

The AG600, a large amphibious aircraft developed by China, carries out its maiden flight in the Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park in December 2017. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ZHUHAI ATTRACTS TOP FLIGHT AVIATION PLAYERS



Guangdong's Jinwan district is fast becoming influential industrial hub

By ZHANG DANDAN
zhangdandan@chinadaily.com.cn

Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong province is making great strides in developing its aviation industry, which was confirmed by the recent successful test flight of the world's largest amphibious aircraft — the AG600.

Also known as Kunlong, the aircraft carried out its maiden water-based takeoff and landing at Jingmen Zhanghe Airport, one of China's leading amphibious airports in Jingmen, Hubei province, in late October, boosting the country's capability in maritime search and rescue operations, environmental inspections and firefighting activities.

The amphibious aircraft is independently developed and built by domestic aircraft giant China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co, which has been located in the Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park since 2009.

"The park has forged itself into an aviation manufacturing center with industrial influence and greater competitiveness over the past decade," said Xia Zhigao, deputy director of the park's administrative committee.

As early as 2014, the park took the lead in establishing an air traffic service station which offers a succession of flight services, including flight planning, flight information, weather reports and rescue.

The service station is a milestone for the development of China's low-altitude flight, according to Xia.

In the same year, the park launched China's first low-altitude air route — Zhuhai-Yangjiang-Luoding, making another great breakthrough in fostering the country's low-altitude airspace administra-



Above and below: The beautiful Jinwan district. Maintenance personnel check the Cirrus SR22 plane, a best seller among small planes.

tion reform, Xia noted.

The Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park is cooperating with the Guangdong Academy of Sciences to found an aerospace equipment research institute, as part of its efforts to attract quality innovation resources.

To enhance its innovation

capability, the park is working with China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co in its collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd to develop a new-generation multipurpose aircraft.

In addition, Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park is committed

to establishing a whole aviation industry chain, including aviation manufacturing, maintenance and services.

As one of the most prominent aircraft manufacturing enterprises at the park, the China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co has built up a sound product portfolio, which covers business aircraft, pri-

vate planes, versatile aircraft and aircraft for specific purposes. The park has clustered a raft of unmanned aerial vehicle manufacturers, which are focusing on the research and development of operating systems, components and parts.

MTU Maintenance Zhuhai Co, a joint venture between MTU Aero Engines and China Southern Air Holding Co, is an engine maintenance services provider at the park.

As the largest and top-ranked maintenance services provider for civil aviation engines in China, the company covers 80 percent of all maintenance services in the country, according to the deputy-director Xia.

Zhuhai Xiangyi Aviation Technology Co is a flight training company, founded by China Southern Air Holding Co and Canadian-based CAE, a flight simulator producer.

Relying on advanced aviation technology and professional training services, the training company has become the largest flight training supplier in China, Xia added.

Located in Zhuhai's Jinwan district, the aviation industrial park covers an area of 99 square kilometers, and is 20 kilometers away from Zhuhai Port and 10 km from the Guangzhou-Zhuhai railway, and thus benefits from being close to convenient transportation.

By the end of 2017, the park had introduced more than 70 aviation-related projects, of which the total investment exceeded 70 billion yuan (\$10.06 billion).

From January to August 2018, total output value of industrial enterprises above designated size at the park reached 27.8 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 14.1 percent.

70
billion yuan

Total investment at the park by the end of 2017

70
aviation projects

Had been introduced to the park by the end of 2017

For dynamic industrial aviation park, the opportunities are sky high

By LIANG KAIYAN
liangkaiyan@chinadaily.com.cn

Business startups have benefited immensely from the strong support of the Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park, a dynamic business incubator in Zhuhai, the only one of its kind in Guangdong province, according to local officials.

One shining example is Collective Wisdom Technology, a company manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, which was set up in the park in 2016.

"The park has a decade of operational experience and has preferential policies and mechanisms," said Wang Gang,

deputy general manager of the company, adding it has provided invaluable incentives and assistance to support the company's development.

Wang said Collective Wisdom independently develops UAVs that run on aviation fuel rather than batteries, which requires more technological and financial support. The park provided more than 5 million yuan (\$719,079) in grants over the past two years, according to Wang.

Yang Huabing, Party secretary of the park, said that the park has been focusing on developing industrial drones, aiming to build the park up as an important hub for the industry.



