

# Expanding rail and air links to bolster Belt and Road

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Chengdu, a megacity in western China, has committed to expanding its railway and flight transport services to better support the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chengdu-Europe Express Railway Service will make more than 1,000 journeys in 2017, up from 460 journeys last year, according to local authorities.

The city started to promote the freight express service, aiming to better connect the domestic and European markets by rail.

In 2013, the Chengdu-Europe Express Railway opened a route from Chengdu to Lodz in Poland. In the past two years, the express rail has been expanded to many domestic cities including Xi'an in Fujian province, Shenzhen in Guangdong province and Kunming in Yunnan province.

The Chengdu-Europe Express Railway's European route has also been extended, successfully connecting it with several major European cities, including Nuremberg in Germany and Tilburg in the Netherlands.

The express railway will have southern, central and northern routes that terminate in Istanbul in Turkey, Lodz in Poland and Moscow in Russia, respectively.

The figures from Chengdu customs show that about 1,200 companies have enjoyed the benefits of the express freight train, including Intel and DHL.

"The greatest advantage of the China-Europe Express Railway Service is that it has shortened goods transportation time between China and Europe," said Feng Xuhong, vice-president of Chengdu Geely.

Geely sent 41 containers of auto parts to one of its plants in Minsk, capital of Belarus, in early March.

The train, running on the northern route of the Chengdu-Europe Express Rail, traveled more than 8,800 kilometers over 12 days to reach the plant.

Feng said that the train transported auto parts and accessories produced in Geely's factories in Chengdu and Ningbo, Zhejiang province, worth nearly \$600,000. Those parts will be used to assemble one of Geely's luxury car models. The completed cars will be sold in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Before the debut of the express freight train service, Geely adopted sea and road transportation models to send auto products to its plant in Minsk. The overall transportation time was more than 40 days, Feng said.

The express railway service also helps to attract businesses to the city and support Chengdu's industrial upgrade.

TCL, a home appliance maker in China, has adjusted its operation map in the country and moved some of its production capacity to Chengdu. It plans to develop its



Natalia Kosana Goldysiak, operation manager at the Polish showroom in Chengdu, introduces products from Poland arrived by the Chengdu-Europe Express Rail. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A new Airbus A350 model arrives in Chengdu for display.

**“The greatest advantage of the China-Europe Express Railway Service is that it has shortened goods transportation time between China and Europe.”**

Feng Xuhong, vice-president of Chengdu Geely

largest production base in the city to enjoy the benefits emerging from its geographical location and the railway links.

**Improving flight services**

The city plans to have more than 100 international regular flights during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20).

Within that figure, more than 70 will be non-stop flights. The city has 96 international flight routes, with direct flights to 78 cities around the world.

Currently, the city is sparing no efforts to open routes to Europe, Australia, Africa, the Middle East and North America.

Hainan Airlines, one of the largest flight service providers in China, launched a direct flight route between Chengdu and Los Angeles. It is the second non-stop flight route to the United States from Chengdu.

The company plans to launch a route to New York in the first half of this year.

In 2016, Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport handled 46 million passengers, ranking fourth among 218 inland airports in terms of volume. Its cargo throughput reached 611,000 metric tons, ranking fifth among 218 inland airports in China.

The Tianfu International Airport has already started construction and will be completed in 2020. Chengdu will become the third city in China to be equipped with two airports.

Chengdu has aimed to develop itself into an outstanding city in terms of electronics and communications industrial development in Southwest China. It also plans to take the lead among China's megacities in providing a fiber optic internet network.

According to related plans, the city will speed up construction of its digital infrastructure in information and communications to serve as a digital center and international information harbor, in hopes of becoming an international and regional communications hub.



The Chengdu-Europe Express Railway Service shortens the time it takes to transport goods between China and Europe. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# CONTINUING LEADERSHIP OF WESTERN CHINA'S GROWTH

Technological advances and automobile manufacturing bring higher value, profits to western China megacity through partnerships and investment, **Tang Zhihao** reports.

