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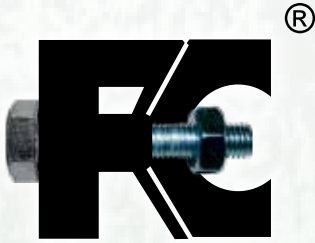


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# USHERING IN A NEW ERA FOR THE INDIAN FASTENER INDUSTRY



Source: FAI

**ABHIJAT SANGHVI**  
President  
Fasteners Association  
of India

**FASTENERS INDIA**  
will be launched  
at Fasteners India  
Mega Summit 2018 at  
New Delhi, India on  
August 4, 2018.


**I**t has been an uphill task trying to unite a fragmented Fastener industry in India. Also, there is an acute need for guidance in the MSME sector for upgrading skills and technology. Dearth of skilled manpower on the shop floors is another critical issue in the industry. Despite growing to be the sixth largest economy in the world, our market share in the Global Fastener Market is under 5 percent. This anomaly needs to be rectified since the potential for the Indian Fastener Industry is huge.

Fasteners Association of India (FAI) was formed with a vision to address many of these issues. Strong teamwork from the relatively young Board Members has been instrumental in shaping the vision. Guidance from industry veterans has contributed to its growth. The response from the industry since the association's inception under two years ago has been phenomenal with a member list of 350 and growing. The cohesion of the industry augurs well for us though a considerable part of it is yet to join hands with FAI, which will happen through word of mouth in due course considering the value it is bringing in for its members as well the aggressive promotion strategy through social media.

FAI has successfully conducted several industry meets and technical

seminars in the last couple of years. India's first Fastener Training Institute for machine operators was launched and the response from the Industry has been positive. The process for these will evolve with improvement over time though a successful start has been initiated.

The largest industry meet will be conducted as the Fasteners India Mega Summit 2018 at New Delhi, India on August 4, 2018. The inaugural issue of "Fasteners India" would be launched at the Mega Summit event. The hype and interest around the magazine has been unprecedented with social media exposure globally. "Fasteners India" will be distributed to all FAI members and will be circulated at the FAI Booth in leading trade fairs such as International Fastener Expo (IFE) 2018, Las Vegas, USA and Wire India 2018, Mumbai, India where FAI will participate. Going forward for future editions, "Fasteners India" will be distributed among strategic sourcing or purchase teams of leading Indian OEMs. The focus of the Publication will always be on strong and unbiased content.

We are thankful for the support received from the industry. Together we can bring in a new era for the Indian Fastener industry. 

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# PURSUING PROGRESS



**MURALI SUNDARAM**  
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It had long come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.  
**Leonardo da Vinci**

**W**elcome to the first edition of Fasteners India 2018. We have given our best to come out with a magazine which is for the industry, by the industry, and to the industry.

Let us look back at the history of Fasteners and marvel at how far we have reached: It is considered the screw thread was invented in about 400 BC by Archytas of Tavantum (428 BC-350 BC). In 1770, English Instrument makers Jesse Ramsdan (1735-1800) invented the first satisfactory screw-cutting line. Englishman Henry Nansdsley (1771-1831) invented a large screw-cutting lathe that made it possible to mass produce accurately sized screws.

Fast forward today where the threads of threaded fasteners such as machine screws, wood screws, wallboard screws, and sheet metal screws are usually not cut via single-point screw-cutting; instead, most are generated by faster processes such as thread forming and rolling and cutting with die heads.

The Indian Fastener industry has evolved over time and with the growing demand from automobile sector and a huge growth potential of the manufacturing and construction sector worldwide is expected to scale up multi-fold.

Fasteners India is an attempt to compile the various milestones in the journey of the industry, celebrate its progress and promote it globally.

We seek your support to make this endeavor a success.



## FASTENERS INDIA

August 2018  
Volume 1 – Issue 1

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Published and Printed by Abhijat Sanghvi on behalf of Fasteners Association of India.

Printed at Pentaplus Printers Pvt Ltd  
20/1, 4<sup>th</sup> main, 5<sup>th</sup> cross, Industrial Town,  
Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560044,  
Karnataka, India

Published from Fasteners Association of India  
Office: Fasteners Association of India  
A167, Wagle Estate, Road No. 27,  
Thane - 400604, Maharashtra, India

**Editor:** Murali Sundaram

**Publishing frequency:** Quarterly

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# DOING IT RIGHT

*Right Tight Fasteners has been living up to its name since its founding. With all the right moves, the company has today positioned itself at just the right spot to garner the success it truly deserves.*

It has been a remarkable journey for Right Tight Fasteners (RTF) Pvt Ltd. The company, established in 1979 by Balbir Singh Chhabra, a scion of a family of several generations of engineers and entrepreneurs, has come a long way from its humble beginnings to being a formidable force in the Indian Fasteners Industry.

## Soaring high

"RTF would initially manufacture nuts for various OEMs. It was in 1992 that we forayed into fasteners using Cold Forging technology having an in-house facility for all oper-

ations such as Forging, Tapping and Plating," states Balbir Singh Chhabra, Managing Director, RTF.

The push to develop safety fasteners came from the automotive OEMs to whom RTF had already proven its mettle. The aim was to combat the import of fasteners, which are still being supplied as single source special fasteners. Once RTF took that leap of faith there was no looking back. Today it is a multi-million rupee company, standing unparalleled when it comes to product quality and on-time delivery. It has striven relentlessly to offer the best it

can through an excellent customer service with the flexibility to satisfy special customer needs. With work ethics such as these, it has 'right'fully earned the coveted space in the industry.

"All the toil that has gone into the making of RTF is all worth it when we look back and see where we have reached. It's a matter of immense pride for us to have scaled up from a small factory with 10 odd people to having six plants at Nashik, Sinnar, Pantnagar and Chennai; a total capacity of 33,000 MT/A; and over 900 personnel," says Balbir with a justified delight.

**RTF's sprawling facility is an emblem of success through consistent efforts.**



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Source: Right Tight Fasteners Pvt Ltd



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“All the toil that has gone into the making of RTF is all worth it when we look back and see where we have reached. It’s a matter of immense pride for us to have scaled up from a small factory with 10 odd people to having six plants at Nashik, Sinnar, Pantnagar and Chennai.”

**Balbir Singh Chhabra**  
**Managing Director**  
**Right Tight Fasteners Pvt Ltd**

### Standing out

Slowly, but surely, RTF has been making giant strides. With a new plant every few

years since its entry into fasteners arena, the company has made sure it kept stepping up its game to stay a winner.

Giving us a brief account of RTF’s growth Balbir states, “In 1995 we initiated Cold Forming with two nut formers. Our Pantnagar plant operation commenced in 2006. In 2010, the Sinnar Bolt plant was commissioned with HT, ZAC coating and Auto plating. 2017 witnessed the initiation of Chennai plant operation. In 2018, capacity addition plans are on for Forging, Rolling, Tapping and Plating.” The journey has been dotted with proud moments such as achieving numerous certifications such as QMS-ISO 9001, self-certification status for DOL, TS 16949, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, ISO TS 16949 for Sinnar etc.

