

High-tech report

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A JOINT PUBLICATION OF CHINA DAILY AND STATE-LEVEL WEIFANG HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE



Weifang Photoelectric Industrial Park is part of the Weifang High-Tech Industrial Development Zone. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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The Weifang High-Tech Industrial Development Zone proposes to adapt the principles of innovation, coordination, greenness, openness and sharing in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period to support high-tech industry and modern service industry development.

Innovation

Weifang Xinli Superconducting Technology Co plans to produce six 5.5T low-temperature superconducting magnetic separators in 2016. Five of those were ordered at the beginning of this year. The company said similar products for clients with lower budgets would go into mass production soon.

"Following the successful development of low-temperature superconducting magnetic separators, the prototype of 1.5T superconducting magnets for MRIs were rolled out in February," said Li Peiyong, chief operating officer of Xinli. "The machine has the same performance as imported products. The domestic demand is 1,000 units annually."

Li said about 90 percent of the market for 1.5T superconducting magnets for MRIs in China is dominated by foreign companies.

Xinli established a partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2009 to promote the commercialization of research results. Its superconducting magnetic separators and superconducting iron separators help domestic developers strengthen their market position in the superconducting material application industry.

"We first turned some technologies into applications and then helped research institutions upgrade the technologies with feedback from the market," Li said.

The development zone has long been committed to helping companies monitor the latest trends and seize opportunities in the market. The zone has built four national-level and three provincial-level incubators to support business innovation and transformation. It also built the first human resources service industry park in Shandong province to provide talent support to businesses.

The zone also encourages maker space development to promote the concept of mass entrepreneurship and innovation.

Its Youth Life Maker Space, established in December 2015, has attracted more than 100 innovative startups.

"This technology platform allows startups to share valuable resources and information from overseas market," said Gao Min, a manager of Youth Life. Youth Life plans to establish a startup support fund.

"We hope we can get Youth Life's fund to promote our brand awareness in China," said Qin Tong, founder of e-commerce platform www.0536b2b2c.com.

According to local authorities, the zone's high-tech industry output will reach 72.8 billion yuan (\$11.2 billion) by 2020, an average 10.4 percent rise year-on-year from 2015. About 8 percent of gross domestic product is planned to be invested in research and development by 2020.

The zone said it expects to house 50 national-level innovation business service platforms and over 50 technological businesses support institutions in the zone by 2020. There will be over 500 innovation-driven companies that move into the zone annually to support local industry development.

Coordination

During the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) period, the zone accelerated steps toward a national-leading economic zone. The zone said it would develop a technologically driven economic zone in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period.

The development zone obtained approval from the central government to develop a national innovation-driven technology park, an intellectual property rights protection pilot zone and a sustainable development experiment zone.

The development zone is one of the nations' first 23 economic zones to participate in construction of the national-level, innovation-

WEIFANG HAS BOLD DESIGNS FOR NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Zone looks to the future for residents and businesses



A worker operates a welding robot at the Foton Shandong Multifunction Plant.



Left: A staff member of the China (Weifang) Innovation Center of 3-D Printing Technology displays an item produced by 3-D printing technology.



Right: A foreign teacher instructs Chinese students at the Ameri-Can International Academy (Weifang).

driven demonstration development zone projects.

The zone is a regional economic hub that supports development of neighborhood economic zones including Binhai, Gaomi and Zhucheng.

The zone said it plans to spend 1.5 billion yuan on 96 city construction projects in 2016. It plans to upgrade its street lighting and develop a city administrative digital platform.

Greenness

Authorities in the zone believe innovation, integration, openness and sustainability will strengthen its competitiveness.

Shengrui Transmission Corp reported strong demand for its eight-speed transmissions in early 2016. The company said demand for the 8AT increased 412 percent year-on-year in 2015.

