are currently duty-free, with a potential increase up to 30%.**
- **Bolts used in aircraft are currently duty-free, with a possible increase up to 30%.**
- **Stainless steel fully threaded hex head screws and bolts currently have a 10% tariff, which could be raised up to 30%.**
- **Most stainless steel nuts are duty-free, but tariffs could increase up to 30%. Hex nuts with nylon inserts currently have a 10% tariff, with a possible increase to 30%.**
- **Among washers, split or double coil spring washers currently have a 10% tariff, potentially rising to 30%, while other washers are currently duty-free, with a possible increase up to 30%.**

EU Steel Industry Urges to Prepare for CBAM to Avoid Trade Disruptions in 2026

With the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) set to begin on January 1, 2026, European steel industry players remain unprepared for its gradual implementation, warns Alexander Julius, president of EUROMETAL, in a presentation in Milan on May 8. Although CBAM's fiscal impact starts in May 2027, companies must register on the EU platform and declare emissions from Scope 1 and 2, with Scope 3 emissions to follow.

Julius highlights a major cash flow challenge: importers will pay for only 2.5% of embedded emissions in 2026, rising to 100% by 2034, meaning financial reserves must be built well in advance. The complexity and extra costs-estimated at €56 per ton for high-emission steel-could overwhelm smaller businesses and disrupt supply chains. Stronger collaboration across the supply chain and emission surcharges in contracts are recommended. The European Commission plans to propose amendments in late 2025, including expanding CBAM's scope downstream and anti-circumvention measures to protect EU manufacturing industries from carbon leakage through steel derivatives.

ENVI Supports Major Simplification of EU CBAM

On May 12, 2025, the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Food Safety (ENVI) endorsed the European Commission's proposal to simplify the EU CBAM. This simplification package, known as 'Omnibus I,' was introduced in February 2025 to improve the efficiency and accessibility of CBAM. MEPs approved several technical clarifications aimed at streamlining the implementation of CBAM. A significant change is the introduction of a new de minimis threshold of 50 tons of CO_2 emissions per year, exempting around 90% of importers (who are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals who import small quantities) from CBAM obligations. Despite this exemption, the mechanism will continue to cover approximately 99% of CO_2 emissions from imports in sectors such as iron, steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizers.

The proposal also simplifies the authorization process for declarants, enhances emissions calculation methods, and improves the management of financial liabilities. Additionally, it strengthens measures to prevent abuse of the system, ensuring its integrity and effectiveness. Rapporteur Antonio Decaro emphasized the importance of balancing simplification with maintaining the environmental integrity of CBAM to effectively prevent carbon leakage. The full European Parliament was to vote on the negotiation mandate on May 22, 2025. Looking ahead, the European Commission plans to review the possibility of extending CBAM's scope to other high-risk sectors in early 2026. This ongoing development reflects the EU's commitment to driving global climate ambition and supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Companies Development

NAFCO Secures 5-Year Deal with MTU Aero Engines, Expands Production in Malaysia

The leading aerospace fastener manufacturer announced a major five-year cooperation agreement with German aviation engine giant MTU Aero Engines at the 2025 Paris Air Show. The deal not only strengthens their existing collaboration in aerospace fasteners in Taiwan, but also extends to precision machining at NAFCO's Suzhou plant in China, reflecting the company's strategic global supply chain deployment. MTU Aero Engines, a top global developer and maintainer of commercial and military aircraft engines, serves about one-third of the world's commercial aircraft and reported €7.5 billion revenue in 2024.

In addition, NAFCO's subsidiary, MY NAFCO PRECISION SDN. BHD, recently invested approximately NT$130 million to acquire land and factory facilities in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. This expansion supports NAFCO's global production footprint for aerospace and automotive sectors. The Malaysian plant, officially opened in April 2025, is undergoing further capacity and equipment upgrades with total investments expected to exceed US$40 million. NAFCO is optimistic about stable demand in the aerospace market this year, boosted by urgent orders following a serious fire at Boeing's SPS Technologies plant earlier in 2025. These developments position NAFCO to enhance revenue growth over the next two to three quarters.

