

2024

# Press Pack

Our fasteners enable innovation  
today to build a better tomorrow





## Developing a sustainable fastener solution - Lighting Cluster

By Glenda Roberts - TR Fastenings



**We are experiencing changes in thinking from our customer base around the conventional use of fasteners. The recent legislation “The Right to Repair” is having an impact where designers are having to consider returning to fasteners rather than welding products, or having fixings that are permanent.**

Instead, there is an opportunity to use thread forming fasteners with additional head features to ensure that they provide the clamp load required and in vibratory situations. This allows for disassembly and ultimately will ensure fewer domestic appliance end up in landfill and because of this legislation there is a real environmental benefit.

[Watch the Right to Repair Video](#)

Following on from the success we had with the innovative EPW screw for thin sheet metal applications we continue to seek out other products where we can resolve industry application issues. We were proud to be given the Innovation Award for the EPW fastener at the previous Stuttgart Fastener Show. This was originally designed for domestic appliances application but is now morphing into a product used in automotive applications, in particular in Electric Vehicles.

### Sealing fastener

Automotive lighting clusters fixings have not changed very much over the years. One problem that persists is ensuring that there is no water

ingress into the assembly requiring a fastener with a neoprene sealing washer. This usually involves the fastener having a neoprene washer placed under the head of the screw and that inevitably deteriorates over time leading to leakage. There can also be clamp load issues.

Working in collaboration with a Tier1 automotive customer, we took on the challenge of developing a one-piece part fastener which should eliminate water ingress and providing the required clamp load. Our Technical Team in TR VIC in Italy took an alternative concept culminating in a screw with a unique under the head feature that has now been patented. This part has subsequently been tested and has been signed off by the customer. This is a unique product and improves conventional sealing technology. So, what were the benefits to both companies.

- It is now a one-piece fastener not two.
- We produce c60million of these a year, eliminating the need for the same number of washers. Neoprene is generally not recyclable when integrated into an assembled product.
- Production is faster as we do not have to assemble the washer.
- And as a result, there is a cost benefit to both parties, and other Customers are keen to pursue this patented design

There will be other sectors where this unique sealing screw technology can be applied.



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Together with our application and design engineers we are constantly seeking out areas where we can assist in improving a product suggesting alternatives and having the capability to manufacture prototypes in our own 7 manufacturing sites is a real winning combination. Our hybrid strategy of being both a distributor and a manufacturer enables us to reach a wider customer base and utilise our in-house capabilities.

We are adding new products to our website constantly. In recent months we have added over 3,000 parts to our plastic and cable management range. These include push and drive fastener, screw rivets, panel fasteners and an expanded range of PCB fixings. We will shortly be adding a new range of thread forming screws that meet some of the exacting requirements for robotic and high-volume manufacturing into plastics.

The knowledge base pages on the TR website are used extensively by customers engineers seeking dimensional data and product information. In addition to these, engineers and designers can choose the product that they are interested in and download a dimensioned drawing. In many cases there is a product animation that illustrates how the product performs. This is a great training tool and can be used across disciplines from purchasing and sourcing teams, or to be assist for assemblers.

Sven Brehler – TR Group Engineering Director explains that “We really see our USP as solution providers and actively welcome opportunities to

be involved at the inception of product design or in solving technical problems.”



## TR Fastenings are exhibiting at Electronics Live

Visit us  
on stand  
**12**



**TR Fastenings, part of the Trifast group of companies is excited to be taking the opportunity to be exhibiting in this brand new Electronics Live event.**

Electronics Live serves as a dedicated platform specifically designed to showcase the latest technology in the electronic components supply chain. This focused approach ensures that both exhibitors, like TR Fastenings, and attendees benefit from the unique opportunity to see all of the market leaders and innovations under one roof.

Come and meet the team at Stand 12 on the 17th January 2024 at the National Conference Centre, Birmingham. Sven Brehler, Director of Engineering, and Liam Cullen, Business Development Manager, will be available to discuss TR Fastenings' latest technology. Visitors can benefit from direct insights, technical expertise, and discussions about the cutting-edge products and solutions that TR Fastenings has to offer in the electronic components supply chain.

We look forward to seeing you on 17th January.

[Electronics Live 2024](#)



# Event to open up the EV sector for businesses in North East England

By Horizon Works



**Businesses who want to power ahead in the electric vehicle (EV) sector will be attending a special event this month, where they'll be gaining up to the minute insight and guidance from automotive industry experts.**

**The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity will be hosted by B2B marketing company Horizon Works on January 31 at its headquarters on Northumberland Business Park, near Cramlington, Northumberland.**

Delivered in association with the North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), the UK's largest automotive cluster, the event will shine a spotlight on how North East England's supply chain can support and accelerate the transition to zero emission mobility.

Paul Butler, CEO of the NEAA and Christopher Appleby, Innovation Manager at the NEAA, will be providing the latest insight into the national and local EV landscape, including EV36Zero and off-highway, and will discuss North East EV supply chain needs and future demand.

In addition, delegates will learn what support is available for SMEs who want to diversify into the EV sector.

Christopher Black, Global Director Automotive Business Development and Sven Brehler, Director of Engineering at industrial fastenings specialist TR Fastenings, will also be presenting at the event: they will be sharing TR Fastenings' experiences of working with the EV sector and engaging with OEMs and the supply chain.

TR Fastenings (TR) is part of Trifast plc and is an international specialist in the design,

engineering, manufacture and distribution of industrial fastenings and Category 'C' components, principally to major global assembly industries.

The presentations will be followed by a panel session and Q and A, and the event will also include lunch and networking. It is free to attend for North East England-based engineering and manufacturing companies and is open to both members and non-members of the NEAA.

The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity is the third event in Horizon Works' Opportunities Series, a programme of workshops and seminars for manufacturing and engineering businesses. Run in conjunction with industry partners, the events highlight regional and national opportunities for engineering and manufacturing companies. Previous events held at Horizon Works' event space have featured speakers from Advance Northumberland and Make UK Defence.

Horizon Works has been an NEAA member since its inception and has worked in close partnership with the organisation on a number of workshops and webinars.

Paul Butler, CEO of the NEAA, said: "The North East is the UK's leading region for vehicle electrification. It is home to the Nissan Leaf, one of the world's most successful electric vehicles, Europe's first ever giga factory, and has the full complement of Power Electronics Machines & Drives (PEMD) - one of only a handful of regions globally.

"The recent announcement from Nissan and partners to invest £3 billion and to be 100% electric by 2030 with the commitment to build the next generation Leaf, Juke and Qashqai, as well as a third giga factory, makes the North East a globally significant hub for the automotive sector."





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Samantha Vassallo, Managing Director of Horizon Works, said: "The EV sector is intertwined with the industrial future of North East England, so it is vital that engineering and manufacturing businesses understand the opportunities it offers, and how they can engage with key players.

"We're therefore delighted that the NEAA and TR Fastenings will be sharing their insight, guidance and expertise at The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity event, and we look forward to welcoming business from across the region to our event space on 31 January."

Horizon Works, which was founded in 2010, works with ambitious and fast growing innovation and technology led manufacturing and engineering businesses that are creating solutions of worldwide importance. It offers a wide range of integrated marketing services including strategy, PR, design, digital and animation, and supports regional, national and global organisations.

Established in 2015, the NEAA is a not-for-profit, industry-led, automotive cluster and supports the economic sustainable growth and competitiveness of the sector. Today, it is the largest automotive cluster in the UK and provides an unparalleled collaborative network where companies gain from leadership and co-ordination of activities of mutual benefit.

For more information visit [The Vehicle Electrification Event](#).