When asked about the industries RTF caters to, Balbir

comes up with an unlimited list: Automotive Sector – HCV, SUV, MUV, CAR, 2-wheeler, 3-wheeler, OEMs and their ancillaries; Industrial – Diesel Engines, Generators, Elevators and Escalators etc.; Agriculture – Tractors, Harvesters, Tillers etc.; Commercial vehicles; Construction – Road Rollers, Crushers, Mixers, Drillers, Compressors, etc.; Defence – HCVs; and other industries such as Electrical and Electronics.

### ABCD, a unique philosophy

Most companies are extremely mindful when crafting their philosophies since they send out a strong message of the companies’ core values and what they have set out to achieve. Through ‘ABCD’ or ‘Act Before Customer Demand’, RTF has interestingly

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conveyed its business philosophy of understanding its customers' demands even before they do.

"RTF is a customer-centric organization. Our dedicated design team works closely with our customers to deliver exactly what they need. We ensure that the products are manufactured exactly as per the designs provided to us by our customers in drawing. The designs are then optimized as per their needs. This helps in shortening the design cycle, avoiding reworks, if any and exacting their needs to a T," explains Amolak Singh Chhabra, Executive Director, RTF.

With such approach, it is no surprise that the company today earns an awe-inspiring list of who's who of the industry as its customers which includes all major Indian Auto OEMs and a few vital MNC OEMs.

### Awards that motivate

At times a pat on the back is all one needs to help exploit the best that they have in themselves. And if that happens repetitively, then sky is the limit. This is what has been happening with RTF. The company has been scaling up, gathering industry accolades for excel-

lence, a testimony to its commitment to its stakeholders. Some of the company's awards include: Runner Up Trophy Award – CII Kaizen Competition Jan 2018; Golden Trophy Award – ACMA 4th Kaizen Competition Nov 2017; various awards from OEMs of two wheelers and four wheelers; Long Standing Business Relationship Award FY 15-16; "Best Localization Support Award" for the year 2015; Award For the Best Business Continuity Supplier for FY 14-15; Supplier Excellence award in Recognition of the Outstanding and Lasting Performance in Delivery & Quality" for FY 14-15.

### Paying back to the society

"When you learn, teach. When you get, give," is a beautiful message by the late poet Maya Angelou. Being an ardent believer in the philosophy, RTF has made corporate social responsibility (CSR) as the core of its company culture. It contributes to the social and economic development of the communities that are in need of hand-holding to bring in an inclusive growth. With the understanding that a lot more is required to be done to address issues of this vast country, RTF, in its "own small way", is

"RTF is a customer-centric organization. We ensure that the products are manufactured exactly as per the designs provided to us by our customers in drawing."

**Amolak Singh Chhabra**  
Executive Director  
Right Tight Fasteners Pvt Ltd

doing its bit to uplift and empower a section and can already gauge the difference its efforts render.

Educating a girl child is the best way to promote the weaker strata of the society. To this end, RTF has been actively involved in a project called 'Nanhi Kali' that aims to empower girl children through education. Donation in the form of money and essentials to non-profits such as orphanages, ashrams etc., and blood donation comprise a large part of the company's CSR initiatives. Tree plantations by employees, as environment-friendly activities, are also part of its 'paying-back to

An inside view of RTF



Source: Right Tight Fasteners Pvt Ltd



**Main Product :**

Heading Machine / Thread Rolling Machine /  
Hollow Heading Machine /  
Rivet Machine / Blind Rivet Machine /  
Micro Heading Machine / 2 Die 4 Blow Machine  
Slotting Machine Double Cutter



**FA-01BC**  
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**FA-15S**  
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**FA-25C**  
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“Overall, the industry outlook is highly positive in terms of growth opportunities. We have a plan mapped out for the coming five years. There is an expansion going on where we will be building a substantial capacity to cater to the robust growth in the auto sector.”


**Amarjeet Singh Chhabra**  
Executive Director  
Right Tight Fasteners Pvt Ltd

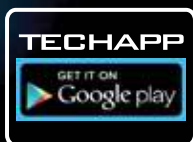
the society' activities. Additionally, RTF encourages a highly positive culture for its hard-working employees

since it's only the happy employees who can lead to a company's progress. Health checks are offered to employees to ensure their physical well-being and special days such as birthdays, women's day, and festivals are celebrated to increase their happiness quotient. Family meets and sport tournaments are arranged to bring in breathers in their routine tasks. This results in an enthusiastic and motivated environment, ideal to attract more growth for the company.

### Plans ahead

Mainly driven by the demand from Automotive, Construction, Machinery, Household appliances, Aeronautical and Space sectors as well as by economic and industrial policies such as 'Make in India', the outlook of fastener market prospects remains optimistic.

Balbir divulges RTF's preparation for the growing demands moving ahead. "In the coming years, our focus will be to manufacture special fasteners, catering to the varied industrial segments. Defence sector, which is now opening up, is also in our plans," he reveals. "Overall, the industry outlook is highly positive in terms of growth opportunities. We have a plan mapped out for the coming five years. There is an expansion going on where are we will be building a substantial capacity to cater to the robust growth in the auto sector. All our OEMs have given us clear indications in terms of their growth numbers. We are aligning ourselves with their growth," adds Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, Executive Director, RTF, summing up. Here's wishing RTF all the good luck it takes to rise further. 



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**2018**

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# MASTERING THE ART

*For MK Fasteners, making fasteners is an art which it has been honing for decades. In its pursuit of perfection, the company has relentlessly been creating deft strokes, bringing its art to newer heights.*



MK Fasteners' manufacturing facility

Source: MK Fasteners

The story of MK Fasteners is a testimony to the adage that winning is an attitude. It does not take long for things to fall in place if one has the requisite skill, the resolve to make it big despite all odds, and is ceaselessly committed in chasing their goal.

"MK Fasteners, then Prefect Screws, was founded in 1960 by our late father RB Amin, when there was no technology or any supporting equipment to make a basic bolt or a screw and everything had to be imported. We made our first fastener in 1960 and from there grew to supply to our first customers – Bosch and Ideal Jawa Motorcycle Co.," recounts Kuntal Amin, Managing Partner & Director, MK Fasteners.

The company since then has been growing by leaps and bounds, changing its names on the way. It today stands a winner, equipped with over 50 years of expertise in fastener and component manufacturing, supported by state-

of-the-art machinery and a highly skilled and dedicated workforce. Its present turnover is ₹80 crore for the year 2017-18 with the target for the next fiscal year 2018-19 being ₹100 crore.

### Challenges, the way to succeed

MK Fasteners' customers include the top and reputed OEM and tier 1 companies in the automotive industry across India and the world for whom the company has been making critical automotive parts since its inception. "We started off with Bosch and Jawa, both multinational companies requiring us to make challenging parts for them. Till date, we receive complex parts to be developed from our clients. The toughest has been the Spark Plug shell," informs Kirtan Amin, Managing Partner & Director, MK Fasteners, with pride.

"Our in-house Design & Development Team consists of highly skilled personnel ca-

pable of producing advanced models with the use of modern engineering concepts and tools to provide our customers with the most relevant and accurate products at ideal costs and assured quality," he adds.

Additionally, tool design and development for complex and highly critical components are regularly outsourced to the most reputed Cold Forming Tool manufacturing companies of Japan, Germany and Taiwan, to garner their technical expertise for the benefit of the company's customers.

Currently, MK Fasteners has a jaw-dropping product range that includes various bolts, screws, studs, rivets, pins, shafts, housings, nuts, spacers, and special automotive components in a wide variety of shapes, profiles, dimensions and accuracies, primarily from mild steel, medium carbon steel, brass, copper, aluminum alloy, nickel alloy and stainless steel.

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Source: MK Fasteners



With all the state-of-the-art equipment that makes us one of the best in the trade, I would still say fastener making is an art, which has to be honed consistently and patiently.”

**Kuntal Amin**  
**Managing Partner & Director**  
**MK Fasteners**



Source: MK Fasteners



We started off with Bosch and Jawa, both multinational companies requiring us to make challenging parts for them. Till date, we receive complex parts to be developed from our clients.”

**Kirtan Amin**  
**Managing Partner & Director**  
**MK Fasteners**



Source: MK Fasteners



Today, the customer rules the supplier with their needs of High Quality Low Price (HQLP). Our endeavor has been to meet their demands with their quality requirements.”

**Madhavi K Amin**  
**Managing Partner & Director**  
**MK Fasteners**

in various safety and critical applications such as engine systems, brake assembly, fuel systems, spark plug housings, seating mechanisms, seat belts, airbag deployment systems, window regulators, clutch assembly, transmission systems, suspension systems, window regulators, car interior mountings, lighting systems, door hinges, hood & boot latches, starters and alternators, to name a few,” explains Kirtan.

### Quality comes first

“Today, the customer rules the supplier with their needs of High Quality Low Price (HQLP). Our endeavor has been to meet their demands with their quality requirements. Quality has always been our top priority,” notes Madhavi K Amin - Managing Partner & Director, MK Fasteners.

The company’s Quality Policy has made it win numerous awards and accolades from its customers in the automotive and aerospace industries, recognizing its overall performance, quality and on-time delivery. “Vigilant efforts are made daily to ensure the standards of performance that

have been set. Our aim is to achieve and continue the supply of ‘Zero Defect’ parts to maintain the status of Direct Online Supplier and Green Channel Supplier amongst our customers,” she adds.

To provide this level of quality, MK Fasteners employs a judicious selection of suppliers to ensure in-process quality assurance and maintain final inspection with the use of Optical Sorting Machines (HD camera-based) and Eddy Current Machines to ensure delivery of 100 percent defect-free parts and components.

### Going strong

Spread over a total land area of 4,062 sq mt in Bengaluru, Karnataka, MK Fasteners houses an impressive, world-class infrastructure for achieving the global edge. The Cold Forging or Cold Forming process is a key manufacturing process at the company for which the facilities are vast and range from single-station headers to multi-station part formers. They boast of the best machinery from brands such as Asahi Okuma, Asahi Sunac, Nakashimada, Itami, Carlo Salvi, Na-

tional Machinery, Sacma, Nedschroef, Hilgeland, Jern Yao, Sakamura, Omega, and Sima, to name a few.

The Thread Rolling division has a wide variety of machines that can provide a variety of simple and complex threading, knurling and grooving processes. The Part Forming facility is to provide solutions for extremely complex, highly critical, and high accuracy parts. The Nut Forming & Tapping facility produces bushes, simple and complex nuts, ranging from sizes M3 to M6 for automotive and non-automotive applications. There is a Mesh Belt Heat Treatment Furnace, and a highly advanced Surface Treatment facility too. “We are into our third generation of fastener making and now deploy all the ultra-modern equipment and machinery and employ software-driven process flow and tool designing. With all the paraphernalia that makes us one of the best in the trade, I would still say fastener making is an art, which has to be honed consistently and patiently,” Kuntal sums up with a certitude of an artist.



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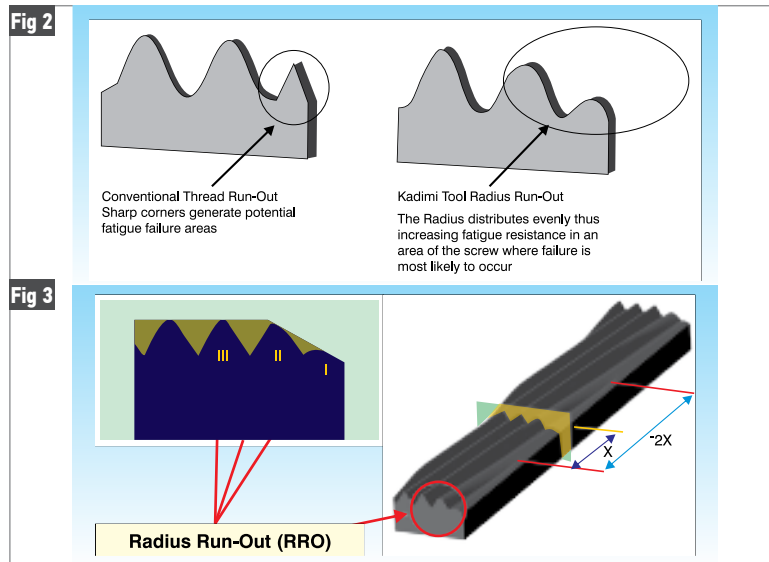
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# OVERCOMING FLAT DIE THREAD ROLLING CHALLENGES

Thread rolling method for forming threads in fasteners, despite its inherent benefits, poses some challenges too. An informative read on the ways to work around them...



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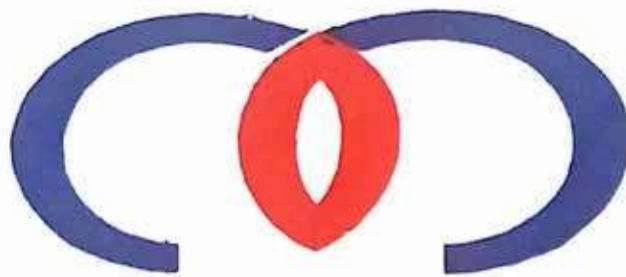


Today, thread rolling is a method preferred over machining or cutting techniques for forming threads on a workpiece owing to the advantages it offers.

- Increased tensile strength due to cold working;
- Grain boundaries of the blank material follow the contours of the threads, increasing shear strength of the threads;
- Improved fatigue strength needed for engineering applications (16 percent better fatigue strength on larger diameter threads, 27 percent on smaller threads).

### Challenges abound

Along with the advantages that



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the method offers, there is a fair share of challenges encountered during Flat Die Thread Rolling. They are:

- a) Die chipping
- b) Thread laps
- c) Point forming (on Gimlet dies)
- d) Distortion of die thread profile
- e) Drunkenness
- f) Rolling after heat treatment
- g) Selection of coolants.

To counteract these, one of the leading die makers of India – Kadimi Tool Manufacturing Company Pvt Ltd – have come out with some unique solutions.

