

China Business Weekly

27 July 2021



FCCC/EUCBA ACTIVITIES

**Webinar: “Intellectual Property Systems: A comparison between the EU and China”
August 18, 2021, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm CST**



The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce, the EU-China Business Association and the China IP SME Helpdesk, with the support of Flanders Investment and Trade, are organizing a stimulating webinar on “Intellectual Property Systems: A comparison between the EU and China”. This webinar will take place on **Wednesday, August 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 am CEST**.

There are significant differences between IP systems in the EU and China. During the webinar, **Mr Simon Cheetham**, Team Leader and IP Expert, China IP SME Helpdesk, will give an overview of the most important similarities and differences between the two systems, helping EU SMEs to better understand how they need to prepare before entering the Chinese market.

Program:

10h30-10h35: Introduction to the webinar by **Mr. Peter Sczigel**, China IP SME Helpdesk;

10h35-10h40: Presentation of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce / EU-China Business Association by **Ms. Gwenn Sonck**, Executive Director, FCCC/EUCBA;

10h40-11h15: Presentation on the Intellectual Property Systems: A comparison between the EU and China by **Mr. Simon Cheetham**, China IP SME Helpdesk;

11h15-11h30: Q&A session.

Practical information:

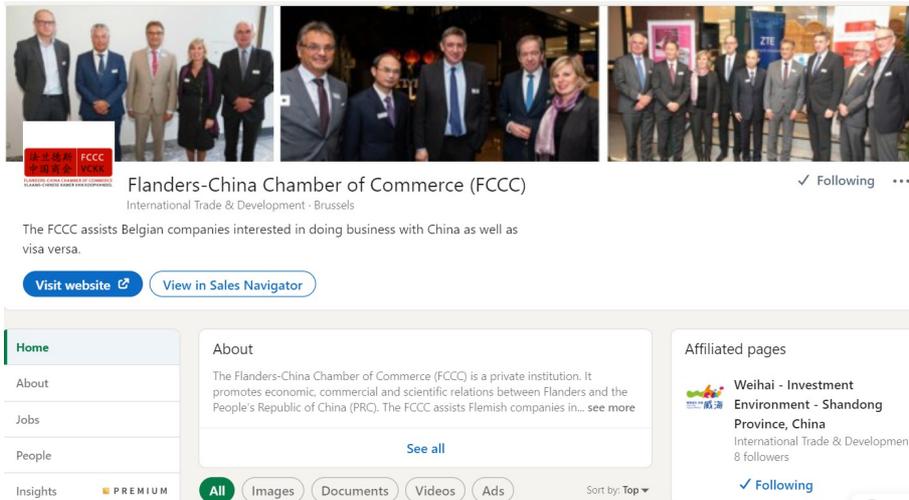
Date: 18 August 2021, 10h30 am – 11h30 am CEST

Location: Online

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HEALTH

New Covid-19 cluster found at Nanjing airport



Nanjing, capital city of Jiangsu province, last week launched citywide nucleic acid testing for Covid-19 after 17 cleaning workers at Nanjing Lukou International Airport tested positive. Experts suspect that the small-scale outbreak arose from an imported case. The risk level of four residential communities and villages near the airport was raised to medium-level. The more than 9 million residents of Nanjing have been immediately tested over the course of a few days. A negative test taken within 48 hours is required for departure from Nanjing airport and at railway and highway stations in the city, and all public transportation has been suspended in the medium-risk regions. Infections of airport staff previously occurred at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport in June and Shanghai Pudong International Airport in November

2020, where the cases were all found to be associated with international flights.

The airport outbreak in Nanjing is highly likely to be related to imported cases, Fang Zhongyou, Director of the Nanjing Municipal Health Commission, said at a press conference. But he noted that further investigation is still needed to identify the source and transmission route of the virus. Airport workers are tested on a regular basis as one of the city's routine measures to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19. Cities near Nanjing, such as Suzhou, Wuxi and Xuzhou, have ordered all residents who traveled to Nanjing in the past 14 days to immediately report to health authorities for testing. To trace the source of the latest outbreak, Nanjing has formed an epidemiological investigation team consisting of more than 1,500 people, including health workers and public security officers.