"We produced 9,000 8ATs in January, 7,000 8ATs in February and 10,000 8ATs in March," said Song Tingbin, dean assistant of Shengrui Transmission Corp's Engineering Research Institute. "We expect to report good sales revenue in 2016."

Weifang Enyuan Information Technology Co is an e-commerce business operator and

an e-commerce business solution provider. It uses big data to analyze client demands.

The development zone has established 10 national-level and 17 provincial-level industrial bases. The zone has developed five core industries — vehicle equipment manufacturing, acoustics and optoelectronics, biotechnology, software information and new materials. Its semiconductor light emitting industry cluster is one of 10 national innovation industry clusters.

The zone said it would support applications of new materials in construction material development, medical material development, steelmaking and heat insulating material development.

It plans to build more e-commerce business incubators and develop a big data industry and healthcare industry. It expects to support the development of more than 30 high growth small and medium-sized enterprises, such as Tianrui Heavy Industry Co.

Openness

The development zone strives to promote internationalization in innovation, industrial upgrades and business environment development.

Shandong Hangwei Orthopedics Medical Instrument Co announced in April 2015 that its universal locking compression plate series successfully registered a patent with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It also submitted an application to the European Patent Office.

The company has over 100 employees and annual output reached 20 million yuan in 2015. Hangwei's distribution network covers 30 provinces in China. However, it has only five foreign clients.

The company said global patents would strongly support its expansion into international markets.

"The patents will convince our potential clients that Hangwei has world-leading technologies," said Sun Dexiu, chairman of the board of Hangwei. "The patents will help us establish a solid foundation in overseas markets."

The development zone reported outstanding overseas expansion in the past few years. Over 100 companies have launched export businesses. Companies in the zone have established over 100 representative offices, marketing offices and research and development centers abroad.

According to the zone, companies registered 771 patents in over 90 countries and regions by the end of 2015. Total import and export volume reached \$9.98 billion in the 12th Five-Year Plan period. The zone obtained approval from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce to provide registration services to foreign-invested companies and organizations in March. The service will shorten registration time for foreign companies.

The development zone said it plans to continuously promote internationalization in the next five years.

The Weifang High-tech International School in the zone has invited foreign-language teachers to participate in daily teaching activities. It also launched study tour programs so students have the chance to experience life in other countries.

"We have to ensure that our students can face challenges and competition from the whole world," said Dong Mei, executive principal of the Weifang High-tech International School.

The zone said it would enhance its living environment to support its internationalization strategy in 2016. Local authorities plan to develop more international medical service centers, international schools and talent apartments to enhance living standards of global talents.

Sharing

The zone authorities vowed to help residents solve problems in key sectors such as heat supply, social insurance, healthcare, education and community medical care in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period. It plans to accelerate the construction of a smart city to provide more support to residents.

The zone plans to promote development of traditional Chinese medicine in the zone, and encourage doctors to combine Western medicine with TCM to provide better medical care services.

Hu Guangna, a staff member at the Fuhua community medical service station, said the combination of Western medicine and TCM provides more convenience to residents and enhances the center's service quality.

The development zone also plans to invest more capital in public service areas so residents can enjoy better services.

The zone said it launched 20 medical service upgrade projects in the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) period. It built 11 new schools and kindergartens to maintain a balance in education resource distribution.

The construction of four new kindergartens has begun and the zone said five new kindergartens would open in 2016.

It plans to build three to four community medical service stations and two TCM service centers in the zone. It will develop two day-care centers for elderly people. It will provide 5,000 job positions to labor market.

The zone built nine cultural squares in 2015 so that ordinary people have chances to participate in cultural programs.

The "One Build and Five Free" plan was launched to serve cultural demand last year. The main actions include building culture squares, hosting free movies, operas, song and dance performances and providing free training and books. Over 10,000 residents are utilizing the plan.

The zone said it would continue to develop community libraries, digital libraries and build cultural squares to attract more residents to participate in cultural activities.

Liu Jie contributed to this story.

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