

Swedish engineer grows with suburban district, salutes vibrant environment

Lu Lianghui and Zhu Jilong

Per Edberg has been the senior director of Complete Vehicle Engineering with Volvo Car Asia Pacific since August 2018.

The Swede's work is to support Volvo Car Asia Pacific to achieve its research and development goals, so the company can more comprehensively develop and integrate new technologies, and better serve the new car projects.

"It's definitely a challenge, but it's also an opportunity. If I look at what we have invested here in Jiading since I came here, we have built a new battery lab and E-motor lab," Edberg said.

He believes that Volvo, as an automobile enterprise, assumes the responsibility to make changes for energy conservation and emission reduction to ensure environmental sustainability.

Edberg is responsible for work ranging from advanced engineering to verification of new cars that are to be launched, including battery and motor testing, complete vehicle thermal testing and volatile organic compound testing.

When people think of safety, accidents and collisions may come to their mind.

But in actuality, the scope of safety is much wider, and deals more with



Inset: Per Edberg takes a group selfie with his colleagues at Volvo Car Asia Pacific to build team spirit. Right: Edberg works as a supervisor who helps in advanced engineering and the verification of new cars. — Lu Lianghui



the protection of families, the living environment and the world. This is also the reason why Volvo Cars regards sustainability as an important part, according to Edberg.

People can be strong, but the team is always stronger. There are more than 200 people in his team. They often talk about collaboration rather than cooperation. Cooperation is to work together, while collaboration is to think together and rely on the strength of the team to jointly complete a task.

Edberg believes that as a supervisor,

it is very important for him to provide support for his team at any time. He also learns a lot from his colleagues, which is also an important part of Volvo culture.

Edberg recalled eating snow and skating on lakes in Sweden as a child, but says now the environment is different.

In his eyes, Chinese culture is very fascinating, and quite similar to Sweden's in some ways. It respects all people and experiences. He has been to many cities in China and has also made personal explorations in

Jiading District, where he resides.

"When you walk through the alleys, you can find local food and meet very friendly people. Compared with the place where I was born, Jiading is a bigger area," he said.

"Jiading is doing a very good job in attracting new companies, not just automotive firms but also suppliers and high-tech companies, so I find it a very vibrant and an interesting environment to be in. We have good cooperation with the Jiading District government and with the Jiading Industrial Zone," he noted.

German manager says 'harbor of automobiles' is the best place to be

Wang Yueying and Zhu Jilong

GERMAN-BORN Kai-Marcel Dodel has been living in China for about 12 years. He has worked as a senior project manager at several global companies.

Having completed his MBA degree in international project engineering in Germany and the United Kingdom, he joined German autoparts maker ZF in 2015.

"Jiading is the harbor of automobiles so for an automotive company it is the best place to be because you can easily find talent and build your network," Dodel observed.

A world leading automotive supplier which focuses on latest technologies, ZF settled in Jiading in 2011.

Automobile companies can thus rely on this fertile land to obtain good infrastructure and reasonable management environment, according to Dodel.

"I'm very proud of the fact that it's most likely that the car you are

driving has one of our components inside," he pointed out.

As a channel manager, Dodel is not only proud of having a very independent team, but also of the team culture.

He often learns about their unique experience and Chinese culture when interacting with them.

He said that Shanghai has always been a city with endless opportunities where it is easy to establish interpersonal networks and learn from each other.

"A team is like a family," he said. "We are always moving toward the same goal."

In his spare time, he likes to stay with the families, go out for a walk with his two dogs, and play with the children.

When night falls, he likes to go with his Chinese wife to the night market, buy a cup of milk tea in the dessert shop, and then have a few barbecue sticks before going home.



Kai-Marcel Dodel wears his equipment and rides his bicycle to office at German autoparts maker ZF on weekdays. — Wang Yueying

Triathlon and hiking are also his hobbies. Whether it's sunny or raining, he always wears his equipment and rides his bicycle to office on weekdays.

Along the 15-kilometer trip, he has been often surprised by the changes

that have been taking place quietly in Jiading with the emergence of new schools and shopping centers.

Occasionally, he also prefers to empty his mind, just feeling the speed of the wheels, and shuttling through the streets and alleys of Jiading.