**N**ew business projects in the electronic information and auto industries are expected to support Chengdu's industrial upgrading and transformation, helping to build the city into a western economic center.

Global Foundries (GF), the United States' full-service semiconductor wafer producer, is scheduled to complete a new 760,000-square-meter production base in the western part of Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone in March next year. It is expected to be one of GF's largest and most advanced wafer production bases in the world upon completion. Construction of the project started in February.

GF said that the plant will have both complementary metal oxide semiconductor and fully-depleted silicon-on-insulator technology-based 12-inch wafer production lines.

The company's project fills the gaps in 12-inch wafer production in Southwest China. It will enlarge the scale of Chengdu's electronic information and integrated circuit industries, which will help the city to build a globally-renowned integrated circuit industry base, according to an official at the zone.

Upon completion, the total production capacity of the new plant will be 85,000 units per month. There will also be supporting

facilities such as a central power plant and office buildings in the production base.

"Such a large-scale wafer production base is rarely seen in the world," said Yuan Ming, a project manager from Chengdu Construction.

Sanjay Jha, CEO of GF, said Chengdu is the ideal place for the project as the city has the necessary infrastructure, skilled manpower and a high-tech company cluster.

"There is no doubt that Chengdu is an excellent partner for the project. This cooperation will improve Chengdu's reputation as a leader in China's semiconductor and IT industry, and will also help the city to draw more investment from high-tech companies."

Chengdu has considered electronic information to be a strategic emerging industry and has long been committed to cultivating related domestic businesses, as well as attracting foreign industry giants.

Chengdu has built complete industrial systems in integrated circuits, smart terminals, internet communications, photoelectronic displays and software and service outsourcing. The city, which attracted Dell, Lenovo, Foxconn, Huawei, Siemens and ZTE, has been playing a more and more significant role in the global market in the electronic information



A technician supervises a Siemens China production line at the company's R&D base in Chengdu.

**“There is no doubt that Chengdu is an excellent partner for the project.”**

Sanjay Jha, CEO of Global Foundries

sector, according to local officials.

The city is home to leading global giants including Intel, Texas Instruments, AMD, Taiwan-based MediaTek and Chinese Spreadtrum Communications.

Chengdu said in its latest development plan that the electronic information industry will be the first industrial cluster in the city with annual industrial output value reaching 1 trillion yuan (\$145.22 billion) by 2020. That includes 570 billion yuan in the electronic information manufacturing sector, with an average annual growth rate of 20 percent, and 430 billion yuan's average industrial output value in the software and information services sector.

The city set a goal to be an electronic information industrial base with a strong global presence in the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20).

**Car industry development**

Chengdu has shaped a complete automotive industrial chain to lift the city's competitive capacity.

Volvo launched construction of its scalable product architecture vehicle production platform in Chengdu. The platform, with total investment of 11.2 billion yuan, will be capable of producing 200,000 complete vehicles per year.

Built within Volvo's existing

passenger car manufacturing base in Chengdu, the platform will be put into production in late 2017.

Ning Shuyong, Volvo China's vice-president in charge of public relations, said the Chengdu base will produce the next generation of Volvo 60 series vehicles.

Volvo's Chengdu plant is a main production base for Volvo 60 series products. Vehicles produced in Chengdu are supplied to the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. The base has started to export Volvo S60 Inscription to the US and has obtained the highest rating for safety from the US' National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Geely, the brand owner of Volvo, signed three strategic investment agreements with Chengdu's government to expand production of new energy vehicles, SPA-based passenger vehicles and BMA platform-based passenger vehicles.

The three projects will allow Geely to produce 600,000 vehicles per year and strongly support Geely's product upgrades.

The automotive industry is a pillar industry in Chengdu. The annual vehicle production volume reached 1 million units in 2016. The expected production volume for this year is 1.1 million vehicles.

