

China Business Weekly

26 May 2026



FCCC/EUCBA ACTIVITIES

Webinar: European Business in China: Business Confidence Survey 2026
18 June 2026, 10:00 AM



The EU-China Business Association and the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce are organizing an exclusive webinar on the **key findings of the European Business in China – Business Confidence Survey 2026**. The webinar will take place on **18 June at 10 AM**.

During this webinar, participants will gain valuable insights into how **European businesses** are adapting to **China's rapidly changing business environment**.

The programme is as follows:

10h00 – 10h05 Introduction by **Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director, EU-China Business Association**

10h05 – 10h35 Key Insights from the Business Confidence Survey 2026 by **Adam Dunnet, Secretary General, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China**

10h35 – 10h55 Q&A Session

10h55 – 11h00 Closing by **Jochum Haakma, Chairman, EU-China Business Association**

Practical Information:

Date: 18 June 2026

Time: 10 AM CEST

Location: Online

Participation fee: Members: Free; Non-Members: Free

The EU-China Business Association is the EU-wide federation of business organisations in the EU promoting business relations with China. The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) is in charge of the management and vice-presidency of the EUCBA.

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Invitation: The 12th Europe Forum 2026: Competition or Complementarity? Strategic Opportunities in EU-China AI Development – June 24, 2026 – Brussels & Shanghai



The EU-China Business Association is pleased to announce that “The 12th Europe Forum 2026 · Brussels” will take place on **Wednesday, 24 June 2026**, with offline sessions in **Brussels** and a simultaneous branch venue in **Shanghai**.

The Forum is co-organised by the **China Europe International Business School (CEIBS)**, the **EU-China Business Association**, the **China Chamber of Commerce to the EU**, the **CEIBS AI and Management Innovation Research Center**, the **Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Research Institute**, and **ChinaEU**.

Under the theme “**Competition or Complementarity? Strategic Opportunities in EU–China AI Development**”, the Forum will explore how Europe and China can work together in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.

As AI continues to reshape industries, economies and global governance, Europe and China each bring distinct strengths. China offers large-scale application scenarios, engineering capabilities and industrial scale, while Europe contributes strong governance frameworks, regulatory expertise and a focus on trustworthy AI.

The Forum will bring together political leaders, business representatives, technology experts, academics and thought leaders from Europe and China for a high-level dialogue on AI trends, industrial transformation and future cooperation.

The program is as follows:

Host: Prof. Frank Bournois, Co-President (European), Professor of Governance and Leadership, Michelin Chair in Governance and Leadership, CEIBS

08:30 – 09:00 Check-in & Networking

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome Addresses by **Prof. Wang Hong**, President Professor of Management, CEIBS and **Gwenn Sonck**, Executive Director, EU-China Business Association

09:10 – 09:20 Opening Address by H.E. **Cai Run**, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Head of the Chinese Mission to the EU

09:20 – 09:40 Keynote Speech 1: The Global Order in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Cooperation, Trust, and Shared Responsibility by **Prof. Charles Michel**, Former President of the European Council; Former Prime Minister of Belgium; Distinguished Professor CEIBS

09:40 – 10:00 Keynote Speech 2: Balancing Regulation and Innovation: Pathways for AI Enterprises by **Andrea Renda**, Head of the CEPS Unit on GRID; Visiting Professor of Competition Policy and the Digital Economy, College of Europe in Bruges

10:00 – 10:30 High-Level Dialogue: AI Pathways and Opportunities for China-Europe Cooperation

Moderator: Ivan Hodac, Founder and Chairman, Aspen Institute

Panelists:

Dita Charanzová, Former Vice-President, European Parliament; Senior Advisor in AI Policy & Digital Governance, DGA Group

Song Haitao, President of Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Research Institute, Secretary General of Global Alliance of Industrial AI Centers of Excellence

10:30 – 11:30 Panel Discussion AI & the Reshaping of Industries

Moderator: Xu Bo, International Affairs Advisor, CEIBS

Panelists:

Prof. Fang Yue, EVE Energy Chair in Economics and Decision Sciences, CEIBS; Director, CEIBS Research Centre for AI and Management Innovation

Luigi Gambardella, President of ChinaEU, Former Chairman of the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)

Alexander Tschentscher, Head of Supply Chain Excellence & Head of Strategy – Supply Chain & Logistics, Siemens AG

Li Binjie, SVP, Unitree Robotics

Jef Vandenbergen, SCALAR Head of Operations & Cloud Platform Engineering, ZF

11:30 – 12:00 Future Leaders Dialogue: AI Natives' Outlook on the Future

Moderator: Prof. Dominique Turpin, President Emeritus, Professor of Marketing, CEIBS

Panelists:

Prof. Eric Cornuel, President of EFMD Global; Vice-Chairman of the CEIBS Board of Directors

Fang Dongkui, Secretary General of the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU)

12:10 – 13:10 Networking Reception

* Speakers are subject to change

Practical information:

Date & Time: Wednesday, 24 June 2026, 09:00-13:10 (CEST); 15:00-18:10 (Beijing time)

Language: English and Chinese (with simultaneous interpretation)

Venue:

Shanghai: 699 Hongfeng Road, Pudong, Shanghai, P.R.C.

Brussels: Rue de la Loi 155 Résidence Palace, International Press Center, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

If you wish to attend, please confirm your participation via the registration button below.

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PAST EVENTS

Webinar: Digital Marketing for Industrial Goods: From online presence to industrial growth – 21 May 2026



The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce organized a webinar on **Digital Marketing for Industrial Goods in China** on **May 21**.

Ms Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director, Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce, introduced the topic of the webinar and the speaker. Doing business with China has become more complex, companies are navigating a more demanding regulatory environment, increased competition and a rapidly evolving market landscape. However, it is important to underline that China offers a stable and predictable policy environment compared to other countries in the world. In today's geopolitical context, predictability is exactly what companies need in order to plan, invest and grow sustainably. Especially in today's geopolitical environment, we need to constantly adapt the China strategy. Being online is a must-have, not just a nice-to-have. For European international companies, China remains a critical growth market. However, succeeding in China requires more than a strong product or a global presence. China's digital ecosystem operates fundamentally different from Western markets. Buyers rely on local platforms to discover, evaluate and shortlist suppliers. Search behavior, content expectations and brand credibility are all highly localized and more demanding.