Nanjing launched a second round of citywide nucleic acid testing for its residents and visitors on July 25, as five provinces in China have reported cases related to the Nanjing outbreak. In the city's first round of testing, involving 9.2 million people, a total of 57 positive cases were found. All the confirmed cases were related to the airport. As of July 25, Nanjing had detected 75 confirmed and 13 asymptomatic cases. The areas reporting cases linked to the Nanjing outbreak are Zhongshan in Guangdong province, Mianyang in Sichuan province, Hexian county and Wuhu city in Anhui province and Shenyang in Liaoning province. The outbreak in Nanjing is likely to last at least another two weeks. Nanjing has set up

1,452 sample collection centers and 76 institutions that have analyzed a maximum of 3.5 million samples a day.

Nearly all Covid-19 cases in the latest outbreak in Nanjing were vaccinated, but experts emphasized that the vaccines are still effective in avoiding serious illness and hospitalization. One non-vaccinated case was under 18 years old. All cases had comparatively milder symptoms and have a lower chance of deterioration into severe cases. About 90% of the staff at the airport in Nanjing, or 5,036 people, had received vaccines as of May.

China rejected a request of the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct a second study on the origins of Covid-19 in the country. Chinese authorities said the request was politicizing Covid-19 origin studies, which should remain strictly scientific and include other countries besides China, some of which have identified Covid-19 cases before the first case in China was reported on December 8, 2019. Over 13 million people signed an online petition demanding the WHO investigate the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Maryland, to look for a possible leak of the coronavirus. Investigating Fort Detrick is the call of people all over the world, including the Chinese people and it is a question that the U.S. must answer when it comes to the origin of Covid-19, and a problem it can never circumvent, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. Zeng Yixin, Deputy Director of the National Health Commission, said that it is impossible for China to accept the WHO's plan, which lacks respect for common sense and is arrogant toward science. China is willing to participate in a second-phase study but wants it to be carried out in other countries besides China.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) has never engineered or leaked the novel coronavirus and no staff members have ever contracted the virus, Yuan Zhiming, Director of the National Biosafety Laboratory in Wuhan, Hubei province, said. The WIV had not come in contact with, preserved or researched the virus before December 30, 2019, he added. "Since the laboratory

began operating in 2018, no laboratory leaks or human infection incidents have ever happened."

Indications that the coronavirus was circulating in Europe months before China officially confirmed the first case in Wuhan have been revived by a new study of blood samples collected in Italy as early as October 2019. Cancer researchers at the Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan reported that new tests of pre-pandemic blood samples at two laboratories were found to have antibodies associated with the Covid-19 infection. The WHO asked for further testing to be carried out, and the samples were sent to the VisMederi laboratory in Siena, Italy, and to a facility at Erasmus University in the Netherlands, affiliated with the WHO. Marion Koopmans, head of virology at Erasmus University, said the new research may not be conclusive. She said results from the new study were "interesting", but according to the university's strict criteria, none of the samples provided conclusive proof of prior Covid-19 infection.

According to a report by Chinese researchers, the coronavirus can spread through frozen food products and global efforts are needed to prevent cold chain transmission and step up information sharing in the field. The conclusion was based on epidemiological evidence related to two infected dock workers in the coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province, who were identified in September during routine testing. The defining piece of evidence was that traces of live virus had been detected on frozen cod packaging that had been handled by the workers, the first time in the world living coronavirus was isolated from food packaging, the report said. It added that the study confirmed that imported cold chain products were contaminated with relatively high loads of SARS-CoV-2 through cold chain processing and "the virus can spread across countries and regions over long distances through the international marine fishery trade". The report was published online by China CDC Weekly, an academic platform established by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

FOREIGN TRADE

First negative list for cross-border trade in services released



China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) released the first negative list for cross-border trade in services in the Hainan Free Trade Port. The list, which will take effect on August 26, outlines 70 measures in 11 categories for overseas services providers. For those services not on the list, domestic and overseas providers shall have a level playing field and enjoy equal market access in Hainan. Specifically, the list eases restrictions in areas such as legal services and market research, boosting Hainan's appeal for investment. The new list also lifts limits on more than 10 vocational exams for overseas citizens in a bid to push for greater financial opening and free flow of talent. The negative list for the cross-border services trade in Hainan is the first such list unveiled at the national level. It clarifies special management measures for cross-border

delivery and consumption, Yuan Yuan, Deputy Director of the Department of Pilot Free Trade Zones and Free Trade Ports at MOFCOM, said.

