

## New policy turning ideas into marketable products

By ZHUAN TI  
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The Chengdu government implemented a new policy this month, aimed at encouraging domestic and foreign institutes of higher learning and research to turn the fruits of their scientific research into marketable products in the city.

The policy is an upgraded version of a similar policy carried out nearly two years ago.

The policy supports institutes of higher learning and research in Chengdu conducting mixed ownership of their scientific research achievements.

"The policy takes the lead in the country by reforming the ownership of the scientific research achievements," said Kang Kaiping, deputy general manager of the Science and Technology Industrial Park of Southwest Jiaotong University, who has participated in drawing up both the old and new policy.

The new policy will take the old one a step further. Whereas, the old policy covered use rights, disposal and income distribution of scientific research achievements that were totally owned by the domestic and foreign institutions of higher learning and research in the past, the new policy considers scientific research achievements to be owned by both the inventors and the institutions.

The policy encourages institutes of higher learning and research to set up a company with the inventor, and divide the ownership of their scientific research achievements by applying for intellectual property protection together. The inventor has no less than 70 percent of the share.

Huang Nan, a professor at the School of Materials of the Southwest Jiaotong University, said many of scientific research achievements remained in the labs or on the paper in the past because the inventors had no right to profit from their achievements.

He gave as an example the cardiovascular stents invented by his research team. In 2007, they didn't benefit when the stents they invented were sold to a company in the eastern coastal city.

The new policy means that his research team will share the ownership of the new generation of the cardiovascular stents they have invented and will be able to get profit from the stents commercialization.

A company has been established in the city for the transformation of the technology. Huang said it is expected to introduce research achievements into the market in 2020.

The policy also encourages the domestic and overseas institutes of higher learning to set up institutes to research new industries and technology in Chengdu.

Chengdu will set up a special fund of 1 billion yuan (\$152 million).

Each newly established research institute will be eligible to receive subsidies from the fund up to 50 million yuan, said Lu Tiecheng, chief of Chengdu Science and Technology Bureau.

The new policy will attract investors from across the society to join in the establishment of an investment fund of no less than 1 billion yuan to be used to stimulate the turning of the institutions' scientific researches into marketable products.

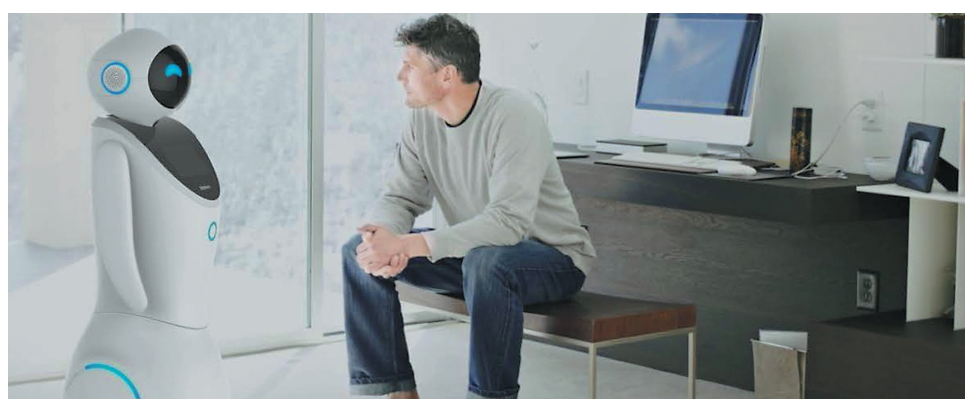
It will launch a fund no less than 10 billion yuan to support the early development of innovative enterprises.

The new policy will support the establishment of innovative research and development platforms.