#### Die chipping

Following are the various ways in which die chipping happens:

- Top edge chip outs
- Rolling into a shoulder
- Short Radius Run-Out (RRO) or full thread requirements
- Slipping and mismatch
- Improper end of blank chamfer.

To solve the above problem of chipping, one of the methods adopted by Kadimi Tool provides

a special RRO on the die edges. Flat thread rolling dies with sharp corners on the run out threads generate stress concentration areas, which results in fatigue cracks in the thread rolled screw. With the RRO offered by Kadimi, the smooth radius in the root of the thread continues right up to the point where the thread blends in the shank of the screw (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

#### Thread laps

Thread lap is one of the most common defects in thread rolling. It is defined as a surface defect appearing as a seam caused by folding over of metal, fins or sharp corners, which is then subsequently rolled or forged into the surface without welding them in place.

#### Types of laps

Figure 4 is a schematic representation of the various types of thread laps, which are:

- Flank laps – pressure and

non-pressure sides • Root laps

- Step in root
- Misfeed, threads sheared and flakes

- Rolled on grip
- Root lap in run-out
- Zipper laps.

To counter thread laps defects, LF dies have been developed that can help roll the best quality lap-free fasteners without modifying any of the processes (e.g. blank preparation and machine operation). In controlling manufacturing variables to yield lap-free thread fasteners, LF technology

- Helps maintain normal production rates and machine speeds even when rolling critical fasteners with harder materials.
- Enhances control of grain flow, whereby LF dies begin forming the thread crest almost immediately.
- Improves physical characteristics of fasteners due to controlled nature of material displacement. Specific-



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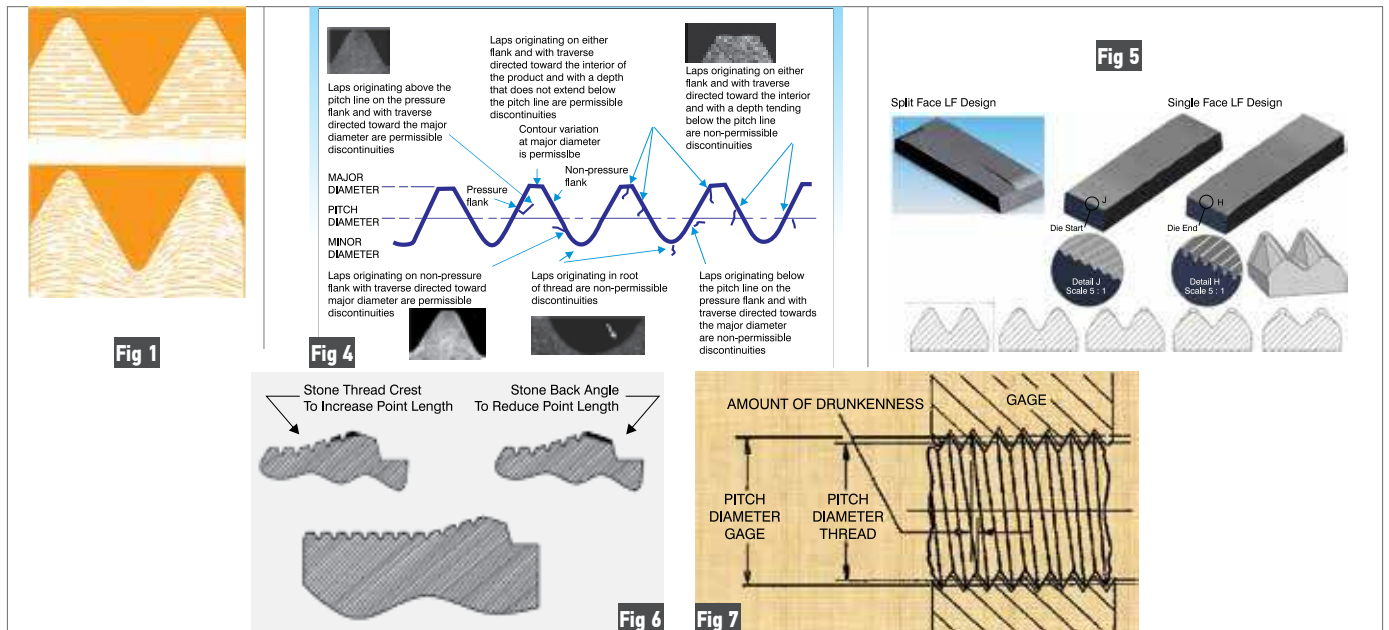
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**Figure 1:** Cut thread (above), Rolled thread (below)  
**Figure 2:** Die Chipping  
**Figure 3:** Radius Run-Out  
**Figure 4:** Types of Thread laps  
**Figure 5:** LF Technology  
**Figure 6:** Light stoning of the moving die (fitted on machine). If necessary, stationary dies must also be stoned.  
**Figure 7:** Thread drunkenness

ly, the smooth surface finish and compressive residual stresses introduced by rolling make rolled fasteners stronger in fatigue, shear and tensile strength.

**Point forming on gimlet dies**  
 Making alterations to dies by stoning may modify the threaded points of the product thread. To reduce the length of point threads, stone the serrated surface of the die. To increase the length of the point threads, stone the crests of the upper thread adjacent to the cut off edge as shown in Figure 6. The die gap during the set-up is critical; if it's too tight, the points can string, if too loose, they can break.

**Distortion of die thread profile**  
 Distortion of die thread happens due to compression or bending. This can be taken care of by:

- Exceeding the compressive strength of the die material;
- Axial stretching of coarse pitch parts produces bending forces on the thread form of the dies particularly at the end of the blank.

**Drunkenness**  
 Thread drunkenness where the pitch is inconsistent can be caused by: slippage, mismatch of dies, helix angle variation in dies, and crooked starting or finish relief on dies.

**Rolling after heat treatment**

- More is better: Try to get six to eight work revs minimum for

alloy steel parts; • Reduce speed;

- Use coolants that will transfer heat away from the dies and the part.

**Selection of coolants**  
 The use of proper coolants is imperative as it can be the cause of blank slippage during rolling. Water-soluble coolants are recommended and are considered most satisfactory. The points of the gimlet point screw threads may be altered by changing the position of the coolant application on the dies. Shorter points may result when the coolant is applied to the starting ends of the dies, and longer points when applied to the finishing end of the dies.

