



The 16th Western China International Fair in Chengdu enables visitors to see and experience the latest technologies. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Sino-German cooperation strengthened by tech deals

By ZHUANTI

Major progress was made in the cooperation between Chengdu and Germany during the 16th Western China International Fair held in the city earlier this month.

A Sino-German innovative industrial cooperation zone, covering a total area of 22 square kilometers, was inaugurated in Chengdu Science City, a hub of new technology, industry and business in the Tianfu New Area.

Liu Yutong, director of the investment services bureau at the Chengdu administrative committee of Tianfu New Area, said the zone will be the main platform for Sichuan to conduct innovative cooperation with Germany.

It has planned 10 industrial areas, covering fields such as scientific research, medical health, intelligent manufacturing and international trade and business.

Other Sino-German cooperation areas in Chengdu include a 7-square-kilometer industrial demonstration park in Chengdu Hi-tech Zone, a 58.5-square-kilometer auto industry park in Longquanyi district, as well as a 30-square-kilometer small and medium-sized enterprises cooperation park in Pujiang county.

Six companies signed cooperation agreements with the Chengdu administrative committee of Tianfu New Area and Chengdu Tianfu New Area Investment Group Co Ltd at the inauguration ceremony, with investment totaling 4 billion yuan (\$590 million).

The cooperation projects are mainly in high-end manufacturing, environmental protection, research and development and high-end services.

\$590m

worth of investment deals signed between six German companies and the Tianfu New Area

BMW China Automotive Trading Ltd will cooperate with Global Car Sharing & Rental Co Ltd to offer time-share leasing services of electric cars to citizens in Tianfu New Area.

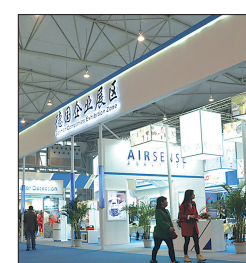
BMW China will provide 100 BMW i3 vehicles to the project. Customers will be able to rent the cars by simply using an app on their smart phones.

Germany-based ALBA Group, the world's leading recycling and environmental services company, will cooperate with local companies to offer services in Tianfu New Area, including water treatment, solid waste disposal and river improvement.

Axel Schweitzer, chairman of ALBA Group, said the group has together with Chengdu Techcent Environment Industry Co Ltd established the largest-scale cooperation agreement between a German and Chinese company in the field of environmental protection.

Deng Qinhu, chairman of Chengdu Techcent Environment Industry, said the company has set up an innovation center and an engineering technology center in Chengdu Science City.

An industrial fund with a total investment of 5 billion yuan was also established to provide financial support to German companies that invest in Chengdu.



German Companies Exhibition Zone at the fair hosts a number of leading companies. PENG CHAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Fair boosts city's opening-up process

Delegates from foreign countries and enterprises sign business deals and speak highly of region's commercial potential

By ZHUANTI
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Chengdu, a megacity in western China, is accelerating the pace of its opening-up by hosting a growing number of international events.

The latest event is the 16th Western China International Fair, a State-level international exposition under the co-sponsorship of China's 16 ministries, 12 provincial-level administrative units and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps in Northwest China.

Chengdu is the permanent site of the Western China International Fair.

This year's event, held from Nov 3 to 14, drew delegates from 91 countries and regions, including Guinea President Alpha Conde, Serb President Milorad Dodik, German Vice-Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, and Afghanistan's second vice-president Mohammad Sarwar Danesh.

The exhibition area is as large as 200,000 square meters. Sixteen countries set up their national pavilions, more than any of the previous 15 sessions of the fair, according to the organizers.

Nearly 9,000 firms from around the world attended this year's fair, including some of the world's leading firms, such as BMW, Daimler, METRO, DHL, Google and Huawei.

The fair highlighted China's Belt and Road Initiative. Four halls featuring the initiative were set up and several activities centered on the initiative as their main topic.

A total of 1,008 investment projects worth 787.7 billion



Participants converse at a Sino-French cooperation forum during the 16th Western China International Fair. PENG CHAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

yuan (\$116.6 billion) were signed between investors from around the world and one municipality, 11 provinces and autonomous regions in western China, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

At an investment promotion and matchmaking activity, Chengdu signed 19 strategic and investment cooperation agreements worth as much as 158.6 billion yuan with investors from home and abroad.

Delegates from around the world spoke highly of the fair and its host, Chengdu.

German Vice-Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, who led a delegation of 500 members

to the fair, said the German government and German companies were glad that Germany was the guest of honor at the fair.

"The event offers a perfect chance for German companies to get to know about the investment and development opportunities in Sichuan and western China," he said, adding that he looks forward to deeper cooperation between Chinese and German companies.

Rainer Becker, CEO of car2go China Co Ltd and head of business development Asia-Pacific for car2go, a 100 percent subsidiary of Daimler AG, said the fair offered him a great opportunity to

meet business partners from all over the world.

