

Michael McGuire of Worldwide Fastener Sources Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

DANIEL ISLAND, SC, UNITED STATES, May 12, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a bold move to bolster the American manufacturing sector, Worldwide Fastener Sources, under the leadership of President Michael McGuire, is spearheading efforts to revitalize the domestic fastener industry, highlighting the urgent need for skilled labor and education in mechanical fasteners.

The American fastener industry faces significant challenges, underscored by an over-reliance on imports from China and Taiwan. With domestic production covering only about 20% of national demand, McGuire sees an opportunity and necessity for the U.S. to reclaim its manufacturing prowess.



"The core issue is the scarcity of skilled workers capable of operating the machinery needed to produce fasteners," McGuire shares. He has been diligently working towards securing a \$2 million grant intended to train 150 new workers for the industry. However, the pursuit of this funding is currently mired in bureaucratic delays within Congress.

"It's frustrating when so much is at stake, and the process is stalled," McGuire admits. "We've been advised to seek smaller state-funded grants, but this effort needs to be nationwide. At present, there is no fastener application engineering course offered at any engineering school in the U.S. New graduates are entering the field inadequately prepared for real-world challenges."

McGuire emphasizes the need for U.S. educational institutions to recognize and address this gap. "Fasteners," he notes, "are typically an afterthought until a defect leads to a catastrophe. This lack of understanding and training can have dire consequences."

Worldwide Fastener Sources has adopted a proactive stance to overcome these challenges. The company maintains three robust online platforms catering to the U.S., Asia, and Europe markets, boasting over 2,600 suppliers and 2,079 distributors in the U.S. alone. Their website garners over 25,000 visits monthly, a testament to their incredible industry reach and influence.

The company's educational resources include an extensive glossary, a 1,000-question fastener quiz, and a wealth of technical and resource materials designed to elevate industry standards. Supplier members of the platform can have their catalogs and videos published, further enhancing their visibility.



While Worldwide Fastener Sources has thrived under McGuire's leadership, the U.S. industry faces pressing challenges. "We're adding new suppliers regularly, ensuring our resources remain the most comprehensive globally," McGuire proudly notes. Yet, the sustainability of the industry clashes with logistical and economic realities.

The tragic fire at SPS Technologies in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, a key manufacturer for the aerospace industry, illustrates the vulnerabilities within the U.S. supply chain. With Boeing as a major customer, the impact stretches across the aerospace sector, signaling an urgent need for enhanced domestic capacity.

Economic factors, primarily labor costs, make American fasteners less price-competitive than those manufactured in China, where different regulatory standards exist. "The absence of EPA and OSHA equates to lower costs in China," McGuire explains. "However, their factories often rely on labor practices and environmental standards that Americans would find unethical."

Despite these obstacles, McGuire maintains a steadfast optimism. He emphasizes that fasteners represent only 2% of the cost of a finished product but remain a critical component. The lack of universal part numbers in the industry complicates the supply chain further, necessitating an overhaul of how products are standardized and distributed.

"In many ways, the fastener industry is like the Rodney Dangerfield of components—it just

doesn't get the respect it deserves," McGuire quips. Yet, this seemingly ordinary component played a pivotal role in history, enabling rapid repairs in World War II that contributed to Allied success.

To tackle the skills gap, initiatives are underway, with video training integrated into curriculum at institutions like Trident Technical College. McGuire is also hopeful Clemson and the University of South Carolina will adapt these materials to better equip future engineers.

In 2025, Worldwide Fastener Sources plans to expand its membership offerings, launching new features to support industry growth. These initiatives include job postings, historical industry insights, and innovative marketing options for suppliers.

Ultimately, McGuire believes that increased education and investment in skilled labor are the keys to sustaining the industry. "The story of fasteners is interwoven with that of American industry itself. With adequate support, we can renew our domestic capabilities and reduce dependency on foreign imports. It's time for a renaissance in American manufacturing, and it starts with fasteners."

Close Up Radio recently featured Michael McGuire of Worldwide Fastener Sources in an interview with Doug Llewelyn on Tuesday, May 6th at 10am EST

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For more information about Michael McGuire or Worldwide Fastener Sources, please visit <https://www.worldwidefastenersources.com/>

Lou Ceparano

Close Up Television & Radio

+ + +1 631-850-3314

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