

Meiya Pico to beef up presence in info security

Digital forensics provider to develop rapidly through latest technologies

By CHENG YU and HU MEIDONG

Xiamen Meiya Pico Information Co Ltd, China's largest provider of digital forensics, is set to beef up its presence in the information security sector by exploiting opportunities brought by the country's reform and opening-up.

"It is the reform and opening-up that have enabled my own self-development as well as the success of the company," said Teng Da, president of Meiya Pico.

Teng recalled that right after the beginning of the reform and opening-up, his father had set up a factory and managed to bring him a computer, which was rare at that time.

This novelty stoked Teng's initial interest in computing technology, which also laid a foundation for the transformation of Meiya Pico later.

Within 40 years, the Xiamen, Fujian-based company has morphed from a computer sales firm to a digital forensics and information security company with a valuation of more than 15 billion yuan (\$2.27 billion).

"Protecting information has become increasingly necessary, among which, crime monitoring and post-crime investigations are of great importance," said Teng.

Driven by demand for such services, the company has been focusing on identifying and extracting evidence from digital media such as computer hard drives, mobile phones and media storage cards.

Meiya Pico has also scrambled to cooperate with an array of public security departments to help build safety management platforms

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40 billion yuan

Sales revenue of Xiamen's big data businesses in 2017, up more than 100 percent year-on-year

on a larger scale, reflecting a broader effort by local governments to encourage the big data-related industry.

Teng also noted that the company is growing stronger with the rapid development of Xiamen and the city's big data industry.

Xiamen, one of the first four special economic zones in China, is home to the largest free trade area of Fujian province and has witnessed unprecedented development in the past decades.

City data showed local big data businesses generated about 40 billion yuan in sales revenue last year, up more



The booth of Xiamen Meiya Pico Information Co Ltd, China's largest provider of digital forensics, at an exhibition in Beijing. DA WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

than 100 percent year-on-year, providing a strong impetus to companies like Meiya Pico to expand further.

According to Wang Zhiyong, head of Meiya Shangding, a subsidiary of Meiya Pico, the parent company has helped local government departments build nearly 50 big data market supervision and management platforms

across China. Through these platforms, local authorities and administrative units can collect data and detect potential risks, which greatly improves their work efficiency.

Bringing benefits to the society has proved to be a fruitful exercise for the company. Its financial reports show a revenue of more than

184 million yuan in the first quarter of this year, up 28 percent year-on-year.

It is also banking on advanced technologies including big data, artificial intelligence or AI and cloud computing to seek new growth engines.

Earlier this year, it established an AI lab to apply the technology to digital forensics

and information security.

The company said it would include AI among its top priorities in order to advance its business through cutting-edge technologies.

Industry analysts said there is high demand for digital forensic services from both governments and enterprises. So, the field still has big room for growth.

"There is no absolute safety in any environment and system, and China still has a long way to go on the road to digital forensics," said Ding Liping, chairwoman of the Computer Forensics Expert Committee at the Chinese Institute of Electronics.

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Xiamen Airlines' passenger airplanes are seen at Fuzhou Changle International Airport in Fuzhou, Fujian province, on March 21. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“The five years that followed the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (in 2012) were the golden period for Xiamen Airlines.”

Che Shanglun, chairman of Xiamen Airlines

Xiamen Airlines to bring Fujian, Belt and Road economies closer

By REN XIAOJIN and HU MEIDONG in Fuzhou

Xiamen Airlines will enhance air links with economies participating in the China-led Belt and Road Initiative and turn Fujian province into a strategic point on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which is part of the initiative, its chairman said.

"The five years that followed the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (in 2012) were the golden period for Xiamen Airlines," said Che Shanglun. "And in the next five years, we will focus more on the connectivity between Fujian and the economies involved in the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road."

Founded in 1984, Xiamen Airlines is China's first civil aviation company to be run

like a modern corporation. By 2010, the company's registered capital soared from 1.2 billion yuan (\$182 million) to 5 billion yuan in three years; and its entire assets were valued at over 30 billion yuan.

