

# Fastener World News

compiled by Fastener World

## Association News

### BIAFD Appoints New Chair and Committee Members as Ian Doherty Steps Down

At the Autumn meeting, the BIAFD Management Committee (MC) and membership gathered to acknowledge the departure of a key leader. Ian Doherty, having announced his resignation and retirement from the MC, was presented with a gift in recognition of his service.

With Ian's departure, **the association is pleased to announce the appointment of the new chair Gary Henderson of Grampian Fasteners.** Gary, who has long served as vice chair, now steps into this leadership role with decades of industry experience and a firm commitment to BIAFD's mission. Gary Henderson said: "Ian's leadership, commitment, and vision have no doubt helped strengthen the association. "On behalf of the MC and the membership, we send our sincere thanks to Ian for his contribution and the energy and expertise he has brought to BIAFD." Stephen Clarke of Profast will assume the role of vice chair.

In addition, **the association is delighted to welcome Yasin Boulakhras of Accu and Scott Hayfield of Fabory as MC members.** Elected at the AGM, both bring fresh perspectives and valuable experience to support the continued growth and direction of BIAFD.



## Market Watch: Trump Tariff 2.0

### Changing Tariff Policy a Major Hurdle for Rhode Island Fastener Supplier

Founded in 2020 and based in Newport, Rhode Island, Fair Wind Fasteners supplies specialized screws, nuts, and bolts widely used in marine, construction, electrical, and machinery manufacturing industries. Founder Rob Lehmann shared that while the overall economy remains steady, rising costs are squeezing profit margins. The company sources high-quality fasteners globally from the U.S., Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, various European countries, and China. Due to frequently changing tariffs, **the cost of goods has surged by 30% to 50%, costs partly paid directly by the company and partly absorbed by suppliers before being passed on to customers.**

Lehmann highlighted that **the unpredictability of tariffs is the biggest challenge. Customers demand firm quotes, but with manufacturing and shipping lead times up to 90 days, prices can fluctuate with tariff changes, making pricing uncertain.** This shifting tariff landscape significantly disrupts order management and business planning, posing a major obstacle to his operations. The company is committed to delivering high-quality, corrosion-resistant fasteners to a diverse customer base, from DIY boatbuilders to government and aerospace projects, emphasizing innovation and fast fulfillment.

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## Rashida Tlaib's Town Hall Highlights Impact of Tariffs on Michigan Manufacturers

As tariff uncertainties rise, **U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib led a town hall featuring leaders from Livonia-based automotive suppliers AlphaUSA and NYX Inc. to discuss tariffs' effects on manufacturers, consumers, and communities.** NYX CFO Dan Laible stressed the importance of fact-based dialogue amid prevalent misinformation.

A Goldman Sachs study showed **14% of tariffs are borne by foreign exporters, 64% by American companies, and 22% by consumers, with an expected 67% ultimately falling on U.S. consumers.** AlphaUSA President Chuck Dardas highlighted how tariff increases on steel and components have added USD 250,000 monthly costs, totaling an extra USD3 million annually—threatening the automotive fastener industry's sustainability. Dardas urged for diplomatic and political resolution before business survival is jeopardized.



## Alcoa Says Trump Tariff Added USD115M in Aluminum Costs



**Alcoa Corp., the largest U.S. aluminum producer, reported that tariffs on Canadian aluminum imports increased its second-quarter costs by USD115 million, highlighting the impact of President Trump's trade policies.** To mitigate these costs, the company redirected Canadian aluminum sales outside the U.S. With steel and aluminum tariffs raised from 25% in March to 50% in June, metal producers face trade disruptions created by the administration's efforts to revive domestic production. Alcoa's tariff costs in Q2 were about 6 times higher than in Q1. Mining giant Rio Tinto Group also revealed that tariffs on its Canada-made aluminum added over USD300 million in costs during the first half of the year.

CEO William Oplinger said Alcoa has engaged extensively with governments, including direct talks with Trump's team, but warned that U.S. customers ultimately bear the tariff burden. He noted aluminum prices in the U.S. are significantly higher than anywhere else worldwide, increasing costs for customers.

## Market Watch: CBAM

### EU Adopts CBAM Simplification Regulation

On 17 October 2025, the EU published Regulation (EU) 2025/2083 amending the original CBAM Regulation (EU 2023/956) to simplify and enhance the carbon border adjustment mechanism. The amendment reflects the European Commission's pledge to reduce administrative burdens on businesses, entering into force on 20 October 2025. CBAM was introduced in 2023 to prevent carbon leakage and will fully apply from January 2026. Following the European Council's 2024 call for a "simplification revolution," the European Commission proposed the Omnibus I package to ease existing CBAM rules. The political agreement was reached mid-2025, approved soon after by both Parliament and Council.