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From left to right: Intel's manufacturing plant in Chengdu. Technicians weld parts at an enterprise in the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone. The zone tries to build a high-end, modern industrial system. Volvo's Chengdu plant manufactures Volvo 60 series products, which are supplied to the United States and the Asia-Pacific region.



Bosch sets up a new production base for its power tool division in the Sino-German SME Cooperation Park in Pujiang county, Chengdu. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# International cooperation to drive area's innovative climate

By ZHUAN TI

Chengdu, Sichuan province has committed to strengthening communication and cooperation with Belt and Road countries to better support the city's innovative climate.

Slush, a startup event and community operator in Finland, joined hands with the Innovation Center of Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone and the European Union Project Innovation Center to launch a global startup event named Slush Up! Chengdu during the Finland Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference on May 12.

The Finland Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference was a major event during the 2017 China Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair.

Online project competitions, speeches from established enterprises, new product releases, on-site roadshows and other activities centering on information and communication technology, artificial intelligence, games, media communication and innovative activity were held during the event period.

Slush programs have been successfully held in Helsinki, Tokyo, Beijing, Singapore and Shanghai in recent years. This Chengdu event is the first to be held in China in 2017.

The partnership between China and Finland started when Nokia Siemens Networks Technology (Beijing) launched a branch in Tianfu Software Park.

Nokia's global technology development center, launched in Chengdu Science City in 2016, focusing on developing fourth-generation technology and mobile telecommunication systems.

Chengdu is also working to strengthen cooperation with France and Germany, aiming to boost its innovation ability and capacity.

Bosch started construction of a



Customers check out VR products at the 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair.

new production base for its power tool division in the Sino-German SME Cooperation Park in Pujiang county. The total investment will exceed 180 million yuan (\$26.12 million).

The plant will mainly produce packaging machinery, hand-held electric tools and desktop electric tools. It is expected to generate an annual output value of 500 million yuan.

Mao Yongjiu, an official in Pujiang county, revealed that the industrial park has attracted more than 50 businesses engaged in the manufacturing of precision machines and related industries. Bosch plans to locate its packaging technology development center for the Asia-Pacific region in the industrial park.

The Ministry of Industry and Information named the technology park one of China's five demonstration zones for Sino-German SME cooperation.

Mao said the park operators will strive to attract more than 100 for-

eign-invested companies to the park by 2020. The industrial throughput of those companies will reach 10 billion yuan.

The Sino-France Ecology Park is a national-level project to strengthen ties between China and France. The park, located in the east of Chengdu, occupies an area of 57.8 square kilometers.

It is home to Dongfeng Peugeot Citroen Automobile Company's fourth plant. With a total investment of 12.3 billion yuan, the facility is capable of producing 360,000 vehicles per year.

"The park is eyeing emerging industries such as new energy, new materials and high-end equipment. It is also looking to strengthen partnerships with French companies in ecological building construction and the energy saving and environmental protection sectors," said Zhou Lin, director of business promotion office of the ecology park.

"We have set a goal to develop the park into a green and low-carbon demonstration project," Zhou said.

# Filmmakers visit local cultural sights

By CHEN MEILING  
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In April, eight Hollywood masters visited Chengdu's giant panda breeding base, went to a historical relics museum and shared their insights, as part of efforts to promote cultural exchanges between the Chinese city and Hollywood.

Tony Bancroft, director of *Kung Fu Panda: Secrets of the Masters*, said observing animals in their habitats is an amazing experience. He revealed that animators would invest time in watching animals when painting them.

American film producer Jerry Peluso said he was thinking of how to shoot a film the whole world would love, and here he got the answer: by incorporating a panda.

The filmmaking gurus told stories of movie shoots and discussed cooperation between China and the United States in the film industry at a forum held on April 20.

The US-Asia Innovation Gateway and Chengdu Media Group signed an agreement to explore the culture of Chengdu and promote the city's image in the fields of culture and filmmaking.