Collective Wisdom Technology Co, a Zhuhai unmanned aerial vehicle maker, attends an exhibition.

In recent years, the park has initiated a series of policies to facilitate the development

of high-tech industries and ramped up its efforts in developing the UAVs for industrial

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The park has a decade of operational experience and ...
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Wang Gang, deputy general manager at Collective Wisdom Technology

purposes, leveraging its experience in the aerospace sector.

In July, the park added

another 20 square kilometers area for drone test flights, which complete the airspace requirements, after initial research and development of the UAVs.

"The UAV industry is a sector that represents the development of military and civilian integration," Yang said.

The sector involves high-tech industries that produce artificial intelligence sensors, intelligent controls and aerodynamics, he said.

In addition to the drones' development, the park is also accelerating the development of general aviation and support service industries in a bid to develop a high-level industrial system, Yang said. He added

that the industrial system will incorporate research and development, design, maintenance and modern services, thus building a demonstration park for the aviation industry.

The park will aim to establish a bonded logistics department to introduce more international top aviation industry projects, and so create a better environment for the bonded processing, airport logistics and aviation operation service industries, Yang said.

Located in Jinwan district in the Pearl River Delta, the park covers an area of 99 sq km and serves businesses in the aviation sector, in the fields of manufacturing, operations and processing.

What they say

I hope there will be more themed exhibitions on such areas as general aviation, drones and military-civilian integration. We are striving to make bigger breakthroughs in strategic emerging industries — including advanced manufacturing, new energy and new materials to help more key enterprises develop in the Zhuhai Aviation Industrial Park.

Zhou Zuode, office director, executive committee of the China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition

I witnessed the development of Jinwan Airport and the industrial park from the very beginning. At first, the park was a wasteland, and when we tried to give a tour around the park for our investors, we could not even find a path. Now, however, the land in the park has become a precious resource.

Cai Wen, vice-general manager, Zhuhai Aviation City and Airport Group

Flight simulators involve as many industries as plane manufacturing and software. The aviation industrial park boasts a cluster of related sectors, which provides rich resources for us to develop the simulators. U-Wing Aviation is developing fast, thanks to the favorable environment in the park.

Xie Yan, founder and CEO, Guangdong U-Wing Aviation Technology Co

There is a drone flying zone in the park, covering an area of 20 square kilometers, and it plays a vital role in the development of drone companies. It meets the needs required for drone research and development, manufacturing, maintenance and operational training.

Wang Gang, deputy general manager, Collective Wisdom Technology Co

With the development of drones, the connection between aviation and photography has become increasingly close. Aerial photography has empowered photographers' creative abilities with more space for the imagination. The aviation industrial park and even the whole Jinwan district will be a new center of Zhuhai and I hope to keep a record of the changes happening in the park.

Zhu Guizhong, president, Zhuhai Art Photography Association

Zhuhai is a land with a booming aviation industry and supporting facilities in the industrial park have continued to improve. I hope there will be more general aviation companies developing in the park, and air sports will have more development opportunities in the park.

He Congfa, aeromodelling enthusiast

The development in the industrial park has brought vitality to our community. The community, located in the core area of a region featuring aviation, provides quality facilities to the park.

He Hongqiang, Party official, Xicheng community, Sanzao town, Jinwan district in Zhuhai

Without the industrial park, the development of our village would not have been so rapid. Seeing the growth of the park over the past decade, I hope a better tomorrow comes about as a result. More companies will bring more people and so villagers will have better business.

Yuan Yingquan, Party official, Haicheng village in Jinwan district, Zhuhai

Being adjacent to the industrial park has given Zhuhai Airport more opportunities to play a part in the aviation industry. The business of China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co that develops in the park includes many tests that have a close relationship with the airport. They need the airport to provide guarantees. It is one of our missions: Offering the guarantees that help companies to thrive.

Albert Yau, general manager, Hong Kong Zhuhai Airport Management Co

The company and the industrial park have achieved mutual benefits and win-win results. The company has helped the park to become well-known and enriched its industrial chain, and the park has provided the company with the necessary supporting conditions for flying as well as access to skilled professionals. The bilateral cooperation has far surpassed our expectations.

Bian Tao, deputy general manager at China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co