Mr Jonathan Kullman, Founder & CEO of NBH, gave a presentation on **Digital Marketing for Industrial Goods in China**. He has over 12 years of experience working with digital marketing and international growth with a strong focus on China as a market. With teams in Europe and Shanghai, NBH supports industrial B2B companies with strategy, lead generation and digital execution across China's key platforms. He worked in Shanghai for six years. NBH has a team of 25 people, 20 in Shanghai, 4 in Stockholm and one in Tokyo. It is mainly working with companies from Northern Europe in different kinds of industries, such as automotive, trucks, wind power, maritime, and components. What all of these companies have in common is that China tends to be a quite important market for them, either for the entire group or for specific divisions or business units. The companies tend to have been operating in China for quite some time, so they're not new to the market.

You can type your company's name on Baidu, WeChat or Chinese TikTok to get an indication of what is being displayed and you will see things that maybe you don't expect. **China has equivalent versions of platforms you are familiar with in the West. You have Baidu as the main search engine with over 70% of market share**, Bilibili for longer videos similar to YouTube, and TikTok, with the same icon but very big differences between the international and Chinese video platforms. The best practice in China for B2B companies is to work with the impact video format on Chinese TikTok, while WeChat is the core of everything.

In terms of AI platforms, you don't see Claude, ChatGPT or Gemini. Instead, **there are currently six major Chinese AI platforms: Doubao, Yuanbao, DeepSeek, Kimi, Qwen, and Baidu**. Those are the six major AI platforms that buyers tend to use in different degrees in their customer journey. It doesn't mean that you need to have a presence on all of them from a brand point of view with a brand account, but you should definitely have a presence on some of these. If you would look on the six major AI platforms in China for your brand, there is a big difference of visibility from platform to platform. So it could be that your brand has an 80% visibility on China AI platform number one, but only 20% on the second one, and then on average, maybe you have around 60% on the six platforms. Having good visibility on one AI platform in China doesn't mean that you have all major six that people are using today.

Mr. Kullman also emphasized the website's role in China for B2B marketing, which is still very important and crucial to have. In addition to WeChat, a website is a must have for B2B companies. An up-to-date website optimized for speed and SEO is strongly recommended. Most Chinese buyers still use traditional search and AI search, and they will go to your website if it's available. In China, the social side can be a very strong sales tool as well, such as WeChat as the brand hub on social media. You also have a quite strongly developed CRM tool within WeChat called WeCom. It is possible to run different kinds of paid ads on WeChat linked to your CRM system.

A website and WeChat corporate account is a must-have for B2B companies in their online presence in China. You need to optimize your website for Baidu. There is also a quite interesting platform called Zhihu, similar to Quora in the West. It is a very big community question and answer based platform, very highly used among engineers and business development people, and it is a very trustworthy source for information. Chinese AI works like in the West, but is much more reliant on Chinese sources for information, so **if you don't have much content available in Chinese on Chinese platforms, your visibility on the Chinese AI searches might be very limited.** So it is very important that you do have content about your company on Chinese social media. You cannot rely on things you publish on Western platforms to be shown in China. It is very important to make sure that you do have a good website that is operating very well in China.

Participation in trade shows is still very important and take the opportunity to leverage digital platforms in connection to the trade shows. There is the pre-event phase to drive awareness and inform the market that your company will participate and you will be available to meet, booking one-on-one consultations with some of your sales reps. There are different channels that you should utilize: your website, WeChat, Douyin, the Chinese TikTok, to publish articles. The pre-event phase usually runs one to two months before the trade show. During the onsite phase you should have printed materials linked into your digital platform. You have QR codes linked to your Chinese social media pages; printed banners not only in English, but preferably in simplified Chinese; people able to speak Chinese with your international colleagues on site; and so on. If you have displays, like TV screens showing different kinds of introduction materials, have them with Chinese subtitles, and audio voice-over in Chinese is strongly recommended as well.

In the post-event phase, you could communicate to the market that you did participate in the trade show and maybe did a certain product introduction or a certain keynote speech or maybe have some people representing your company meeting Chinese government people, or the ambassador of your country attended your booth and the pavilion you participated in. These kind of things are good assets to communicate after the trade show, so you can connect with companies and decision makers that did not have the opportunity to meet you on site during this specific few days at the trade show, and it will be a long-term asset. So when people are searching for your kind of solution or company in three or six months or one or two years, they will still find this kind of articles about you online in China.

Focussing a bit more on search engines, Baidu, the major one, has an almost 70% market share. Bing is a secondary search engine in China that you can get quite good results with after you have started doing things with Baidu. There has been a big shift from using traditional search engines like Baidu to the six different Chinese AI platforms. There are around 500 million monthly active users of these AI platforms, increasing month by month. Roughly 50% of Chinese internet users currently are using AI platforms to some degree.

Start looking into how your company is being presented on Chinese AI platforms, because it could be that the information being presented is not accurate. There is a first mover advantage, how you can position your brand compared to your competitors, if they haven't started to invest in this AI visibility.

On your website, focus on the products, the application, the industries, case studies, and different kinds of certifications and awards. Also have different Chinese plugins for lead forms and don't rely on your traditional lead form that you might be using on the global website. You could have a plugin that will follow the user on their entire journey on the website,. Depending on what pages they might be clicking on, this lead form will follow them. Your corporate WeChat account will be your brand hub on social media in China. You need to have a content plan to be distributed and published on the WeChat account. Otherwise people might think they don't get any value from following your company account on WeChat. This is a very strong relationship building platform. WeCom is the CRM system of WeChat that your sales rep can use to have one-on-one discussions with prospects. You can also invest in ads on WeChat. You will be able to feed the information generated in China to your global tracking tools and CRM system. **Having a WeChat account is a must-have for all companies doing business with China.** Videos for B2B marketing is something that Chinese buyers are expecting you to have. Do not just take the Western video and upload it with English subtitles or voice. You should definitely add Chinese subtitles and if there is a storytelling voice, have a Chinese voice-over. **Videos are very important for B2B marketing in China,** even more important in China than in the West.

Leads from digital marketing could go up from 0% to over 50% or almost up to 70% in two years time. As to the costs, a typical lead on Baidu is between €35 to €65. On WeChat it is slightly higher, €40 to €80, and Chinese TikTok lead costs tend to be €30 to €70. A bare minimal budget is €3,000 to €5,000. If you want to make a more proper 360 campaign, maybe think about €8,000 to €15,000 initially per month. Looking at the practical framework here, visibility is the first part, then followed by the trust phase, and then the growth phase. Time-wise, 18 months is usually the initial time horizon.

Looking at some common mistakes, companies are lacking a marketing strategy for China. Do you have a website for China, not just a translation of a global website? Another mistake is the lack or zero P&L allocation for paid marketing in China. A lot of brands assume that as long as they have a WeChat account, people will find them. However, the level of

competition is very high. You do need to have a paid allocation for social media, search and PR. Do not expect quick ROI, it takes time.

