



Company representatives from SAIC and the Volkswagen Group shake hands after signing the extension of the SAIC Volkswagen joint venture contract in November. — Hu Xindong

SAIC Volkswagen to launch 18 new models by 2030

Hu Xindong and Ye Fengting

SAIC Motor and the Volkswagen Group recently signed an agreement to extend their joint venture, SAIC Volkswagen, to 2040.

The renewal, which was ahead of the schedule, shows recognition from both parties of the joint venture's achievements and their confidence in China's automotive industry and its economy.

The collaboration between the two companies began in 1984. Over the years, SAIC Volkswagen has worked with local auto parts suppliers to bolster China's automotive sector.

Continuing the partnership, the joint venture will support the development of new models tailored for the Chinese market, including battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. These will

be equipped with driving assistance systems and AI large language models to enhance user experience.

SAIC Volkswagen plans to launch 18 new models by 2030, with the Audi brand's first high-end intelligent connected electric vehicle model set to debut in 2025. It will also work to enhance the intelligence of internal combustion engine vehicles.

For the moment, SAIC Volkswagen is reducing the production of internal combustion engine vehicles while transitioning toward intelligent connected NEV manufacturing.

The Anting production base, birthplace and core hub of SAIC Volkswagen, has been undergoing upgrades to transform it into a center for electric vehicle production,

research and development, and intelligent manufacturing.

SAIC Volkswagen signed several cooperation agreements with Anting Town in 2024, promoting the integrated development of the industrial chain and fostering industry clustering. It has been placing an emphasis on green development and carbon reduction.

By advancing innovation and applying technologies, the company continues to develop "zero impact factories," aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 25 percent by 2030 from its 2018 levels.

SAIC Volkswagen also celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special event in Anting Town. The exhibition featured decades of achievements, including the first model introduced — the classic Santana sedan.

Affordable units available for new, young and frontline workers

Zhang Jian and Ye Fengting

TWO new affordable rental housing projects are now available in Jiading District, offering 3,902 units to newcomers, young people and frontline workers.

The Jingrui Community features 12 buildings with each having between seven and 12 floors. Combined, they offer 2,590 apartments ranging from 42 to 64 square meters that are available in studio and one-bedroom layouts. The community also serves frontline workers, offering 1,866 beds in four-person accommodations.

Just four months after its launch, Jingrui Community has achieved an occupancy rate of about 65 percent.

A tenant surnamed Wang said, "It takes about 15 minutes by bike to get to my workplace and it's convenient to go downtown as well. The community also organizes various events, which helps foster a sense of home."

A significant portion of the rent can be offset by the housing provident fund, making it a cost-effective choice, according to Wang.

Jingxin Community is also now open and features 1,312 rental units, including 2,280 beds for frontline workers. Its public service area is twice the size of that in Jingrui, and the services of the two communities are to be shared in the future.



The Jingxin and Jingrui communities are a cost-effective choice for Jiading newcomers. — Zhang Jian

Aginode elevates China operations to global level

Lu Yuqin and Ye Fengting

AGINODE, a global telecom and data solutions provider, recently inaugurated its Asia-Pacific manufacturing and R&D center in Jiading's Nanxiang Town.

With an expected annual output of some 450 million yuan (US\$61.7 million), this facility elevates Aginode's operations in China to a global manufacturing base and Asia-Pacific supply chain center.

In 1994, Aginode established its first China and Asia-Pacific plant in

Shanghai. According to Frank Coenen, partner at Syntagma Capital, an Aginode shareholder, the new facility will not only serve the Chinese market, but also act as an export hub to support business in Asia, the Middle East, and other countries.

It will also purchase high-quality products manufactured in China to support its expansion in Europe.

Covering a site area of 7,800 square meters, the 6,300-square-meter facility features an advanced class 100,000 cleanroom automated

production workshop, an automated storage center, an R&D and testing center and a customer experience center.

The R&D and testing center hosts more than 20 technical professionals, and is investing over 8 million yuan every year in research projects. During the past 12 months, it has secured 14 patents in telecom and data transmission.

The company remains committed to building "smart factories," enhancing local R&D and service

capabilities, and advancing production automation.

In recent years, Nanxiang Town has remained focused on fostering a comprehensive industrial chain around intelligent manufacturing to drive industrial upgrades. Aginode has received significant support from the local government.

Zhou Songhua, deputy director of the town, hoped that the project would help attract more high-quality companies and boost foreign investors' confidence in Jiading District.