In 2012, Xiamen Airlines officially joined SkyTeam, an airline alliance of 20 different flight operators across the world. Global connectivity to 1,024 destinations in 178 countries and regions ensued.

"In the five years after 2012, Xiamen Airlines grew rapidly in both size and business volume," said Che. "The number of aircraft increased from 86 to 200 and the number of passenger trips made through Xiamen Airlines rose from 17 million to 30 million a year. It was like we created another Xiamen Airlines within five years.

"The airline is the epitome of China's surging civil aviation amid the country's reform and opening-up," he said.

The company plans to have 15 wide-body aircraft at the end of 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) and invest more on the connectivity with economies involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We will spare no effort in expanding our business in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Europe, the United States and Australia," Che said.

In May, the company announced the launch of a direct flight from Fuzhou to Paris from December.

"The Xiamen Special Economic Zone is part of the reason behind the successful internationalization of Xiamen Airlines," said Lin Zhijie, an aviation industry analyst

and columnist at carnoc.com, one of China's biggest civil aviation websites.

"There are a large number of Xiamen business operators going abroad, thus the local economy is very much export-oriented with a close connection with the rest of the world," he said. "It has also posed bigger challenges for airlines to be more international."

In the past three years, Xiamen Airlines has started 10 routes connecting different continents. It was a significant step to further open the city to the world, Lin said.

Xiamen Airlines plans to have 560 aircraft in its fleet by 2035, making it one of the most competitive flight operators in the world, according to Che.

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Seven-man company grows into \$3.4b trade behemoth

By REN XIAOJIN and HU MEIDONG in Fuzhou

Xiamen International Trade Group started with seven people in 1980. Gao Shaoyong, president of ITG, said: "We had just a couple of chairs, two bicycles and a rented office."

Today, Xiamen ITG commands a valuation of 22.1 billion yuan (\$3.35 billion). Xiamen ITG Holding, an A-share listed firm of the group, has since 2017 been among the Fortune 500 giants, one of the four such enterprises from Fujian province.

The year 1980 was key to its flying start as Xiamen city was designated as a special economic zone. Ever since, ITG grew and grew in its import-export business spanning bulk trade, financial services, supply chain management and retail sectors.

As a witness of the country's opening-up, ITG bears testimony that annual 30 percent growth in business volume is possible under the right circumstances.

"In Xiamen, the frontier of China's opening-up, ITG has grown from a local trade company to a comprehensive business," Gao said.

"ITG has witnessed ups and downs during the last four decades," he said, adding the company will exploit opportunities presented by the China-led Belt and Road Initiative to expand globally.

Toward this end, ITG has founded a subsidiary in Singapore, the world's renowned trade, finance and logistics center, for export of oil products and to offer related financial services.

It has also set up an arm in New Zealand to invest in forest-based resources for trade with a number of countries like India, South Korea and markets in Southeast Asia.

"The Belt and Road Initia-

tive covers more than 60 countries and regions with 4.6 billion population and a collective GDP of \$2.3 trillion," he said. "But its trade volume accounts for only 25 percent of the global amount. Their economies may not be big in size, but are higher in growth rates. There is big growth potential for investors."

Last September, when Xiamen hosted the Ninth BRICS Summit, leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa gathered in the city. BRICS leaders announced the Xiamen Declaration during the summit, calling for deeper cooperation among member countries.

"We have seen a clearer path to future upgrading and transformation following the BRICS summit," said Xu Xiaoxi, chairman of Xiamen ITG Holding.

Xiamen will explore innovative ways to deepen reform and opening-up, with advanced manufacturing and modern service sectors as pillars of its industry, Pei Jinjia, Party secretary of Xiamen, said.

The coastal city will strengthen cross-Straits cooperation and heighten relations with Belt and Road economies in the region, he said.

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The corporate headquarters of Xiamen International Trade Group in Xiamen, Fujian province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY