

# American News

News provided by:

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## U.S. Industries Embrace “Strategic” Reshoring



companies survived daily supply disruptions during the pandemic, shorter transit times and fewer variables make localized supply chains appealing.

But risks remain. Reshoring is “an arduous calculation that pits long-term control and tariff avoidance against the brutal math of higher input costs,” Hanson said. Most manufacturers are embracing hybrid models of supply chains, a trend that Hanson refers to as “strategic reshoring.” “That means keeping critical production in-house while sourcing commodity components from friendlier markets, offsetting higher costs or unavailable labor with automation, and shortening some supply chains while diversifying others.”

With Chinese imports carrying 145% tariffs, reshoring has become urgent for U.S. industries, according to manufacturing consultant Kip Hanson. For small and medium-sized manufacturers, the playing field is beginning to tilt in their favor. After

Reshoring Initiative founder Harry Moser recalls how reshoring announcements surged in 2017, only to fizzle out the next year amid business whiplash from shifting tariff policies. “We all remember when Trump put tariffs on steel imports,” Moser says. “Now, steel in the U.S. costs roughly one-third more than it does in Mexico or China.

Some U.S. fastener manufacturers have benefited from the import duties. Prairie Rivet is a prime example. Founded in 1957, Markesan, WI-based Prairie Rivet has delivered rivets to print for distributors and OEMs for decades. “Tariffs have shifted the equation,” the company stated on LinkedIn. “Our recent quotes compared to overseas are within 10% — and when you factor in freight, cash flow, and reliability, the total cost advantage goes local.”

The news comes as the U.S. Department of Commerce is expected to announce tariff relief for automakers. The plan would extend lower import tariffs on auto parts for another five years... a win for Ford, GM, and others facing higher costs from previous tariffs on parts, steel, and aluminum.

## Canada May Extend Asian Fastener Tariffs

The Canada Border Services Agency issued its fourth sunset review final determination of antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) measures on carbon steel fasteners originating in or exported from China, and AD measures on the same goods from Taiwan.

The CBSA determined that dumping and subsidization of the subject products would likely continue or resume if the current measures expire.

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) will carry out an investigation to assess if the expiration of these measures is likely to cause injury to the domestic industry and will announce its decision by March 11, 2026.



Canada Border Services Agency    Agence des services frontaliers du Canada



## TriMas Selling Fastener Segment

TriMas agreed to sell its aerospace fasteners segment for an all-cash price of USD 1.45 billion to industrial-focused investment firm Tinicum. The price represents an enterprise value multiple of approximately 18x last 12 months (LTM) third quarter 2025 adjusted EBITDA.

City of Industry, CA-based TriMas Aerospace designs and manufactures fasteners, collars, blind bolts, rivets, ducting and connectors for air management systems, and other machined parts and components. With approximately USD 374 million in revenue over the last 12 months, TriMas Aerospace operates nine manufacturing facilities and employs 1,250 people.

Brands include Monogram Aerospace Fasteners, Allfast Fastening Systems, Mac Fasteners, RSA Engineered Products, Weldmac Manufacturing, Martinic Engineering and TFI Aerospace. The deal is expected to close by the end of March 2026.



## ARaymond Restructuring American Operations

ARaymond Tinnerman is reorganizing its U.S. and Canadian operations to streamline its organizational structure, enhance agility, and strengthen its ability to meet evolving customer needs. The process includes shuttering its fastener factory in Kentucky and opening a new centralized distribution center near Detroit. The Flemingsburg facility will begin closing in April and end all operations in December 2026, leaving 112 people unemployed. The company blamed the shuttering on “unfortunate market realities — including capacity utilization, changing customer demands, and operating cost pressures.”

“As a sixth-generation, family-owned business, we deeply regret closing this historic facility given the strong and valued relationships we have built with our employees and the Flemingsburg community,” CEO Ramesh Gaddam said. ARaymond, which has more than 700 employees across five plants in North America, also plans to open a new U.S. and Canadian distribution center near Detroit in the first quarter of 2026. Founded in 1865, France-based ARaymond employs 8,000 people in 25 countries.



## Novaria Group Sold to Private Equity Firm

KKR has agreed to sell Novaria Group, a high-spec component supplier to Boeing, Airbus and other defense primes, to Arcline Investment Management for USD 2.2 billion in cash, the Wall Street Journal reports.

Since acquiring Novaria in 2020, KKR has tripled its size and completed 13 bolt-ons, including: Sky Aerospace Products in Commerce, CA; John Hassall, Inc. in New York; Fastener Specialty, Inc.; Long-Lok Fasteners in Ohio and California; Space-Lok in Los Angeles; ESNA in Arkansas; Fitz Aerospace in Texas; The Young Engineers in California; and Hohman Plating in Ohio. Texas based Novaria Group provides fasteners and other products to the aerospace and defense industries.

