

# Cutting-edge knowledge city takes shape

The Sino-Singapore center in Guangzhou aims to become a high-tech hub for South China, by attracting world-class companies

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Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City in Guangzhou — a smart eco technology center being developed to showcase the latest in sustainable development — will take measures to attract more leading companies and institutions, officials said.

These will aim at developing the facility, a 123-square-kilometer green-field township in Guangzhou, into a high-tech hub in South China.

The knowledge city was selected as one of the core platforms that support the Guangzhou-Shenzhen science and technology innovation corridor construction in Guangdong province, which involves the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan.

“As a core platform for constructing the corridor, SSGKC will enhance infrastructure construction and continue to expand its transportation network,” said Xu Hui, deputy director of the development and construction office of SSGKC.

An extension of subway line 14, connecting SSGKC and other parts of Guangzhou, will go into operation by the end of this month.

Guangzhou-Dongguan-Shenzhen Intercity Railway and another three subway lines are under construction, laying foundations as a strategic node of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

“SSGKC will make efforts to build public facilities with international standards to create a good living and working environment for businesses and residents,” said Tan Minghe, director of the development and construction office of SSGKC.



Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City in Guangzhou is home to more than 900 companies, with registered capital of 100 billion yuan as of the end of November. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

construction office of SSGKC.

The construction of sports venues and ecological footpaths have started. Hospitals, schools, an international conference center, a museum and a library will be built soon.

More than 900 companies, with combined registered capital of 100 billion yuan (\$15.4 billion), had committed to being in the new knowledge city as of the end of November.

The city is home to leading companies such as BeiGene and US giant General Electric.

#### Expanding cooperation

The Sino-Singapore International Joint Research Institute was established by SSGKC to strengthen Chinese and Singaporean cooperation in academic fields.

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The South China University of Technology in Guangzhou and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, founding members of the institution, will draw on their resources and experience in leading roles internationally to further develop its innovation and high-tech industries.

With the technological advantages of the two founding universities, the institute has launched the first phase of projects in pollution control, new energy, biomedical materials, artificial intelligence, green and smart architecture, food nutrition and safety.

Yu Long, director of the institute, said that the institute aims to transform high-tech

research results into industrial products and bring about economic benefits.

To date, the institute has launched 24 industrial projects and 16 of them are collaborative projects between China and Singapore.

“The institute is an open platform that explores an advanced model for international cooperation, which is a win-win for industrial transformation,” Yu said. “In addition to the South China University of Technology and Nanyang Technological University, we will invite suitable international universities to join us in the future.”

Designated as a national experimental zone for conducting comprehensive reforms on intellectual prop-

erty right use and protection by the State Council, SSGKC will welcome an important partner, the Patent Examination Cooperation Center of the State Intellectual Property Office in Guangdong, in February.

The office is currently operating in the Guangzhou Development District.

The center performs patent invention application assessment, carries out international patent search and international preliminary examinations of applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

This provides technical and legal consultation services to companies regarding patent applications and protection. The center can handle more than 150,000 cases every year

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covering machinery, electricity, communication, medicine, chemistry, optoelectronics and materials sectors.

“We also hope to provide consultation services to more small and medium-sized companies, to bring them more technological inspiration and help them improve their technology layout in the future,” said Qiu Jiangwen, deputy director of the center.

On Nov 16, the Guangzhou International Intelligence Industry Center was officially established with the aim of building a government-enterprise joint service platform to help with brand promotion and attracting investment.

Eleven companies, including Xiuzheng Pharmaceutical Group and Neusoft Group, have signed cooperative agreements in the medical, finance, internet education and industrial design sectors.

#### Biopharm development

Echoing the Guangzhou government's promotion of information technology, artificial intelligence, biochemical, new energy and materials sectors, SSGKC has launched many new projects to promote the development of relevant industries.

Pioneer biotech company HybriBio, which started operations in SSGKC in 2013, is a leading provider of diagnostics in China. It has an integrated operation chain in research and development, manufacturing, sales and marketing as well as technical support services.

“HybriBio is devoting itself to building the first platform to check maternal and infant healthcare in China,” said Kun Tit Sang, deputy general manager of the company.

The company is providing products and services to over 1,200 hospitals and medical institutes in China.

Last October, HybriBio's flow-through hybridization technology was awarded the 18th WIPO-SIPO joint China Patent Gold Medal, among 20 other leading companies including Sinopec and Huawei. It was the only molecular diagnostic enterpriser to receive the award.

