

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

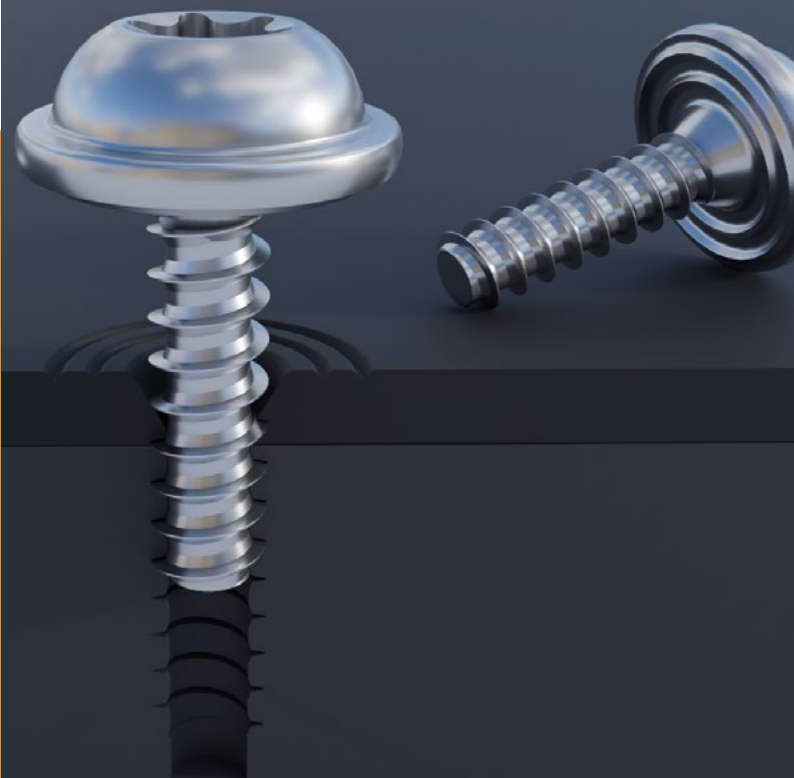
There will be other sectors where this unique sealing screw technology can be applied.





Developing a sustainable fastener solution - Lighting Cluster

By Glenda Robers - TR Fastenings



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

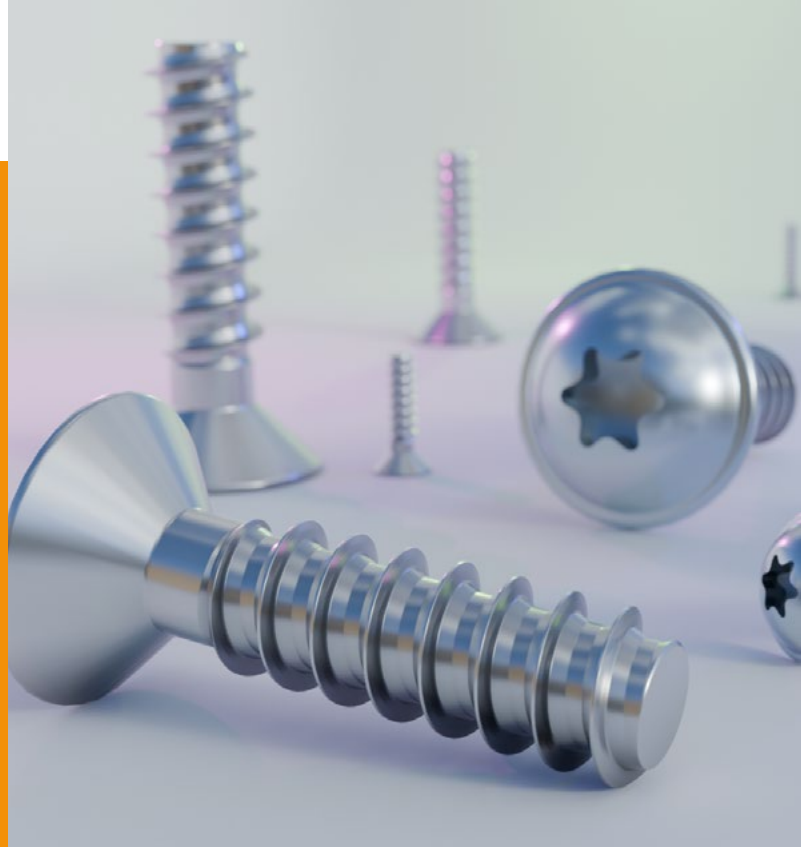
be involved at the inception of product design or in solving technical problems.”





TR Fastenings launch new Plas-Tech 30-20® screws to product range

TR Fastenings



Technological advances have become ever more crucial as manufacturing firms in all sectors of industry strive for commercial success, and key to that success for TR Fastenings is the need for superior performance fastenings. The efficient and effective operations of everything from automotive applications, domestic appliances to industrial machinery will inevitably depend on the need for reliable screws, bolts, washers, clips and more.

TR's latest product launch of the new Plas-Tech 30-20® screws is another indicator of the company's determination to increase its range that is currently available in the market, to give their customers yet more advantages in their production processes.

Manufactured in TR's own facilities, the Plas-Tech 30-20® has been developed by TR's in-house technical engineering teams across global locations to complement the existing Plas-Tech® range. This new product has an optimised thread profile which gives an advanced performance in a wide variety of plastic materials to meet customer requirements.

An important addition to an already successful product range

Plas-Tech 30-20® screws are new to the market, but are part of the company's established and popular [Plas-Tech® range](#), and are available with various protective coatings. They are of particular importance in the automotive, tech & infrastructure and health & home markets.

The Plas-Tech 30-20® has been specially developed to offer several advantages

over conventional thread-forming screws in plastic, such as:

- A 20% finer pitch and lower flank angle to improve axial resistance.
- A reduced thread angle to lessen axial displacement.
- Up to 25% higher thread fill to improve maximum joint strength.
- A smoother installation that heightens resistance to vibration.

Key features of the Plas-Tech 30-20® include:

- **Minimal radial stress:** the faceted thread profile directs material flow to reduce radial stress.
- **Superior vibration resistance:** the full engagement of the self-locking, angled thread design avoids loosening.
- **High torsional strength and tensile strength:** a large core thread profile provides high strength.
- **Optimal thread pitch:** ensuring fastener engagement with a minimum number of rotations, keeping installation times to a minimum.
- **High reusability:** the fastener can be removed and re-installed a number of times.