The first list of categories that are off-limits to foreign investment was released in 2013 for the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, and the list was later extended for use nationwide. When it comes to the cross-border services trade, China's accession to the WTO and all the free trade deals the country has signed all adopted a positive list, prior to the latest announcement. Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen told a press conference that the negative list lowers market entry in services and broadens opening-up in sectors including professional services, transportation and financial services. "Such a higher-level opening-up is not required by any bilateral agreements; instead, we take the initiative to do so. **This goes beyond China's commitments for WTO accession and its main free trade agreements (FTAs) in corresponding areas,**" Wang said.

"The announcement of the negative list indicates that Hainan – the world's largest free trade port – will strive for higher-level opening-up in growing service sectors so as to maintain fair competition, protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors, and build an international business environment governed by the law and to attract more foreign investments," said Liang Haiming, Dean of Hainan University's Belt and Road Research Institute.

The actual use of foreign investment in Hainan reached USD950 million in the first half of the year, surging 623.6% year-on-year, far outpacing the country's overall year-on-year growth rate of 28.7%. Tang Wenhong, Director of the MOFCOM's Department of Pilot Free Trade Zones and Free Trade Ports, said that the authorities will evaluate the implementation of the Hainan negative services list, and then formulate a negative list for trade in services that applies to free trade pilot zones across the country, the Global Times reports.

FINANCE

Shanghai's Lingang area to pioneer free flow of renminbi



Chinese monetary authorities will support Shanghai to take the lead in the free use of the renminbi and explore free capital inflow and outflow and free currency exchange in Shanghai's Lingang Special Area. China will continue to support building Shanghai into an international financial center, with a focus on further improving the financial market, products, and financial infrastructure to boost the allocation of global financial resources, said Wang Xin, Director of Research at the People's Bank of China (PBOC). Wang said at a news conference in Beijing that the central bank will make a big push to build Shanghai into a key hub connecting the domestic and international markets, including supporting the free use of the renminbi and further facilitating the inflow and outflow of trade and investment in accordance with the principles of anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing and anti-tax avoidance. Wang's remarks came after China released a guideline to develop the Pudong New Area into a pioneer of "socialist modernization". The Pudong New Area is set to pioneer China's higher level of reform and opening-up and serve as a strategic link between the domestic and international markets, according to the document released by the Communist Party of

China and the State Council, China's government.

Under the guideline, Pudong will further expand financial opening-up, promote the cross-border, two-way flow of the renminbi, build an offshore financial system that matches Shanghai's position as a world financial center, and support Pudong in developing offshore renminbi transactions so long as the risks are controllable. At the Lujiazui Forum in mid-June in Shanghai, Huo Yingli, Party Secretary of the China Foreign Exchange Trade System, said that while the currency is now often used in cross-border transactions, most of the transactions have been done in the financial market, with only 15% serving the real economy. In addition, the currency is most frequently used in China-related economic activities. According to the guideline, an international financial asset trading platform should be set up in Pudong. Meanwhile, an infrastructure connection mechanism in Shanghai's bond market should be built up at a faster pace, which will be conducive to the overall opening-up of China's bond market. Such measures are of great importance to Shanghai, which aspires to become a yuan-denominated asset allocation center, said Li Feng, Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Shanghai Advanced Institute of Finance.

Although China is the world's second-largest bond market, **overseas investors account for only 3% of bond investment in Shanghai,** said Li. "By elevating the international influence of various prices determined in Shanghai, yuan-denominated assets will be more widely accepted and influential worldwide. By making more renminbi assets available offshore, individual investors and institutions will be more willing to hold yuan-denominated assets, which in turn will advance the internationalization of the renminbi," he added. Yang Fan, Chief Strategist of CITIC Securities, said the Lingang Special Area, which was included in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade

Zone in August 2019, will focus on cross-border capital management, the China Daily reports.

The Pudong New Area of Shanghai will rival the City of London and New York's Manhattan in the financial sector, officials said. To reach this goal, Pudong will roll out internationally oriented yuan financial products, expand the scope of overseas yuan-denominated investment products, promote the cross-border, two-way flow of yuan funds, and carry out pilot trading of yuan foreign exchange futures. The construction of a global hub for the yuan's offshore transactions in Pudong will promote the internationalization of the currency, Shi Jianxun, Economics Professor at the School of Economics and Management of Tongji University in Shanghai, told the Global Times. "It means yuan-denominated funds from

Pudong can invest in Hong Kong or overseas markets directly, while offshore yuan can flow into Pudong freely in the future," Shi said. The yuan's offshore market has already reached a certain scale in London and Hong Kong, and construction of the yuan offshore market in the Chinese mainland will further smooth these channels and facilitate offshore yuan to come to China for deposits, loans and investment, Dong Dengxin, Director of the Finance and Securities Institute of Wuhan University, told the Global Times.

