

UDIB provides extra edge through training

Five days to deliver fastener manufacturing and distributing companies an extra edge in terms of knowledge and innovation. That was the objective of a tailored training course organised by the Union Distributori Italiani Bulloneria, which concluded with a day at a leading Italian fastener manufacturer.

The course, which began on 14th June, was the brainchild of advisor to the Italian fastener distributors association, Mr Gian Marco Dalpane. Developed further by UDIB board members to satisfy the needs of all fastener players, it was sponsored by UDIB together with the Intermech-MO.RE Inter-departmental Centre of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, headed by Professor Angelo Andrisano, with the support of the Democenter-Sipe Foundation, the technology transfer centre of Modena. The Associazione Nazionale Disegno Macchine (ANDM National Association for Machine Design) also supported the programme.

Entitled "Fasteners - rappresentazione, catalogazione ed impiego (Fasteners - representation, cataloguing and use)", the three-level course was intended for individuals without a specific technical background. It provided both basic and specialised training to show managers, technicians, engineers and sales teams of both manufacturing and distributing companies the changes and innovations underway in the fastener sector.

Entry-level topics include interpreting technical drawings,



size and geometric tolerances, threading, threaded connections and an introduction to materials and resistance classes. The intermediate course focused on mechanical and threaded connections, materials and resistance classes, production methods, thermal treatments and surface coatings, as well as product cataloguing. Three advanced lessons covered the mechanical behaviour of threaded connections, mechanical properties of materials and methods used to measure parts. More than forty students from companies based in the northern part of Italy attended the five days of training.

The course culminated on 8th November in a day at the MECAVIT production facility, where the company's owners and team were very welcoming to the guests. A theory lesson was held in the lecture hall in the morning, followed in the afternoon by a tour of the company's production lines, showing the participants the screw and bolt manufacturing and treatment phases.

UDIB president, Mr Enea D'Incecco expressed his gratitude to MECAVIT and all the other supporters of the training course, holding it up as an excellent example of Italian common sense.



World fastener demand US\$83 billion in 2016

According to the latest World Industrial Fasteners report from the Freedonia Group Inc, global sales of industrial fasteners are expected to climb 5.2% per year to reach US\$92.9 billion in 2016.

The economies of many countries around the world will continue to recover from the global recession of 2009, suggests Freedonia, spurring growth in durable goods output, which largely determines worldwide fastener sales. In 2011, motor vehicle original equipment manufacturing was the largest market for industrial fasteners, and this market will post the largest gains through 2016 in value terms. Also, accelerations in manufacturing output and fixed investment spending will lead to increased demand for fasteners used in machinery. However, intensifying competition from alternative joining technologies (such as adhesives) will restrain fastener sales increases in some market segments.

The Asia/Pacific region will record the fastest demand gains from 2011 to 2016, averaging 7.4% per year. This expansion will be driven primarily by the strong Chinese market, which will continue to advance at a rapid pace despite moderating from the 2006-2011 rate. Rising demand in the smaller Indian market will

complement these gains, as sales in this country will climb at the most rapid pace worldwide through 2016. Ongoing growth in the durable goods manufacturing sectors in these nations, along with the continuing need for new and improved components of infrastructure, will stimulate large gains in industrial fastener demand. Sales of fasteners in other developing areas of the world will generally advance at a healthy pace.

Increases in industrial fastener demand in the world's highly developed economies - namely, the US, Western Europe, and Japan - were much slower than in industrialising countries between 2006 and 2011, and sales gains in most developed nations will continue to be subpar through 2016. Since the durable goods manufacturing sectors in these areas are mature, there will be fewer growth opportunities for fastener suppliers. However, recoveries in motor vehicle production and construction expenditures following a period of decline will result in faster fastener market advances going forward.

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