It is important to have a marketing strategy for China with a clear key message, clear content pillars, and a clear idea of frequency of posting on the different platforms. You can find quick wins, but in fact it is a marathon.

A Q&A session concluded the webinar. Q.: What is the difference between a website hosted in mainland China and in Hong Kong? Mr. Kullman: If you have a website in China, you need to have it on a Chinese server from companies like Alibaba Cloud or Tencent Cloud and you need to apply for an ICP license from the Chinese authorities, connected to a legal entity in China. If you host it in Hong Kong, you don't need to have an ICP license. However, the Baidu search engine, the mostly used search engine in China, does not favor websites hosted outside of China, and in this regard, Hong Kong is regarded as being outside China. If you don't have a subsidiary in China and you don't want it to be linked to your distributor or agent in China, then the option is to host it in Hong Kong.

Webinar: AI & IP: Protecting Innovation for European SMEs in China – 27 May 2026



The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce organized a webinar on **AI & IP: Protecting Innovation for European SMEs in China** on 27 May 2026, presented by **Mr Jari Vepsäläinen, Chairman, Fintrade-Mercer Group**. A detailed report will follow next week.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY FCCC

Visit to Dahua's Experience Center – 28 May 2026 – Zoetermeer, The Netherlands



Dahua Technology, a **Structural Partner** of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), is inviting FCCC Members to **visit its Experience Center in Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, on May 28, 2026.**

Dahua Technology is a world-leading video-centric AIoT solution and service provider. Committed to enabling a smarter society and better living, Dahua actively implements its Dahua Think#2.0 strategy, evolving from “Intelligence” to “Integrated Intelligence” to drive digital innovation and transformation for cities and enterprises. The company supports urban development by enhancing management efficiency, enabling autonomous city operations, upgrading public safety systems, and advancing ecological governance. In the enterprise sector, Dahua focuses on strengthening security systems, increasing operational productivity, and enabling data-driven decision-making to help businesses thrive.

Website: www.dahuasecurity.com

Practical Information

Date: 28 May 2026

Time: 11 AM CEST

Location: Houtsingel 19, 4th Floor, 2719 EA Zoetermeer, The Netherlands

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Hybrid Food Fair China – 13 & 15 October, 2026 – Shanghai & Beijing

Present your products to buyers in Shanghai and Beijing and participate in the **Hybrid Food Fair organized by the Flanders Investment & Trade offices in Shanghai (13 October) and Beijing (15 October)**. You can choose to present your products yourself or have them presented by our FIT-teams.

Target sector: Food & beverage

Target market: China-EU

For whom?: Units of companies and organizations in the Flemish Region.

Where: Shanghai & Beijing, China-EU

When: 13 to 15 October 2026

Why participate? Many Chinese buyers and importers in the food sector are looking forward to finding new suppliers and discovering new products and trends in the sector. Are you interested in presenting your products in China in an accessible way? That's perfect! Flanders Investment & Trade is happy to match the needs of buyers with your export plans and is organizing a hybrid networking day in Shanghai on October 13 and in Beijing on October 16 to this end!

Our offer: Both FIT offices have strong contacts in the food sector with importers/distributors, e-commerce players, and department store chains. We will invite these buyers to a hybrid food fair where they can get acquainted with and taste the products of Flemish companies. After the hybrid food fair, we will provide you with a personalized report containing all the contact details of the interested buyer(s), after which you can contact them. If desired, FIT can support you in this.

Register before May 31. After registration, you will receive an email with practical information and a booking link to schedule an online intake interview with the Flemish Economic Representative in Beijing and/or Shanghai.

Please note: your participation can only be confirmed after this intake interview.

You will provide FIT-Shanghai and FIT-Beijing with product samples for the tasting during the hybrid food fair. To ensure your products are received on time, we recommend sending your samples before September 10. More information on this will follow after your participation has been approved. Based on your profile, our teams in China will look for potential buyers.

Presentation of your company and products by our colleagues in Shanghai and Beijing to Chinese buyers during the: Hybrid Food Fair Shanghai October 13; Hybrid Food Fair Beijing October 15.

Your products will be presented in a professional manner. After the tasting, we will provide you with a personalized report containing all the contact details of the interested buyer(s), after which you can contact them. If desired, FIT can support you in this. If you wish, and after consultation with our offices in Shanghai and Beijing, you can attend in person to present your products (max. 1 representative / company). We will provide you with more information about the program, digital catalog, samples, and marketing materials after your participation has been approved.

You can check which tariffs and taxes are levied on your products via [Access2Markets](#). Please check whether your

products are subject to specific restrictions for importing into the Chinese market before registering for this promotion.

For logistical reasons, participation with frozen products is not possible, unless these products are already present in China.

Prices:

Hybrid Food Fair Shanghai October 13

First participant: €400.00

Additional participants: €200.00

Hybrid Food Fair Beijing October 15

First participant: €400.00

Additional participants: €200.00

In addition to this participation fee, you are responsible for the costs of shipping your samples.

Any questions?

Contact Frederic Deprez: E: frederic.deprez@fitagency.be T: +32 2 504 87 48

6th Innovation Fair Sino-Euro Business Development Conference – October 26-30 – Jiangsu province



Welcome to Innovation Fair – Supporting Innovators in China since 2018

Building on the success of previous editions, the 6th Innovation Fair is scheduled to take place from 26–30 October 2026. The fair promotes international business development, uncovers sourcing opportunities, and provides direct access to the Chinese market, while also offering opportunities to represent and distribute products and services of Chinese businesses in Europe. Showcase your products, pitch your ideas, and connect with the right partners through curated, industry-focused matchmaking. Join us to connect, collaborate, and create new possibilities for your business.

Target participants/industry: Advanced manufacturing; artificial intelligence; environment & new energy; life science & medtech; digital service & software; education & training; mobility; and import & export.

Benefits & cost of participation:

Benefits

- Travel 1x Eco Class Ticket (roundtrip)
- Airport Pickup and Drop-off
- Transportation, Hotel, and Meals Throughout the Event
- Exhibitor Booth 9 m2 (incl. backdrop & basic facilities)
- Networking Opportunity
- Local Company Discovery Tour

Registration Fees

- Standard Rate: €1,480 (valid by 30 June)
- Late Registration: €1,680 (valid by 31 August)
- Group Rate: €3,600 (for 3 people)

Optional Add-Ons

- Pre-event Matchmaking Services: starting from €1,000
- Post-event Follow-Up Support: starting from €1,000
- Larger / Joint Booths: upon request
- Tailored Proposals: upon request

How to participate:

1. Registering following the QR code.
2. Complete your company descriptions and your target Chinese counterparts.
3. Payment instructions will be sent via email after we confirm your registration.

