

Guangzhou special

Preferential policies, investment boost bio-pharma sector

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Cooperation with international companies is boosting the development of bio-medicine in Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City as the local government strives to improve the investment environment with better polices and facilities.

The Knowledge City is located in Guangzhou Development District in Huangpu district of Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

On June 23, construction kicked off on a General Electric bio-campus in SSGKC with an official ground-breaking event.

The GE bio-campus is intended to serve as a leading biopharmaceutical and health industrial park. It will add to the attraction, encourage creativity and enhance the competitiveness of the pharmaceutical industry cluster in Guangzhou, according to Chen Zhiying, member of the standing committee of the CPC Guangzhou Committee and deputy mayor of Guangzhou, who talked at the event.

As a strategic collaboration project between China and Singapore, SSGKC focuses on the development of the advanced manufacturing industry, information technology, intellectual property protection, environmental protection, bio-medicine and healthcare, to establish an innovative knowledge-based hub and an international cooperative platform.

The GE bio-campus is not the only biopharmaceutical company entering SSGKC. BeiGene — an international company aiming to discover and develop immuno-oncology drugs for the treatment of cancer — signed an investment agreement with Guangzhou Development District in March, valued at 2.2 billion yuan (\$320.6 million). Together, they plan to build an oncotherapy medicine manufacturing center in SSGKC.

Wang Xiaodong, co-founder of BeiGene, said that the project will meet growing demand for bio-medicine development in the global market.



Chen Xiaohua (right), head of Guangzhou's Huangpu district, shakes hands with Wang Xiaodong, co-founder of BeiGene, as the two sign an investment agreement.

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First stage of construction is underway at the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

“The capacity for new drug research and development in the field is relatively weak in China. Some patients have to buy expensive imported drugs,” said Wang. “What BeiGene wants to do is to make good and affordable anticancer drugs for them.”

The State Council approved SSGKC's plans to carry out integrated pilot reforms in intellectual property protection and utilization in July 2016.

The State-level Intellectual Proper-

ty Rights Utilization and Protection Hub focuses on IP trading, evaluation, pledges, agency services and training. It aims to become more comprehensively embedded to help facilitate the country's economic development.

Patent applications between Singapore and China have increased significantly since the first memorandum of understanding was signed between the two nations' IP offices in 2014, said Daren Tang, chief executive of the IP Office of Singapore.

“

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Zhang Jinghua, executive director of Join & Well Science Park

82.4b

yuan
the total registered capital of the 494 enterprises in the Knowledge City

In 2015, patent filings from Chinese applicants in Singapore increased by 87 percent, while patent filings from Singaporean applicants in China increased by 44 percent compared to 2012.

Since SSGKC started operating in 2010, it has housed 494 registered enterprises with a total registered capital of 82.4 billion yuan.

In 2016, the fixed-asset investment of construction projects in the city reached 3.5 billion yuan, an increase of 40 percent year-on-year.

“2017 will be the year for rapid development in SSGKC” said Zhang Jinghua, executive director of Join & Well Science Park.

Zhang's company, which was established in 2013 in SSGKC, provides a platform for small and medium-sized enterprises to have their own offices in the city.

Zhang said that when he first came to SSGKC in 2010, conditions were poor, with inconvenient transportation, inadequate infrastructure and rudimentary facilities.

With the support of the Guang-

Knowledge City learns from Singaporean partners to spur development, upgrading

Since its construction began in 2010, Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City has served as a strategic development platform and a model for Guangdong province's economic transformation and industrial upgrading, according to Xu Hui, deputy director of the SSGKC development and construction office.

“Our partner, Singapore, has advanced innovative technologies, comprehensive social management, including strict IP enforcement and a strong protection system, from which we can learn a lot,” Xu said.

With the help of its partner, a total of 51 enterprises are under construction in the city, which plans to go into operation from 2018-20, with an investment of 56.5 billion yuan (\$8.26 billion).

Once completed, the industrial output of these projects is expected to reach 103 billion yuan. Business revenue from scientific research, the service industry, commerce and trade is estimated to be 150 billion yuan, according to the Knowledge City Administration Committee.

Favorable policies have been granted to ensure smooth implementation and progress in the areas of talent development, industry promotion, technology and finance, Xu said.

The Guangzhou Development District government issued four favorable policies in February, promoting advanced manufacturing, services and high-tech industries. Each of the policies feature 10 articles, dubbed Golden Policies, along with 2.2 billion yuan worth of subsidies.

A similar favorable policy was

issued to promote the intellectual property industry. Named the 10-article Jade Policy, it says when an IP company's main business income in the year of establishment is more than 100 million yuan, it will be awarded with funds of up to 10 million yuan.

A consultant with Advance China IP Law Office — a comprehensive IP law firm with offices in San Francisco, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen — said that the policy has great attraction for them.

The company will increase its resources in the development zones and actively promote IP rights to lead and support innovation-driven development.

Infrastructure investment

SSGKC will benefit from a convenient transportation network, including expressways, highways and metro lines, to improve on the current networks, according to Xu.

The SSGKC extension of Metro Line 14 will be put into operation at the end of this year. Line 21, connecting SSGKC and the downtown area of Guangzhou, will start operation in 2018.

The next step for SSGKC will be to focus on the artificial intelligence and new energy industries, according to Xu.

A memorandum of cooperation on a new project was signed on June 14. It is a potential collaborative project to develop a Sino-British energy and climate change innovation and financing platform in SSGKC.

A new fund for new energy will be set up in the future, Xu said.

zhou Development District government, railways and expressways are under construction. New policies have been issued to attract more enterprises.

The arrival of Fortune 500 enterprises, such as GE and BeiGene, has attracted related industries and brought supporting facilities to SSGKC, Zhang added.