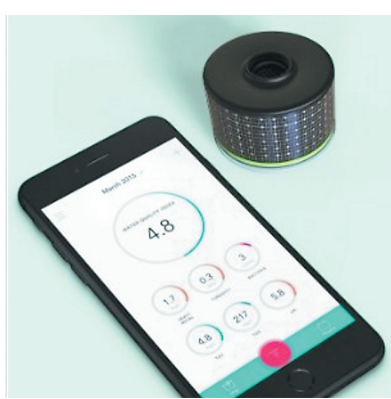
It will support institutes of higher learning and research in Chengdu to cooperate in the construction of "2,011 innovative centers", giving each of them 2 million yuan in assistance.

It will give each newly approved national and provincial laboratory and technology research center assistance of 1 million yuan.

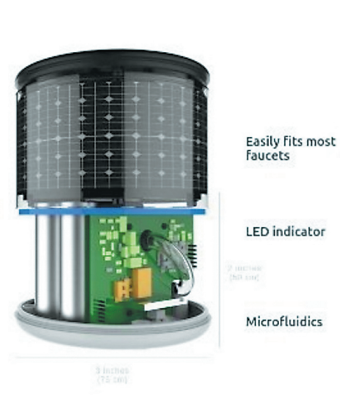
It will also give a maximum of 300,000 yuan in assistance to a laboratory jointly built by an institute of higher learning or research and an enterprise.



Deno, a robot is displayed during the Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair.



Ecomo, a leading movable device to examine water quality is shown at the event.



Easily fits most faucets  
LED indicator  
Microfluidics



The world's first 3-D VR camera for consumer use.



Butterflye, a smart home monitoring camera.

# Innovation rules as world's best, brightest gather in Chengdu

The future will be the exciting topic as global innovators and entrepreneurs swap ideas at major fair

By LI YU and PENG CHAO  
in Chengdu

The 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair opens on Friday in Chengdu, a mega city in western China. The fair will feature international, high-end and all-round companies.

The event will attract more than 500 participants this year from China and abroad, including government leaders, representatives from Chengdu's sister cities, Nobel Prize winners, world-renowned scientists, university presidents, and world-famous entrepreneurs and investors.

The fair aims to become an international platform that gathers innovation and entrepreneurship resources and achievements from around the world and promotes the exchange and transaction of innovative ideas and achievements, said a spokesman of Chengdu.

The three-day event will include 18 major activities: 12 high-level forums that will focus on development trends in innovation and entrepreneurship, an exhibition that will display the world's latest scientific and technological achievements, three trade fairs for innovation and entrepreneurship resources, and two innovation and entrepreneurship contests, according to the spokesman.

The fair's opening ceremony, held together with the launch of the China-US Young Makers Competition, invites mayors of the world's popular entrepreneurial cities, renowned entrepreneurs, and representatives from top business incubators, to discuss the latest achievements in innovation, exchange innovative ideas, and look into the future of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Future Technologies Forum will invite top scientists from China and abroad in such fields as semiconductor lighting, fundamental particles, artificial intelligence and astrophysics, to discuss frontier science and technology.

Lu Tiecheng, director of Chengdu Science and Technology Bureau, said the scientists will include Shuji Nakamura, Nobel laureate for physics in 2014, Arthur B. McDonald, Nobel laureate for physics in 2015, Wu Hequan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and professor Chen Yanbei from the California Institute of Technology.

Lu said the Innovation Capital, Capital Innovation Forum will invite Edmund Phelps, winner of the Nobel Prize for economics in 2006, and top investors to share their investment philosophies, experiences and the latest trends in investment.

Chen Fu, deputy director of the Chengdu Investment Promotion Commission, said Chengdu is the first Chinese city to hold the Silicon Valley Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum, or the SVIEF, which is an annual international high-tech conference designed to foster talent, and exchange of technology and capital between the United States and nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The past four SVIEFs have been held in Silicon Valley, California. The forum in Chengdu will involve 400 participants, including 89 senior technicians and executives from the US.

The 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship exhibition covers an area of 15,000 square meters and has attracted 300 exhibitors. Some 51 high-tech innovation programs from Silicon Valley covering fields such as intelligent hardware, robots, 3-D printing and mobile

internet will be on display at the exhibition.