Website: <http://innovationfair.mikecrm.com/aMNRQ1J>



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VIP VISITS

President Putin visits Beijing a few days after Trump; 40 MOUs signed



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing for a two-day state visit just days after U.S. President Trump. Putin was visiting China for the 25th time looking to further strengthen the comprehensive partnership between the two countries. His trip was timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, which serves as the foundation of relations

between the two countries. Before his arrival, Putin said that **the ties between the two countries had reached an “unprecedented level”**. “Ties are now at the historical peak of a comprehensive partnership and strategic coordination in a new era and are rightfully considered a model of a new type of relationship between major powers,” Chinese President Xi Jinping added.

During Putin's state visit, **40 agreements were signed, although half of them were non-binding memoranda of understanding (MOUs)**. The agreements covered energy, trade, science and technology, and infrastructure. The two sides also signed a sweeping agreement to further boost strategic ties and a joint declaration to push for a multipolar world order. According to Russian media reports, the two leaders agreed on key parameters for the highly anticipated **Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline** – including its route and construction details – though pricing terms were not disclosed.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said that the two countries were already in the final stages of finalizing the contracts for the project, which has been under negotiation for nearly two decades. After years of deadlock over pricing and routes, the current geopolitical

crisis has injected fresh urgency into the Power of Siberia 2 project. The Kremlin is eager to push the project forward, having lost its primary energy market after the European Union slashed Russian gas imports in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. While China is still pursuing its energy diversification policy, it also wishes to reduce reliance on fuel shipments through the volatile Strait of Hormuz. The proposed project could deliver an additional 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually from Russia's Arctic and Siberian fields to China via Mongolia, a scale comparable to the designed 55 billion cu m annual capacity of the damaged Nord Stream 2 pipeline project to deliver Russian gas to Europe.

"Our country is one of the largest exporters of oil, natural gas, and coal to China. We are, of course, ready to continue to reliably ensure uninterrupted supplies of all these fuels to the rapidly growing Chinese market," Putin said at the joint press conference. He also highlighted Russia's thriving cooperation with China in car manufacturing, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, aircraft manufacturing and space exploration. For his part, Xi said China would boost cooperation with Russia in energy, the digital economy, artificial intelligence (AI) and technological

innovation. Xi underscored the strategic necessity of China and Russia aligning on the world stage, framing their partnership as a crucial counterweight in global governance. Political trust is the most striking feature of Chinese-Russian relations," he added.

Russia and China agreed to deepen cooperation in the International Lunar Research Station and satellite navigation, and to ensure the compatibility of Russia's Glonass and China's BeiDou navigation systems. They also agreed to push for home currency settlement and ensure the security of energy infrastructure. In a lengthy joint statement, the two agreed to cooperate on everything from law enforcement and combating money laundering, to preserving the World War II legacy to mineral extraction, shipbuilding, cross-border infrastructure and protecting Amur tigers. The two leaders also unveiled the start of the China-Russia Year of Education.

Putin's visit contrasted with that of Trump, which culminated in symbolic gestures due to the absence of any concrete agreements.

This overview is based on reports in the China Daily and South China Morning Post.

SEMICONDUCTORS

Tighter export curbs would push China to develop its own lithography equipment, says ASML CEO Fouquet



ASML CEO Christophe Fouquet's latest remarks on the ban on exporting chipmaking equipment to China highlight a deepening dilemma for Western tech firms. The tighter the curbs, analysts say, the greater the risk of harming their own market interests, disrupting global supply chains and accelerating China's push for technological self-reliance. ASML is the Dutch supplier of advanced lithography equipment used in the production of semiconductors, some of which the U.S. has banned for export to China. In a rare interview on the sidelines of a technology event in Antwerp, Belgium, Fouquet said the booming global semiconductor market will be "tense" with tight supply for the foreseeable future, with demand from AI, satellites and robots outpacing what the industry can produce, according to Reuters. He also said there would

likely be "sporadic bottlenecks throughout the supply chain" of a chip market that could reach USD1.5 trillion by 2030.

Fouquet called for more consistent rules around exports of chipmaking equipment to China. He said **the lower-tech DUV tools ASML sells to China are based on technology introduced in 2015 or "eight generations of chip technology ago."** He warned that further restrictions would only push China to develop its own competing tools faster. "If I put you in a desert and tell you you're not going to have access to food anymore, how long does it take you to make your own garden? It's a matter of survival." ASML, Europe's most valuable firm, dominates the market for systems used to print the tiny circuitry on high-tech chips. Its most advanced tools are essential for producing logic chips used in AI, as well as the memory chips needed alongside them.

Fouquet's latest remarks show that U.S. extraterritorial pressure and Washington-led curbs on chip equipment exports to China have deepened the dilemma facing Western equipment makers, with China's rapid progress in independent semiconductor R&D creating growing market pressure, Liu Gang, Chief Economist at the Chinese Institute of New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategies, told the Global Times. Despite long-term equipment restrictions and technology blockades by some Western countries, China has continued to advance in immersion lithography and other key chip technologies, Liu said. "For ASML, which has long dominated lithography equipment, China's progress is a commercial reality it must take seriously."

In April, U.S. lawmakers proposed a law forcing allies to abide by U.S. restrictions, blocking ASML's sales and servicing of its DUV immersion lithography tools to customers in China, leading to a decline in ASML shares. The Netherlands has previously aligned with the U.S. on restrictions barring ASML from selling its most advanced equipment to Chinese customers, but the latest U.S. proposal went further by seeking to force its allies to follow Washington's export controls against China. The proposed law drew objections from the Dutch government. Dutch Trade Minister Sjoerd Sjoerdsma said the main objection was the bill's extraterritorial nature, referring to provisions that allow Washington to impose restrictions on companies outside the U.S. He also warned that it could hurt the market position of semiconductor companies, including ASML.

Liu pointed to the extent of U.S. influence over ASML, saying that key parts of ASML's most advanced systems remain tied to U.S.-controlled technologies, while its overseas sales are heavily constrained by U.S. policy, which makes it difficult for the company to make fully independent commercial decisions. "The U.S. is asking its allies to bear the commercial cost of Washington's strategic competition with China. For European companies, however, losing access to the Chinese market, or facing repeated uncertainty over China-related business, will directly weaken their global position," Liu said. A third of ASML's sales last year were to customers in China, and are forecast to account for 20% of the total in 2026. But the

new U.S. rules could weaken ASML sales to a single digit percentage.

