

District breaks ground on infrastructure projects

Yu Chao and Li Xinran

SIX projects began in Jiading New Town early this year, covering strategic emerging industries, enterprise headquarters, transportation, infrastructure, residential areas and other categories.

Shanghai Apactron Particle Equipment Co Ltd plans to build its headquarters integrating research and development, production and sales. It is planned to begin operation in 2024 with an output value of 600 million yuan (US\$94.2 million).

In terms of transportation, Jiaxin Highway is an important part of the trunk line network in Jiading New

Town. The Jiaxin Highway widening project will create favorable conditions for the optimization of the regional road network system.

As far as residential projects are concerned, the Nanmen community project in the Jiading Industrial Zone has construction area of about 147,300 square meters and includes more than 900 households. It is expected to be completed in March 2025 and put into use in June 2025.

The commencement of the projects marks the construction of Jiading New Town entering a new stage, injecting strong power into the development of Jiading's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

This year, Jiading District will further improve its functional level and core competitiveness and promote a new round of planning and construction in Jiading New Town.

Jiading will also reach agreements on 11 industrial projects this month, mainly covering intelligent sensors and the Internet of Things industry, biomedicine, intelligent equipment, new energy automotive parts manufacturing and other fields to provide a new impetus for optimizing and upgrading Jiading's industrial structure and continue to enhance its competitiveness and influence in the Yangtze River Delta area.

Accessible buses for the disabled and the elderly

Zhang Jian and Tom Qian

TEN more barrier-free electric buses are added on Jiading Bus Line 14, which has a large number of elderly passengers, to make it more convenient for the physically-disabled to commute.

Barrier-free facilities are installed both at the doorsteps and the seating areas to make it easier for handicapped people to get on board.

A resident surnamed Shao took the Line 14 by wheelchair, and the bus driver helped her board the bus and fix the wheelchair with a seat belt.

"I am not willing to go out by myself before because getting on and off the bus requires at least two people to help, which is troublesome," Shao said. "But now it feels good and safe, and I can go out alone," Shao added.

After renovation, the floor of the bus is at the same height as the platform of bus stations, making it more convenient for passengers to get on and off the buses.

"The driver can also control the incline angle of the bus, which makes it easier for the elderly, disabled and people with special needs to get on and off the bus. It is also safer," Mao Xiaoming, a staff at the Jiading New Town Station, said.

The facilities will be expanded to Jiading Route 9 and other lines soon.

Outdoor chairs updated

Yu Chao and Tom Qian

OLD, dilapidated chairs at public places have begun upgrading in Jiading.

At Anting Old Street, the renovation of 25 public chairs has been completed. The new chairs are made of anti-corrosive wood and marble. The locations for setting up the chairs have been adjusted.

"Most of the seats were slate chairs. It was fine for sitting in the summer, but it was too cold in winter," said a resident surnamed Shi. "Now the wooden seats have replaced them, and they are much more comfortable!"

At the Jiangqiao Ecological Corridor in Huazhuang Village, 16 seats have been set up along the Wusong River to make the green area more comfortable as there are many large residential areas and office buildings nearby. In the riverbank space, there are pavilions and landscape forests.

Nine seats have been set up along the walkway in the public green of around 10,000 square meters in Jiangqiao Town.

In Jiading, more than 100 new seats were set up, and 834 old seats were renewed last year. The district plans to add another batch of seats in public spaces over the next three years.



Making travel more convenient

Residents wave while taking Metro Line 14 on December 30, the first day of its operation. The new line travels from Jiading to the Pudong New Area with six stations in the district, making public transit much more convenient for locals. — Zhang Jian

Volkswagen builds new R&D center

Li Pin and Tom Qian

A BRAND-NEW, multifunctional research and development building has been put into operation at SAIC Volkswagen in Jiading District.

With an investment of 300 million yuan (US\$46.15 million), the new building covers 41,900 square kilometers, enough for nearly 2,000 employees.

Several technical departments from early stage research and development to virtual R&D and digital architecture will be stationed in the new building.

On the top floor of the building is

the virtual review center where R&D personnel wear 3D glasses to simulate realistic scenes and experience the designed products on a 3D level.

For Deng Yueping, a female employee who has worked for SAIC Volkswagen for more than 20 years, the most profound feeling is the detail on display in the new building.

"The staff's office areas are all beside transparent floor-to-ceiling windows, and each floor is equipped with well-designed functional service areas. There are open discussion areas, a tea bar equipped with refrigerators and microwaves and a private focus space

and baby rooms," Deng said.

Each floor of the building has its own color, and the design of the color series makes people feel lively and enriched. The building has become a landmark in Anting Town.

The new building shows the company's emphasis on research, development and the innovation, according to Zhou Wei, executive director of the product development department.

"Last year, there are fifteen products born in the new building, and according to blueprint in 2022 and 2023 there will be 15 and 20 new products entering market from the building," Zhou said.