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China's Jiangsu General Science to initiate trial production at Thai tire plant

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WUXI, China — Chinese tire maker Jiangsu General Science Technology Co. Ltd. (JGST) plans to initiate trial production at its car and truck/bus tire plant in Thailand in December, just 12 months after breaking ground on the \$300 million project.

JGST disclosed the news in its first-half earnings report, in which the Wuxi-based company reported double-digit drops in sales and earnings.

Located in Rayong Industrial Zone, the \$300 million plant is designed to produce 1 million truck and bus tires and 6 million passenger car tires per year.

JGST, which goes to market under the TBB brand, is represented in North America by **Statewide Tires** Inc. of West Covina, Calif.



With the commissioning of production in Thailand, JGST becomes the sixth Chinese tire maker to have established manufacturing in that country. Others are:

- Double Coin – truck and OTR tires since 2017;
- Shandong Linglong Tire – car/LT and truck/bus tires, since 2013;
- Qingdao Sentury Tire – car/LT tires since 2015;
- Shandong Linglong – car/light truck tires since 2018; and
- Zhongce Rubber Group – car/LT and truck/bus tires since 2015

JGST also is expanding capacity at its main manufacturing site in Wuxi, adding a fully automated "smart plant" there rated at 1.2 million units of truck and bus tires annually.

JGST reported a drop of 15% in net earnings for the first six months of fiscal 2019, to \$7.7 million, amid global trade conflicts and China's nationwide downturn in the automotive sector. Sales fell 12% to \$240 million.

*Letter
— to the —
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