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China's Prinx Chengshan to spend US\$600m on new Thai tyre plant

China's Prinx Chengshan Shandong Tire has begun construction of a new US\$600m tyre manufacturing plant in Thailand this week as the company looks to strengthen its overseas sales.

By bcusack

**bcusack**

China's Prinx Chengshan Shandong Tire has begun construction of a new US\$600m tyre manufacturing plant in Thailand this week as the company looks to strengthen its overseas sales.

The Hong Kong-listed tyre manufacturer has already set up a local subsidiary, Prinx Chengshan Tire Thailand, to manage the project. The new plant, located near Chonburi – a port city just east of Bangkok, will be the company's first overseas factory.

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The company said the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) programme and the availability of local natural rubber prompted the choice of Thailand as its first overseas production location. It said it would need to buy up to 180,000 tonnes of natural rubber per year.

Chinese tyre manufacturers are increasingly looking to set up manufacturing facilities overseas to circumvent trade restrictions between China and the US. Last November Jiangsu General Science Technology Company began building a US\$300m tyre

manufacturing facility in Thailand's Rayong

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