

Deyang to emerge as general aviation hub

Sichuan international air exhibition highlights key plans for the industry

By ZHAO SHIJUN

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Deyang, a city in Sichuan province, is set to become an important base for the nation's general aviation industry, according to the city's industry development plan released during an air show earlier this month.

The 2017 Sichuan International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition was held in Deyang from Sept 29 to Oct 3. It attracted more than 200 domestic and international exhibitors, displaying 120 aircraft, as well as related equipment and components.

About 300,000 people visited the five-day show, watching the stunning performances of the world's top five aerobatics teams and seeing the exhibits.

A number of cooperative agreements were signed between local and foreign aviation companies, such as Sichuan Airlines and Airbus.

The host city of Deyang is known for its solid foundation in the general aviation industry.

General aviation refers to all civil aviation operations other than scheduled air services.

Deyang has 41 enterprises involved in the development and production of aircraft, components, materials and special equipment for the aviation industry.



Sichuan Airlines, Civil Aviation Flight University of China and F-Air, a flight college based in the Czech Republic, reach an agreement for personnel training during the Sichuan air show. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The city also holds a leading position in aviation-related education and training in China. It is home to the Civil Aviation Flight University of China, Asia's largest flight training institution, which has trained 90 percent of the pilots in China.

According to Zhao Hui, mayor of Deyang, the newly released plan will be implemented in two phases, further consolidating the city's position in the industry.

By 2020, the city will have more than 400 general aviation aircraft, Zhao said.

The mayor added the existing airport in Guanghan will be expanded and a new airport will be built in Shi-

fang, both county-level cities within Deyang. Heliports will be built in every county of Deyang.

The plan projected that the scale of the local general aviation industry will reach 20 billion yuan (\$3 billion) in 2020.

During the second phase, ending in 2030, the city predicted it will have 750 general aviation aircraft and the industry will achieve a scale of 100 billion yuan.

Deyang is one of the best examples of the rapid development of civil aviation in Sichuan province, according to the local authorities.

Sichuan now has 13 airports, with seven open to general aviation ser-

vices. The province plans to have 27 airports for general aviation and 17 companies involved in the industry. It also plans to have 320 aircraft for general aviation purposes.

Along with the rapid growth in civil aviation in Sichuan, more and more industry players have invested in the province.

On July 18, leading European aviation components manufacturer Gardner Aerospace held the groundbreaking ceremony for its production plant in Chengdu.

According to Wang Lizhi, a board member of Gardner, the project will involve a total investment of 600 million yuan. In the first year of opera-



Air stewardesses give a radiant welcome to visitors during the Deyang air show. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tions, the plant will be able to produce 1 billion yuan worth of products and output is expected to amount to 3 billion yuan annually in the years to follow.

The plant will be Gardner's largest production facility worldwide, Wang said.

Sichuan is also a major national aircraft and aircraft engine production base.

The local authorities projected the output of aviation and combustion engine industry will amount to 80 billion yuan this year and 150 billion yuan in 2022.

In Chengdu, the provincial capital, the aerospace sector is one of the city's economic pillars. The city authorities predict that the scale of the industry will reach 50 billion yuan this year and 120 billion in 2022.

Electronic, IT sectors to power Chengdu's growth surge

By ZHAO SHIJUN

Local authorities in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, said they see the city's electronic and information technology industry as a growth engine with great potential.

Chengdu's industrial development plan, released in July, estimated the industry would have a 1 trillion yuan (\$150 billion) scale in the city by 2020. Statistics from the local authorities show that the industry's output was worth 480 billion yuan in 2016.

Earlier this month, China's leading LED display manufacturer, Beijing Oriental Electronics, announced its production line for sixth-generation flexible displays is now operational in its Chengdu plant.

With a total investment of 46.5 billion yuan, it is the first production line of its kind in China, according to BOE.

The flexible display is called active-

matrix organic LED, or AMOLED. It can be widely used for smart wearable technology, mobile phones, tablet computers and automobile displays, according to the company.

BOE said the production line can produce 30 billion yuan worth of displays annually.

The company's executives said the project demonstrates BOE's long-standing confidence in Chengdu as well as in Sichuan province.

Qin Xiangdong, deputy general manager of BOE Chengdu, said the company views Sichuan as its major production base.

According to Qin, BOE has steadily strengthened its investment in Sichuan in the 10 years since it built its first production site there in 2007. With an investment of 4.5 billion yuan, the site was used to produce its 4.5-generation TFT-LCD displays.

The executive noted that the professional administrative services offered by the local government and



GlobalFoundries, the globally renowned semiconductor producer, breaks ground for its 12-inch wafer plant in Chengdu in February. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

the high-quality talent pool in the region met the company's requirements.

Qin recalled that the government of the Chengdu high-tech zone — where the BOE facility is located — acted immediately when a water

plant was damaged in a flood.

"The local government deployed fire engines to supply water and ensured the continued operation of our plant," Qin said.

Not far away from the BOE plant is the campus of the University of

Electronic Science and Technology of China, a renowned local university.

"We recruit hundreds of university graduates every year, with many of them from this university," Qin said.

The executive also cited other aspects of Chengdu that are attractive for doing business — delicious food, being a livable city, having a good environment and its solid industrial basis.

The Chengdu high-tech zone is now home to branches of many big names in the electronics and information technology industries, including Foxconn, Dell, Lenovo and Texas Instruments.

Semiconductor producer GlobalFoundries began building a 12-inch wafer plant in Chengdu in February.

The first phase of the project is due to be completed at the end of 2018 and the second phase at the end of 2019. On completion, the plant will have received a total investment of \$10 billion.