

## Nifast Launches Its First South American Base—Nifast do Brasil Ltda.

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Metal One Corporation (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Naoto Matsuoka) announced that Nifast Corporation, headquartered in Chicago and Metal One Group's wholly owned subsidiary, launched Nifast do Brasil Ltda. in August 2013 in Jundiaí, a suburb of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Officially named Nifast do Brasil Distribuição, Comércio e Importação Ltda., the new company is meant to expand Nifast's fastener business in South America.

Nifast do Brasil will warehouse and sell tertiary wire products and automotive fasteners such as bolts and nuts that are typical small car parts. It will also provide just-in-time delivery 24 hours a day, and maintain inspection equipment to provide quality guarantee services and other total solutions based on trading company capabilities while supplying car and car parts manufacturers with small automotive components.

Since 1987, the Metal One Group has established and operated warehousing and sales companies under the Nifast name in three locations in the U.S., two in China, as well as one base each in Canada, Mexico, India and Hungary. This base in Brazil is the first established in South America, where economic growth is anticipated over the medium to long term, and was established in response to car manufacturers' global strategies.

Nifast do Brasil has plans to hire nine employees, including local staff, and is now preparing for its April 2014 startup. In addition to strengthening cooperation with Metal One Group processors, fastener manufacturers and Nifast companies in other overseas locations, it plans to provide enhanced services to customers in both North and South America as well as build additional worldwide value chains for optimal procurement and supply networks.

The new company will also seek to expand wire rod sector operations in Brazil by entering the market through fastener sales.

### ■ Company Outline

1. Name: Nifast do Brasil Distribuição, Comércio e Importação Ltda.
2. Location: Rodovia Vice-prefeito Hermenegildo Tonolli, No. 1500, Shed No. 2, Jundiaí, SP, Brazil
3. Representative: Naoki Hirata
4. Capitalization: 8 million reais (approx. ¥350 million)
5. Shareholders: Nifast Corporation 99%, Nifast Canada Corporation 1%
6. Date of establishment: August 2013
7. Date of business launch: Scheduled for April 2014
8. Number of employees: Approx. nine, to be hired in stages
9. Business line: Import, export, sales and warehousing of automotive fasteners
10. Business size: Approx. one billion yen in projected sales volume during its initial year, FY2014