Chengdu aims to build itself into a national-level central city that reflects a holistic development concept. Among the major tasks they face is the challenge of speeding up construction of the city as a western international communications center.

In March and April, delegations from Silicon Valley in the US visited Chengdu to investigate the development of its culture, media, education, tourism and science.

From April 22-25, 12 representatives from mainstream media in Turkey came to Chengdu to

**33 sister cities**  
Chengdu has established around the world

**20k foreigners**  
live in Chengdu

conduct interviews and share knowledge in regards to the city's achievements in economic construction, science and technological innovation and cultural creation. They visited Tianfu Software park, the Qingbaijiang container logistics center and Tianfu New District, as well as the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and scenic spots such as the memorial temple to Zhu Gelang, renowned military strategist in ancient China. They will report on their tours when they go back to Turkey.

The city established sister city ties with La Plata of Argentina in February. Now, it has 33 such sister cities around the world, 96 international flights and 16 consulates. There are also visa application centers for 31 countries in the city.

The number of foreigners living in Chengdu is nearly 20,000. To make their lives easier, the local government has provided English-language TV programs, a mayor's hotline and handbooks about accommodations and public affairs in Chengdu.



A group of Hollywood directors and filmmakers visit Chengdu and receive a gift of Sichuan silk. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A delegation from Silicon Valley in the US visits Chengdu to study the city's rapid development.

# Silk products' spread offers clues to ancient trade relations

By CHEN MEILING

On April 8, the Academic Seminar on the Land of Abundance and the Silk Road was held in Chengdu. Experts attending the meeting said the city has not only provided quality silk products for countries along the Silk Road, but also offered refined craftsmen's skills and spirit.

Zhang Haipeng, a historian from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said: "Sichuan province was the main production base of silk on the Silk Road. The strategic position of Chengdu on the Silk Road is beyond question."

Sichuan tapestry reflected a high level of technique and ranked first among the top three tapestry traditions in China at the time, Zhang said.

Sichuan brocade has had a huge influence on the development and prosperity of the Chinese brocade industry. Sichuan brocade is therefore dubbed "mother of all brocades". Duan Yu, professor from the Center for Bashu Cultural Studies of Sichuan Normal University, said the Qin



Sichuan brocade has had a huge influence on the development and prosperity of the Chinese brocade industry. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Dynasty (221-206 BC) constructed a silk production base in Chengdu. During the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), the main income of the government came from tapestry production and trading in Sichuan province.

Four wooden weaving machine

models and 14 painted wooden textile craftsmen were unearthed in Tianhui town, Chengdu, in early April. The products represented the top level of spinning and weaving at that time, said Duan.

The local style of tapestry and embroidery were taken to Europe and

**“The strategic position of Chengdu on the Silk Road is beyond question.”**

Zhang Haipeng, historian from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

southern, northern and central Asia, Duan said.

Sichuan embroidery is one of the four most famous embroidery styles of China. In ancient times, Sichuan embroidery and Sichuan brocade were both named "treasures of Sichuan". Now they are both national-level intangible cultural heritage items.

Chinese silk was also unearthed around the Altai Mountains in Russia with patterns of coin trees. The pattern was commonly seen on the plain areas of Sichuan during the Qin and Han dynasties (221 BC-AD 220), he said.

Sun Hua, a professor at the School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University, said: "Sichuan province, circled by mountains, seemed to be closed off. However, an ancient track opened as early as in the Warring States Period (475-221 BC), to connect the area with other parts of China and the wider world. Part of the track actually overlapped with the Northern Silk Road."

Wang Binghua, a former professor at the School of Chinese Classics of Renmin University of China, said he once found a silk product unearthed in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region embroidered with "Made in Chengdu".

The seminar was held by six parties, including the Association of Chinese Historians, Society for Chinese Archaeology and School of Archaeology and Museology of Peking University, on April 8.

More than 90 domestic and overseas scholars attended the seminar from Chinese universities and research centers of foreign countries, such as the United States, Sweden, Nepal and Sri Lanka.