

Weifang's special service teams put project development on fast track

Companies in the high-tech zone able to spread wings on back of special treatment

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Weifang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone in East China's Shandong province is taking measures to enhance government service quality and efficiency to create a better business environment.

In early 2019, the zone established *Zhuan Ban*, which means "special service team" in Mandarin Chinese, aimed at speeding up construction on new business projects.

Under this model, support teams comprised of government officials are assigned to oversee key projects in the zone and ensure that difficulties in the construction process can be solved in an efficient manner.

According to local officials, weekly meetings are organized for key projects so that companies can address problems directly with officials, with all related government departments required to provide feedback in limited time.

The new model has proved a useful tool in supporting companies' development this year.

Weichai, one of the leading heavy truck and component manufacturers in China, celebrated the ground-

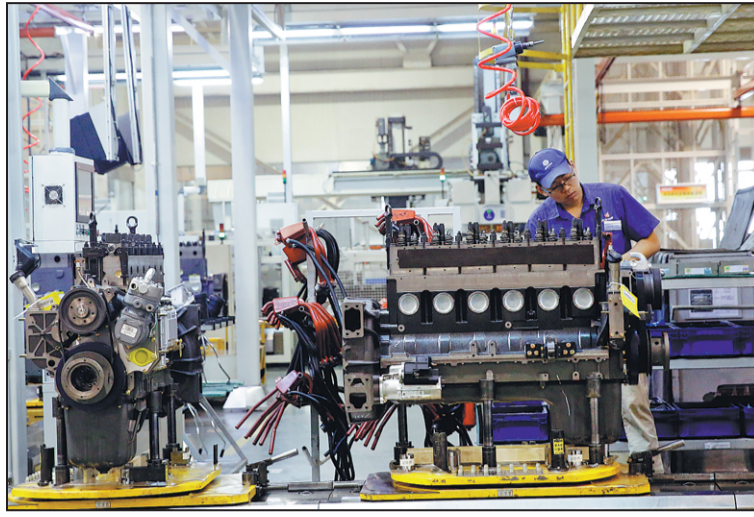
breaking of the Weichai International Engine Component Industrial Park in the zone on July 13.

After only five months, Weichai opened its No 1 plant at the new park, completing the project far ahead of schedule. The company credited the special service team's professional support for keeping everything on a fast track.

The 2,000-hectare industrial park, involving more than 200 billion yuan (\$28.54 billion) in investment, is projected to involve more than 500 auto component suppliers engaged in sectors such as hydrogen fuel cells, electronics and smart products.

The annual industrial output value of the industrial park will be around 500 billion yuan upon completion, according to Weichai officials. Weichai revealed that 35 leading companies have already signed up to build branches in the industrial park since July. Their total investment will exceed 8 billion yuan.

Shandong Tianrui Heavy Industry is another company reaping benefits from the zone's innovative service model.



A technician works at the production line at a Weichai's plant.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Tianrui's new maglev blowers production plant celebrated the installation of key new equipment last month. Chen Ru, deputy general manager of Tianrui, was pleased that the factory, with a total investment of 300 million yuan, was built with the help of the zone's authorities. It means Tianrui needs only to

pay for rental costs.

Thanks to the reduced costs, Tianrui will have more funds to invest into research and development, Chen said.

Tianrui is one of the top drilling machine makers in China. The company introduced its innovative maglev blowers, which use syn-



chronized magnet motors to compress air for industrial production, to the market in 2018.

According to Tianrui, the blowers can be used in fields such as industrial wastewater treatment, aquaculture and gas transmission. The product has a lesser impact on the environment, a lower requirement for maintenance and a longer life cycle.

"We received 20 orders in 2018. The number increased to 300 in 2019 with contracts valued at nearly 200 million yuan," Chen said. "Our old plant was not big enough

to serve the booming demand."

After being informed about Tianrui's constraint, the zone decided to build a factory for Tianrui and established a *Zhuan Ban* to support the construction of the new project.

Officials from the zone's investment attraction bureau revealed that the zone established more than 10 *Zhuan Ban* to solve problems for companies this year. Every project has a WeChat group or QQ group with government officials overseeing all relevant matters.

"Companies can raise their difficulties and problems in the group and relevant departments will follow up and give solutions," said an official in the investment attraction bureau.

Attracted by the premium government services, the zone is becoming popular among potential investors seeking to expand their operations in China.