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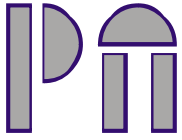
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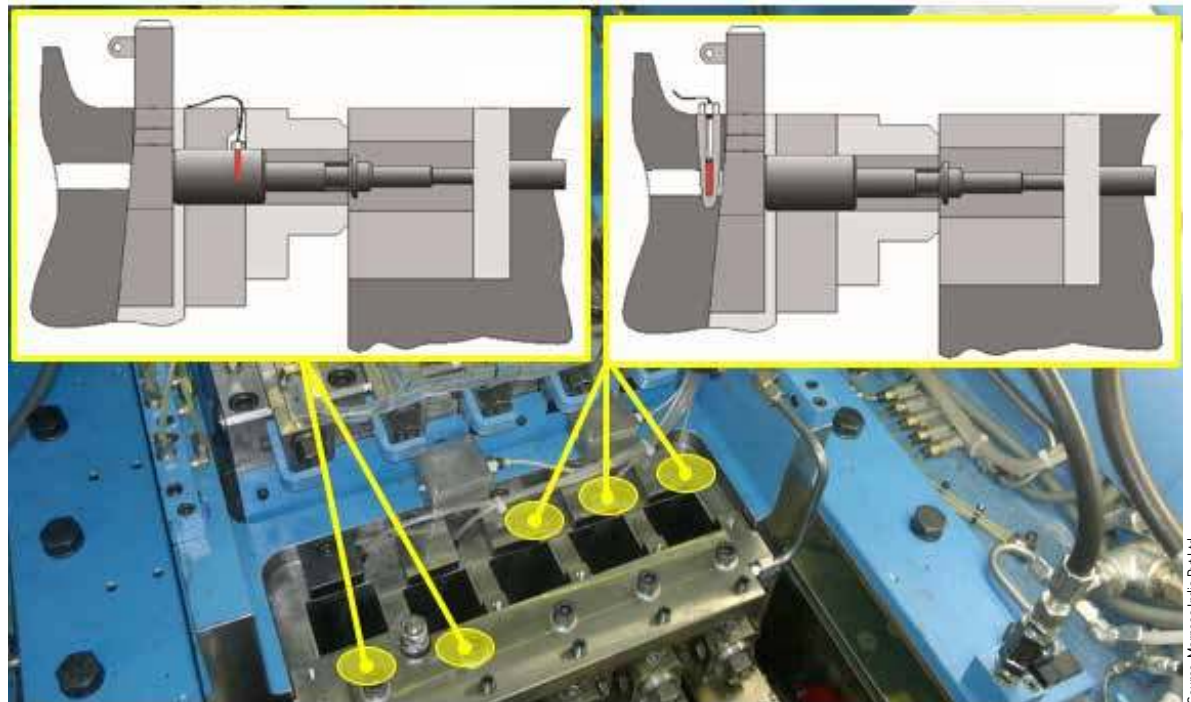
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# SENSING IT SMARTLY

*In Smart Forming Manufacturing Processes, Sensor Technology enables recording the course of the process between the tool and the work piece and observing any changes to intervene or optimize.*

Source: Marposs India Pvt Ltd



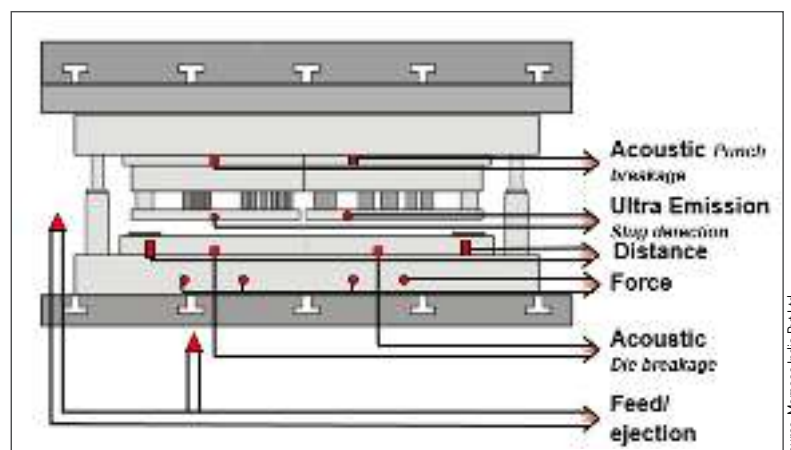
Various sensor positions in multi-station Cold Forming Press

Whether it be in reshaping, punching, pressing or metal cutting - process monitoring is the key to an optimised production. Process monitoring helps the worker in every phase: from the fitting of the machine to the observation of the production process to the quick stop in case of the threat of damage to the machine.

Every machine tool is a complex construction carrying out the actual processing work by means of one or several tools. In the end, the quality of the product is determined by the behavior of the tool and the work piece. Any influencing quantities affecting the machine (or the process) will be seen in the process quality. Thus, the process is affected by

changes in the machines, the tool, the environment (temperature), etc. Only if this process has defined courses, will the product quality meet the requirements.

BRANKAMP process monitoring devices from Marposs are fitted directly to the machine to record a process quality factor (PQ factor). This factor is displayed on the devices.



Various sensor positions in Stamping Press



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Cockpit Mask Display for various sensors

Source: Marpos India Pvt Ltd

## Benefits of implementing Process Monitoring:

- Machine and tool protection
- In-process quality control
- Increased productivity due to extended run-time, reduced downtime and stroke optimization
- Minimized tool and scrap costs
- Process optimization for more stable processes
- FactoryNet@4.0 interface to the MES / ERP interface.


## Process monitoring without sensor technology

The worker visually observes the process. By hearing certain disruptions and measuring the work pieces, he learns about deviations in the process. The more today's machine tools are enclosed, the less he is able to watch or hear anything directly. He is, therefore, fully dependent on trouble signals

or on the results of his measurements.

## Process monitoring with sensors

By means of sensor technology, recording the course of the process between the tool and the work piece, the worker is able to watch the process purposefully. The standard display shows the current process fac-

tor, the highest PQ factor thus far, and a limit set by him. He can then observe any changes and intervene or optimize. With the PQ factor, the worker now has an objective measured variable by means of which he is able to assess the process quality. 

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**Frequency:** Quarterly

**Readers' Profile:** Distribution at international and national fastener fairs; OEMs; wholesalers; importers; end-users of automotive, machinery, construction, electric, medical, general engineering industries; foreign trade companies and associations.



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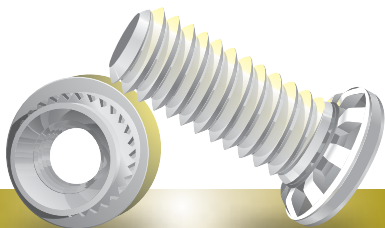
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# Paragon acquires Kuduma Fasteners



Source: Paragon Fasteners



The acquisition of Kuduma has been a long-standing dream for us. With this, Paragon has carved a niche for itself with the largest range of standard and custom-made import substitute cold forged fasteners and an in-house heat treatment unit and a wire drawing unit.”

**Dilip Sheth**  
CEO  
Paragon Fasteners

**Bengaluru, India** – Bengaluru-based manufacturer of precision fasteners, Paragon Fasteners has acquired Kuduma Fasteners Pvt Ltd that manufactures high tensile fasteners and cold headed components for automobile and industrial applications. Kuduma Fasteners is a tier 1 vendor to many Southern India-based auto majors. Kuduma has its presence for more than three decades in the Fasteners industry. The company has an in-house state-of-the-art continuous furnace along with a wire processing facility with a total installed capacity of 300 tonne a month.

With almost all machinery from Taiwan, multi-station Bolt Formers with a range starting from M 4 to M 16 with up to 250 mm long (up to M 8), it makes for an ideal facility for a Fasteners enthusiast.