Various options for the customer to select from

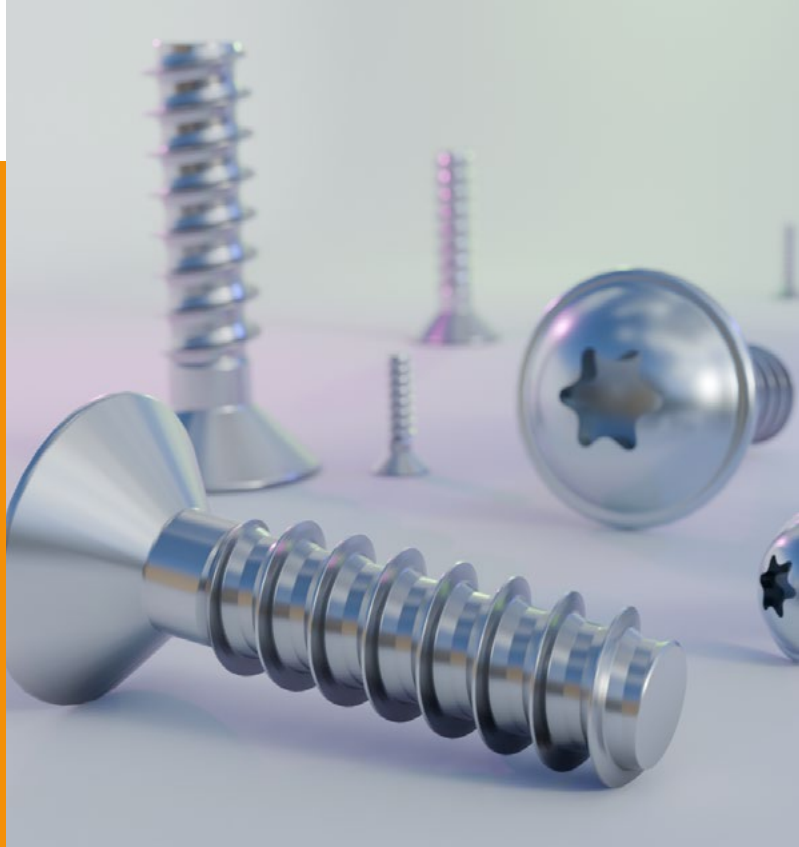
The Plas-Tech 30-20® screw range includes pan head, flange head and countersunk head varieties,





TR Fastenings launch new Plas-Tech 30- 20® screws to product range

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enabling TR customers to choose the ideal option for each application. Thread diameters are 3mm, 4mm, 5mm and 6mm, and available lengths range from 6mm to 30mm. The innovative design allows for the screw threads to displace the surrounding plastic, in the process strengthening the fix. And as always, TR Fastenings can provide bespoke engineered products and a diverse selection of related components as well.

The screws can be installed with a calibrated pneumatic or electric driver and are particularly suited to robotic assembly processes. With standard drivers, installation is quick and stress-free, and thanks to their sturdy construction, Plas-Tech 30-20® screws can be reused many times over.

TR's technical resources

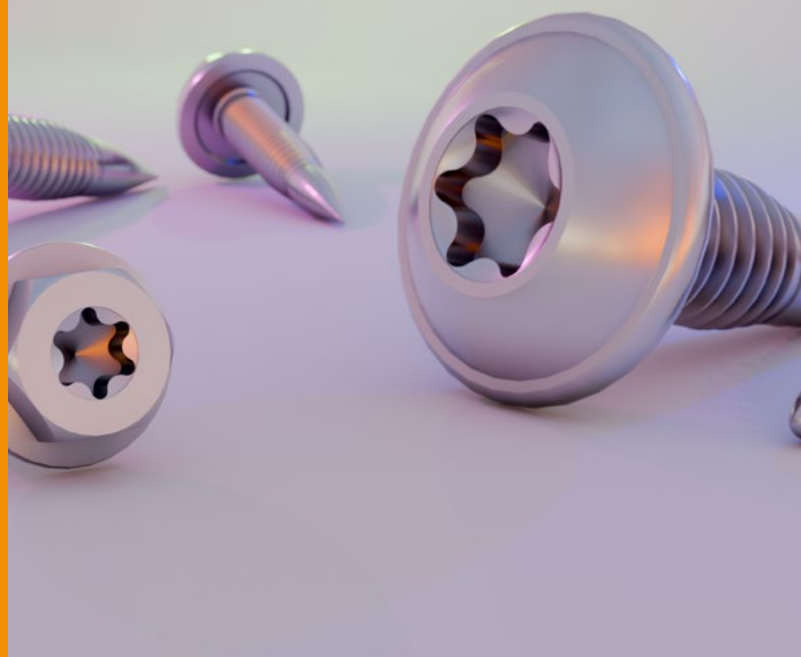
Product engineers who are keen to find out more about their usage can obtain all the information they need via TR's excellent [Installation guide](#) and [Product Animation](#).





The TR EPW thread-forming screw revolutionises the fastening process for thin sheet metal by cutting assembly time and cost

By TR Fastenings



TR Fastenings, part of the Trifast plc group of companies, has relaunched its patented EPW self-extruding thread-forming screw, engineered to significantly cut assembly time and cost. A revolutionary fastening solution, proudly designed and manufactured in Europe, the TR EPW creates its own internal thread in thin sheet metal, and suits the HVAC, automotive, electronics, medical and telecoms industries.

Why is the TR EPW a game changer?

Unlike traditional flow drill products, the EPW screw can be easily installed by hand with a cordless drill making it extremely convenient and versatile. It works by aligning to the pilot hole in the sheet metal, forming an extruded collar and creating a robust thread profile before tightening and clamping securely, all in one easy step.

Other key features:

- Can be installed manually and via robotic systems
- Easily removed and fully reusable for a strong, long-lasting joint
- Excellent vibration resistance to keep the assembly secure
- High radial compression on the screw shank for a superior hold
- Suitable for electrical earth connections
Lightweight, practical and strong
- Manufactured in house in Europe

Manufactured in Europe by TR for global markets

Designed, developed and patented by TR, the EPW is an innovative high strength fastener manufactured in TR's own factory in Italy and available to global markets in a range of materials, sizes and head styles. Surface coatings include standard zinc plating, high-corrosion zinc nickel and organic zinc flake. Effective in use with thin sheet metal, the EPW creates fixtures that are easy to disassemble, enabling users to recycle or reuse parts as and when required.

The EPW offers cost-effective solutions to users, thanks to its versatility of use, ease of installation and its reliability. It can be used for a variety of materials, including steel (0.4-1mm thick) and aluminium (0.4-1.5mm thick), complementing an already comprehensive product range that includes self-clinch fasteners, blind rivets, welding products and more.