Visitors will be able to see the latest innovative products, such as pneumatic tubes, the Lytro Illum light-field camera and the Lily Drone.

Three fairs will explore the exchange of talent, equity investment and technological achievements. The Talent Exchange Fair will involve 70 Fortune 500 companies, leading head-hunting companies, top local enterprises, scientific research teams and universities, all with the aim of promoting the exchange of top-level talents.

The two international contests are the China-US Young Makers Competition's Chengdu sub-contest and the China-ROK Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest. Both are expected to foster exchanges and cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship between China and other countries.

The former is expected to draw 300 competitors, while 16 entrepreneurial teams (or companies) from China and South Korea will participate in the latter.

The Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Trading Platform was launched to provide entrepreneurs from the host city

believed to have been the first of its kind in China to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

The event consisted of five forums, four trade fairs and one contest.

During the fair, delegates reached the so-called Chengdu Consensus, which states that innovation and entrepreneurship are integral to the development of society and a powerful engine for economic development.

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Qiao said his company will consider Chengdu first if and when it introduces programs from overseas or other provinces in China.

"The comfortable living environment, relatively low living cost and house prices make the city a perfect place for startups," he said, adding that many of his friends had moved to Chengdu from Beijing and other key cities.

"We will help to make the city a new label for global innovation," he said.

Chengdu held more than 160 Jingronghui activities in 2015, drawing 400,000 people. Those who presented their new projects and ideas gained a total of 10 billion yuan in investment, according to Chengdu Science and Technology Bureau.

Promotional activities

"To attract more talented professionals from other cities, key universities and overseas to set up busi-



A view of Chengdu. The 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair opens on Friday. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

### 2015 fair

The 2015 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair, which ran from Nov 9 to 11, drew more than 200 delegates from 30 countries and regions. It is

around the world with services such as the transaction and exchange of equity, products, talent and resources.

More than 150 investment organizations took part in the roadshow and trade fair that followed, which involved 2,686 entrepreneurship programs.

Some 109 deals worth 5.32 billion yuan (\$830 million) were signed during the two events.

The Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone signed a memorandum of understanding with five companies and organizations from

the European Union, according to which both sides will promote collaboration and exchanges in innovation, trade and investment among small and medium-sized enterprises, universities and high-tech parks in western China and the EU.

Carmen Cano de Lasala, deputy head of the EU delegation to China, said she had been to Chengdu nine times since 2006 and was impressed by the dynamic, open city and the development it has gone through in recent years.

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### 109 deals

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dynamic and fastest-growing cities in China. I'm glad to see so many European companies choosing Chengdu as their top investment destination and achieving great development here," she said.

Alvaro Simon De Blas, rotating president of EBN, a network of 150 quality-certified EU business and innovation centers and other organizations that support innovative entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs, said Chengdu is attractive to EBN members because of its long and good relationship with the EU and excellent environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Chengdu has a very bright future in terms of innovation and the development of SMEs. I believe more academicians, researchers, entrepreneurs and creative ideas will gather in Chengdu to create more wealth and job opportunities," he said.

Backed by the fair, Chengdu saw great achievements in innovation and entrepreneurship. About 249,000 businesses registered in Chengdu in 2015, of which 11,000 were technology enterprises.

The newly registered capital in 2015 totaled 650 billion yuan, an increase of 103 percent. Both the number of newly registered businesses and their total registered capital were the highest in central and western China.

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### Ancient city spreads its wings

Located in Southwest China, Chengdu covers 14,334.78 square kilometers. It has a population of some 16 million.

With a history of more than 2,300 years, Chengdu is well known to the world for its unique culture, delicious food, laid-back lifestyle and, of course, it is home to the lovely giant pandas.

It was the first city in Asia to be named a "City of Gastronomy" by UNESCO. Many famous Chinese dishes, including *mapo tofu* and *kungpao* chicken, originated there.

However, the city is also rising as an economic star on the Chinese and world stage with its fast economic growth and dynamic business atmosphere.