The acquisition of Kuduma has added another feather in the Paragon’s cap as it has a major strategic advantage with the above facility, which can be utilized for heat treatment and wire processing too, thereby adding to the bottom line of the company. The highly experienced VS Venkatraman would be heading the competent and dedicated workforce.

Established in 1996, with a small capacity for making precision fasteners, Paragon Fasteners today boasts of a large capacity and range to produce precision fasteners in both ferrous and non-ferrous metals catering to major OEMs of automobile, machine manufacturers, electronics, electrical, furniture manufacturers, etc. The company has since then acquired some big names in the industry such as Kadimi’s Fasteners Unit (2001), Electronic Fasteners (2008), and Eka Engg Technics (2011-12).

The acquisition of Kuduma is the biggest till date. With this, Paragon has carved a niche for itself with the largest range of standard and custom-made import substitute cold forged fasteners and an in-house heat treatment unit and a wire drawing unit.

## Sundram Fasteners plans on growing exports

**Chennai, Tamil Nadu** – Sundram Fasteners Ltd (SFL) is aiming towards growing its exports in the next five years to half of its total business, according to Arathi Krishna, Managing Director, SFL. Currently, exports make for about a third of the company’s business. “Out of our 30 percent export portfolio, about 80 percent is to North American automotive companies, and we would look to expand our business more there in the coming years,” she said.

The five-decade old company, which supplies fasteners to all the major vehicle manufacturers, is in works with most electric vehicle manufacturers to understand the shift towards hybrid electric vehicles. “Up to 30 percent of Sundaram’s portfolio would be affected by an overnight shift to electric vehicles. But hybridisation to electric will take a while,” stated Arathi, adding that a sizeable transition from traditional motor engines to low-carbon electric mobility will happen only by 2040.

## Roaring Success for Fastener Fair India 2018

**New Delhi, Delhi** – Fastener Fair India 2018, India’s premier exhibition for fastener and fixing technology, held in New Delhi for the second time on May 18-19, 2018, turned out to be a highly successful affair.

The two-day event played a gracious host to 140 companies who exhibited their innovations to 3,316 qualified audience, a significant 30 percent more than the previous edition.

While most exhibitors were India-based companies, the event also witnessed international participation from China, Taiwan, Germany, South Korea, Japan and Turkey. The exhibitors showcased a comprehensive range of industrial fasteners and fixings, assembly and installation systems, storage and logistics services, fastener manufacturing technology and construction fixings.

The event attracted visitors from many key industry sectors including mechanical engineering, automotive and hardware retailing. Distributors, wholesalers and retailers were also in attendance.

The next and the sixth edition of Fastener Fair India will be held on April 25-26, 2019 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.



Source: Magic Wand Media

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## Ramco Specialties Takes Over Copa Tool, Inc.



**Hudson, OH**, USA-based Ramco Specialties, Inc., has acquired Copa Tool, Inc., a precision machining company. Copa manufactures high-volume precision components supporting the automotive markets specializing in powertrain applications. The acquisition of Copa Tool ideally fits into the strategic vision of Ramco Specialties' current and future

business model as an engineered solutions service provider to the North American automotive markets.

## American Ring Buys Out Assets of S&M Retaining Ring

**American Ring, Solon, OH**, USA, a family-owned and -operated manufacturer and supplier of retaining rings, snap rings and Belleville disc springs, has acquired all tooling, dies, equipment and intellectual property of S&M Retaining Ring. Founded in 2001 by Michael O'Shea, Sr., S&M Retaining Ring produces tapered section retaining rings, stamped out of carbon spring steel, stainless steel (PH 15-7 MO) and beryllium copper all to the ASME B18.27-1998 and MIL\_DTL 21248 specifications. With the acquisition of S&M Retaining Ring's assets, coupled with American Ring's engineering capability and customer service, the company said that it is excited about the product offerings it will be able to bring to the marketplace.

## Lawson Products Opens a New Distribution Center in Canada

**Lawson Products, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA**, a distributor of products and services to the MRO marketplace, held an open house to celebrate its new distribution center in Alberta, Canada. The new distribution center, co-located in the recently acquired facility of The Bolt Supply House, allows Lawson to reduce product delivery time to within one to two business days to its western Canadian customers. "Our investment in the Alberta Distribution Center is helping to ensure all Lawson Products' customers get the products they need in a timely manner to keep their operations running smoothly," said Michael DeCata, President and CEO, Lawson Products. "We have been in Canada since 1984 and we're committed to providing the competitive combination of the right products, reliable service and technical expertise that saves our customers time and money." The 43,000 sq ft Alberta Distribution Center stocks more than 15,000 items.



**Mike McNulty**  
VP & Editor  
Fastener Technology  
International

Source: American Fastener News Report

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[www.fastener-tech.com](http://www.fastener-tech.com)  
June / July 2018 Edition

## FASTENER TECH '19 Opens Exhibitor Registration

**FASTENER TECH '19**, the seventh staging of 'The All-Fastener-Industry Event in the Heart-of-the-Fastener Industry', has announced that exhibitor registration is open and forms are available on-line at the websites listed below. The event takes place in Rosemont (Chicago), IL, USA, from June 03 – 05, 2019 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. In 2019, the biennial event will be co-located with SUR/FIN, the annual conference and exhibition for surface finishing professionals, organized by the National Association for Surface Finishing. FASTENER TECH '19 will feature an exhibition, education seminars, a reception, and other networking opportunities.

## Tyler Olson of Fastenal wins acclaim from ASTM International

**Tyler Olson**, Engineering Manager, Materials, Fastenal Co., Winona, MN, USA, recently won the 2018 ASTM International James A. Thomas President's Leadership Award. The award recognizes individuals early in their ASTM career who've significantly advanced ASTM's mission through extraordinary accomplishment, example and vision. An ASTM member since 2011, Olson was recognized for productivity and exemplary service to the committee on fasteners.



**RTTF**



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## EU applies 'rebalancing' tariffs on US fastener imports

The European Union will apply 25 percent 'rebalancing' tariffs on a wide range of products imported from the United States, including seven categories of fasteners, effective from June 22, 2018.

The tariffs are in response to the Section 232 tariffs applied by President Donald Trump to steel and aluminum from the EU. The EU will rebalance bilateral trade with the US taking as a basis the value of its steel and aluminum exports affected by the US measures. Those are worth €6.4 billion. Of this amount, the EU will rebalance on €2.8 billion worth of exports immediately. The remaining rebalancing on trade valued at €3.6 billion will take place at a later stage – in three years' time or after a positive finding in WTO dispute settlement if that should come sooner.

The EU rebalancing measures will be effective for as long as the US measures are in place, in line with the WTO Safeguards Agreement and EU legislation.

The list of products on which the recent tariffs have been applied includes seven fastener CN codes: 73181410, 73181491, 73181499, 73181640, 73181660, 73181692, 73181699. The products involved include self-tapping screws, spaced thread screws, blind rivet nuts, self-locking nuts and nuts of iron or steel other than stainless steel.



## Successful Start to Bossard Year

The Bossard Group reported continued high-level growth in the first quarter 2018, with sales hitting a record CHF 220.4 million (€184 million), up 10.9 percent on same quarter last year.