Meanwhile, China has made technological self-reliance and industrial upgrading central to its next-stage development agenda. According to the outline of the 15th Five Year Plan (2026-30), China will take measures to achieve decisive breakthroughs in key core technologies in major fields such as integrated circuits, industrial machine tools, high-end instruments, basic software, advanced materials, and biomanufacturing. That push is already reflected in lithography-related materials. Earlier in May, the Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory said Chinese researchers had developed an AI-powered platform that enables the stable production of high-purity, consistent and efficient krypton fluoride (KrF) photoresist resin, a core chipmaking material whose quality directly affects chip performance and yield. The momentum is also visible in microchips. Alibaba's chip unit T-Head has unveiled the Zhenwu M890, whose performance is three times that of the previous-generation Zhenwu 810E. Industry observers see the 810E as broadly comparable to Nvidia's H20, a cut-down AI chip designed for export to China.

ASML is not alone in warning about the consequences of U.S. export restrictions. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has said that the company has largely handed China's AI chip market to Huawei as U.S. curbs continue to reshape the global AI semiconductor landscape. Huang suggested Nvidia remained eager to return to the market should conditions improve, the Global Times reports.

ENERGY

As global oil supplies are disrupted, China modernizes its coal sector



As the war in Iran disrupts global oil and chemical supplies, China's coal-heavy energy sector is seizing an unprecedented opportunity. In the Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture in Xinjiang – one of the country's four major bases for large-scale, modern coal-chemical production – a vast industrial ecosystem is rapidly taking shape.

A four-hour drive northeast of Urumqi, the regional capital of Xinjiang, leads to a colossal open-pit mine. There, electric autonomous mining trucks move with silent, clockwork precision, self-navigating the terrain. In China's

far western Gobi desert, futuristic and green technologies are modernizing coal mining and maximizing the resource's potential through chemical processing. The scale of the infrastructure is immense. The world's highest-voltage power line already carries electricity from the region to eastern China, while work is under way on the country's biggest pipeline to transport coal-derived natural gas from northern Xinjiang to developed eastern cities.

The Zhundong National Economic and Technological Development Zone sits upon coal reserves that by weight far surpass the oil riches of the Persian Gulf. **A giant national energy and chemical hub is rapidly taking shape.** The zone, situated on the southeastern edge of the Junggar Basin, is a gargantuan undertaking. Spanning three counties and covering a planned 15,500 sq km, the zone stretches 220 km from east to west, carving a massive industrial footprint into the arid landscape. Comprising five mining areas, it houses China's biggest contiguous coalfield. With estimated reserves of 390 billion tons – accounting for 7% of the national total – it is frequently cited as being capable of sustaining China's immense energy demand for a century. By comparison, data from the Opec Annual Statistical Bulletin for 2025 indicates that the total proven oil reserves of key Persian Gulf nations amount to around 117 billion tons, when

calculated using global crude oil conversion standards.

As the conflict in Iran disrupts the global supply of oil, gas and downstream chemicals, the local government of Xinjiang is accelerating the development of a fully integrated, low-carbon coal-to-chemicals production chain using cutting-edge technology in the remote interior of the country. The move is expected to bolster China's energy self-reliance and security, leveraging its unique natural energy advantages. Large-scale collieries are taking the lead in pushing for advanced electrification and automation to reduce reliance on diesel.

Most of the coal extracted is then transported to a nearby power or chemical plant, where it is either turned into electricity to fuel downstream metallurgy or used directly as feedstock for manufacturing a wide range of basic and high-end chemicals.

While the zone received national approval in 2012, its true metamorphosis has occurred over the past few years, according to Liu Hao, a veteran in local coal logistics. As major heavy industrial plants were built in rapid succession, numerous new job opportunities, shops and residential districts gradually emerged. Dozens of enormous power stations and coal-chemical complexes line the main arteries. "Although Xinjiang possesses abundant coal reserves and its output has risen significantly in recent years, its remote location and limited rail infrastructure have constrained exports," said Kevin Tu, Managing Director of **Agora Energy China**, a Beijing-based energy and climate research organization. "As a result, local governments have opted to convert coal on site into power or chemical products." A vast open-pit mine, which has one of the highest production capacities not only in Xinjiang but in all of China, is surrounded by endless barren salt flats, with virtually no other buildings or supporting facilities nearby. It is also largely shielded from fluctuations in international oil prices, thanks to the electrification of mining operations.

Since August last year, this coalfield has deployed nearly

300 **autonomous trucks** for haulage. One key supplier, Shanghai-headquartered Boonray Intelligent Technology has a fleet of 120 trucks. Although these autonomous trucks could not yet match the efficiency of traditional manned diesel versions, they need far fewer staff to operate – with **just four people in the control center managing the entire fleet**. Moreover, these vehicles are powered by electricity generated by the mine's own power plant, the South China Morning Post reports.

But Xinjiang is not only exploiting its coal reserves. The China Daily adds that inside a 200-square-meter room at the Tianshan Smart Valley Advanced Computing Cluster in Hami, **hundreds of servers of China's telecom companies, cloud computing service providers and tech firms are in operation**. Artificial intelligence's soaring power demand has made Xinjiang and neighboring provinces such as Gansu attractive destinations for AI firms. With abundant solar and wind reserves, Xinjiang offers green power at roughly one-third the price of coastal industrial electricity. Operating costs for a computing company in Hami are more than 40% lower than in the eastern regions of China. The computing centers' core mission is to convert green power into computing power, resulting in tokens, the smallest unit of information processing in AI models. "Just as oil is the lifeblood of industry, tokens are the most fundamental fuel for AI development," said Tang Shuheng, Director of the Xinjiang International Integrated Supercomputing Center.

Major AI models based in eastern cities process reasoning requests on servers located in the northwest. Some of these requests serve overseas businesses in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific. The clients of these AI model providers pay for token consumption, and the resulting revenue covers electricity, wages and equipment costs. In this way, token flows contribute directly to the local economy. **More than China's energy backyard, the northwest has become an AI hub**, with its computing power being exported westward.