Enrico DeAngelis, Research & Development, TR Italy commented: *"The EPW screw represents a significant commitment on our part to provide the finest possible product designs allied to the very best in quality, functionality and versatility. Relaunching this fastener now is perfect timing as customers are coming to us for more cost-effective solutions for thin sheet metal. The success that we feel this product will bring is due to a culmination of factors, including of course the investment that TR has made."*



TR Fastenings launches a new range of Klima-Flex™ latching systems

TR Fastenings



TR Fastenings, part of the Trifast plc group of companies, announces the launch of a new range of latching systems for the HVAC industry. Klima-Flex™ has been specifically developed to deliver a safe, effective and reliable product line for insulated and pressurised doors and cabinets to meet the stringent requirements for air conditioning, ventilation and heating equipment housing.

The Klima-Flex™ range consists of:

- Klima-Flex 1: Handle, Inside Handle, Interlink Rods, Latching System Acid Proof, Latching Units, Metal Handle, Rod Links, Roller Cams, Safety Catch
- Klima-Flex 2: Handle, Handle for K1 Latch, Inside Handle, Latch Hinge, Latching Units, Rod Link, Roller Cam, Safety Catch, Through & Surface Mounted Latching Units
- Klima-Flex Latch Hinge
- Klima-Flex 2D Hinges - Adjustable
- Klima-Flex 3D Hinges - Adjustable, Heavy Duty.

The full product range is specially designed and engineered to meet the demands of the HVAC industry, it contains every necessary item for secure access to both doors and cabinets and will ensure they have complete, fully functioning seals. In addition, the Klima-Flex range is built to offer an effective and safe latching solution in both positive and negative pressure conditions.

Klima-Flex products adhere to the highest standards for the HVAC industry, a sector in which compliance is of particular importance. Due to go live in October 2024, the Klima-Flex system will be a welcome addition to TR Fastenings' comprehensive range of products, including Screws, Bolts, Nuts, Fasteners, Washers, O-Rings, Seals, Clips and more.

Andrew Fletcher, Director of Plastics & Rubber (Commercial & Technical), said "We're delighted to introduce the Klima-Flex range of products to the HVAC sector, and to be providing much-needed solutions to problems involving insulated and pressurised doors and cabinets. We look forward to working with our customers, and to offering them a meaningful pathway to greater efficiency."

For further information on the new range, please visit the [TR website](#).



TR springs to the challenge to develop innovative new solution for automotive customer

TR Fastenings



As the EV market grows worldwide, automotive designers and engineers, together with manufacturers, are completely rethinking the design of EVs, in order to provide consumers with the most advanced, high-tech specifications they now expect, without compromising on passenger comfort and user experience in any way.

TR was approached by a global leading EV manufacturer to design and develop a brand new and complex component for their latest model. They needed to work with an experienced partner who could take on the challenge to produce a unique spring and spool solution for their vehicle's central console.

The requirement

The customer required a highly engineered fastener solution that would provide the advanced functionality they were looking for in their latest electric vehicle. Their requirement was for a bespoke spring and spool product for the sliding central console, with three different versions designed specifically for installation in the tray, cup holder and lid.

The challenge was to achieve a very precise speed and timeframe of the open and closure mechanism, only achievable through advanced fastener technology. The requirement was for a high level of collaboration and technical expertise to develop such a meticulously designed and engineered product.

The Solution

As nothing like this was currently available, TR stepped in and brought its expert teams together from global locations to develop this highly specialised component.

Utilising years of experience in developing complex parts, and working closely with customers and their drawings, TR knew exactly what needed to be done to meet the specific challenges. Teams from TR USA and TR Sweden worked closely with several global manufacturers to design and assemble the final spring and spool product.

New Electric Vehicle components, from initial design and prototyping to full production require extensive design and engineering expertise, and TR was able to provide full-service provision, which was particularly important for launching this new product.

The product

To create a smooth and continuous motion of the central console mechanism, TR had to match the spring performance with a suitable damper to ensure that the console travelled smoothly and at a continuous speed, both in a stationary vehicle or when driving over a bumpy road.

Understanding the application design requirements, TR developed a spring and spool assembly which translates linear motion into rotation. The assembly was tailored to the application to fulfil its function smoothly and without noise.





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To achieve this, the spool was specifically designed to align with the geometry of the spring. Controlling and lubricity, as well as manufacturing the spool of a specific polymer, low static and dynamic sliding friction against mating surfaces was achieved.

TR was also able to support the customer with cost efficiencies of this product. By reducing the size of the spool, not only would this reduce material costs, it would also speed up installation time. TR used a combination of technical insights and production techniques to produce a superior product that met the brief of this challenging application.

View the [Constant Force Spring](#) video.

Project Conclusion

TR rose to the challenge by providing top-class engineering insights and support, delivering precisely what the customer needed to bring their electric vehicle design to life. By integrating innovative solutions and collaborating closely with global teams, TR developed a custom spring and spool system tailored to the customer's unique requirements. This solution met the complex demands of the central console mechanism while maintaining smooth functionality, reliability, and cost efficiency.

As the EV market continues to expand, TR remains committed to pushing the boundaries of fastener technology, supporting automotive manufacturers in designing and producing advanced components without sacrificing passenger comfort or user

experience. Through this project, TR demonstrated its dedication to innovation, meticulous engineering, and understanding the needs of both customers and the evolving electric vehicle industry.

TR is leading the way in design engineering and manufacturing with more than 55,000 products across its portfolio. It supplies components to more than 5,000 companies globally across a wide range of industries from its facilities in 18 countries encompassing seven manufacturing sites.

Patrik Ringdahl, Project Engineer at TR commented;

"Finding the right solution is my passion, and working alongside our customer on this project was an incredible opportunity to bring that to life. Leveraging our experience and global supplier network, we designed a solution that not only met their precise needs but also provided enhanced functionality and durability. This approach means our customer benefits from a reliable, high-performance component, supporting their commitment to quality and innovation. Growing with our customers to create functional, forward-thinking solutions is what drives our teams at TR, every day."





TR Fastenings opens new facility in China

TR Fastenings



TR Chai Yi Precision Fastenings Manufacturing, now part of the Trifast plc group of companies, is celebrating the launch of its Chinese manufacturing facility in the key industrial city of Dongguan, within the Guangdong Province, capitalising on years of increasing demand in the region.

Guangdong is a vibrant world-class centre of innovation and technology, providing the perfect place for TR to produce its precision engineered screws to OEM's and their sub-contractors, whilst leveraging its global scale on a local basis.

The new 2,800 sq. metres of manufacturing space houses 44 cold forging machines and 36 thread rolling machines producing 0.6mm to 4mm micro screws and thread forming screws, in steel, stainless and titanium, with an output of around 1 billion pieces per annum.

TR Chai Yi is proud to have achieved the globally recognised ISO 9001 certification demonstrating that TR has met the stringent criteria required for quality, safety and efficiency standards for its products and services to customers in the region. The accreditation affirms that the team is committed to providing the highest level of quality across the organisation and are continually looking at ways to improve.