The Group posted broad-based growth in all three of its market regions. In Europe, where Bossard generates around 60 percent of its sales, growth was 14.8 percent. Business in America and Asia also made a strong contribution to what Bossard describes as "this gratifying first quarter performance".

In America sales increased by 8.2 percent in local currencies, equating to +2.1 percent in Swiss Francs, giving a total of CHF 58.1 million.

Asian sales rose 12.7 percent to CHF 30.2 million (+10.7 percent in local currencies), with investments made in past years having created a solid foundation for additional growth, especially in China, where first quarter growth was in double digits, as it was in Taiwan and Thailand.

Bossard also sees positive signs in India, increasing sales in various industrial sectors.

The Group concluded that the first quarter performance bodes well for coming months. It expects 2018 sales to approach CHF 850 million, compared with CHF 786 million in 2017.

## Bulten Q1 Results Confirm Growth Phase

Bulten AB reported net sales for the first quarter 2018 at SEK 853 million (€81 million), an increase of 9.6 percent on the same period last year. Tommy Andersson, President and CEO, heralded the results as confirmation of a new growth phase for Bulten.

Andersson commented: "The outcome of the first quarter confirmed that Bulten is in a new growth phase, with higher net sales and order bookings of 9.6 percent and 8.2 percent respectively. The growth is an effect of an increase in previously announced contracts and a major model shift at a customer, which is now in full production."

Operating earnings (EBIT) totalled SEK 67 million, up SEK 4 million on last year, but reflecting an operation margin of 7.8 percent, slightly decreased from 8.1 percent. Andersson explained that profitability was affected negatively by higher global market prices for steel and other

metals, as well as an uneven rate of production, but was partly balanced out by positive currency effects.

"We have long-standing contracts and a strong position in our niche, and Bulten's long-term growth opportunities are looking good, with incoming volumes from previously announced contracts worth just over SEK 500 million annually when full production is reached in 2020. Furthermore, the development toward more hybrid and electric cars works in our favour, as more fasteners will be needed for each car due to new materials and powertrains. We also deem our prospects good to win new business."

Bulten's order bookings were reported to stand at SEK 779 million, an increase of 8.2 percent on same period 2017. The company also confirmed that its new surface treatment at its German unit was now up and running, with gradually increasing volumes.



Source: Fastener + Fixing Magazine

**FASTENER  
+FIXING**  
MAGAZINE

**Will Lowry**  
Editor  
Fastener + Fixing Magazine

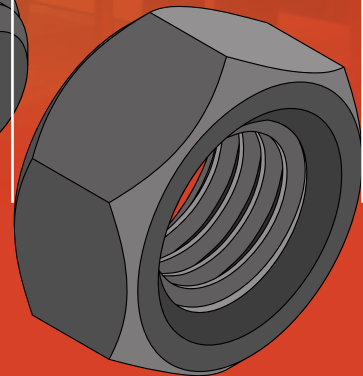
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## Max Del Becomes IATF 16949 Certified

Successor to certification ISO/TS 16949, the IATF 16949 is a group of standards in quality management systems, essential for companies mainly into auto parts to become or continue being a supplier to the automakers from France, Germany, Italy and North America, which are the members of International Automotive Task Force.

Among the high points of IATF 16949 is its focus on risk management, which comprises application of strategic plans in situations such as shutdown of a key machine, strikes, transport issues, power outages and others. For over 40 years in the manufacturing of metal fasteners such as bolts, screws, rivets, pins, shafts and other products made using wire-rod as the raw material, Max Del could have waited until the audit, but its team's chiefs chose to anticipate the demands and get the company IATF 16949:2016 certified. This happened before the end of May. The company also has other important certifications such as ISO 14000, OHS 18001 and CQI – 9.

## Ford Recalls Vehicles Imported to Brazil

More than 32,000 units of Ford Fusion from model years 2014-2018 sold to Brazil are among the big recall of 1.4 million Ford Fusion cars and the Lincoln MKZ vehicles built at plants in Michigan and Mexico. According to the second largest US automaker, the technical reason is the loss of the fastening force of the bolt that keeps the steering wheel secure to the steering column of a vehicle. In this situation, the driver initially notices a vertical oscillation of the steering wheel and, in case of prolonged use of the vehicle, the steering column comes detached. The repair and replace of bolt takes just 20 minutes.



## Essentra Acquires Micro Plastics

A company originally from the United Kingdom - with a Brazilian branch in Jaguariuna, SP - Essentra plc has acquired 100 percent of Micro Plastics' capital from Flippin, Arkansas, USA, for an undisclosed amount. Micro Plastics is a leading manufacturer and distributor of fasteners made of nylon and other plastic components, items used in various end customers in



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## Brazilian Import for Fasteners Grows by 9.2%

According to the Brazilian Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC), the monthly average of fasteners imported in 2018, as compared to 2017, has exceeded by 9.2 percent in tonnes (t). An increase of 13.98 percent in purchases in the US dollars has also been recorded. The transport sector strike that happened in May did affect the business scene in Brazil but the growth continued unabated. With country's production on the rise, the consumption is also increasing. This includes the consumption of fasteners, whether produced domestically or imported. The MDIC, in 2017, registered a little over US\$ 595.55 million (US\$ 49.6 million/month) in imports, corresponding to 112,192 t (9,349 t/month). Between January and May 2018, the MDIC recorded US\$ 282.85 million (US\$ 56.57 million/month), with 51,061.192 t (10,212 t/month).

FASTENER IMPORT: MONTHLY AVERAGE	VALUE	IN TONNE
2017	US\$ 49.63 million	9,349.36 t
2018	US\$ 56.57 million	10,212.28 t

industries. It will now report to the component division of Essentra. This acquisition not only broadens the division's product range and adds manufacturing capacity in the US, but also provides entry into the Mexican market due to an installation in Monterrey. The purchase was made without cash, free of debt, financed from existing facilities. This transaction will immediately increase earnings for the company.

Source: Revista do Parafuso (The Fastener Brazil Magazine)

**REVISTA DO PARAFUSO**

# Fastening the Renewable Future



Hex Head Screws



Socket Head Cap Screw



Button Head Socket Screw



Hammer Head Screw/Tee Bolt



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Self Tapping Hexagon Screw



Nylock Nut with Blue Ring



Hex Flange Nut



Hex Nut

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Plain Washer



Sealing Washer



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Profile 28 X 22



Mid-clamp unmounted /black anodised



EPDM for Mid-clamp /End Plate



U-Bolt



Hanger/Dowel Bolt Assembly



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- Zinc-Nickel Electroplating
- Geomet®
- Delta Dorken®
- Unbrako Wiscoat
- PTFE, etc.



## Fastener Expo Shanghai 2018 Generates Rave Response

The 9<sup>th</sup> Fastener Expo Shanghai, held on 20-22 June, 2018 at National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai, was a huge success. ChinaFastener.com, as the official media partner, played a significant role in the



Industry experts speaking on intelligent industrial practices at Chinese Fastener Summit.

event. The current edition attracted over 600 exhibitors and 28,359 visitors, a big leap from the last year's. The buyers came from countries such as Germany, Russia, Japan, South Korea, the USA, India, etc. With an extensive range of exhibited products

including machines, standard products, non-standard fasteners, moulds and dies, the exhibition was a celebration of China's fastener industry.