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CHINA NEWS ROUND-UP

MOFCOM vows countermeasures if EU introduces trade instrument to address overcapacity

If a trade surplus alone is enough to warrant the label of overcapacity, then aren't the automobiles, pharmaceuticals, wine, and cosmetics exported by the EU also suffering from overcapacity, China's Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson He Yadong asked rhetorically

during a press conference. He made the remarks when asked to comment on recent media reports claiming that the European Commission is rushing to formulate a new trade instrument to address China's so-called "overcapacity" issue. He said that "in the broader context of globalization, we should respect economic laws and market principles, and view the issue objectively, comprehensively, and from a long-term perspective". If the EU fabricates a new trade tool targeting China under

the pretext of "overcapacity," it is essentially an attempt to cover up its own industrial difficulties and to smear and suppress external competition. This move will not only damage China-EU economic and trade relations, but also disrupt the stability of global production and supply chains, and it will ultimately backfire on the EU's own industrial development. The EU shall bear full responsibility for this, the Spokesperson noted.

The Chinese side has consistently advocated that China and the EU should resolve differences through cooperation and consultation. China will not initiate trouble, but if China's national interests and the legitimate rights and interests of its enterprises are harmed, it will not sit idly by. He said, urging the EU to face reality, return to the correct track of dialogue and consultation, and take actions that genuinely benefit the development of China-EU economic and trade relations. "If the EU insists on pushing forward the so-called new tool and adopts discriminatory restrictive measures against Chinese enterprises or products, China will firmly take countermeasures," Spokesperson He Yadong noted.

Recently, the EU has taken a series of trade protection measures, including cross-border investigative practices targeting Chinese entities in its probe into Nuctech, the Industrial Acceleration Act, as well as the proposed revision of the Cybersecurity Act. Jian Junbo, Director of the Center for China-Europe Relations at Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times that with the continuous development of the economies and industrial structures of both sides, it is normal for China and the EU to have competition in certain fields, but **protectionism does not enhance competitiveness, and will harm others without benefiting itself.** China has a full policy tool kit to counter EU protectionist measures and will use it when necessary. For instance, China could also launch investigations into the impact of foreign subsidies in response to the EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation, the Global Times reports.

Chinese automakers expanding R&D in Europe

Chinese automakers are expanding their research and development (R&D) operations in Europe to develop models better suited to local regulations, driving conditions and consumer demand, making overseas R&D part of product planning, design and engineering. Chinese automaker **Geely Auto Group** announced in March that it had **established Geely Technology Europe**, a unified European R&D center that brings together the company's engineering teams in Gothenburg, Sweden, and Frankfurt, Germany. The group said Geely Technology Europe will work with the Geely Auto Research Institute in China on vehicle planning and development. It aims to support global vehicle programs and reduce the gap between new model launches in China and overseas markets to less than six months. The group also plans to expand the number of vehicle programs managed in Europe by 2027.

Chery has placed its European operations and R&D functions in Barcelona, Spain, giving it a role that covers both regional management and product adaptation. In

April, the company opened its European Operations Center and launched the Spain R&D Institute in the city. The operations center will coordinate regional operations, compliance, supply chain coordination, finance and public affairs. The institute will focus on electrification, intelligent mobility and sustainable development, according to the company. Chery said its local R&D work will cover adaptation to European regulations and customer needs, including family-oriented models, vehicle performance on European roads and intelligent driving functions suited to local traffic.

Munich, Germany, a major European automotive hub, has become an R&D base for Chinese automakers. **XPeng** has established its first European research center in the city, focusing on driver-assistance technologies and intelligent cockpit systems. XPeng said the center will help it better understand European users and incorporate local needs into future product development. **Xiaomi Auto** has outlined plans for a Munich R&D center focused on high-performance vehicle development, design, chassis tuning and advanced automotive technologies.

Choosing the right market-entry path is a major challenge for Chinese automakers entering Europe, said Ron Zheng, Senior Partner at Roland Berger and head of its automotive practice in Asia. Depending on their resources and market positioning, some companies could start with Southern European markets such as Spain and Italy, consider Eastern Europe as a production base, or use Northern Europe's R&D resources to support expansion.

For Chinese automakers, R&D teams in Europe can support product planning, regulatory adaptation, software localization and testing of driver-assistance functions. The region also offers mature engineering resources and established supply chains, while its rules cover safety, emissions, cybersecurity, data protection and battery recycling, the China Daily reports.

Chinese investment in Europe surges to seven year high; China now Germany's top source of FDI

Chinese investment in Europe hit a seven-year high of €16.8 billion in 2025, driven by a strong rebound in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and record greenfield completions, according to a new report by the Rhodium Group and the Mercator Institute for China Studies. **Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in Europe – including the United Kingdom – rose 67% year-on-year in 2025**, as China's investors increasingly focused on the region. Europe's share of China's total global FDI jumped from 17% to nearly a quarter, according to the two think tanks. M&A activity drove the rebound, rising 89% year-on-year to €7.9 billion, while greenfield investment hit a record €8.9 billion, retaining its position as the primary channel for Chinese investment in the region. **Hungary remained the most popular European destination for Chinese FDI last year**, attracting €3.9 billion of investment, but the nation is starting to lose its lead over traditional strongholds such as Germany and France, the study found.

Several Chinese electric car and battery firms launched

multi-billion-euro car factories in Hungary earlier this decade, but no similar deals were announced in 2025 and Budapest's share of China's FDI in Europe shrank to 23% from 32% in 2024 as Germany and France caught up. Completed Chinese FDI in Germany almost tripled to €2.5 billion and quadrupled in France to €1.9 billion. Europe's traditional "big three" economies – France, Germany and the UK – saw their combined share of Chinese investment leap from 23% to 34% in 2025. Spain, Sweden and Cyprus also attracted more than €1 billion each, driven by big deals in the renewable energy and entertainment sectors, such as China Three Gorges' acquisition of the Mula solar plant in Spain and Tencent Holdings' purchase of mobile game developer Easybrain in Cyprus.

In terms of sectors, **Chinese investment was still heavily concentrated on the automotive industry**, with €7.6 billion of deals completed in 2025. Entertainment was the second most popular category at €2.3 billion, followed by consumer products and services at €2 billion. Much of the automotive investment was driven by China's flourishing electric vehicle brands, with deals increasingly spreading beyond Hungary to countries including Germany, Spain and Slovakia. The surge in Chinese greenfield projects might ease some nerves across European capitals, where fears are rising about Chinese exports undercutting local industry. But the report also cast doubt on whether this momentum would continue or help rebalance trade between the two sides. Chinese firms still often favor exporting directly from China to investing in Europe, driven by a mix of factors, including Europe's high production costs, the market's relative openness to Chinese imports, a weak yuan boosting export competitiveness, and domestic overcapacity reducing the need to build new facilities abroad, the report said.