BBI Raises Prices Amid Tariff Hikes, Q2 Financial Results Expected to Improve

Brighton-Best International (BBI), a subsidiary of Ta Chen International, announced a price increase in March to counteract the impact of rising tariffs, which is expected to positively reflect in its Q2 financial results. The company mainly produces carbon steel, stainless steel, and alloy steel fasteners, focusing on screws and nuts, with over 90% of its sales concentrated in the North American market. Following the price adjustment, BBI's gross margin improved to 39% in April to May, up from 33.48% in Q1, while shipments are forecasted to grow by 2-4% this year. In Q1 2025, BBI reported revenue of NT$5.878 billion, a 2.98% year-on-year increase, and net profit after tax of NT$766 million, up 32%, with an EPS of NT$0.74. The company remains optimistic about its operational performance for the year, driven by both volume and price increases.

Tree Island Steel Reports Q1 2025 Revenue Decline Due to U.S. Tariffs

Tree Island Steel, a leading North American wire and fastener products manufacturer, announced a significant revenue drop in the first quarter of 2025, citing the impact of new U.S. tariffs on imported steel and wire products. The company reported that Q1 revenues fell to USD 52.4 million, down from USD 60.7 million a year earlier. Management attributed the decline to reduced demand and higher costs caused by the tariffs, which have disrupted supply chains and increased the price of raw materials. CEO Remy Stachowiak noted that the company is working to mitigate these challenges by optimizing operations and seeking alternative supply sources. The company's outlook for the rest of 2025 remains cautious as tariff uncertainties continue to weigh on the industry.

B&F Fastener Supply Rebrands as BFirst Industrial

B&F Fastener Supply, a Minnesota-based distributor founded in 1988, announced it has changed its name to “BFirst Industrial.” The rebranding reflects the company’s dedication to providing top-quality products and services in the fastener industry. Despite the new name, existing contracts, orders, and accounts remain unaffected. BFirst Industrial emphasized that its commitment to customer support and operational excellence continues unchanged. Over recent years, the company has expanded by acquiring firms like TPI and Northern States Supply and now operates 17 locations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas.

Howmet Aerospace Positioned to Benefit from US-China Trade Deal

Howmet Aerospace is well positioned to benefit from the recently announced US-China trade agreement, which aims to reduce tariffs and ease the trade tensions that have affected global supply chains and manufacturing costs. The aerospace sector, a critical market for Howmet, stands to gain as tariffs on key raw materials and finished aerospace components are lowered. Howmet, a leading manufacturer of advanced metal parts used in aircraft engines and structures, could see increased demand and improved profit margins as a result of reduced costs and expanded export opportunities. Industry analysts emphasize that the easing of trade barriers is expected to facilitate smoother cross-border transactions and reduce expenses for manufacturers like Howmet. The positive outlook reflects broader optimism about the easing of trade barriers and renewed growth prospects in aerospace manufacturing.

Tong Ming Enterprise Opens First Overseas Branch in Thailand

On April 21, 2025, the company opened its first overseas branch in Bangkok, Thailand, marking a major step in its global expansion. After 300 days of preparation and cooperation between its headquarters and the Thai team, the company aims to shift from exporting products to building a global ecosystem in stainless steel fasteners. This move responds to ongoing US-China trade tensions and rising US tariffs that disrupt supply chains. By localizing production and diversifying markets, the company seeks to reduce risks from unilateral trade policies and boost its international competitiveness. The Thailand branch will focus on cross-border technical collaboration, innovative logistics, and deep market development to strengthen the company's presence in Southeast Asia and the world. This strategic step lays the foundation for further global growth amid changing trade dynamics.

