

China's Carmaker GAC Aion Opens EV Factory in Thailand



China's carmaker GAC Aion, a subsidiary of GAC Group, inaugurated its electric vehicle (EV) factory in Rayong province, Thailand, on Wednesday. This event marked the debut of Aion's first global strategic model from the assembly line, a significant milestone in the company's international expansion efforts.

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The Rayong factory is the second overseas plant opened by a Chinese carmaker in Thailand this month, following BYD. Located in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), the factory represents a planned investment of 2.3 billion baht (\$64 million) and boasts an annual production capacity of 50,000 vehicles.

The facility is a highly advanced plant, integrating cutting-edge technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things to enhance the efficiency of producing multiple models.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Thailand's Minister of Industry, Pimphattra Wichaikul, emphasized that the new EV factory will accelerate the transformation of Thailand's automotive industry. This aligns with the country's vision to become a regional and global hub for EV production.

Thailand has been a prominent automobile production base within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. Supported by the Thai government's investment promotion, EVs are projected to make up 30 percent of the country's total vehicle production by 2030.

GAC Aion launched its Thailand strategy in June of last year, introducing its first product in September. Zeng Qinghong, chairman of GAC Group, stated that the company's expansion into Thailand has established a solid foundation for the nation to emerge as the center of the EV industry in ASEAN. He also mentioned plans to further develop charging infrastructure and energy ecosystems in Thailand, coordinating the industry's upstream and downstream development.

In recent years, GAC Group has actively expanded its presence in overseas markets, with operations covering automobile sales and after-sales services in 68 countries and regions.