In the first half of the year, Pudong's GDP grew by 13.7% year-on-year, and the area attracted more than USD5 billion in foreign investment, with 14 newly added regional headquarters of multinational companies and 15 licensed financial institutions.

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CHINA NEWS ROUND-UP

China to release carbon neutrality plan

China is to release a top-level plan to reach its goal of carbon neutrality. Special Envoy for Climate Change Affairs Xie Zhenhua said at the Global Asset Management Forum in Beijing that China has established a leading group and is formulating a timetable and road map for peak carbon and carbon neutrality. China announced a clean and low-carbon energy transformation plan to honor its commitments to reach a peak in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The same process would take the EU 60 years and the U.S. 45 years, Xie said. "As a developing country, China needs to make arduous efforts to achieve the goal in 30 years, however, we are confident that we will fulfill the announced goals," said Xie.

The top-level plan involves optimizing China's energy structure, curbing coal consumption, and accelerating the proportion of renewable energy, including nuclear power, hydropower, wind power, solar energy, biomass energy, marine energy and geothermal energy. China's installed capacity of wind and solar power will exceed 1.2 billion kilowatt-hours by 2030. Xie added that China will also promote green and low-carbon technological innovation that can cut emissions at a low cost and high levels of efficiency. This includes increased research and development focused on renewable energy, smart grids, energy storage, electric- and hydrogen-fueled vehicles, carbon capture technologies, and resource recycling.

Xie also pointed out that to reach the goal, China will establish and improve the carbon market and carbon pricing mechanism to reach the emissions reduction target at the lowest possible cost. Based on the trial of a national carbon market in 2017, China launched a greenhouse gas emissions trading system on July 16. The first participants included more than 2,200 power sector enterprises, with total carbon emissions of about 4 billion tons annually. It is expected that the carbon trading market will gradually expand its coverage and offer more trading varieties and

methods, the Global Times reports.

U.S. and Chinese Ministers draw lines in the sand at meeting in Tianjin

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman held talks in Tianjin with Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Xie Feng and also met with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The Ministers of both countries laid their grievances on the table without achieving any breakthroughs but agreed on the need to keep talking, the South China Morning Post reports. Both sides kept to their positions on issues including Covid-19 origins tracing, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the South China Sea and human rights. China handed over two lists of grievances and red line issues, demanding that the U.S. take actions to improve relations. The Chinese government said the talks were "candid and useful" but arrangements for a future meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs or the Presidents of the two countries were not discussed. **Sherman said the U.S. favored "stiff competition" with China, but did "not seek conflict"**. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi "advised the U.S. that it must abide by its promises on the Taiwan issue and must be prudent in its conduct as China "reserved the right to use any means necessary" to prevent Taiwan independence. The Tianjin talks were the first high-level meeting between officials of the two countries since a meeting in Alaska in March.

Xie began the Tianjin talks by going on the offensive, handing over the two lists to the U.S. representative. Items on the remedial list include lifting visa restrictions on Communist Party members, their families, and Chinese students; lifting sanctions imposed on Chinese leaders, government officials and agencies; and removing restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese companies. China also wants to end the requirement that

Chinese journalists register as foreign agents in the U.S., and cancellation of a request to extradite Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou from Canada. Items on the list of concerns include addressing unfair treatment of Chinese citizens in the U.S., harassment of the Chinese Embassy and Consulates, the rise of anti-Asian and anti-Chinese sentiment, and violence against Chinese citizens. "The U.S. side has sought China's cooperation and support on climate change, and the Iran and North Korea nuclear issues," Xie said, but he added that mutual trust and a good atmosphere in bilateral relations were a requirement for cooperation. "The U.S. cannot expect cooperation on one hand and to hurt China's interests on the other. This won't work," Vice Minister Xie said, as reported by the South China Morning Post.

The Global Times further clarified China's three bottom lines: the U.S. should not challenge, smear or seek to subvert the Chinese path and system, should not seek to interrupt or disrupt China's development, and should not violate China's national sovereignty or territorial integrity. The two lists that China presented to the U.S. side are the "List of U.S. Wrongdoings that Must Stop" and the "List of Key Individual Cases that China Has Concerns with". "The lists sent two messages," said Wu Xinbo, Director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai: China is now more proactive in handling relations with the U.S. and China underscored its goodwill in improving relations. But only following concrete U.S. government moves to solve the outstanding issues can China-U.S. relations improve, the Global Times concludes.