Jeremy Scholefield, Asia Pacific Managing Director, comments; "We're delighted to open this new facility and in such a renowned area, it's such a positive move for TR as a group. Our focus is on producing competitive products and continuing to build a strong capability in China and across the Asia Pacific region to meet market demands.

"Here in Guangdong, one of our key differentiators is our technical engineering knowledge to produce

very precise and often complex components, those that are manufactured to exact measurements and mass-produced. This latest investment is key for us, as it highlights TR's robust development in the region and our commitment to staying close to key customers here."

The new China plant is the company's seventh global manufacturing facility with factories now also in Italy, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia.





TR Italy invests in sustainable energy with solar panel installation

TR Fastenings



TR Italy announces a significant sustainability achievement at its manufacturing facility in Umbria, Italy. Opened in 1996, the 6,110-square metre main building recently underwent an upgrade with the installation of 1,395 solar panels on its vast roof. These panels are expected to generate approximately 25-30% of the facility's electricity, making a substantial step towards reducing its environmental impact.

Local collaboration with INVECO

With the expertise of locally based contractor INVECO, TR Italy developed an optimal installation strategy for its sustainability initiative. This plan included replacing polycarbonate skylights with steel sandwich plates, maximising the available roof space without compromising on natural daylight inside the facility. Additionally, this upgrade allows for a temperature-controlled reduction of approximately three degrees Celsius in the production areas, significantly improving employee comfort in the hot summer months.

Solar energy production and ESG Commitment

The photovoltaic panels, along with six inverters, are projected to generate approximately 900,000 kWh annually. And during weekends when energy consumption is lower, TR Italy will be able to sell surplus energy back to Terna, the operator of Italy's national grid. This initiative is another example of TR's commitment to enhancing its global ESG metrics.

Financially sustainable installation

Thanks to an innovative financial structure, TR Italy's investment in this project won't result in major capital expenditure. This installation is under a 12-year lease agreement with fixed monthly

payments, offering a cost-effective solution that will lead to substantial savings over time.

Stefano Pisoni, Managing Director of TR Italy, comments; "As a company, we're always striving to balance innovation with responsibility. This sustainability project is a perfect example of how we can reduce our environmental impact without compromising on the quality of our products or the service we provide to customers. This installation not only aligns with our long-term goal for energy efficiency, but it also enhances the comfort of our employees. We're proud to be taking meaningful steps towards a more sustainable future for TR Italy."

TR is committed to reducing our impact on the environment and looking for innovative ways to achieve this. Looking ahead, TR plans to further lower operational costs, strengthen brand reputation, and meet evolving regulatory standards.





TR delegates invited to visit the British Embassy and CEE Automotive Supply Chain Conference in Slovakia

TR Fastenings



TR Fastenings (TR) recently participated in key events in Slovakia, focused on the evolving opportunities within the automotive supply chain, particularly in light of the global shift towards electrification.

Invited by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), TR joined fellow members of the UK Automotive Supply Chain Delegation at the British Embassy in Bratislava. The meeting highlighted Slovakia's open approach to trade, presenting a prime opportunity for the UK to forge stronger ties and explore new business avenues.

Alongside the UK delegation, key figures from the Slovak government and business community attended, including representatives from the Department for Business and Trade; the British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic; delegates from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency.

The event provided an insightful overview of Slovakia's economy, underscoring the automotive sector's vital contribution, which accounts for 40% of the country's GDP.

On 13 November, TR representatives Maciej Plewka and Patrik Nuyts attended the [CEE Automotive Supply Chain Conference](#), where TR joined a dedicated UK stand. During the event, SMMT presented on the significance of the UK delegation and its role in fostering international collaboration. The conference agenda offered key insights from leading automotive companies, addressing future industry challenges and opportunities. With 339 attendees, the event proved an excellent networking platform, culminating in an evening

reception attended by TR representatives and the wider UK delegation.

The following day, TR held several B2B meetings, further strengthening relationships and exploring potential partnerships.

Reflecting on the week, the TR team were delighted to represent TR at both the CEE Automotive Supply Chain Conference and the British Embassy in Bratislava, where they had the privilege of meeting the Ambassador. The events reinforced the importance of international collaboration in driving growth and innovation within the automotive sector.



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."





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

By Horizon Works



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](#).





Vehicle Electrification Opportunity event opens up new horizons

By Horizon Works



Businesses from across the engineering and manufacturing sector gained a deep insight into the electric vehicle landscape, its future and its challenges, at an event in Northumberland last week.

The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity was delivered by B2B marketing company Horizon Works at its Event Space at Northumberland Business Park near Cramlington on January 31, and was run in association with the North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), the largest automotive cluster in the UK.

By 2030, 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain must be zero-emission vehicles, increasing to 100% by 2035, creating a major opportunity for engineering and manufacturing companies to support electric vehicle production and infrastructure.

In addition, with the EU and UK recently signing off extending current battery and electric vehicle rules of origin under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, major investments in battery production can now progress, and partnerships will be enabled between UK companies and EU manufacturers on new battery technologies.

The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity saw experts and delegates from a range of companies come together to discuss the EV sector, the strength of North East England in vehicle electrification, and how companies in the region can be part of the EV supply chain.

Guest speaker Paul Butler, Chief Executive of the NEAA, highlighted the '£24 billion UK electrification opportunity' and the importance of North East England's position as a leading location as a cluster for zero carbon vehicles in Europe.

Nissan is investing up to £3 billion in the building of three electric car models at its Sunderland factory – the electric Qashqai and Juke models will be built alongside the next generation of the electric Leaf.

In addition, Washington is home to the first battery manufacturing gigafactory in the UK – AESC UK – and the region is home to six OEMS, 21 R&D centres, 34 tier-one companies and more than 200 supply chain companies.

North East England is also the only region in the UK with full Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD) capabilities – and it is one of only three in the world.

Paul Butler highlighted the strength of support available for vehicle electrification in North East England, through organisations such as the NEAA, EV North - which encourages collaborative R, D & I projects to leverage public and private sector investment - and the North East Battery Alliance.

Paul was joined by Christopher Appleby, Innovation Manager at the NEAA, who focused on the likely EV supply chain opportunities for North East-based businesses – including the manufacture of housings and enclosures to protect battery packs and electric drive components, high precision fastening and mounting systems, cooling systems, connectors and cabling. He urged businesses to push their existing specialities to support the EV industry.

Christopher Black, Global Director Automotive Business Development and Sven Brehler, Director of Engineering at industrial fastenings specialist TR Fastenings, also presented at The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity.