With rising geopolitical tensions, reshoring imperatives, and sustained DoD investment, private equity firms are targeting high-margin, fragmented supply chains that offer both growth and resilience, according to the Journal.



## PE Firm Acquiring SouthernCarlson

Fasteners and tools supplier Southern Carlson, Inc. has been acquired by Truelink Capital, a Los Angeles-based private equity firm, from Kyocera Corp. of Japan. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Founded in 1947, Nebraska-based SouthernCarlson operates eight distribution centers and 115 local stores, stocking 67,000 SKUs for 50,000 professional customers. SouthernCarlson was acquired by Kyocera in 2019.

“This transaction marks an exciting new chapter for SouthernCarlson,” CEO Andrei Militaru said. “We are grateful for Kyocera’s support and ownership over the last 6 years, during which time we have achieved strong growth, including expanding into new customer segments.” SouthernCarlson will transition into an independent company.



## Grainger Exiting UK Market

Grainger has agreed to sell its UK-based Cromwell business to private equity firm AURELIUS. In September, Grainger announced the closure of its Zoro U.K. business. "Over the past decade we've made a concerted effort to focus... on the geographies where we can deliver the greatest long-term impact," CEO D.G. Macpherson said. "We remain committed... through our High-Touch Solutions model in North America and our Endless Assortment businesses in the United States and Japan."



## AFC Industries Launches AFC Tooling and AFC Aerospace & Defense

AFC Industries, West Chester, OH, USA, a leading provider of vending management solutions, programs and distribution solutions, launched two new business group brands: AFC Tooling and AFC Aerospace & Defense. These new identities unify several respected legacy businesses under focused banners.

AFC Tooling joins Cline Tool and PF Markey, under one name. These combined companies provide decades of expertise in cutting tools, vending solutions and advanced services. AFC Tooling positions itself as a market leader in helping manufacturers improve their efficiency and performance. AFC Aerospace & Defense unifies AFC's expansion in the aerospace and defense sector. It brings together MTI, CIF, CGG and Askew Marine under a single identity dedicated to supporting both commercial and defense markets. These new brand identities are part of AFC's effort to create clarity in the market by aligning acquired businesses under unified groups, while maintaining local expertise and service.



## Fastener Industry Coalition Unveils New Domain & Refreshed Website

The Fastener Industry Coalition (FIC) announced the launch of its new domain and redesigned website, reflecting a modernized look and expanded functionality for members and the industry at large. Bob Baer, current FIC Chair, shared, "The site has been updated to reflect modernization and now includes several new features designed to make it easier for users to connect and stay informed."

The updated website now provides direct access to every FIC member association's events calendar, offering a single, convenient location for fastener industry news and happenings. Visitors will also find links to current Board Members' LinkedIn profiles, a dedicated Contact Us page and information about the "FIC Social Media Impact Award," including a simple online nomination form.

"We will continue to enhance the updated website to drive traffic as well as to provide added value to our members and the broader fastener community," added Baer.



## ZJK & Chaince Digital Announce Strategic Partnership to Build USA Manufacturing Factory

Chinese producer of precision fasteners, structural parts and other precision metal parts, ZJK Industrial Co., Ltd., entered into a strategic cooperation framework agreement with Chaince Digital Holdings Inc. to jointly build a precision components R&D and manufacturing gigafactory in the USA serving the AI, semiconductor, electronics, automotive and other industries.

Under the framework agreement, the companies will invest in multiple projects through a combination of self-owned capital and external fundraising, with total investment expected to reach up to USD 200 million. The planned gigafactory will focus on high-value precision and hardware components, excluding restricted semiconductor segments such as wafer fabrication, chip design or advanced packaging. ZJK and Chaince Digital will establish a Delaware-based JV site to serve as the operating entity for the proposed manufacturing factory.



ZJK Industrial Co., Ltd.





## Cordova Bolt Celebrates 50 Years of Fasteners, Family & Forward Momentum



In 2025, Cordova Bolt Inc. celebrated 50 years, a milestone few companies reach—and even fewer achieve with their founding values still intact. Cordova Bolt was founded in 1975 by Moses E. Cordova and his wife, Rachel Verrinda Cordova. Moses, a U.S. Navy Radioman and son of a southern Colorado coal miner, built his career on determination—calling a steel company owner every day for 30 consecutive days until he was hired.

Rachel, with accounting expertise, played an essential role early on, returning to the business world after raising their family and helping establish the firm's finances and operations.

Cordova Bolt now operates from a centrally located warehouse stocked with millions of pounds of fasteners. It services all 50 USA states and exports globally. The sales team has a reputation for delivering where others cannot. Structural fasteners remain Cordova's bread and butter, and can be found holding together some of the nation's most iconic landmarks—SoFi Stadium, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Buena Vista Towers, The Venetian Resort, bridges, hospitals and more. ■

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