

# Socket & Allied turns adversity to record growth

**Socket & Allied Screws Ltd has announced a record performance with a 52% increase in revenue for the financial year ending April 2017.**

**M**anaging Director Kevin Bradley said: “This is a brilliant achievement in the face of a challenging oil and gas sector, which has historically contributed to a large part of our sales.”

The increase in sales is a result of several initiatives including the purchase of more CNC machines, an increase in staffing levels and a marketing campaign to diversify into new industrial sectors. The next major initiative for the company in 2017 is to achieve the following accreditations; ISO 9001-2015 (quality), ISO 14001 (environmental) and OHSAS 18001 (health & safety). “The major OEMs are increasingly demanding these accreditations as a prerequisite to doing business with them and we are committed to gaining these standards at the earliest opportunity,” remarked Kevin.

The company has also garnered support from Birmingham City Council’s Business Growth Programme, which provides grant funding

for businesses throughout the West Midlands. “The Council has played a major part in expediting the growth of the company by providing grant funding towards the purchase of capital equipment and business development through its Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme and Business Development Programme,” commented Kevin.

Socket and Allied manufactures and supplies special socket screws and associated fastener components and has the expertise to deliver a wide and diverse range of machined products using standard and exotic materials.

Producing quality precision formed components to a variety of industry standards, Socket & Allied believes its uncompromising approach to manufacturing, customer service, quality, and delivery, makes it the supplier of choice for manufacturers and distributors. +

## A great day for golf

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Heinz Storch Memorial Fastbolt Golf Day, which took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands Golf Club, once again saw the fastener and fixing industry turn out in force to support a great cause.**

**A**s always with the Fastbolt Golf Day, the sun was shining brightly for all those players that accepted the challenge of tackling the spectacular course and its lightning quick greens.

In addition to the individual and team awards, there was also a ‘yellow ball’ competition, sponsored somewhat tongue in cheek by Fastener + Fixing Search.com – with the emphasis on search – as well as ‘nearest the pin’ and ‘straightest drive’ competitions.

After enjoying 18 holes of golf, there was a dinner, award ceremony, and auction, which saw an outstanding GB£11,000 raised for Willen Hospice in Milton Keynes. +

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## SFS investing in Chinese operations

**SFS will invest US\$35 million (€30.7 million) in China over the next two years as part of its expansion plan and in order to consolidate some of its operations in China.**

**T**he new site will allow SFS Group to build a comprehensive precision component manufacturing and supply chain unit, including plating and surface treatment, which is essential for the Group’s business activities in China.

SFS Group strategy focuses on close relationships with customers. The new site in Nantong (China) provides a sound platform for close customer contact; enables SFS to serve its customers locally; and is the basis for further operational improvements in China. This investment underscores SFS Group’s selective growth strategy for the Chinese market and its long-term commitment.

The new sales and manufacturing site will strengthen SFS’s competitive and synergistic position in China. It is being built at Suzhou Nantong Science and Technology Park, Nantong, Jiangsu Province, China, and is about one hour drive from Shanghai. The total land area is about 90,000m<sup>2</sup> and the construction of the new site will take place in stages and is scheduled for completion in 2019. +