

# Eonmetall all geared up to expand overseas

■ By Marina Emmanuel  
marinae@nstp.com.my

EONMETALL Group Bhd, a steel products manufacturer, plans at least one acquisition this year and it wants to expand abroad through joint ventures.

The Penang-based company is planning to enter Indonesia, Namibia and Dubai this year, while Africa and Europe are on the cards next year.

"We also expect to engage in at least one merger and acquisition this year," Eonmetall's managing director Datuk Goh Cheng Huat said in an interview recently.

Goh said Eonmetall is earmarking RM100 million as capital investments for each of its new factories, and this amount will be spread over three years.

He did not name the company's acquisition target, except to say that it would either be a firm engaged in the steel or oil and gas business.

Eonmetall's executive director and chief operating officer Yeoh Cheng Chye said the proposed joint-ventures overseas would be carried out with Eonmetall serving as the main technical partner.

"We will be selling our machines, setting up the factories and jointly-run the production of these facilities," he said.

The history of Eonmetall can be traced to early 1990 when it was engaged in manufacturing secondary flat steel products.

Today, the company touts itself as a world-class manufacturer of not only secondary flat steel products and steel storage systems, but also machinery and equipment dealing with metal-works.

With more than 10 patents pending and two approved, Goh said Eonmetall's current headcount of 250 will soon be boosted when the company

recruits more engineers and technicians to accommodate the company's growth.

Moving forward, Yeoh said the group will expand its product range by producing enhanced cold-rolled machines and galvanised line machines.

For its 2006 fiscal year ending December 31, Eonmetall recorded a turnover of RM93.8 million.