Shanghai has highest per capita disposable income

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released its revised first-half statistics of per capita disposable income. **Shanghai's first-half per capita disposable income topped the national list, reaching CNY40,357**, and is the only region with a per capita disposable income exceeding CNY40,000. Beijing's figure was CNY38,138, a 10.3% jump year-on-year in nominal terms. Zhejiang province ranked third with CNY30,998. Shanghai and Beijing also led per capita consumer spending nationwide in the first half at CNY23,644 and CNY21,564, respectively. Su Jian, Director of the China Center for Economic Research at Peking University, noted that the distinctly higher levels of per capita disposable income in Shanghai and Beijing are the main factor driving stronger spending in the two cities. Shanghai and Beijing provide very diversified types of consumption, he said. These cities have a particularly well-developed services sector that meets various needs. Su said consumption momentum in the second half of the year will be even stronger. With vaccine rollouts globally and the world recovering from Covid-19, international travel is likely to gradually pick up in the second half, underpinning the recovery of consumption.

China is rolling out new policy incentives to boost consumption. The Ministry of Commerce announced that the four municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing, and Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, will take the lead in developing international

consumption center cities. Total retail sales of consumer goods rose 23% year-on-year to CNY21.2 trillion. Retail consumption contributed 61.7% to China's GDP growth, overtaking pre-pandemic figures. Liu Xiangdong, Researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said overall, consumption made a steady recovery in the first half. Online retail sales of daily consumption goods were particularly strong, showing that online retail has become a commonly adopted new model of growth. Fang Xiaodan, a former NBS official, said household income in the first half has continued the steady growth seen in the first quarter while household consumption has accelerated, the Shanghai Daily reports.

Government stresses setting up of warehouses overseas

Chinese authorities have stressed the importance of the development of warehouses overseas to inject fresh momentum into China's foreign trade and ensure the stability of industry and supply chains. The central government will encourage traditional trading companies, cross-border e-commerce businesses and providers of logistics services to set up overseas warehouses and improve the level of digitalization, according to a guideline issued on July 9. By 2025, China will have set up about 100 modern overseas warehousing businesses. According to the Ministry of Commerce, Chinese companies now operate more than 1,900 overseas warehouses, covering a total floor space of 13.5 million square meters. Almost 90% of those facilities are in North America, Europe and Asia. The development of overseas warehouses has been high on the government's agenda in recent years. During a May visit to Ningbo, Zhejiang province, Premier Li Keqiang used a video link to speak with workers from an overseas warehouse in Germany. On June 22, he reiterated the importance of such facilities at an executive meeting of the State Council, saying that the development of overseas warehouses will help the country's brands go global, explore the international market and improve the efficiency of value chains. He also invited an executive from Zongteng Group, an overseas warehousing and logistics provider, to speak at a State Council symposium with economists and business leaders.

Li Xingqian, Director General of MOFCOM's Foreign Trade Department, told a news briefing that **overseas warehouses** are a new type of infrastructure to drive the growth of foreign trade. Such facilities **can enable quicker customs clearance and faster delivery**, with some offering one- or two-day delivery services in destination countries, he added. Exporters can also optimize their inventories and minimize possible losses from unmarketable goods with the warehouses, which can provide amenities such as localized return and repair services and improve the shopping experience for consumers, he said. He noted that such facilities will help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to go global, and also drive Chinese brands and products from startups and innovative companies to grow their markets internationally.

Companies that operate the warehouses will receive incentives to build sound logistics systems and extend

services to the upper and lower ends of supply chains. Song Xin, an e-commerce and logistics analyst with the Investment Banking Department at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), said overseas warehouses have become key drivers of growth in the nation's cross-border e-commerce sector. Wu Qi, General Manager of CB International E-Commerce, which operates warehouses in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, said the policy document offers "the most proactive support" for businesses in the sector, the China Daily reports.

China's yuan becomes the world's third most important currency

The internationalization of the Chinese yuan accelerated in 2020 despite the global pandemic and the U.S. government's containment of China's growth. The yuan internationalization index reached 5.02 at the end of 2020, a sharp increase of 54.2% from the previous year, making it **No 3 among international currencies**. The rate exceeded the internationalization levels of the yen and pound, according to the **2021 RMB Internationalization Report** released by the International Monetary Institute (IMI) under Renmin University of China. The growth was mainly driven by the steady recovery of the Chinese economy, opening-up of the financial sector, stable monetary policy and stepped-up international currency cooperation, said the report. Since the Chinese authorities allowed yuan access to more foreign financial institutions, overseas investors are rushing to make inroads into China, seeking potentially higher returns, experts say.

