

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

Sahaviriya says scale critical in global battle

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Thailand's biggest steelmaker, Sahaviriya Steel Group of Companies (SVG), is looking for ways to better integrate its operations in a bid to strengthen negotiating power with global steel giants who are hunting smaller firms to acquire.

According to Win Viriyaphaikit, group president "the Thai government has overlooked this industry. We have survived in business through numerous periods of hardship without any help from the state".

Having a local smelter, he said, would reduce dependence on imported steel that now costs the country some 500 billion bath a year. It would also reduce the costs of local producers that want to make more varieties of high grade steel to meet the demand of key industries such as automobiles and electronics.