

# Smart vehicles deployed for delivery duties in communities



A volunteer puts in a pick-up code to open the smart delivery vehicle to put what residents ordered into it for door-to-door distribution. Inset: JD.COM delivers materials through the smart car in communities in Jiading. — Qin Jian

## Staff Reporters

E-COMMERCE giant JD.COM has deployed smart delivery vehicles to Jiading to help with material distribution during the lockdown of local communities.

Community workers load the smart vehicles with goods that residents purchase online. After the door is closed, the car starts automatically.

After arriving at the preset designated building, the car stops itself. At this time, the neighborhood volunteer in charge will receive a text message from JD.COM with a pick-up code.

The volunteer then comes to the front display screen of the vehicle. After inputting the pick-up code, the vehicle door automatically pops open. The volunteer puts the goods ordered by residents in the building into it for door-to-door distribution.

The smart vehicles help shorten the

whole process from previously more than two hours to now less than 10 minutes.

For instance, the Xi'an Lanting housing estate in Nanxiang houses more than 6,000 people who make around 400 delivery orders every day. This previously involved a labor force of more than 20 community workers and volunteers.

The introduction of smart delivery vehicles has alleviated the distribution pressure.

"Each vehicle can hold 30 to 40 items, saving us a lot of time," said Wang Gaoxiang, property manager of the housing estate.

The smart delivery vehicles are developed by Ecar Tech, a technology enterprise based in Jiading and are all made in Nanxiang.

Red shell, compact body and cute shape — they're the distinguishing features of a number of autonomous

vehicles shuttling back and forth in residential compounds in Nanxiang.

The "novel cars" are designed for delivering goods and have attracted the attention of many Nanxiang residents.

According to the company, the vehicles' main purpose is to operate in the mode of dispatcher loading plus unmanned vehicle transportation.

Each vehicle has one LIDAR on the top, four blinding radars and 10 cameras, allowing it to qualify for L4 level automatic driving.

The vehicle automatically drives to the destination in line with prepared instructions. It can deliver 36 to 100 orders at a time and carry 100 kilograms of goods. The vehicle has a range of about 100 kilometers, according to the company.

At present, Ecar Tech has put 10 smart delivery vehicles into operation in Nanxiang Town.

## 'One-stop' medication service set up

Su Fengyi and Li Xinran

THE lockdown has posed medication supply issues for people with chronic diseases who run out of commonly used pills and others who require emergency medication.

Xin'an neighborhood in Anting New Town has developed a "one-stop" dispensing service to meet their needs.

At the end of March, the neighborhood convened a group of volunteers to carry out dispensing services for residents. A team of seven pharmaceutical professionals was set up.

"The volunteers include pharmacists, drug testers and medical practitioners. They all have specific professional expertise," said Hong Lijuan, director of the neighborhood committee.

Xin'an neighborhood oversees seven residential compounds. Each member of the team of seven is responsible for dispensing medicines in one compound.

After residents convey their medication needs to the committee, the volunteers immediately deal with the supply requirements.

"We will consult people's medical records, ask about his or her physical condition and current medication and then give dispensing suggestions," said Wei Guo, a member of the team.

Two pharmacies in Anting are operating and can meet the daily medication needs of most residents, according to Wei. They have 1,015 types of commonly prescribed drugs, of which 420 qualify for medical insurance reimbursement.

Priority is given to ordering drugs for residents from pharmacies within the area. If they don't have the required medication, volunteers take a person's medical records to local hospitals for dispensing.

"The one-stop dispensing service can not only quickly meet the needs of residents, but also greatly reduce the workloads of hospitals and frontline pandemic prevention and control personnel," said Hong.

## Meal service guaranteed for elderly living alone

Xiang Yixin, Sun Guanyin and Li Xinran

DESPITE the ongoing pandemic, meal delivery services in Jiading have maintained normal operations to ensure that elderly people who live alone or have mobility difficulties get their food.

At 7am, the canteen was busy in the comprehensive senior service center in Jiading Industrial Zone early this month.

The chefs were cooking lunch: sweet and sour yellow croaker, egg dumplings, fried diced chicken with carrot

and mushroom and fried vegetables.

By 9:30am, all the dishes were ready and the staff began to pack. To meet the requirements of pandemic prevention and control, the previously used recyclable lunch box had been replaced by a disposable container.

The lunch boxes were intended for delivery to each residential compound in the zone, according to the center.

In order for the elderly to continue to eat fresh meals, the catering team has been fully in place since the end of March to ensure the supply during the lockdown.

"The dishes will be updated every week according to the needs of the elderly," said canteen manager Li Wei.

At 10am, six meal deliverymen loaded the packed lunch boxes into their vehicles to take to each residential estates. Volunteers at the entrances relay the load and send the hot meals to the doorstep of each elderly person.

At present, more than 200 meals are distributed every day to all residential estates in Jiading Industrial Zone.

In addition, Nanxiang Town has also prepared 140 meals every day for local elderly people.