Vehicle Electrification Opportunity event opens up new horizons

By Horizon Works



They revealed how TR Fastenings has evolved to support the EV sector, and providing guidance to suppliers on collaboration, building partnerships and product design processes.

The event's Q and A session discussed issues including the impact of geopolitical shocks on the EV supply chain, the need for additional capacity in the National Grid to support EV charging, emerging battery technologies, skills and EV charging infrastructure.

Paul Butler, Chief Executive of the North East Automotive Alliance, said: "Recent investment totalling over £3 billion has cemented the North East's reputation as being the leading region in the UK, if not Europe, for vehicle electrification.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to Horizon Works for providing this platform to bring North East businesses together to discuss the importance of electrification and its associated supply chain opportunities.

"It was great to be able to collectively discuss what we need to do as a sector to facilitate these opportunities and address the challenges and barriers."

Christopher Black, Global Director Automotive Business Development at TR Fastenings, added: "Networking events such as these are vital for the supply chain in the emerging and developing electric vehicle sector, to establish technical support with the design and supply of fastening solutions to OEMs and their tiers 1 and 2."

Samantha Vassallo, Managing Director of Horizon Works, said: "Technology, investment and innovation around EV is shaping the industrial future of both North East England and the UK as a whole.

"We were therefore delighted that the North East Automotive Alliance and TR Fastenings were able to share their experiences and expertise with delegates at The Vehicle Electrification Opportunity.

"Attendees left the event with both practical advice on working with the EV sector, and a picture of what the future looks like, thanks to the speakers' invaluable insights.

"As a member of the North East Automotive Alliance since its inception, we were proud to run this event with the NEAA team, and look forward to many more Opportunities Series events with industry partners in 2024."

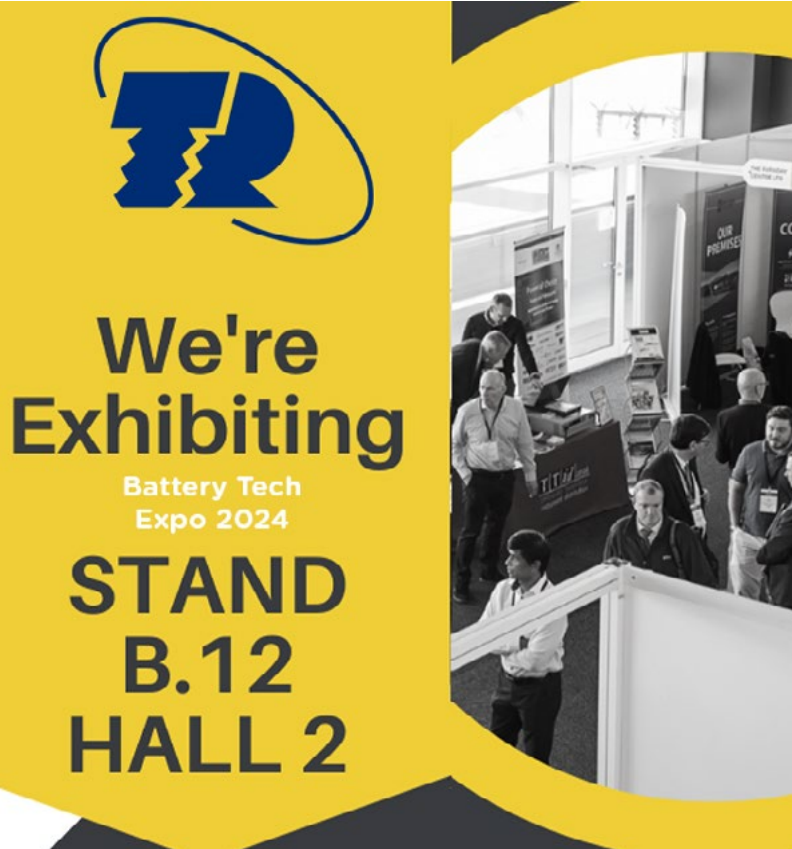
The event was the third in Horizon Works' Opportunities Series events programme.

Through the programme, Horizon Works is collaborating with industry partners to highlight opportunities for engineering and manufacturing businesses, provide fresh insight and help companies to build new relationships. Previous events have included speakers from Make UK Defence and Advance Northumberland.





TR Fastenings to showcase its expertise in the EV market at Battery Tech Expo 2024



TR Fastenings Ltd (TR), part of the Trifast plc group of companies, is exhibiting at Battery Tech Expo – the UK’s largest technical expo dedicated to the battery industry. The event welcomes hundreds of senior decision makers and users from across the power industry who all share a professional interest in advanced battery technology and energy storage.

For the seventh year, the event will once again be held at the world-famous Grand Prix venue, Silverstone, a leading hub of the high-tech engineering sector.

The roles of fasteners and engineered components within Electric Vehicles has increased significantly year on year as the industry advances at pace. It is timely, therefore, that TR Fastenings is able to showcase its expertise and extensive product range designed for the EV and EVCU markets, this includes products such as battery retention bolts, cable management hardware, compression limiters and designed in special components.

Sven Brehler, Director of Engineering, says: “We’ve been supplying key components for the EV market for many years, and have expanded our product range to meet the huge demand from car and battery manufacturers around the world. The sector continues to surge forwards and we’re pleased to be able to support the growth of our customers along the way. This Expo is really great for TR as it gives us the opportunity to meet with so many professionals across the battery technology sector.”

Joining Sven at the event will be Dan Pereira, Engineering Manager UK & Ireland and Liam Cullen, Business Development Manager.





台灣國際扣件展
Fastener Taiwan

JUNE 5-7, 2024

TR Special Fasteners Engineering to exhibit at the Taiwan International Fastener Show 2024

By TR Fastenings

Taiwan International Fastener Show 2024

Booth No. N2228, KEC Kaoshuing Exhibition Center, Taiwan, 5-7 June 2024

TR Special Fasteners Engineering (TR SFE), part of the Trifast plc group of companies, will be exhibiting at the Taiwan International Fastener Show in June this year. Attracting 20,000 domestic and foreign visitors across three days, this event is an important trading platform for sourcing and procurement and is Taiwan's only international B2B fastener trade fair. As a respected supplier to global distributors and manufacturers, TR SFE is delighted to be represented at the show.

First established in 2010, the [Taiwan International Fastener Show](#) is organised by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council and is the world's third largest fastener exhibition, providing 300+ exhibitors and 1000+ booths across three key exhibition areas:

- Materials, Moulds & Tools (new area)
- Nuts, Bolts & Screws
- Machinery & Manufacturing

TR SFE has two manufacturing facilities in Taiwan specialising in cold forming (including 6 die multi station) and thread and profile rolling, making and supplying products mainly to the Automotive, Energy, Tech & Infrastructure (ET&I), and General Industrial markets.

