

German auto firm breaks ground on new testing center

Tang Lingfei and Ye Fengting

CONTINENTAL, a German car components company, recently broke ground on a testing center in Jiading Industrial Zone.

This facility, on Xingxian Road, will enable rapid vehicle testing, software iteration and vehicle performance assessments, thereby increasing Continental's local development, testing and validation capabilities.

"The Chinese market is rapidly developing, and industry competition is fiercer than ever," said Nils Dammann, head of Continental's Active Safety and Controls Division in China. "We must test our technologies and products as soon as possible."

According to Dammann, the testing center is expected to be completed within six months and will evaluate items for both passenger vehicles and motorbikes.

Continental's Safety and Motion unit has been in Jiading for nearly 30 years, specializing in research and development and manufacturing of automotive safety technologies and system solutions, which incorporate sensors, electronic suspension systems and a brake-by-wire system.

Currently, four out of five new vehicles produced worldwide include Continental components and systems.

Continental Automotive Systems (Shanghai) Co Ltd, which was established in Jiading Industrial Zone in 2001, has become one of Continental's most important components production sites in China.

Jiading plans US\$14b worth of projects in core industries

Staff Reporters

THIS year marks the 20th anniversary of Jiading New City. Since the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), Jiading has been driving the growth of the city's core industries.

This year, it is stepping up its project-driven approach, arranging 123 big construction projects, including 34 industrial projects, totaling 100.5 billion yuan (US\$13.86 billion).

Jiading focuses on three core industries: the "new four modernizations" of automobiles (electrification, Internet of Things, intellectualization, and sharing), integrated circuits and biomedicine.

The Shanghai MedValley Industrial Park, jointly developed by Jiading

District and Ruijin Hospital, opened in October 2023. Shurui was one of the earliest enterprises to settle here.

The Shurui laparoendoscopic single site surgical robot is the first and only one of its kind in China, utilized for both urology and gynecological surgeries, resulting in more precise operations and less stress.

"What attracted us here is the unlimited potential of multidimensional medical-industrial collaboration," the company said.

"By working more closely with hospitals and doctors, we can identify gaps, accelerate product updates, and better meet market needs."

The Shanghai Automotive Chip Valley, which opened in September 2022, is advancing the development of the "new four modernizations" of the automobile and integrated circuit sectors, each worth more than 100 billion yuan.

Shanghai Automotive IC Engineering Center, at the heart of the valley, is responsible for promoting the security of China's own automotive chip supply chains as well as the country's self-reliance on automotive chips.

A testing facility was recently established, with around 2,700 square meters of space and over 30 large-scale testing instruments for the first phase of operation.

NIO leads China's first public autonomous driving trial

Li Huacheng and Ye Fengting

CHINA has authorized electric vehicle maker NIO, among others, to test automated driving technologies on public roads.

Following approval from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and three other ministries, NIO is set to establish its first demonstration operation zone in Jiading.

Jiading has seen remarkable growth in the ICV industry over the last decade. It established China's first enclosed testing zone for intelligent connected vehicles, issued the first testing permit, and set aside



A driverless car undergoes testing on public roads. — Li Huacheng

the first open road for testing.

The "auto city" has provided substantial support for NIO's advanced autonomous driving products on public roads, thanks to its intelligent connected infrastructure,

friendly policies and safe management practices.

NIO will select intelligent connected vehicles with Level 3 and Level 4 autonomous systems that meet mass production requirements and test them on restricted roads after receiving approval.

This will lay the groundwork for the market development for high-level autonomous driving, giving users a simpler and safer smart driving experience.

Shanghai has established four autonomous driving zones in Lingang, Pudong (Jinqiao), Jiading and Fengxian, with 1,002 roads spanning 2,000 kilometers set aside for testing.

SAIC, Audi deal on Advanced Digitized Platform

Shen Mengdan

SAIC and Audi signed a cooperation agreement recently to launch joint development of their Advanced Digitized Platform, planning to develop several new luxury intelligent electric vehicles for SAIC Audi.

This marks the official cooperation between SAIC and Audi after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2023.

Based on the new cooperation model, the launch time of models through the new platform will be shortened by more than 30 percent. The first product



SAIC and Audi sign a cooperation agreement to launch the joint development of the Advanced Digitized Platform.

of this cooperation program is expected to be launched in 2025, according to Audi officials.

In addition, the platform will bring the German Audi

Center in Ingolstadt and SAIC Audi in Jiading closer together, with employees from both countries working together despite the time lag.

Fermin Soneira, who will

serve as CEO of the project and has 25 years of experience in the automotive industry, is confident about the partnership.

"With both companies focusing on their core strengths, I am confident that Audi will gain 'China speed' in this vibrant and dynamic market," Soneira said.

Asked how premium EVs can remain profitable, Jia Jianxu, general manager of SAIC Volkswagen, said the only way to guarantee costs was to continue to break through current technology and insist on creating a thoroughly electrified platform.

"If the electrification of the

platform is not thorough, it will only lead to increasing costs," he said. "So what we need most today is digitalization and electrification, to change the stereotype that many people think German electric cars are not intelligent enough."

In addition, Z-one Technology will provide industry-leading automotive intelligence technology for the partnership, helping to equip new SAIC Audi cars with top hardware, software, as well as intelligent interaction systems.

"If Audi is successful in China, it wins the world," Jia said.