

# Nurturing a hub of intelligent manufacturing

Yang Jian

AS the birth place for Shanghai's modern industries, Putuo District is striving to become a new hub for intelligent manufacturing and robot industries.

The district government recently announced the ambition at the "China Manufacturing 2025" International Cooperation Forum, with proposals from experts and industry leaders to guide its development.

The forum, held at Shanghai Convention & Exhibition Center of International Sourcing, along the Suzhou Creek, focuses on how to drive the transformation of the manufacturing industry. Company officials, scholars and experts shared opinions on the industrial strategy, hot topics and global cooperation on intelligent manufacturing.

It is part of the China International Industry Fair, jointly hosted last week by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and Shanghai government.

The intelligent manufacturing has become a global trend for the development of manufacturing, driven by the rapid evolution of information technology, said Xin Guobin, vice minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Several of the world's major countries have released a series of strategies to drive the development of intelligent manufacturing and China has made it a major focus for the China Manufacturing 2025 master plan.

At the recent 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it was stressed China will integrate Internet big data, artificial intelligence and the real economy to accelerate the development of manufacturing great power, according to Xin.

Putuo has made intelligent manufacturing and the robotic industry as the district's main task by 2020 to actively follow the industry development



Government officials, experts and industry leaders join a heated discussion on intelligent manufacturing at the panel discussion of the "China Manufacturing 2025" International Cooperation Forum held in Putuo District. — Bob Yang

strategy of the national and city governments, as well as based on Putuo's own advantages, said Zhou Minhao, director of Putuo. The district has its advantages on space, scientific researches and convenient location.

## Research and development

Putuo covers 55 square kilometers downtown and has sufficient space for manufacturing, research and development as well as offices.

The district government has set aside 4.2 square kilometers of space on the former Taopu industrial site for the new industries. It has also planned a Taopu Science and Technology Smart City, which has attracted a swathe of scientific research institutes and universities, as well as functional platforms and scientific enterprises.

The district features 17 major research institutes with national influence, such as the Shanghai Electrical Apparatus

Research Institute (Group) Co. and China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, as well as two major universities, the Tongji University and East China Normal University.

Furthermore, Putuo is the only downtown district that has the inner, middle and outer ring roads running through. They offer convenient transport to neighboring provinces and other Chinese regions.

Putuo has made some achievements on the intelligent manufacturing and robot industry with expanding influences nationwide.

China's national robot inspection and evaluation center was based in Putuo in 2015. The district launched a robot testing league in 2016.

It has also established a robotic industrial zone, which has gathered over 30 enterprises focusing on robots and related industries. The China-Israel robot investment and incubation center has become

an important hub to drive the city government's ambition to be a scientific and innovation center with global influence.

## Policy support

The district government has also released a batch of supportive policies to back the development on scientific and innovative industries. Many of the policies aim to attract more global professionals to Putuo.

The Putuo government plans to create a better environment to encourage industrial development, as well as enhance work on innovative supervision, improved services as well as assistant policies.

Several senior experts and company officials, including Qian Feng, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering and vice president of East China University of Science and Technology, Philippe Charles, senior vice president of global strategy of Dassault

Systemes, and Ren Xiaoxia, director with the Industry 4.0 project of Bosch China, gave suggestions on the development of intelligent manufacturing and robot.

The key element for a company to achieve intelligent manufacturing is to incorporate the high-efficient and intelligent software into the manufacturing, and make the whole process under real-time supervision, Qian said.

Putuo has long decided on its development pattern on intelligent technology. It has established influential technique research and transformation platforms, gathered excellent entrepreneurs and enterprises, as well as created a good service environment, according to the government.

The political advisory body of Putuo released a guide proposal for an "intelligent technology development belt" along the city's Middle Ring Road to further drive its ambition.



An artist rendition of the Zhenru Greenbelt

## Greenbelt to be constructed in Zhenru

Bob Yang

A MAJOR greenbelt will be built in downtown Putuo District on the land that was formerly occupied by a seafood market as well as a village that contained illegal buildings.

Zhenru Greenbelt will cover 215,000 square meters, equivalent to about 30 football pitches, in the historic Zhenru Town in Putuo.

The 6-kilometer long belt, to run across the town, will include the existing Zhenru Park, as well as land used for the city's once largest seafood market, Tongchuan Road Aquatic Product Market.

The market was closed late last year to make way for Metro Line 14 and to

improve the urban landscape.

The first phase of the belt will run from Daduhe Road to Lanxi Road, covering about 70,000 square meters, while the second phase will extend to Caoyang Road and go through the former seafood market.

An artificial river will be dug to connect with Qiujiang River and Zhenrugang River to create a riverside region. Public green space will also be built on the now demolished Hongqi Village.

Zhenru was originally formed around 1208 and 1224 during the Song Dynasty. A monk named Yong'an erected Zhenru Temple and built a Xianghua (or scented flower) bridge, which brought worshippers to the area.

Markets were later developed around the temple, which still exists, along with Zhenru pagoda. Both will be involved in the future green belt, according to designs released by the government.

Two Metro lines 11 and 7 have been opened to connect Zhenru, while lines 14 and 15 are under construction. Since Line 20 is in the planning stage, a total of five subway lines will link Zhenru with other districts in the future.

The town is also featured by the Shanghai West Railway Station as a major section of the Shanghai-Nanjing Railway. Zhenru has targeted to become a GBD, or Green Business District, to incorporate ecologic, cultural and trade elements.