At the show, the TR team will be showcasing the newly launched [Plas-Tech 30-20®](#) screws, the latest

addition to the Plas-Tech® range. Manufactured in TR's own facilities, these new products have been developed by TR's in-house technical engineering teams across global locations to complement the existing Plas-Tech® range. They provide an optimised thread profile to perform more effectively with plastic materials, which is increasingly important as we look to the future, and is sure to be a talking point at the Taiwan International Fastener Show this year.



TR to exhibit as CBM relaunch their Mini Expo

By TR Fastenings



**CBM MINI EXPO IS BACK
WITH MAXIMUM
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR FASTENER
MANUFACTURERS**

As the Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM) relaunches their Mini Expo of fastener manufacturing equipment, technologies and services, inviting UK fastener and precision component manufacturers, TR are very excited to have been asked to exhibit.

This one-day event taking place on the 4 September 2024 at the popular National Metalforming Centre in West Bromwich, UK, provides a valuable opportunity to showcase our innovative fastening solutions and connect with industry leaders and professionals.

The 'Mini-Expo' will feature around twenty leading UK-based suppliers of manufacturing equipment and technologies, including cold heading and thread rolling machinery, process monitoring systems, tooling and dies, coating systems, inspection and test equipment, and lubricants, as well as wire and rod materials. Additionally, there will be providers specialising in heat treatment, coating and threadlocking applicators, testing and inspection, and simulation software

With a seminar programme which includes an update on Voestalpine Green Steel, this event presents a uniquely time-efficient opportunity for general, production and quality management from UK fastener and precision component manufacturers to catch up on support for their businesses.

We look forward to engaging with attendees and sharing our expertise in metal forming and fastening technologies.





TR Fastenings to support the NEAA Expo 2024

By TR Fastenings

North East Automotive expo2024

Connect. Showcase. Exchange. Inspire.

Thursday 26 September 2024

Beacon of Light, Sunderland



26th September 2024, Beacon of Light, Sunderland, Stand B5

[TR Fastenings](#), part of the Trifast group of companies, is delighted to be supporting the prestigious NEAA Expo 2024 for the eighth time. Held at the famous Beacon of Light in Sunderland, this event is the annual flagship for the North East Automotive Alliance which attracts hundreds of industry professionals, and brings together OEMs and companies from the automotive supply chain.

The event takes place on Thursday 26th September, which is also [National Manufacturing Day](#), an initiative led by industry trade body Make UK. It will be a double celebration as the NEAA marks its tenth anniversary this year too.

With a strong emphasis on skills, innovation and technology, and the exclusive 'Meet the Buyer' session, the event looks set to attract more than 750 delegates. The headline speakers and panel discussions taking place throughout the day promises visitors an insight into the advancements shaping the future of the automotive industry.

The NEAA Expo offers all attendees an opportunity to network with manufacturers, designers, engineers and supply chain professionals, whilst enabling TR to showcase a range of products, including fastenings and connectors particularly for the electric vehicle market.

David Fearon, Operations Manager at TR Fastenings, commented; "As an active and proud member of the NEAA, it made absolute sense to

return this year following a very successful 2023 event. We're planning to once again showcase our EV fastener expertise and to meet decision makers in the industry, we're interested in discussing the opportunities available.

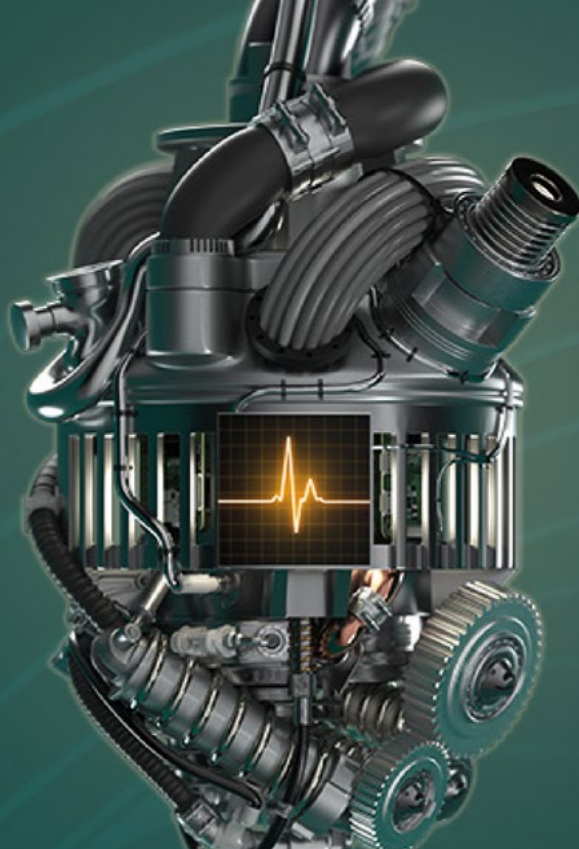
"The Expo provides the perfect platform for TR to boost its visibility and to meet existing customers, whilst also building our network of new connections. We'll be there to advise and share our knowledge, and we're looking forward to the NEAA's tenth birthday celebrations!"





TR Fastenings to exhibit at Elmia Subcontractor in Sweden

By TR Fastenings



**12 - 14 November 2024, Mässvägen 12, 554
54 Jönköping, Sweden, Stand: B09:28**

**TR Fastenings is excited to announce
its participation in the 2024 Elmia
Subcontractor event. This 3 day event is
taking place from November 12 to 14 in
Jönköping, Sweden.**

As one of Northern Europe's premier subcontracting trade fairs, Elmia Subcontractor serves as the vibrant heart of the industry, bringing together professionals to share insights, build connections, and foster innovation across three dynamic days.

Elmia Subcontractor is renowned for its role as a vital pulse for the manufacturing sector. Each year, thousands of industry players gather to gain inspiration, showcase their products, and discuss the latest trends and technologies. The event's live setting fosters a unique atmosphere where knowledge exchange, innovation, and business growth happen right on the show floor, with an unmistakable focus on the solutions of tomorrow.

TR have been exhibiting at Elmia since 2006, and this year Manoj Parmar, Nirari Yousif, Anders Peterson and Julia Emanuelsson from TR, look forward to welcoming attendees to our stand, where we will showcase our comprehensive range of fastening solutions and the latest advancements designed to meet the unique demands of the subcontracting industry. Our team will be on hand to discuss how TR Fastenings can support businesses with customized solutions that enhance performance, efficiency, and sustainability.

For further information, please visit the [Elmia Subcontractor website](#), and be sure to visit TR Fastenings on Stand B09:28 for a showcase of the future of fastening solutions.