"The event was very well organized. It focused on so many fields, such as mobility, new energy, emergency equipment and aviation, enabling participants to communicate with different people on different topics," he said.

Sam Guo, chief operating officer of car2go China, said the company is planning to expand its business in China, and Chengdu is among its destinations.

Some 20 Hungarian companies also attended the fair, covering fields including industrial manufacturing, innovative technology,

environmental monitoring, agricultural products and fast-moving consumer goods.

Allaga Tamas, a member of the Hungarian delegation, said: "I see a lot of good opportunities in Chengdu, which is very open to foreign innovation and technology."

Robin Niethammer, chairman of the southwest branch of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, said the advanced transportation network of Chengdu, including the Chengdu-Europe Express rail that links western China with Europe, strengthens Sino-European ties and makes it more convenient for international



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investment projects were signed by investors from the world

Western China hub draws leading intl projects

By ZHUANTI

Chengdu is drawing high-tech projects from around the world as it becomes more integrated into the world economy.

As an economic center in western China, the city attracted a number of high-end manufacturing projects during the 16th Western China International Fair, a State-level international exposition held in the city earlier this month.

Zhejiang Geely Holding Group signed three investment agreements worth 35.5 billion yuan (\$5.15 billion) with the city to strengthen cooperation in auto manufacturing.

Geely started its investment in Chengdu in 2007 by setting up a manufacturing base. Then in 2010, the company purchased Volvo, which is headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden, and later built Volvo's first manufacturing plant on the Chinese mainland in Chengdu.

One of the newly signed projects will be located in the Chengdu part of the Tianfu New Area, China's 11th national-level development area approved by the State Council in October 2014.

It will produce high-performance, purely electric vehicles under the Volvo brand, as well as locally-branded purely electric vehicles.



Geely's success in Chengdu benefits from the high efficiency of the local government ..."

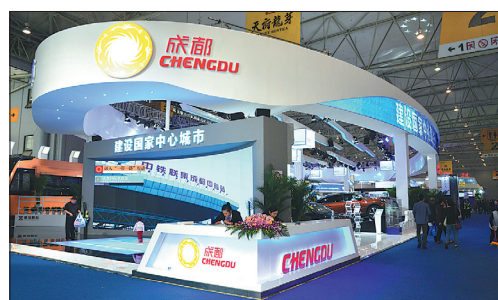
Li Donghui, executive vice-president of Geely

The second project will bring in Volvo's Scalable Product Architecture, a global full-size unibody automobile platform developed and produced by Volvo.

The third project will produce Geely's BMA vehicles, using the latest modular architecture system developed jointly with Volvo, as well as advanced hybrid and plug-in hybrid power systems.

The three projects will have an annual production capacity of 600,000 units.

Li Donghui, executive vice-president of Geely, said the three projects will further boost the development of Geely's Chengdu base. He expects the annual output



Chengdu's exhibition section at the fair shows the provincial capital's ambition to become a nationally central city. PHOTOS BY PENG CHAO / FOR CHINA DAILY



Visitors shop for amber products from Poland.

value of the Chengdu base to reach 100 billion yuan after the projects are put into operation.

"Geely's success in Chengdu benefits from the high efficiency of the local government, the favorable environment for investment, as well as the development opportunities

created in Chengdu as it is designated by the central government as a nationally central city," he said.

Li said Geely will build the Chengdu base into one of its most important strategic bases for new energy vehicles, serving the markets along the Belt and Road.

The Chengdu city government also signed a strategic cooperation agreement with a group of leading new energy carmakers to establish a new energy vehicle industry alliance.

The Chengdu New Energy Vehicle Industry Alliance aims to establish a cooperation platform for the whole industrial chain of Chengdu's new energy auto industry, helping to make the city an internationally competitive new energy vehicle manufacturing base.

The auto industry is a pillar of Chengdu's economy. The Longquanyi district, located in eastern Chengdu, has gathered automakers including Dongfeng Peugeot Citroen Automobile, FAW-Volkswagen and Geely, as well as many car component suppliers.

The city is expected to produce 1.1 million vehicles this year, and the local auto industry is expected to generate a total output value of 200 billion yuan.

During the fair, Germany-based Siemens AG signed an agreement worth one billion yuan with BOE Technology Group's Chengdu subsidiary to help the latter upgrade its production line.

According to the agreement, Siemens will transform BOE's production line in Chengdu according to the standards of the German Industry 4.0 strategy.

During the Western China International Fair in 2011, Siemens signed an investment agreement with the Chengdu Hi-tech Zone to establish the company's first modern digital factory in China.

In July, Siemens announced that it would increase its presence in Chengdu by setting up an independent legal company with registered capital of 330 million yuan.

"Choosing Chengdu was a wise decision," said Roland Busch, member of the managing board of Siemens during this year's Western China International Fair.

Chengdu will also upgrade its cooperation with Dell Inc to make its Chengdu manufacturing base into one of the company's most competitive R&D and manufacturing bases in the world, according to the city's investment promotion commission.