To date, 271 Fortune 500 companies have set up a presence in the city. About 80 percent of the world's iPads, 50 percent of laptop chips are made in Chengdu. The inland city is closely tied to the world thanks to its advanced transport network.

The Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport has 88 international routes, linking the city to major hub cities in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Oceania and Asia. Chengdu is also building a second airport, the Chengdu Tianfu International Airport.

The Chengdu-Europe branch of the China-Europe Block Train, a freight train service opened in April 2013, transports cargo from Chengdu to Lodz, Poland within 10 days. By the end of 2015, Chengdu had direct economic and trade relations with 223 major cities worldwide including 20 that had opened trade and tourism offices in the city. It has 31 sister cities around the world, and 15 foreign countries have been approved to set up consulates in Chengdu, the most in western China.

### Schedule for 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair

**Friday, June 24, 2016**  
9:00-12:00 Opening Ceremony  
14:00-17:00 Technological Achievement Transactions  
14:00-18:00 Innovation Capital, Capital Innovation Forum  
• Silicon Valley Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum  
• Innovation Forum for Mayors of International Sister Cities of Chengdu  
• Global Forum for Entrepreneurial Universities  
• China-ROK Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest

**Saturday, June 25, 2016**  
9:00-11:30 Round Table Meeting for the World's First-Class Hi-Tech Zones  
9:00-12:00 Technology Innovation Forum for Higher Education Institutions from

International Sister Cities  
9:00-17:30 EU-China Innovation and Cooperation Forum  
9:00-18:00 Future Technologies Forum  
10:00-16:00 Foreign Talent Exchange Fair  
14:00-17:00 Human Resource Technology and Service Conference  
14:00-18:30 Sino-Canada Innovation and Investment Forum

**Sunday, June 26, 2016**  
9:00-12:00 Equity Transactions (Main Venue)  
14:00-18:00 Equity Transactions (Branch Venue)

**June 24-26, 2016**  
9:00-17:00 Talent Exchange Fair  
9:00-17:00 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Exhibition

**All Day June 24-27, 2016**  
China-US Young Makers Competition Chengdu sub-contest

The schedule is for readers' reference only.

## Mega city takes the lead in push for startups

By LI YU and PENG CHAO in Chengdu

As a mega city in western China, Chengdu is one of the most dynamic cities in China and is favored by a growing number of high-tech companies, investors and top professionals.

In February 2015, the city launched the Venture Tianfu Project, which aims to attract 200,000 technological entrepreneurs and 100,000 technology companies by 2020, making Chengdu a world-class innovation and entrepreneurship center.

Jingronghui, a key program under the Venture Tianfu Project, opened early this year. A series of activities of Jingronghui have been held, serving as a communication platform for innovators, investors and entrepreneurs.

During the latest Jingronghui activity held in Chengdu's Jinjiang district on June 17, Beijing-based A plus Labs launched its Smart Fund and Smart Works in Chengdu with the aim of providing intelligent hardware startups in western China with "funds plus in-depth services".

Qiao said Chengdu is one of the most important cities in China in terms of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Chengdu is far-sighted and pay great attention to innovation and entrepreneurship," he said.

Qiao said his company will consider Chengdu first if and when it introduces programs from overseas or other provinces in China.

"The comfortable living environment, relatively low living cost and house prices make the city a perfect place for startups," he said, adding that many of his friends had moved to Chengdu from Beijing and other key cities.

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Qiao Huijun, founder of Smart Works

nesses and engage in research and development work in Chengdu, on May 14 the city launched a series of Venture Tianfu pro-innovation activities.

The first stop in the series was in Shenzhen, in South China's Guangdong province.

About 1,000 professionals attended the activity. At the venue, 20 people signed work contracts with employers from Chengdu.

The city also secured five agreements with partners from Shenzhen to set up new ventures in Chengdu.

Zou Xueming, founder and chair-

man of AllTech Medical Systems, and Ji Jianxin, executive vice-president of Chengdu Diaoyou Group, shared their experiences of working in Chengdu.