Acquisitions ↘

White Cap Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire the Business of Advanced Fastening Supply

White Cap, the leading distributor of specialty construction supplies and safety products for professional contractors, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the business of Advanced Fastening Supply ("AFS"), a Wisconsin-based supplier of fasteners, tools, safety products and other accessories to commercial and residential end markets. AFS operates three locations in Appleton/Greenville, Madison and Waukesha, Wis. "We look forward to welcoming AFS to the White Cap family in the coming weeks," said Alan Sollenberger, CEO of White Cap. "Their strong reputation and product mix will enhance our ability to serve contractors across the Midwest with the tools, fasteners and safety solutions our customers need to get the job done." "White Cap shares our customer-first mindset and commitment to delivering total jobsite solutions," said George Rasmussen, Co-Owner of AFS. "Together, we can open the door to new growth opportunities for the AFS team and for delivering even more value, service and solutions to our customers across Wisconsin and beyond."

Portland Bolt Expands with Acquisition of Bennett Bolt Works

Portland Bolt & Manufacturing Co., LLC (Portland Bolt), a leading domestic manufacturer and global provider of anchor bolts and nonstandard construction fasteners, announced it has acquired Bennett Bolt Works, a New York-based manufacturer of bolts and fasteners for highway guardrail systems, bridge construction, and overhead sign structures. Founded in 1978 and located in Jordan, New York, Bennett Bolt Works has established a reputation for quality, reliability, and superior customer service within its niche markets. The acquisition enhances Portland Bolt’s manufacturing capabilities and regional presence, reinforcing the company’s commitment to supporting critical infrastructure projects across the United States.

"Bennett Bolt Works has built a strong reputation in the highway and bridge infrastructure sector," said Blake Ray, CEO of Portland Bolt. "By bringing their specialized expertise into the Portland Bolt family, we are enhancing our ability to serve critical infrastructure projects across the country with greater efficiency and customer service." Eireann Govern, owner of Bennett Bolt Works, added, "Joining forces with Portland Bolt is an exciting next chapter for Bennett Bolt Works. Their industry expertise and commitment to quality align perfectly with our mission, ensuring a seamless transition and continued excellence in serving the transportation infrastructure sector."

Portland Bolt will retain the existing Bennett Bolt Works team and continue operations at the New York facility, ensuring continuity for customers and employees. Going forward, the business will operate under the name Portland Bolt Northeast.

Nord-Lock Group Acquires Energy Bolting Limited

NORD-LOCK GROUP X ENERGY BOLTING

Nord-Lock Group is pleased to announce the acquisition of the premium specialty bolting company, Energy Bolting. The UK-based company Energy Bolting are experts in premium specialty bolting, specifically developing customized critical fasteners for demanding applications in industries with challenging operating conditions. With a strong focus on customer service, short lead times, accreditations and traceability, and rigorous quality control, Energy Bolting has steadily expanded its presence in key markets and built a loyal customer base.

Nord-Lock Group is acquiring Energy Bolting primarily to integrate premium specialty bolting into its product portfolio. The acquisition also aligns well with Nord-Lock Group's strategic direction to expand its offering in critical bolted joint solutions and to strengthen its position in key industries such as oil & gas, power generation, and defense.

"The acquisition of Energy Bolting places our group in a great position to expand operations. We've long aimed to incorporate premium specialty bolting into our portfolio and capture market share in key industries. With Energy Bolting's expertise and impressive operational capabilities, we're well-positioned to excel on all fronts", says Daniel Westberg, CEO at Nord-Lock Group. "We're proud of our strong position in premium specialty bolting and our track record in securing key industry accreditations. To support our next phase of growth, we've been focused on enhancing how we reach new customers. With Nord-Lock Group's global sales reach and established relationships with leading Original Equipment Manufacturers, we now have a compelling platform to expand into new markets", says Robin Hart-Archer, Managing Director, Energy Bolting.