

NEWS RELEASE

YOKOHAMA

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For immediate release

Contact:
Corporate Communications Dept.
The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.
36-11, Shimbashi 5-chome
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8685
Phone: 81-3-5400-4531
Fax: 81-3-3432-8430

Yokohama Subsidiary Officially Opens Thai Truck and Bus Tire Plant

Tokyo – The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., today announced that its subsidiary Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd., held the grand opening ceremony on July 15 at its new plant. This subsidiary manufactures and sells truck and bus steel radial tires. Production began in April 2005. The official opening was timed to coincide with the start of shipments. Around 200 people attended the ceremony. They included representatives of Japanese and overseas tire sales companies and Japanese automakers, and Tadanobu Nagumo, president of The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.

Mr. Nagumo said in his speech that: “The new facility’s mission will be to fulfill our commitment to provide the best products at competitive prices and on time. We will accordingly cultivate Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) so that it becomes our largest comprehensive tire production base outside Japan.”

Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) was established in January 2004. The first phase of construction finished on schedule in April 2005, resulting in an annual production capacity of 350,000 tires. The facility will export these products to replacement markets outside Japan, including Europe, North America, and Oceania. A second-phase expansion plan will expand production capacity to 700,000 tires a year.



Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

横浜ゴム株式会社 広報部 広報・IRグループ
〒105-8685 東京都港区新橋5丁目36番11号 TEL:(03) 5400-4531 FAX:(03) 3432-8430

THE YOKOHAMA RUBBER CO., LTD. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.
36-11, Shimbashi 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8685, Japan Telephone: 81-3-5400-4531 Facsimile: 81-3-3432-8430

In December 2004, Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) purchased adjacent land to double its plant site area. The goal is to build a plant with an annual capacity of 1.4 million passenger car and light truck tires by November 2006. Second and third stage expansions are planned thereafter.

Profile of Yokohama Tire Manufacturing (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

Date established:	January 2004
Paid-in capital:	1.5 billion yen (95% from The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd. and 5% from T. Siam Commercial Co., Ltd., a distributor in Thailand)
President:	Hisakuni Yamashita (from The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.)
Location:	Amata City Industrial Estate, Rayong Province, Thailand
Area:	417,427 square meters
Products:	Truck and bus steel radial tires
Production capacity:	350,000 tires annually
Number of employees:	300 (by end of 2005)
Capital investment:	5.5 billion yen (for first phase of truck and bus steel radial tire plant)