

An investment hotspot in Nantong

By DING CONGRONG

A new science and technology center in Nantong — an industrial city on the Yangtze River Delta in Jiangsu province, 90 kilometers from Shanghai — is focusing on innovative businesses as a way

to bring investment and create more jobs.

Shen Fenglei, CEO of the Nantong Science and Technology Park, which sits in the city's center, explained that they will focus on new and high technologies and innovation to develop research proj-

ects, improve the city's professional services, and attract entrepreneurs.

The park already has a group of research institutes and innovative businesses, Shen said, with electronics and information science companies accounting for 80 percent.

By the end of September the park had 148 businesses and six research institutes employing more than 1,500 people. Their combined registered capital amounted to 350 million yuan (\$55 million).

It has only been a year since the park opened, but already it has produced some several innovative technology, one example of which is China's first patented USB 3.0 connector chip.

Because of the vision behind the park and its advanced services, it has been praised by Jiangsu officials and has won awards as a "national innova-

tive business service center" and provincial "model software and information science park for service".

Shen said that the park has a planned area of 28.2 hectares and has spent 1 billion yuan on infrastructure so it can hold more than 300 businesses.

One of the earliest projects to go operational was a business development area that was started by returning overseas scholars.

Shen said that the next step is to bring in some well-known research and development institutes and build some headquarters for international brands.

Because Nantong is one of China's major electronics bases, its electronic information industry has grown more than 20 percent annually, over a five-year period, with revenues of 96.7 billion yuan in 2010.

28.2

hectares
of planned area

1

billion yuan

invested in infrastructure to date

The new energy business in Nantong has also shown some progress and, by the end of 2010, the city's wind power industry had an installed capacity of 642,000 kilowatts. That figure is expected to surpass 2 million kilowatts by 2015.

Nantong's new materials, biotechnology and other industries have all seen fairly rapid growth.

By September 2011, the park's businesses held 47 patents and were applying for 18 new ones.

Science park has a lot to offer businesses

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Nantong's new science and technology park now provides a better environment for companies from China and abroad and is a new place for investors to take a look at.

Ding Dawei, the Party secretary, said they welcome many types of enterprises and have a lot to offer in return.

First of all, Ding pointed to the national regulations that allow Nantong's government to charge a minimal amount so as to support company development.

Second, he said, the science and technology park will do a better job than its neighbors in providing services.

According to the park's CEO, Shen Fenglei, they can help support their enterprises in at least two ways — by providing advanced facilities and through favorable policies.

The park now has six functional areas: one for technological enterprise development, another for advanced technological innovation, one for trade and logistics, one for management and services, a leisure and living space, and a public area.

Each of the six areas has a service team to help businesses with registration matters, with getting started, and with finances, consultation, and technology and human resource support.

According to Xu Hui, the city's vice-mayor, the enterprises that came to the park in 2011 have received more than 10 million yuan (\$1.6 million) in funding.

The park's CEO, Shen, also said that the park is especially significant for Nantong because of the economic and social benefits it will bring the city.



Architect's model of the new Nantong science park, which hopes to attract businesses from around the world.



By the end of September, the park had 148 businesses and six research institutes. Work on its first-phase began only a year ago.