### ◆ Key Amendments ◆

#### 1. Single Mass-Based De Minimis Threshold

The prior EUR 150 low-value exemption is replaced by a 50-tonne cumulative mass threshold annually, covering iron & steel, aluminum, fertilizers, and cement imports. Imports under this volume are exempt from CBAM obligations, except for electricity and hydrogen sectors.

#### 2. Annual Threshold Review and Adjustment

The Commission will review and adjust the threshold yearly to cover at least 99% of embedded emissions.

#### 3. Monitoring and Penalties

Authorities will monitor importers to prevent artificial import splitting; violations lead to penalties up to five times the standard EUR 100/ton emissions fine.



## 4. Authorized CBAM Declarants

Importers exceeding the threshold must apply for authorization and may delegate declarations to EU-established third parties while retaining responsibility.

## 5. Extended Declaration Deadline and Reduced Purchase Requirement

Annual declarations and certificate surrender deadlines extended to 30 September the following year. Quarterly certificate purchase minimum lowered from 80% to 50%.

## 6. Embedded Emission Calculations

Emissions determined through default or verified actual values, with defaults based on top 10 highest emitting exporters.

## 7. Carbon Price Deductions

Allow deductions for carbon prices effectively paid in third countries, with the Commission publishing default third-country carbon prices from 2027.

## 8. CBAM Certificate Trading

Sales begin 1 February 2027 for 2026 imports, with pricing linked to EU ETS allowances. Excess certificates may be repurchased; unredeemed certificates are cancelled annually.

## 9. Harmonized Penalties

Penalty regime aligns with EU ETS rules; indirect customs representatives may be liable.

## 10. Sector and Technical Clarifications

Clarifications include excluding non-calcined kaolinic clays and focusing only on direct emissions for electricity imports. Accredited verifiers must register within two months of accreditation.

★ Read full text published by EU: [tinyurl.com / EU20252083EN](https://tinyurl.com/EU20252083EN)

## Industry Development

### Vietnam's Auto Parts Industry Accelerates

**As of May 2025, Vietnam boasts 858 enterprises and manufacturing facilities certified to International Automotive Task Force (IATF) standards—a 22-fold increase in just 18 months—signaling rapid industry maturation.** Vietnamese manufacturers now produce advanced components such as electric motors and electronic modules, moving beyond the so-called "screw curse" of only basic parts.

With a growing domestic auto market, experts urge a strategic push to develop the full supply chain, attracting foreign direct investment and supporting local SMEs. For example, Ho Chi Minh City's An Thinh Technology shifted from household electrical goods to automotive wiring and jacks in 2019, achieving double-digit sales growth annually. Vnines Innovation in Dong Nai focuses on EV motors and controllers, exporting to North America, Europe, and Asia. Amphenol RF Vietnam, established in 2024, assembles automotive RF connectors.



Vietnam's auto parts sector is increasingly integrated globally, valued at USD4.5 billion in 2023 and forecasted to exceed USD 13 billion by 2032. Despite challenges in skilled labor and environmental compliance, companies are expanding capacity and diversifying products, driving fast-paced growth.

### GM Cuts Back EV Production Amid Slowing Demand and Policy Changes

General Motors (GM) announced it is reducing production of some electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries due to softer-than-expected demand and recent changes in federal rules and tax incentives. The Chevy Bolt will begin production later this year in Kansas with one shift, with a second shift expected next year. GM's Spring Hill, Tennessee plant will halt all production in December. The plant, which produces the Cadillac Lyriq and Vistiq EVs, will reopen next year with one shift until May 2026, then add a second shift. GM states these adjustments align with anticipated slower EV industry growth and customer demand. The company plans to invest nearly USD5 billion over the next 2 years to boost domestic vehicle manufacturing, aiming to assemble over two million vehicles annually in the U.S. This move reflects ongoing industry caution following the end of USD7,500 EV tax credits at the end of September, signed into law under President Trump, who has also sought to repeal EV-specific regulations. Barriers like charging station access, range anxiety, and high vehicle prices remain hurdles to wider EV adoption. Market researcher Sam Abuelsamid predicts other automakers will also slow EV output following the expiration of tax credits but anticipates a rebound in 2026 with more affordable models like Nissan Leaf. "Much could change in the next 15 months," he said.



## Companies Development

### Nitto Seiko Meets with Haryana State Chief Minister to Deepen Business Expansion in India



On October 7, 2025, Nitto Seiko (Japan) held a significant meeting with Nayab Singh Saini, Chief

### Minister of Haryana State, India, during the "India Haryana State Investment Promotion Roadshow."

Facilitated by Nippon Indo Cultural and Economic center, this meeting marked an important opportunity to strengthen India-Japan economic cooperation.

Since Mr. Saini took office in March 2024, bilateral economic collaboration has deepened. Earlier this year, Nitto Seiko completed the acquisition of Vulcan Forge Private Limited and Vulcan Cold Forge Private Limited subsidiaries in India to leverage local manufacturing and supply chain integration. The meeting featured an introduction of the Vulcan Group based in Haryana and acknowledged by the Chief Minister through a commemorative gift symbolizing a lasting friendship. Looking ahead, Nitto Seiko plans to expand business in India, deepen local partnerships, enhance technology exchange, and accelerate its global growth strategy.

### Avlock International India Inaugurates Manufacturing Facility in Mumbai

On July 21, 2025, Avlock International India Pvt Ltd, a South African Joint Venture in India, inaugurated its new state-of-the-art fastener manufacturing plant in Rabale, Navi Mumbai. The event was led by founding member Mr. Lachhman Kewalramani and attended by Country Head Mr. Nishant Bagwe alongside key officials and partners.

The facility is equipped with advanced CNC and hydraulic machinery as well as in-house R&D, significantly boosting production capabilities to serve domestic and global markets. This move supports India's "Make in India" initiative by strengthening local manufacturing and reducing import dependency. Products include lockbolts, blind fasteners, rivet nuts, and hydraulic and pneumatic installation tools, serving critical industries such as automotive, railways, renewable energy, oil & gas, and more. Director Mr. Sameer Bulchandani highlighted that the Rabale plant marks a new chapter for scaling production and fostering innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, aligning with the company's vision to become a globally recognized fastener brand.



### BSRM to Invest Tk400 Crore in Fastener Plant

BSRM Group, Bangladesh's steelmaker, has announced a Tk400 crore investment to build a state-of-the-art fastener manufacturing plant under BSRM Wires Limited at Mirsharai in Chattogram. The plant will produce high-quality bolts and nuts, reducing reliance on imports. Investment comes from both BSRM Limited and BSRM Steel, each contributing Tk200 crore. Construction will take over a year, creating at least 200 new jobs. This strategic move enhances BSRM's position in the steel value chain, aiming to support large infrastructure, shipbuilding, and energy projects while strengthening Bangladesh's regional market competitiveness.



### Hillman to Build Large Facility Near Cincinnati

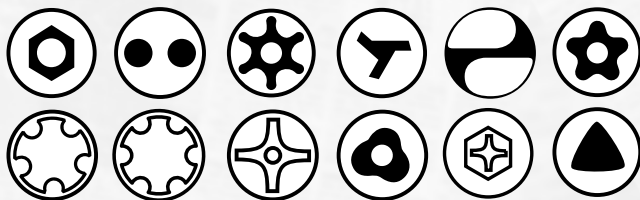
The Hillman Group will build a new multipurpose Class A facility on the former Forest Fair Mall site in Forest Park, OH, a northern suburb of Cincinnati. The building will cover 715,736 square feet, with an additional 162,000 square feet planned for future expansion. Demolition of the mall is underway, with construction scheduled to start in May 2026 and finish by mid-2027. This development will enable The Hillman Group to consolidate multiple Cincinnati-area operations for improved efficiency.



# Security Fasteners



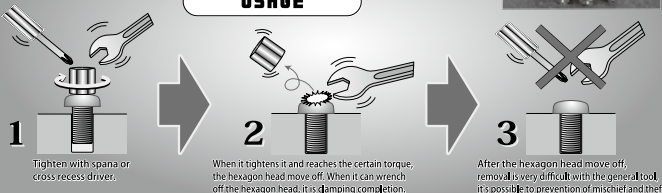
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The announcement was made by Texas-based industrial real estate developer Hillwood Investment Properties. Hillman President and CEO Jon Michael Adinolfi called the project an exciting next step in their long-term growth strategy, emphasizing their deep roots and commitment to Forest Park, employees, and customers.



### All State Fastener Names Dan Hill CEO

Global distributor in automotive, industrial, and commercial fasteners, All State Fastener (ASF), announced the appointment of Dan Hill as CEO alongside a transformative senior leadership overhaul. This marks a bold new era of modernization, global growth, and customer-focused development for the third-generation family-owned company.

**Co-owner Paula Giorgio, on behalf of the Board, praised**

**Dan's proven record in scaling private distribution businesses globally.**

Having served on the Board, Dan understands ASF's culture and growth vision and is fully engaged with operations. Board member Nick Giorgio emphasized ASF's renewed focus on sales excellence, talent retention, and partnerships with top American manufacturers. Dan Hill formerly led Ferraro Foods to over USD1.2 billion in revenue and successful acquisitions, and served as CEO of Würth Industry North America and EVP of the Würth Group. Hill expressed excitement to lead ASF in modernizing systems, diversifying customers, and investing in its people to compete globally.



### Marmon Fastener Leases Factory in Southern Vietnam

Marmon Fastener will lease a 6,000-square-meter ready-built factory in Dong Nai Province, southern Vietnam, to manufacture screws for the North American market. The deal was facilitated by property firm Savills Vietnam. After two years of studying the country, Vietnam was chosen for its first investment, according to Chairman Steve Semmler. Leasing a ready facility reduces deployment time and leverages Vietnam's skilled labor, stable investment environment, and competitive costs, while strengthening global manufacturing capacity and diversifying supply chains beyond North America. Savills HCMC's industrial services manager Phan Cuu Chi said this move reflects growing American investor confidence

in Vietnam as a manufacturing hub within Asia's supply chain. Vietnam's advantages in cost, human resources, and location continue to attract multinational expansion.



## Midwest Fastener Invests in Next Generation of Independent Retailers

To support the future of independent home improvement retailers, Midwest Fastener recently donated USD7,000 to the Retail Management Certification Program (RMCP) "Pay it Forward" Scholarship Fund by the North American Hardware and Paint Association (NHPA). The funds stem from the September 26, 2025, Mike Martin Memorial Golf Tournament held in Paw Paw, Michigan, honoring Mike Martin, a former vice president of sales and a longtime supporter of industry education and RMCP.

Michael Northrup, sales coordinator at Midwest Fastener, explained that the event symbolizes more than golf—it's a gathering to discuss the future of the industry, keeping Mike's legacy alive. The company also contributes an additional USD 6,250 annually for scholarships and sponsors NHPA's Young Retailer of the Year program. NHPA Director Cody Goeppner emphasized that Midwest Fastener's ongoing support exemplifies its commitment to developing industry leaders and ensuring the next generation inherits a culture of excellence and innovation. The scholarship directly aids students pursuing RMCP, fostering leadership within the independent home improvement sector.



## BUMAX Appoints Fuller Fasteners as Canadian Distributor

As part of its ongoing North American expansion, BUMAX AB announces the appointment of Fuller Fasteners as its master distribution partner in Canada. **Fuller will supply BUMAX products to fastener distributors and industrial suppliers nationwide. This partnership marks a significant step in expanding BUMAX's global presence in key regions and demonstrates its commitment to the North American market.** Hans Fuller, Managing Director of Fuller Metric Parts Ltd., highlighted that BUMAX's high-strength stainless steel fasteners will revolutionize expectations by combining high tensile strength with corrosion resistance, offering transformative solutions for fastening applications.

Fuller Fasteners will stock and distribute the BUMAX standard product range across Canada. This collaboration followed months of discussions and strategic alignment. Jacob Bergström, BUMAX Segment Manager for distribution, stated that both teams will work closely to provide training and technical support to boost awareness.



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## Acquisitions

### LISI Group Has Entered into an Agreement with SK CAPITAL for the Sale of the LISI MEDICAL Division

Further to the press release dated July 9, 2025, following the opinions issued by the employees representative bodies of the French entities concerned and the authorization granted by the LISI Board of Directors on October 23, 2025, LISI Group has entered into a binding agreement with the American company SK CAPITAL for the sale of the LISI MEDICAL division. LISI MEDICAL is specializing in medical device subcontracting, particularly orthopedic implants and minimally invasive surgery instruments. The division produces and packages machined products in titanium, chrome-cobalt and high-technology stainless steel for joint reconstruction (hip, knee, shoulder), traumatology, spine and minimally invasive surgery.