Zou was vice-president of General Electric Healthcare and general manager of its magnetic resonance division in Greater China, but he returned to China in 2005 and founded AllTech Medical Systems in Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone.

The company developed China's first 1.5-tesla superconducting MRI system with independent intellectual property rights, breaking the monopoly held by Siemens, GE and Philips in China.

Zou said the city government has given his company strong support in funding, policies and market access. "As far as I know, Chengdu's latest talent-hunting policy is more attractive and innovative. I hope more people can come to Chengdu to realize their dreams," he said.

Ji, who came to Chengdu in 2008, said the city has as much culture as Beijing, as much wealth as Shanghai, and the down-to-earth spirit of Shenzhen. "It is an efficient, inclusive and innovative city," he said.

Cheng Yi, who obtained his doctorate from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom and is an expert in artificial intelligence, signed an employment contract with Chengdu-based Artigent Robot Intelligent Equipment Company at the event.

To make the city a top choice for talented professionals to develop new ideas or start businesses in western China, Chengdu announced on Feb 14 that it had adopted 10 new policies and would establish a fund of up to 2 billion yuan.

For Nobel Prize laureates who launch startups in Chengdu, the financial aid could reach as much as 50 million yuan. Up to 100 million yuan could be granted to a research team.

The new policies stress that the fund is for both international and domestic talent.

By the end of last year, Chengdu had recruited 34 academicians and 169 national-level experts through China's 1,000 Talents Project. Those figures lead the nation.



A view at the Entrepreneurship Square, an incubator for startups at Tianfu Software Park in Chengdu High-Tech Zone, Chengdu.



The nation's giant panda breeding base is located in the city.



Kuanzhai Alley, an ancient street in Chengdu.

### What they say

**Editor's note:** Officials, researchers and company executives share their insights on the startup and investment climate in Chengdu. **Peng Chao** reports.

"Chengdu is one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing cities in China. I'm glad to see so many European companies choosing Chengdu as their top investment destination and achieving great development here."

**Carmen Cano de Lasala**, deputy head of the European Union delegation to China

"Chengdu has a very bright future in terms of innovation and the development of SMEs. It is attractive to our EBN members with its long and good relationship with the EU and excellent environment for innovation and entrepreneurship."

**Alvaro Simon de Blas**, rotating president of EBN.

"Chengdu is a sizable city, which makes it easier for us to implement entrepreneurship and innovation. It is also active in internationalization. I think that Chengdu is an ideal and promising city for us to expand cooperation."

**Philippe Mariani**, director of Sophia Antipolis Science and Technology Park in France

"Chengdu previously impressed visitors as a city of fine food, a long history and a happy lifestyle, but now it may have a new label as a city for entrepreneurs to realize their dreams."

**Zhang Zhihong**, director of the Torch High Technology Industry Development Center, Ministry of Science and Technology

"The innovation and entrepreneurship environment of Chengdu benefits from the government's strong support and good service, as well as the ecological and cultural environment."

**Zhu Min**, founder and chairman of Cybertaut Investment Group

"I chose Chengdu because of the city's strong support for startups and its solid foundations in biotechnology, as well as its myriad development opportunities and a highly developed transport network."

**Li Jin**, a fellow of the UK Royal Society of Chemistry and founder and chairman of HiGen, a biotech company in the Chengdu High-tech Zone

"My research would have been a lot more difficult had it not been for the help of the local government. The success of our company can be attributed not only to me and my colleagues, but also to the policies that support personnel to conduct innovation and startup work in Chengdu."

**Wang Tun**, founder of the Institute of Care-Life in Chengdu, a leading high-tech company focused on earthquake early warning

"I assessed several cities before setting up the company, covering aspects including business environment, economic growth, governmental support, international status and the cultural environment. Chengdu came out on top."

**Zou Xueming**, founder and chairman of Chengdu-based AllTech Medical Systems