“One of our goals is to foster a long-lasting cooperative relationship with our partners,” said Zhou Xia, deputy director of HybriBio's marketing department.

“It is always our mission to provide the local community with a quality service and comprehensive testing.”



http://www.ssgk.com

# Midea makes its mark with research and development drive

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Midea Group, one of the world's leading household appliance manufacturers, is ranked No 165 among the 1,000 largest corporate research and development spenders, according to a recent study released by the consulting firm Strategy &, a subsidiary of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Midea spent more than \$900 million in the past year alone and has positioned itself as a world-leading technologies group in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems; consumer appliances; robotics and automation systems, as well as smart supply chains.

The group is aiming to strengthen its market position through innovations, proprietary technologies, patents and technological know-how, said Paul Fang, chairman and CEO of Midea Group.

“Technological innovation and progress are our core long-term strategy,” said Fang. “The group has invested generously in sectors such as human-machine interfaces, so we can seize more opportunities and capitalize on the fields of intelligent manufacturing and smart homes.”

To implement this strategy, Midea has set up more than 20 R&D centers around the world, including in China, the United States, Japan, Italy, Germany and Austria, in order to apply the most advanced technologies.

Last year, it opened two R&D centers in Louisville and Silicon Valley in the US. Midea also set up an R&D center in Austria this year.

“Midea's research has gone far beyond its household appliance sector to reach the areas of artificial intelligence, microchips, sensors, and smart robots,” said Fang.

To fulfill its ambitions, Midea has spared no efforts in attracting professionals. Part of its R&D spending is on leading researchers

Last year, the group offered 1



A Kuka technician demonstrates how a Kuka robot's arm works to visitors during a recent annual technology forum. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Midea is one of the world's leading household appliance manufacturers.



Midea demonstrates its latest intelligent packing technology.

million yuan (\$151,301) salary packages in a global search to recruit professionals holding PhD degrees, which made headlines in many local media.

Midea has attracted leading professionals from Germany, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the US, and as well as top researchers

from renowned universities and research institutes all over the world.

Currently, more than 10,000 staff members work on Midea's R&D programs, about 10 percent of whom focus on the development of cutting-edge technologies.

Besides fostering its own talent

pool, the group has set up high-level strategic partnerships with more than 100 world-renowned universities and research institutions for technological collaboration.

“Talented people, who are making technological breakthroughs and accelerating the develop-

“Technological innovation and progress are our core long-term strategy.”

Paul Fang, chairman and CEO of Midea Group

ment of top-notch technologies are crucial for Midea's future development,” Fang said.

Apart from the generous spending on researchers and R&D, the group also attaches much importance to the application of technologies.

It has signed strategic agreements with many industry leaders, including Huawei Technologies and Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Holdings.

It has established a full strategic partnership with Huawei Technologies in terms of smart homes and signed a multi-layer strategic agreement with Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Holdings in the areas of robotics, medical devices, healthcare data application, a smart supply chain, healthcare investment, and intelligent manufacturing.

The group has also forged a multi-sector and multi-layer partnership with Country Garden, a Chinese leading real estate developer, and is exploring smart town projects, smart home appliances, smart home systems and overseas projects.

Midea is also working extensively with its subsidiaries Clivet, Kuka, and Servotronic, to share technologies and leverage each other's advantages.

“As China's only home appliance manufacturer in the Fortune 500, we will continue our investments in R&D to strengthen our core competitiveness,” Fang said.

#### Successful transformation into a technology leader

From a labor-intensive manufacturing leader to a talent-intensive innovation pioneer, Chinese home appliance maker Midea has transformed itself into a global technologies group.

To enter the robotics and automation industry, Midea has acquired Kuka, allied with Servotronic and partnered with Yaskawa Electric Corp over the past two years.

According to the company, robotics and automation are complementary to its existing strength in home appliances.

It is developing a global operations system, including research and development, sales, after-sales services and promotions, to serve its different segments.

This, the company says, will make it more efficient and eliminate the overdependence on a certain product category or a certain activity in the value chain.

In fact, its manufacturing of household appliances still exhibits strong performance.

The company's figures show that Midea recorded revenue of more than \$28 billion in the first three quarters of this year, shipping more than 300 million home appliances to global users, and the same number of core components to manufacturers worldwide.

As the only Chinese household appliance company to be included on the Fortune Global 500 list since 2016, Midea will partner with the Fortune Global Forum for the first time this year. The forum is being held in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, Dec 6-8.

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