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With €185.3M in sales revenue in 2024 and 857 employees distributed between France and the United States (with 2 production sites in each country), LISI MEDICAL positions itself as a global partner offering a complete "more than a part" solution, from raw materials to finished products that are sterilized and packaged, ready for the operating room. The division actively supports major medical equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in their growth through its recognized industrial expertise, innovation capacity and certified quality standards. **This proposed transaction will enable LISI MEDICAL to benefit fully from SK CAPITAL's support in deploying its strategy, both in terms of organic growth and acquisitions.** Subject to obtaining the final approvals usually required, the transaction is expected to be finalized during the fourth quarter of 2025.



## Trivest Partners Invests in DMI Direct Metals to Build Leading National Roofing Fasteners and Accessories Supplier

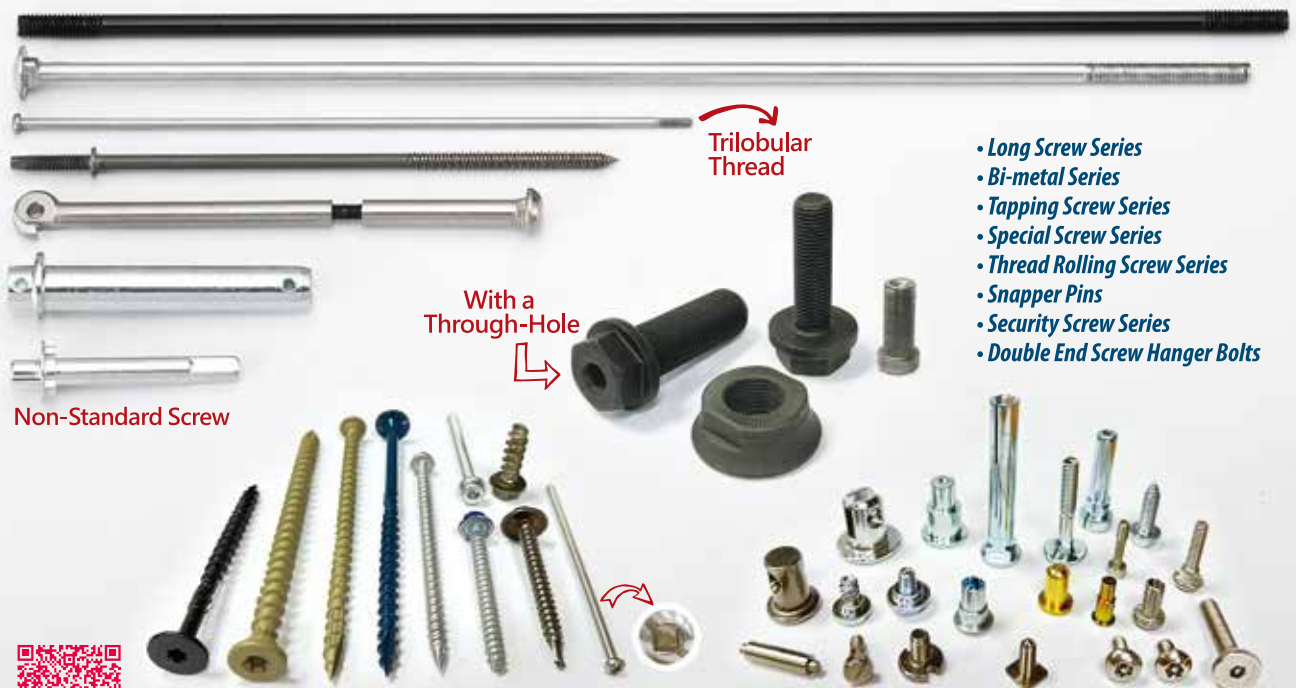
Private equity firm Trivest Partners announced an investment in Ft. Myers, Florida-based DMI Direct Metals, LLC, formerly known as Direct Metals. Partnering with First Lexington and CEO Andrew Mullen, **Trivest aims to accelerate DMI's growth and establish it as a top supplier in the fastener and construction hardware sector nationwide.**

Renowned for unmatched service, quick lead times, and extensive inventories, DMI's proprietary and branded fasteners, including the flagship Panclip product line, have become industry standards in the US metal roofing market. Several products hold certifications from Miami-Dade County and Florida Building Code, underscoring their high performance. Serving over 500 OEMs and distributors from 4 distribution centers across Florida, Indiana, and Texas, DMI plans to expand further.

First Lexington's Bob Bennett expressed enthusiasm about partnering with Andrew and Trivest, highlighting DMI's potential to lead within an expanding market. Andrew Mullen, CEO of DMI, shared excitement about the new chapter, aiming to grow into new markets, diversify product offerings, and deliver higher value to customers with Trivest's support. ■

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- Security Screw Series
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