

F1 Lenovo Chinese GP back to Jiading after a 4-year hiatus

Ma Yue and Zhu Yile

TICKET sales for the 2024 Formula One Lenovo Chinese Grand Prix kicked off on January 9.

The much-anticipated event, which will take place at the Shanghai International Circuit in Jiading District from April 19 to 21, is returning after a four-year hiatus and will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year, as well as the circuit's 20 years of operation.

For the first time, a sprint race has been scheduled.

"It's exciting news for the fans, but for drivers, it means less time to get used to the track," said Chinese Formula One driver Zhou Guanyu, who was in the city to launch the F1 Chinese Grand Prix. "Despite the pressure, I look forward to racing in front of the home crowd."

Drivers must use extreme caution when managing the circuit's numerous turns to avoid making mistakes, according to Zhou.

"Though I don't have much experience on this circuit yet, I have watched a lot of previous races. I want to win points and showcase my best form here," said the Alfa Romeo driver.

Zhou was 5 years old when he attended the first-ever Chinese Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit in 2004. He is now in his third year in the top-tier motor racing championship.

A music carnival and the annual Shanghai Auto Culture Festival will also be held in the district to celebrate the event.

Piling work begins on Volvo's R&D center

Shen Mengdan

THE piling construction of Volvo Cars (China) R&D Center (Phase IV) project has started, the local government said recently.

The fourth phase of the project at 2088 Luyi Road in Jiading District covers a construction area of 41,630.32 square meters, including a battery center and a training center.

As a symbol of Volvo Cars' significance in the Asia-Pacific market, the Volvo Cars Asia-Pacific headquarters in Jiading was founded in 2019, taking up a total site area of more than 200,000 square meters.

At present, Volvo has three automobile manufacturing bases, one R&D center and one design center in China.



Anting Town government has joined forces with SAIC to create a new auto industry ecosystem.

Anting Town, SAIC reach deal on new industry ecosystem

Yu Chao and Alex Miao

JIADING'S Anting Town government has agreed to collaborate with SAIC Motor to create a new automotive industry ecosystem that would feature cutting-edge technologies and cover the entire industry chain.

At a gathering earlier this month, SAIC Chairman Chen Hong and Jiading's Party Secretary Lu Fangzhou delivered speeches at the agreement signing ceremony.

Anting Town has gained a reputation as one of China's top hubs for the automotive industry. It is SAIC's oldest and largest manufacturing base, as well as its production and R&D headquarters. The two parties

agreed to enhance strategic cooperation in the future to deepen the new development layout.

The agreement states that Anting Town and SAIC will fully rely on their automotive industry advantages to develop the SAIC Volkswagen industrial park into a new-energy vehicle and intelligent connected vehicle industrial park, as well as an important hosting area for the world-class automotive industry.

SAIC Volkswagen will serve as an industry chain leader, gathering industrial resources to optimize industrial ecology, empowering firms to progress toward high-quality development and upgrading their

capabilities to sustain their momentum in the race on the new track.

Simultaneously, Anting Town will support SAIC Volkswagen's transformation and development by improving land consolidation, strengthening investment promotion, optimizing service guarantees, and accelerating collaborative innovation, with the stated goal of creating a new ecosystem for the automotive industry by leveraging both parties' advantages.

In addition, Anting Town will collaborate with SAIC Volkswagen to attract other large firms and industry leaders, extending industry chains to assist industrial agglomerations.

Auto IC testing and certification lab opens in Jiading

Li Huacheng and Alex Miao

THE Shanghai Automotive IC Testing and Certification Public Lab opened earlier this month in Jiading District.

Shanghai Motor Vehicle Inspection Certification & Tech Innovation Center Co Ltd built the lab, which provides testing services for car chips, including chip functionalities and reliability, function safety, information security and failure analysis.

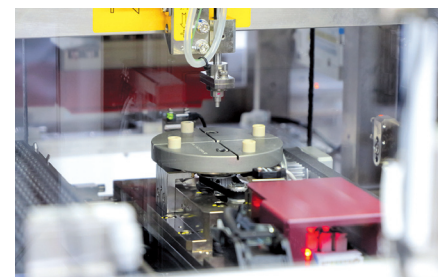
As intelligent driving, intelligent cockpits and advanced driver support systems evolve, the global market for auto chips grows steadily. Jiading, a vehicle manufacturing hub, has seen

a rise in demand for auto chips.

"Industry data showed that a new-energy vehicle used 1,459 chips on average in 2022, compared with 567 chips in 2012," said Zhang Yu from the IC testing research lab. "In the long run, chips are going to play an increasingly important role in autos."

SMVIC, which has committed more than 40 million yuan (US\$5.6 million) to the construction of two high-level car IC testing labs, said its clientele includes Pan Asia Technical Automotive Center and SAIC Infineon, and it has tested approximately 10 chip products.

In the following step, the public lab



An automotive chip is being tested at SMVIC's public lab in Jiading.

intends to build six major platforms, encompassing several domains to provide semiconductor and auto businesses with a full range of services, from research and development to testing and failure analysis.