German firms eye innovation

German manufacturing companies are cluing in from product to product innovation to maintain a competitive edge in an ever-evolving industry. Innovation in all its forms will, therefore, remain the key driver for key industry players in 2018.

Chinese companies leading the way

Innovation has become a top priority for the Greater Shanghai Chamber of Commerce in its annual survey released on Wednesday.

For Chinese companies, innovation was ranked among the top four priorities as it was necessary to prepare for the needs to, differ- entiate from competitors, capture new customers. Nearly 50 percent of the sampled companies expect an increase in their innovation output over the period, but only 41 percent have a well-defined innovation strategy.

The survey was conducted over the last year by the German Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and the Centre for Business Excellence with Tongji University and global market consultant Deloitte.

The survey received 111 valid responses from enterprises, a rate of about 30 percent, and 90 percent of these companies have been in operation for at least five years. Twenty-six percent of them had an annual turnover of 250 million yuan ($700 billion in 2017).

Chinese companies, 45 percent of the respondents, opted for acquisitions while the second best choice was a Chinese company mergers, likely to a less preferred option for German companies due to the unaligned technology transfer and intellectual property protection, the survey said.

“Digitalization has pushed Chinese companies beyond their limits and hence they have to open up,” said Lin Ming, marketing director of the board of the German Chamber of Commerce in Chi- na, Shanghai, feeling that the Chi- nese authorities should “be aware of the steps to be taken to improve the institutional and cultural support to encourage and enable the successful commercialization and recognition of technology innovation.”

The Chinese company said the continuing hot sales of the distiller from the town of Maotai, 80 kilometers from the city of Chengdu, in the mid-term, “We have about 130 public companies, of which almost 50 percent have an annual turnover of 250 million yuan or more,” said Xu Ping, marketing manager of Chinese companies, $377 million (annual turnover of 50 percent of surveyed firms).

Alibaba among top R&D spenders

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd was included in the world’s top 50 most innovative companies, according to the result of the recent annual Global Innovation 1000 ranking released by market research firm IHS.

In total, 37 firms from China, including Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd, an information and communications technology firm, were listed among the top 50 innovative companies, according to Sigmaintell. Statistics from industry consultants CINNO Research and consultancy CINNO Research showed that shipments of flexible AMOLED panels reached 35 million units last year, and will rise to 300 million panels by the end of 2020, with compound annual growth rate of 88.2 percent.

The full-year AMOLED display market for smartphones is expected to reach 46 percent in 2020, according to Sigmaintell.

A number of firms resulted in a market turn-around in China, including Huawei, which has released the world’s first 5G smartphone. Huawei’s 5G network has been deployed in 26 countries and regions, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Japan.

In addition, on Oct 31, a high-speed rail launched in Hong Kong, which connects seven cities in southern China, and will start operation next year. It will take rail fans to major Chinese cities. Besides, some provincial fares priced by airlines, those who fly to Hong Kong airport on the first day of its operation will get free memorial gift.

Contact the writers at shijingshi@chinadaily.com.cn

Monday surgery to record high on profit growth

Analysts in Kweichow Moutai Co Ltd, the biggest distiller in China, believe the shares will surge 70 percent this year.

In September, China Zhongwang, the world’s largest aluminum producer, announced the completion of its acquisition of U.S.-based SilverYacht Holdings in a share swap. The transaction was expected to add around 10% to the company’s 2017 profit.

Analysts said the acquisition of SilverYacht would add new high-end margin products and bring more diversification to the company’s product mix, with higher margin and would increase the company’s溢价 rate.

In the first nine months of the year, the company’s earnings growth has approached 760 billion yuan, or 6.4 percent year-on-year, according to Markit.

As the company to expand its business in the marine sector, while Chinese aluminum maker’s applications in the world’s leading smartphone brands, for example, Huawei Technologies Co,

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