## South China Morning Post



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## Alternative power: solar and wind ventures drive Energy Absolute's regional expansion

Energy Absolute hopes its solar, wind and biodiesel operations can generate new business across Asia

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Under the Thai government's Alternative Energy Development Plan, the country is steadily making inroads into initiatives to promote alternative energy usage.

With Thailand's target of achieving 30 per cent alternative energy consumption in the coming years, Energy Absolute is rising to the challenge of providing energy security

through its biodiesel, strong interest in ene enhance the producti electrical cars.

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A key exponent of clean energy, Energy Absolute is bullish that it can better cater to the Asean region's power needs with the unveiling of its solar plant in Phitsanulok and wind farm in Nakhon Si Thammarat. The company's growth in 2016 is driven by its solar and wind businesses.

The addition of the Phitsanulok solar plant to the company's three existing plants increases Energy Absolute's capacity to 278 MW. On the other hand, each of the 70 wind turbines in Nakhon Si Thammarat that stands 137 metres tall – the tallest in Thailand – will generate 1.8 MW.

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"We want to play a bigger role in the energy sector and become one of the major players in the region," says Somphote Ahunai, director and CEO.

"We leverage what we learn from our projects to help us explore opportunities outside Thailand."



We leverage what we learn from our projects to help us explore opportunities outside Thailand Somphote Ahunai, director and CEO, Energy Absolute

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Under its biodiesel segment, Energy Absolute produces 800,000 litres of biodiesel per day for customers such as PTT, Chevron and Thaioil. Anticipating the decline in popularity of petroleum products, Energy Absolute ramps up its research and development initiatives and encourages company engineers to create more value-added offerings, particularly from agricultural products, as viable alternatives.

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"As we go into higher-value entry products, we seek companies that have the mutual concept and commitment to sustainability," Somphote says. "We're willing to share our expertise with them."

Ensuring that nothing goes to waste, Energy Absolute takes the by-product from biodiesel production and further refines it to produce glycerine. With glycerine's wide range of chemical properties, Energy Absolute supplies it to the food, pharmaceutical, soap and cosmetics industries for various applications.

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Energy Absolute's co: We u social enterprise unit "Acce communities in the s place a harmonious coexistence.

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