TR Malaysia receives double award win from Honda

By TR Fastenings



TR Malaysia is proud to work with so many established businesses, and we are pleased when our efforts achieve recognition. We are delighted to have recently received two awards from Honda, in appreciation of the excellent supply partner relationship that has developed over the years.

The first was the 'Best Delivery Award' given by Boon Siew Honda, the manufacturing and sales division of motorcycles, scooters and sports bikes.

The second award was given by Honda's car and automotive division, 'The Power of Dreams', in two categories for Special Performance and Appreciation Cost.

Honda fully appreciates the significance of their supply partners playing an integral part in their business success and extends their thanks each year with an awards programme.

TR Malaysia is an established and trusted supplier to Japanese OEM's, working together to ensure continued growth within the Malaysian automotive market.

TR remains focused on servicing customers with great quality products, and these awards demonstrate that during challenging economic and supply chain environments, TR continues to be valued by customers around the world.

We would like to pass on thanks to all of our TR Malaysia team for their hard work and dedication in achieving these two awards.





TR Fastenings win the Long-Standing Supplier Award at the Lucy Electric Global Supplier Conference

By TR Fastenings



TR Fastenings is proud to have been a trusted partner to a network of global manufacturers for many years, and this is why we are grateful for receiving the Long-Standing Supplier Award at the Lucy Electric Global Supplier Conference 2024, held in Thailand. This achievement is in recognition of continued great service for more than two decades.

Lucy Electric has more than a century of experience and is recognised as a specialist in high-performance switchgear across a variety of industry sectors. TR Fastenings provide products and support for their operations in a number of international markets, including Europe, the Middle East and Asia, from the UK and Saudi Arabia to Thailand and Dubai.

Because of the global nature of our business relationship, this award is a really good example of how TR's teams work together across locations to deliver the best solutions. As customer demands and market trends can change rapidly in our industry, TR is pleased to be consistently delivering value and a great service to customers around the world.

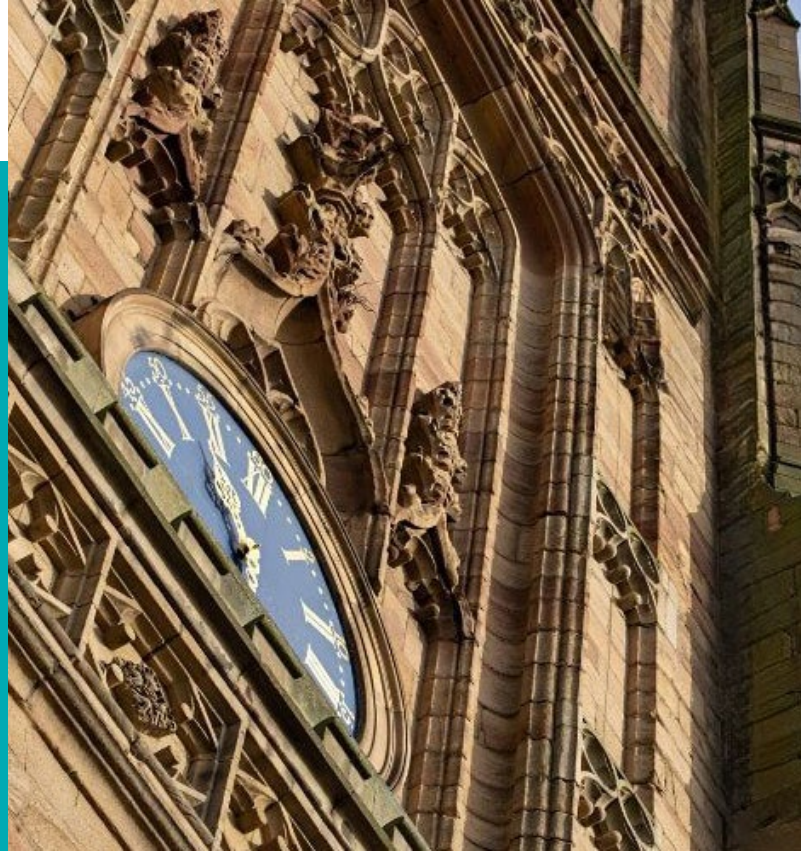
There are many TR team members who deserve thanks for their efforts in winning this award, and we are proud of everyone involved. Supplier-customer relationships are the backbone of successful business, and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with Lucy Electric.





TR's Sven Brehler Takes a Leap for Charity: Abseiling Derby Cathedral for Rainbows Hospice

By TR Fastenings



Event: Derby Abseil 2024, UK - 5 October 2024

In an extraordinary show of determination and family support, Sven will abseil down the iconic Derby Cathedral to raise funds for Rainbows Hospice, a charity supporting terminally ill children.

The inspiration for this daring feat comes from his 13 year old daughter, who despite living with ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), had a dream to conquer the cathedral's 198 steps for charity.

Although his daughters condition prevents her from climbing the towering staircase herself, her spirit and desire to help others have been a driving force behind this event. In solidarity, Sven will not only climb to the top but will take the bold step of abseiling down the side of the cathedral - all to support Rainbows Hospice's vital work with children and families.

"My daughter was determined to help Rainbows Hospice, but climbing all those steps wasn't an option for her due to her condition," said Sven. "So, I decided to step in and do it - and to avoid walking down those steps myself, I'll be going over the edge! It's a little scary, but it's all for a great cause."

Rainbows Hospice in the East Midlands is dedicated to providing care and support to children with life-limiting conditions and helping their families who rely on Rainbows for essential medical care, therapy, and emotional support.

If you wish to support Sven in his endeavour to help his efforts and Rainbows, please visit [Sven's Just Giving page](#) to make a donation.





Corporate Volunteering Day at TR's National Distribution Centre sees Impressive Community Impact

By TR Fastenings



On 30 October 2024, a group of dedicated employees from the National Distribution Centre in Walsall participated in the company's first Corporate Volunteering Day.

As part of a newly launched programme, employees were encouraged to take paid time off to volunteer for local causes.

The team joined forces with Walsall Council for a litter pick at Reedswood Park's Fishing Pool, where they worked enthusiastically to tackle local pollution. In just two hours, volunteers collected 23 bags of litter, along with two shopping trolleys and car tyres, highlighting both the environmental challenges and their commitment to creating a cleaner community.

Volunteers, including Dawn Gibson, Kelly Bennett-Nardon, Mathew Bennett-Nardon, Deepak Patel, Paul Collins, Robert Watson, Mark Smith Park, Mark Weston, and Jack Garfield, contributed to what proved to be a successful and morale-boosting event. Their efforts underscored the value of the new volunteering initiative, as they made a visible impact while giving back to their local area.

Read more about our [Purpose and Values](#).