Meanwhile, **China overtook the U.S. to become Germany's top single-country source of FDI last year**. There were 228 greenfield and expansion projects from Chinese companies recorded in Germany last year, compared with 206 from the United States, Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) said in its annual report. The country's top five foreign investment sources were rounded out by Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Germany registered a total of 1,564 FDI projects last year, down 9.3% year-on-year. The European Union accounted for 33% of the FDI registered in Germany, ahead of both China and the U.S., the South China Morning Post reports.

Shanghai betting on robotaxis and EV batteries for growth

Shanghai, the financial and commercial hub of China, is pinning its economic hopes on emerging industries such as autonomous driving and solid-state electric vehicle (EV) batteries to sustain growth following a robust start in 2026. Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng said the city remained confident about achieving a 5% economic expansion this year, buoyed by a strategy to attract foreign businesses and bolster local tech innovations. "We will double efforts to enlarge investment in key projects, taking advantage of their role in driving technological innovations," Gong said at a press conference. "We aim to eventually revitalize industries, improve efficiency in urban renewal and enhance people's living standards."

Shanghai – home to SAIC Motor, one of China's largest state-owned carmakers, and to Tesla's wholly-owned Gigafactory – has been aggressively pursuing the development of self-driving technology over the past two years. In July, Nasdaq-listed **Pony AI received a permit to operate commercial robotaxis** in Shanghai's Pudong New Area, allowing it to charge fares, and in February, Pony AI announced mass production of a robotaxi co-developed with Japanese carmaker Toyota. Pony AI initially operated its fleet in Shanghai's Jinqiao and Huamu areas, covering a combined area of 40 sq km on a trial basis. The testing zone would be gradually expanded to other parts of Pudong, China's 1,400 sq km pioneer zone.

The city is also banking on solid-state batteries. The technology, which uses a solid electrolyte rather than the liquid or gel-based materials found in conventional lithium-ion cells, is widely viewed as the industry's next frontier. Analysts say the technology promises higher energy density, improved safety and longer driving ranges. In mid-2025, Shanghai announced that Toyota would start building pure electric vehicles from 2027 at a wholly-owned plant in Jinshan district.

The project is part of a concerted effort by local authorities to reclaim the "Motown" crown from Shenzhen and Guangzhou, which have eclipsed Shanghai in automotive output since 2022. Shanghai's municipal government also announced that other sectors, ranging from humanoid robots and shipbuilding to renewable energy, would serve as new growth engines. These emerging sectors are likely to generate an additional industrial output of CNY1 trillion over the next five years, Tang Wenkan, Director of the Shanghai Commission of Economy and Information Technology, said at the press conference. Shanghai reported a 5.4% increase in economic output in 2025, outpacing the national growth of 5%, the South China Morning Post reports.

China is where global companies go to create and collaborate, says Borouge CEO

China is no longer just a supersized market, it is rapidly transforming into a dynamic innovation hub where global companies come not only to sell, but to create and collaborate. China remains a "massive growth engine" for the world, especially against a backdrop of persistently soft global demand, said **Roland Janssen, Chief Executive Officer at Borouge**, now part of the newly-established Borouge International, a global petrochemical company with its global headquarters in Vienna, Austria, major operational hubs in Europe, the Middle East and North America, and innovation centers in six countries around the world, including China. "We are deeply committed to the Chinese market, and I am making sure that our solutions can play a role in the energy, infrastructure, mobility and packaging industries," Janssen said.

In the new energy vehicle (NEV) sector, where China now leads the way, lightweight and sustainable solutions are increasingly sought after, a trend that, according to Janssen, presents significant opportunities for Borouge International. "We see growing demand for lightweight

plastics, alongside an increasing focus on sustainability, including the use of recycled materials in automotive applications,” Janssen said. To support this trend, Borouge International is collaborating with ROX Motor, a Chinese hybrid car maker, with its polyolefin solutions applied in 17 components of the Adamas SUV. The two companies have also established a joint innovation laboratory in Shanghai to advance next-generation materials. “China’s electric vehicle market is a global engine for the world. That makes it very attractive for us to be here with our partners and customers, helping them in their development while also learning from it ourselves,” Janssen added.

Beyond mobility, Borouge International is also strengthening its presence in China’s energy and infrastructure sectors, which continue to benefit from large-scale investment and the country’s energy transition. “In the past year, we have supported the development of China’s wind power sector, particularly as the industry advances toward deep offshore applications,” Janssen said. The company is supporting applications ranging from advanced pipeline systems for urban networks to materials used in offshore wind and electrification projects, helping improve durability, efficiency and sustainability across critical infrastructure in China.

Janssen noted that the speed of innovation in China is remarkable. “Markets evolve more quickly here than anywhere else in the world, creating opportunities to be part of that momentum while also offering valuable learning experiences,” he said. The formation of Borouge International in late March, through the combination of Borouge, Borealis and Nova Chemicals, marks a significant step in the company’s global strategy. “The idea is to bring the global portfolio to China, work with our industry partners and address the needs of the Chinese market,” Janssen said. “At the same time, the reverse is equally important: we learn from the Chinese market, bring those developments back into our organization, and expand into other regions with the technologies and ideas we gain here,” he said, as reported by the China Daily.

The Global Times reports that **Lisa Su, Chairwoman and CEO of AMD, said at AMD’s AI Developer Day in Shanghai that the city has the world’s most vibrant artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem.** AMD’s research and development (R&D) center in Shanghai is one of the company’s largest R&D facilities in the world. Su said that the company must be deeply rooted in China in order to engage with some of the world’s top AI talent. She also pointed out that what makes China’s ecosystem the most exciting is that it is a place that truly embraces open innovation.

Wine imports on the rise again

China’s wine imports in the first quarter show signs of stabilization after a period of adjustment, said the General Administration of Customs (CAC). In March, wine imports reached 16.64 million liters, up 16.78% from a year earlier, with a value of USD78.35 million, a 3.68% increase. However, cumulative figures for the first quarter show the market remains in transition. Total wine imports in the first quarter fell 10.56% year-on-year to 49.41 million liters, while the value edged up slightly to

USD333 million. Average import prices rose 11.83% to USD6.75 per liter, signaling a shift toward higher-quality, profit-focused operations. It also indicates that the market is moving away from scale-driven growth toward efficiency and structural optimization, said Wine Business Observation, a wine industry portal.