After scrapping quota restrictions on investment via the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) and the yuan-denominated Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (RQFII) programs, Chinese financial regulators further lowered entry requirements and broadened the investment scope of these programs to facilitate foreign investment. In 2020, yuan-denominated financial assets held by overseas institutions and individuals surged 40.11% year-on-year to reach CNY8.98 trillion, according to the report. Meanwhile, the yuan's role as a reserve currency has also strengthened, with central banks of more than 70 countries having yuan reserve assets. **As of the end of 2020, the currency accounted for 2.25% of global foreign exchange assets**, an increase of 14.8% year-on-year, said the report.

Wang Fang, Deputy Dean of the School of Finance of Renmin University of China and Deputy Director of the IMI, said the establishment of the "dual circulation" new development model will provide a historic opportunity for taking the internationalization of the yuan to a new level. She said that the role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as well as offshore yuan transaction centers should be given full play in reinforcing domestic and international circulation in a bid to promote the global use of the yuan. Xi Junyang, Professor at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, told the Global Times that there is still great room for the international use of the yuan, especially in financial trading and as a global reserve asset. He called for further expanding the channels for foreign investors to enter the Chinese market and for

domestic investors to issue yuan-denominated financial products overseas. "We may consider encouraging foreign investment in the Chinese capital market via the Shanghai-London Stock Connect program as well as potential connects with the Tokyo and Singapore stock exchanges." But experts also said that big data technology should be adopted to step up supervision and early warning systems over the yuan's cross-border flows to prevent systemic risks, the Global Times reports.

600 km/h maglev train rolls off production line

A maglev train capable of reaching speeds of 600 km/h has rolled off the production line in Qingdao. The train was developed in China and is **the fastest in the world**. However, it will still take a few years before it can make its first test ride between cities as there are no tracks yet adapted to this new train. According to the Global Times, this is another crucial milestone in the country's rapid rise as a global leader in high-speed rail technology and manufacturing and in its broad, ambitious goals to accelerate urbanization. The maglev train can fill the gap between current high-speed trains that run at around 350 km/h and airplanes with a speed of 800 km/h. The maglev train is currently the fastest available ground vehicle. What is currently a 10-hour high-speed train trip from Shenzhen to Shanghai will be shortened to only 2.5 hours once the maglev train is put into service.

A number of technological breakthroughs were made building this train, including a brake system that is 30% more efficient than on current trains, which means that the braking distance is reduced from about 16 kilometers to 10 kilometers, the CRRC Qingdao Sifang Rolling Stock Research Institute (CRRC SRI) told the Global Times. The CRRC SRI has designed the braking system, coupler, anti-vibration system, electricity system, passenger information system (PIS) and other core components of the 600 km/h maglev train. Its power supply system is one of the key systems of the high-speed maglev train. When the speed exceeds 100 km/h, a non-contact power supply is adopted. The train receiver system developed by CRRC SRI has good environmental adaptability and can work smoothly from -25°C to 45°C. Researchers developed an articulated coupler for the train by using forged aluminum alloys as the key structural part, ensuring that the relative motion between the train cars is less than one millimeter. The maglev train has two to 10 cars, each capable of accommodating more than 100 passengers.

Shanghai is the only Chinese city operating a commercial high-speed maglev line, with a top speed of 430 km/h. The Shanghai maglev train using German technology has been in operation since 2003, linking Pudong airport with a Shanghai Metro terminal. By the end of 2020, the total length of China's railways was 146,300 kilometers, with the total mileage of the high-speed railway network at 38,000 kilometers. China aims to build 200,000 kilometers of railways and 460,000 kilometers of highways by 2035. The "National 123" transportation plan aims to realize a one-hour commute within the city, two-hour trip between city clusters and three-hour travel to major cities nationwide, the Global Times reports.

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Contact

Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce

Office: Ajuinlei 1, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

New telephone and fax numbers:

T ++32/9/269.52.46

F ++32/9/269.52.99

E info@flanders-china.be

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The FCCC Newsletters are edited by Michel Lens, who is based in Beijing and can be contacted by e-mail michel.jc.lens@gmail.com

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