TR Hungary Volunteers Join Forces to Protect Danube River Communities from Flooding

By TR Fastenings



In response to the escalating flood threat along the Danube River, a dedicated group of volunteers from TR Hungary took action in September to support vital flood defence efforts. The team recognised the urgent need for assistance and volunteered their time to help safeguard nearby communities from the rising floodwaters.

As part of TR's newly launched Corporate Volunteering Day programme, employees are encouraged to take paid time off to engage in local charitable initiatives. The programme was put into action when team members, observing the rising water levels in their area, learned from the local municipality's website that additional volunteers were urgently needed to bolster flood defences. With floodwaters already threatening residential properties, the volunteers understood the need for intervention to prevent further damage.

"We saw the severity of the situation and felt compelled to step in," said Zoltan Piros, HR Business Partner at TR Hungary. "The threat to people's homes was real, and we knew we had to do whatever we could to help.

The volunteers who contributed to the flood defence efforts included:

- Zoltan Csengeri
- Zoltan Piros
- Viktória Veszprémi
- Kitti Kinics
- Tibor Ács
- Gergő Almási

- Zsolt Bartha
- Péter Gaál
- Péter Haris

The TR Hungary team collaborated closely with local municipality officials, providing essential support where it was most needed to reinforce flood barriers and protect vulnerable areas from the rising waters.





TR Charlotte Hosts First Corporate Volunteering Day, Supports Samaritan's Purse

By TR Fastenings



Last week, TR Charlotte held its inaugural Corporate Volunteering Day, marking a significant milestone in the company's commitment to giving back to the community. Employees united to support Samaritan's Purse, a well-respected humanitarian organisation, through their renowned initiative, Operation Christmas Child.

The initiative saw team members dedicate their time and energy to pack shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other essentials. These gift-filled boxes will soon make their way to children in need across the globe, spreading joy and hope during the festive season.

"It's amazing to see our team come together for such a meaningful cause," said Tom Robinson, Location Manager at TR Charlotte. "Operation Christmas Child aligns perfectly with our values of community engagement and compassion. Knowing that these shoeboxes will brighten the lives of children around the world is incredibly rewarding."

Samaritan's Purse, a North Carolina-based organisation, has been operating Operation Christmas Child since 1993, delivering over 200 million shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories. The boxes, often the first gift recipients have ever received, serve as a tangible expression of care and love.

TR Charlotte plans to make Corporate Volunteering Days a regular occurrence, further strengthening its role as a socially responsible business. Through initiatives like these, the company is demonstrating that fostering a spirit of giving among employees can create lasting positive change.

For more information about Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child, visit [Operation Christmas Child - Ways To Volunteer](#).





TR Uckfield Staff Donate to Foodbank to Support Local Community This Christmas

By TR Fastenings



With Christmas fast approaching, the team at TR Uckfield in East Sussex has generously organised a festive collection for Uckfield Foodbank. The initiative aims to support the local community during the holiday season, addressing the increased need for food and essentials.

Uckfield Foodbank, part of the nationwide Trussell Trust network, provides three days of nutritionally balanced emergency food to individuals and families in crisis. The foodbank collaborates with over 40 local agencies and relies on community donations and volunteers to deliver its vital service. Annually, the foodbank distributes approximately 30,521 kilograms of food—the equivalent of 360 supermarket trolleys—and supports efforts to combat hunger and poverty in the region.

For the Christmas collection, the charity has highlighted a need for holiday-specific items, including cranberry sauce, gravy granules, stuffing mix, selection boxes, boxed biscuits, and non-alcoholic Christmas puddings and pies. Additionally, staples like tinned and dried foods, as well as toiletries, are always welcome.

Uckfield Foodbank relies entirely on local generosity, with donation points available at Tesco, Waitrose, and several churches in the area. Those interested in contributing or learning more about the foodbank's work can [visit their website](#).

By rallying together, the TR Uckfield team hopes to make a meaningful difference for families facing challenges this Christmas.





TR Launches Future Leadership Teams Programme in Hungary, Empowering Next-Generation Leaders

By TR Fastenings



The future looks bright as TR launches its Future Leadership Team (FLT) Programme in Hungary. In November 2024, 16 employees from 10 countries, all at a managerial level, came together to build relationships, share experiences, engage in peer-to-peer learning, and gain insight into a brand-new leadership course.

The concept for the FLT Programme was developed at board level, aiming to identify and nurture the next generation of leaders within the TR business. CEO Iain Percival commented, "This inaugural programme marks an exciting milestone in TR's history and will be key to ensuring our success in the years ahead."

The participants were selected by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), who nominated individuals from the 4 regions. European MD and programme sponsor, Andy Nuttall ensured a diverse and global group, representing 8 different functions across the business. "The selection process wasn't easy, given the wealth of talent we have within the company. I wanted to ensure a diverse team, and the success of this first launch has been so positive that we want to make it an annual event," said Andy.

During the 2-day launch, participants had the opportunity to network with each other and engage with board members and the ELT. Non-executive board member Laura Whyte was a guest speaker at the event and shared her insights on the importance of authentic leadership, reflecting on her own early leadership experiences. She emphasised the value of being genuine, telling the group, "It's better to be a full-fat version of yourself than a Diet Coke version of someone else."

The group also heard from our newly appointed Chief People and Transformation Officer, Clare Taylor, who spoke about her own journey into leadership. Her personal and reflective stories deeply resonated with the participants. She talked about the importance of being a respected leader and how to tackle difficult issues.

In addition to these powerful discussions, the group learned more about the projects they will undertake as part of the programme. One group will focus on a Digitalisation project, led by Chief IT Officer Grainne Lawlor, aimed at achieving cost savings through the transition from paper-based processes to digital solutions. The second group will work on improving the Customer Journey, supported by Company Secretary Christopher Morgan. These impactful projects will not only benefit the business but also enrich the participants' learning experiences.

In addition to their project work, the team will undergo leadership training with award-winning UK provider MTD Training. The programme includes six modules: strategic thinking, leadership development, team collaboration, and leading change.

Our first cohort on the FLT team includes: Adel Karasz Global Quality, Hungary; Ariana Common Sales, UK; Arnold Magyar Warehouse, Hungary; Catherine Hall Finance, EU; Dan Reardon Branded Products, UK; Doug Lee Finance, UK; Ilaria Balzano Research Development, Italy; Jose Linde Purchasing, Spain; Luigi Rosetti Engineering, Italy; Matthew Sng Sales, Singapore; Nathan Parmar Operations, UK; Nirari Yousif Global Sales, Sweden; Patrik Ringdahl Engineering, Sweden; Pierre Reimering Sales, Germany; Raymond Lyuu Quality, US; Timea Erdi-Krausz Purchasing, Holland.