Concurrently, the 5<sup>th</sup> Face to Face ChinaFastener Purchasing Meeting was jointly held by Chinafastener.com and Fastener Expo Shanghai. Nearly 30 professional purchasers and over 150 high-quality fastener suppliers in China were invited to meet. The purchasers included some globally well-known distributors, such as Bossard, Wurth, Fastenal, Reyher and other famous companies. The organizers also invited India Fastener Association to take part in the meeting.

Chinese Fastener Summit was also held by Luosi.com and ChinaFastener.com where the industry experts spoke on the theme of 'Intelligent Practices and Development Trends in the Fastener Industry'. The next edition of the expo is scheduled on 26-28 June, 2019 at the same venue.

## Dainan Fastener Industry Association Elects Qiu Yongshou as President

The election meeting of Dainan Fastener Industry Association was recently held at Dainan Industrial Science Park in Xinghua City, Jiangsu Province. More than 200 leaders and representatives of member companies attended the meeting. Zhang Jiehe, President, Taizhou Bote Stainless Steel Fasteners Co., Ltd, reported on the preparation of the association. He said that the association could not be established without the efforts of all attendees. He urged the members to commit themselves to the association. Chen Gengqing, Section Chief of Social Organization Management Department of Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau read out documents related to the foundation of the association.

According to the program, the first board of the association was elected. Qiu Yongshou, President, Yongzheng Fastener Co., Ltd, was elected as the first President of the association and Zhang Jiehe was elected as the Executive Vice President. The first board meeting of the association was held post-election during which 13 companies were elected as its board members. Yang Junfeng, President, ChinaFastener.com, was elected as the Honorary President of the association.



Ivan Su  
English Editor  
ChinaFastener Magazine

Source: ChinaFastener Magazine



## Wu Wai Yee Re-elected as 8<sup>th</sup> HKSF Chairman

The 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting of Hong Kong Screw and Fastener Council (HKSF) and the 8<sup>th</sup> Election Meeting of the Board was recently held at HKPC Building in Kowloon, Hong Kong. Wu Wai Yee, Chairman of the Council, addressed the meeting. In the past year, the 7<sup>th</sup> board of the Council held many activities in order to promote communication of its members. These activities helped its members improve their technologies, expand business opportunities, and enhance their bonds with each other. Based on the agenda, the election was conducted for the 2018-2019 Board of the Council. Wu Wai Yee was re-elected as the Chairman of the Council. Zhang Jianming and Xu Binghui were elected as the Executive Vice-Chairmen of the Council. Xu Jiahong, Wu Hongqiao, Lin Jingwen, Ding Zhaojun and Li Weiyu were elected as Vice Chairmen, and Li Weiyu as the Cashier.

## Shenzhen's Fastener Association Holds Board Meeting

The first board meeting of Shenzhen Fastener Industry Association of 2018 was recently convened in Shenzhen. The representatives of all of its company members attended the meeting. The secretariat of the association declared 2018 work plan of the association and confirmed its responsibilities. The attendees discussed the publishing and advertisement of its directory. The association has collaborated with Guangzhou Tianhe Jinling Technical School with the aim to cultivate talent for the fastener industry.



# SAVE THE DATES

EVENT	DETAILS	DATE & VENUE
Hand Tools 2018 & Fastener Expo 2018	T: +91 99400 46632 E: kalyan@itei.in www.iihtexpo.com	29 – 31 August, 2018 Pragati Maidan New Delhi, India
China International Hardware Show 2018	T: +86 10 6590 7766 / 707 E: s.xu@koelnmesse.cn www.hardwareshow-china.com	10 – 12 October, 2018 National Exhibition and Convention Center Shanghai, China
Taiwan Hardware Show	T: +886 2 2595 4212 E: ths@kaigo.com.tw www.hardwareshow.com.tw	17 – 19 October, 2018 Taichung International Exhibition Center (TCIEC) Taichung City, Taiwan
IFS 2018 – China International Fastener Show	T: +86 (0) 20 8985 7659 E: Info@afastener.com www.en.afastener.com	21 – 23 October, 2018 Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Center Shanghai, China
International Fastener Expo	T: 001 323 817 2245 E: info@fastenershows.com www.fastenershows.com	30 October – 01 November, 2018 Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, Bayside B-C Las Vegas, USA
wire India 2018	T: +91 11 4855 0065 E: setha@md-india.com www.wire-india.com	27 – 29 November, 2018 Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) Mumbai, India

2<sup>nd</sup>

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#### PARTICIPATION PROFILE

##### Fasteners

- Nuts
- Bolts
- Screw, washers
- Forged Components

##### Fastener Machinery

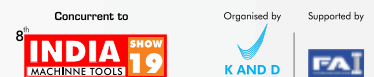
- Former Machines (Nut-Bolts)
- Headers
- Rolling
- Tapping
- Threading
- Forging
- Packing, Cleaning, Marking

##### Hardware

- Nails
- Self-Tapping Screws
- Rivets
- Washers

##### Fastener Tooling

- Taps
- Rolls
- Dies
- Pins
- Punches



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# FASTENERS INDIA MEGA SUMMIT 2018: MARKING A MILESTONE

*With the aim to forge stronger ties among the industry members, Fasteners Association of India (FAI) has organized its largest Fastener Networking Event 'Fasteners India Mega Summit 2018' on August 04, 2018 in New Delhi, India. The summit will be gathering industry leaders and experts for an earnest sharing of their experiences and vision for the industry.*

Source: FAI



**Gurucharan Singh Bhullar, Vice President, Fasteners Association of India, addressing the audience during a technical summit.**

With demands from the growing automotive and auto ancillary sector and heavy engineering industry, increasing infrastructure and construction activities, the fastener scene of the country is ushering in growth like never before. However, to make room for further growth, a structured effort is required to bring the industry on the same page. Fasteners India Mega Summit 2018, Fasteners Association of India's (FAI) largest fastener networking event, is an endeavor in this direction aiming to spot the challenges plaguing the industry, zero in on solutions and foster deeper collaboration.

## Aiming growth

Fasteners India Mega Summit 2018 will convene around 200 delegates. Some of India's top CEOs/Owners will be providing insights as speakers for the event. They would be sharing their industry experiences with case studies, and their vision for the industry. The summit has been organized as a platform for a meaningful exchange of knowledge and information. It aims to act as a spur to the process of continuous improvement by skill and technology upgradation.

## Knowing FAI

FAI was born two years ago out of the need to unite the

then highly fragmented Indian Fastener Industry and explore its future opportunities collectively. The next focus in line is to develop MSMEs that comprise most of the industry. These manufacturers are in a dire need of an upgrade in their skills and technology know-how.

Since inception, FAI has had approximately 350 members and through word of mouth as well as active media promotion, members are expected to be over 500 by this year's end. The association has been conducting several industry meets and technical seminars to benefit and uplift the industry.



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