Australia led imports of bottled wine at USD20.13 million, reflecting stable demand for mid-range brands like Penfolds. Treasury Wine Estates reported that sales momentum rebounded across key markets during the third quarter of fiscal year 2026. Penfolds brand’s point-of-sale revenue surged 40% year-on-year during the Spring Festival period. March imports of French wine reached 1.6 million liters, up 4.63% year-on-year, valued at USD19.89 million, up 10.12%. Recovery was driven by rational replenishment for mid-tier food and beverage stocks, gifting and daily premium consumption.

Imports of white wine from New Zealand and Germany grew outside the usual peak season. New Zealand volumes surged 64.36% to 550,000 liters, while Germany rose 18.84% to 390,000 liters. The trend indicates white wine is increasingly becoming a daily staple in casual and family drinking scenarios. March imports of sparkling wine totaled 390,000 liters, down 14.84% year-on-year, but saw a value increase of 7.85% to USD4.57 million. Italy led in volume with 220,000 liters, up 45.06% year-on-year.

France led in value at USD3.13 million, up 11.09%. Analysts said consumption is moving beyond festive gifting toward social and personal occasions. The rising imports of sparkling wine from Italy were shown in last year’s data as well. According to the Asti DOCG Consortium, in 2025, sales of Moscato d’Asti – an Italian sweet sparkling wine – surged 55% year-on-year in China. “In a year full of challenges, there were also positive notes, starting with the clear growth in Asian demand, especially from China, which is taking on significant proportions and is encouraging,” said the President of the consortium Stefano Ricagno.

Meanwhile, driven by markets such as China, Japan and the United Arab Emirates, Asia has leaped to become the third-largest export region for Moscato d’Asti, accounting for 18% of its total international sales volume, the China Daily reports.

Humanoid robots may soon do household chores in China

China’s robotics pioneers are rapidly expanding beyond the usual factory settings and into more challenging terrain: the unstructured, dynamic and complex world of domestic household chores. GigaAI unveiled the country’s first general-purpose household humanoid robot model last week. The SeeLight S1 was developed in collaboration with Hubei Humanoid Robot Innovation Center and Hubei Humanoid Robotics Industry Alliance. The robot will be given to families to test free of charge in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, as early as the first half of 2027, said Zhu Zheng, GigaAI’s CEO.

In a demonstration video published on the company’s WeChat account, the two-armed, wheeled robot was seen

chopping vegetables, frying eggs, loading a washing machine, hanging laundry, making a bed and opening curtains. The developer aimed to lower the hardware price to below CNY100,000 by June 2027, halving its current cost, Zhu said. He said he expected household robots to make significant breakthroughs in commercialization and embodied AI model capabilities by 2028.

Unlike humanoid robots that work on factory production lines and rely on hard-coded algorithms and pre-configured routines – the most common deployment of robots at present – **the S1 is designed to autonomously understand tasks and plan its execution trajectory with the help of embodied artificial intelligence models.** A fleet of 100 S1s will be trialed at housing reserved for employees in hi-tech industries starting later this month, before the pilot in Wuhan households next year – which will focus on families that have elderly members, children or pets. For safety concerns, Zhu said that the machine was equipped with a “compliant control mechanism” that immediately freezes the robot when it encounters pets or children.

The household robot market, which reached an estimated USD41 billion in global size last year, is expected to grow annually by 20% by 2027, according to research firm LeadLeo. Robot vacuum cleaners currently dominate the market, and no humanoid models are commercially available for household errands, though some major developers in China have started to deploy their products at laboratories and factories. Unitree Robotics Founder and CEO Wang Xingxing said last year that the use of humanoid robots in industrial and agricultural scenarios was fast developing. But while there was “significant potential” for home use, it remained “challenging” at this stage, he said.

Compared to industrial settings, “home environments are non-standardized, where a robot faces an environment that changes every day”, said Guo Renjie, Founder and CEO of robotics engineering company Zeroth. Last week, Shenzhen-based OneRobotics, whose mission statement is to “bring AI robots into every household”, announced a CNY45 million deal to help collect data for various scenarios, including household chores, elder care and in retail spaces, the South China Morning Post reports.

China to remain long-term destination for global investors

China will remain a prime long-term destination for global investors, driven by its vast consumer market, deeper opening-up and rapid advances in digital and green technologies, which are reshaping industries and generating fresh growth opportunities, government

officials and business executives said at a business conference ahead of the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Trade Ministers Meeting, which was held in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, on May 22-23. Li Chenggang, China International Trade Representative with the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), said the nation will continue to remove restrictive measures beyond the negative list. The negative list outlines the specific industries in which foreign investors are either restricted or prohibited from operating.

To create a more attractive investment environment for multinational companies, China will further expand its opening-up in service-related industries, such as telecommunications, healthcare and education, while also promoting the orderly opening-up of the internet and cultural sectors, Li added. The number of comprehensive pilot areas established for expanding the opening-up of the services sector has so far reached 20.

Henry Ding, Senior Vice President of 3M, said the United States-based industrial conglomerate will further scale up research and development (R&D) investment in China this year, and it is targeting more than 30% growth in new product launches compared with 2025, a pace significantly higher than in most other global markets. “These investments help us respond faster to market upgrades, shorten innovation cycles and build a complete local industrial chain from research to testing and manufacturing,” said Ding, who is also Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

Rob Iuppa, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Technimark, a U.S. manufacturer of high-value packaging products for the healthcare, consumer and industrial sectors, said the company expects its investment in China this year “to exceed the level of any of the past three years”. Lee Hyuk-joon, President for China at Hyundai Motor Group, said that China’s rapid development in sectors such as new energy vehicles, intelligent connected vehicles and digital technologies aligns closely with the group’s global transformation strategy. The South Korean automaker plans to deepen cooperation with Suzhou in areas including smart mobility, R&D, supply-chain integration and green technologies, while expanding collaboration with Chinese partners and increasing its participation in China’s industrial upgrading.

Mirroring this momentum, high-tech industries accounted for 32.3% of foreign direct investment (FDI) in China in 2025, with inflows into sectors including e-commerce services, medical equipment manufacturing and aerospace posting strong growth, while returns for foreign-invested companies remained stable. Foreign-funded companies account for one-third of China’s foreign trade, one-quarter of industrial output value and one-seventh of tax revenue, and they support more than 30 million jobs, the China Daily reports.

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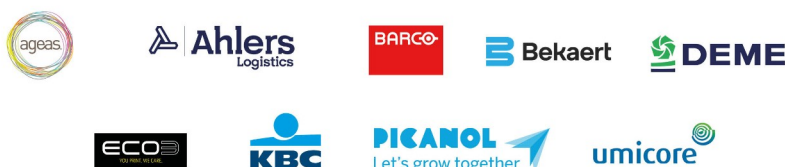
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