Official statistics show that 59 projects, each valued at over 100 million yuan, have been agreed to settle in the zone. The contracted value is around 52 billion yuan as of Nov 15.



A night view of Weifang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Shandong province.

Government policies empower local enterprises to certify employee skills

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Weichai Group, one of the largest heavy trucks and components developers in Weifang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, certified vocational skills of 17 of its staff members at the end of November. Those certificate holders will enjoy the same benefits as those who have got certificates issued by the national authorities.

It is the first time for Weichai to certify its employees based on its talent demand and standards.

As of May, the Shandong provincial government has enabled 34 local companies to certify vocational skills for their staff members.

Zhai Dengpan has been an electrician at Weichai for 12 years. On

the back of the government reform, he was able to apply for skill certification directly from Weichai.

According to Weichai, a total of 51 electricians have participated in vocational skill certification. Among them, 23 applied for advanced electricians' certification, and the rest applied for intermediate electrician's certification. After being assessed in theory, practical skills, and ethical and daily performance, five people qualified as advanced electricians and 12 became intermediate electricians.

Huang Weibiao, director of human resources at Weichai, said the company has a handbook listing all procedures needed in certifying a skilled worker to ensure consistent standards.

Shandong, in the process of industrial upgrading, has not just encouraged companies to foster talent based on their demand, but also built platforms to help them to attract high-caliber talent.

On Nov 29, the zone hosted a matchmaking event to match 27 local companies and 48 professionals from around the China.

Tianrui Heavy Industry, Weichai Group and the zone's People's Hospital signed partnership agreements at the event.

Tianrui agreed with Wang Xiuhua, a professor from Shandong University, to deepen partnership in developing maglev technology, according to Li Yongsheng, founder of Tianrui.

Li said maglev development needs cross-sector support, for

instance, in automation and big data.

"We need high-caliber professionals from different industries to support our development," Li said.

He added the partnership with Wang will have strong significance for Tianrui's development in the maglev sector.

Peng Yu, a researcher from Harvard University, found his new partner — TusStar incubation center — in Weifang at the event.

"The zone has good industrial support and talent policies, and strong market potential," Peng said.

In recent years, the zone has developed a slew of measures to attract professionals and university graduates to support regional growth.

Weifang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone is home to a large number of national and provincial-level experts, and has been praised by the Shandong provincial government, according to local officials.

Elderly residents benefit from healthcare system

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Elderly people in Weifang Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone in Shandong province are benefiting from medical care services thanks to a smart healthcare management system.

In November, Feng Ailian, a 62-year-old resident in the zone, received a video call from Zhuojing community healthcare station to remind her to be more aware of her high blood pressure. A doctor from the station said they received an alert from the station's smart healthcare platform about Feng's situation. After analyzing her symptoms, medicines and dietary habits, the doctor gave Feng new suggestions on dietary and drug use to help her to better control her blood pressure.

"The smart management system is very helpful because it takes care of us and saves our time in hospitals," Feng said.

The smart healthcare management system used by the healthcare station has been developed by Continuous Innovation, a company in the zone. Via a video call center, the system enables healthcare centers to provide remote services.

"The system reduces the workload of doctors in community centers because we can obtain firsthand information about a patient without leaving the healthcare center," said Cao Liangliang, director of Zhuojing community healthcare station.

"The system is convenient in helping us to collect basic information about patients in an emergency and to take care of elderly people," Cao added.

Apart from helping manage



A technician from Continuous Innovation demonstrates a robot used in elderly care.

health, the system also allows elderly users to share photos and video call their friends and relatives.

In recent years, the zone has strived to develop a smart platform to enhance local healthcare management efficiency and quality.

The zone established 18,768 electronic patient records and has so far provided 37,000 services to patients. More than 20,000 families with elderly members are recorded in the system.

Xincheng subdistrict community healthcare center, Qingchi subdistrict community healthcare center, Zhuojing community healthcare station and Hanlin community healthcare station have invited elderly people to watch healthcare management-centered videos on the platform so they can learn more about disease prevention and management.

"We are developing a demonstration zone that combines healthcare and aging care under one roof so elderly people in the zone have access to healthcare and aging care," said Wang Qichao, deputy director of the zone's health bureau.

Zhuang Jian contributed to this story.



Li Yongsheng (second from right), president of Tianrui Heavy Industry, discusses the development of maglev technology with technicians.



Zhang Guoqing (middle), a traditional Chinese medicine expert, discusses the integration of traditional Chinese and Western medicines with other doctors.