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# Sino-German Cooperation on Industrie 4.0 中德工业4.0合作

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## Political Background

Industrie 4.0 combines production methods with state-of-the-art information and communication technology. It is changing the future of manufacturing and labour in Germany. Made in China 2025, officially published by the State Council as the essential national industry strategy, aims to upgrade the Chinese manufacturing sector. The world's manufacturing pioneer on the one hand and the biggest emerging economy on the other share great interest in close cooperation at all levels, setting industrial cooperation benchmarks and tackling challenges in the era of digitisation.

In October 2014, the German and Chinese governments agreed during the 3rd government consultation on the joint action plan “Shaping Innovation Together”, laying the foundation for

cooperation in Industrie 4.0 and Made in China 2025. Three pillars of bilateral political cooperation have been therefore established: industry cooperation, cooperation in standardisation, as well as cooperation in research and science.

The industry cooperation was cemented in July 2015, when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) to deepen mutual understanding and facilitate dialogue at all levels between government, industry and experts.

## Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH provides worldwide services in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, as well as peace and security. The diverse expertise of the federal enterprise is in demand around the globe, in over 130 countries, with the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations and governments of other countries all benefiting from its services. GIZ also works with the private sector, fostering successful interaction between development policy and foreign trade.

With more than 30 years of experience in Sino-German techni-

cal cooperation, GIZ works within the framework of the Comprehensive Sino-German Strategic Partnership for the mutual benefit of both countries. GIZ thus acknowledges China's new role in the global architecture. The protection of global public goods is the focal point of our work, which also contributes to the establishment of fair trade relations between China and its partners in the region, as well as Germany and Europe. GIZ in China provides technical expertise to underpin numerous bilateral political dialogues between China and Germany. GIZ provides support for forging sustainable networks between stakeholders from the world of politics, business and society. GIZ provides its services through experienced German, international and Chinese experts as well as German partner institutions.

## Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project

GIZ has been commissioned by BMWi since June 2016 to implement the Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project in order to support the cooperation between BMWi and MIIT based on the MoU. In the role as the official Cooperation Office Industrie 4.0, the project focuses on the following main working areas to increase the visibility of bilateral cooperation, deepen mutual understanding and create a better framework condition for German and Chinese companies in the field of Industrie 4.0 and Made in China 2025:



- Annual Conference and Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing and Interconnected Production Processes on State Secretary/Vice Minister Level
- Director General Working Group Industrie 4.0 (WG)
- Sino-German Company Working Group Industrie 4.0 and Intelligent Manufacturing (AGU) as regular industry cooperation platform
- Pilot Cooperation Projects

The Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project works closely with German and Chinese industries, associations and academia. It cooperates with the Chinese Center for Information Industry Development (CCID), a subordinate to MIIT and the official Chinese implementation partner of the MoU.

## Annual Conference and Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing and Interconnected Production Processes on State Secretary/Vice Minister Level

The Annual Conference and Symposium is the highest bilateral dialogue featuring high-level representatives from government, industry and academia held once a year, alternating in Germany and China. The first Annual Conference and Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing and Interconnected Production Processes was successfully held on 29-30 November 2016 in Berlin, Germany.

The closed door Annual Conference serves as a platform to highlight bilateral cooperation in Industrie 4.0 and Made in China 2025, deepen the mutual understanding and decide on further developments on the political level of the bilateral cooperation. The open Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing and Interconnected Production Processes witnesses the participation of all the present participants in industry cooperation, standardisation and science and technology to exchange on challenges, opportunities, next steps and best practices in the bilateral cooperation.

The Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project coordinates the Annual Conference and the Symposium on behalf of the German side, including event organisation, content-related advisory to BMWi and industry partners, pre-briefings for key speakers and coordination with CCID and other relevant Chinese partners.



## Director General Working Group (WG)

The WG features German and Chinese representatives from government and industry. Representatives address current issues within the bilateral cooperation which are mainly derived from constant dialogues within the AGU throughout the year. Together both sides jointly prepare topics for the Annual Conference with the vice-ministers and state secretaries and discuss the annual operational planning for the upcoming cooperation year.

The Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project implements the WG and provides technical expertise, including the results of AGU and briefing on the up-to-date development in the area of Intelligent Manufacturing in China.



## Sino-German Company Working Group Industrie 4.0 and Intelligent Manufacturing (AGU)

The AGU facilitates the exchange among German and Chinese industry representatives and experts on their experience and challenges in the framework conditions of Industrie 4.0 / Intelligent Manufacturing to develop recommendations that can improve the business environment.

AGU takes place on a regular basis and is organised based on different “Topic Groups”. The first topics identified for discus-

sions include data security, intellectual property rights and Sino-German lighthouse cooperation projects. AGU serves as a platform for companies to understand framework conditions and policies, to exchange best practices and solutions and to develop joint policy recommendations. The discussion results feed directly into the political dialogue between the two governments.







Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)

German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)



## Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate industry cooperation

- ▶ Annual Conference on State Secretary / Vice Minister Level
- ▶ Director General Working Group

### Industry Dialogue Platform: AGU



Understand the regulatory & business environment affecting your business



Discuss common challenges with German and Chinese industry peers and experts on the basis of concrete projects



Develop joint policy recommendation, exchange best practice & solutions



Enable yourself to benefit from business opportunities in Industrie 4.0 cooperation and build a network

## Sino-German Pilot Cooperation Projects for Intelligent Manufacturing

The MoU entails the aim of both governments to highlight pilot cooperation projects between German and Chinese companies in the area of Intelligent Manufacturing, thus encouraging more companies to engage in further bilateral cooperation and creating a platform, especially for SMEs, in showcasing their innovative solutions.

The Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project has developed a process to identify cooperation projects in China and different measures to increase their visibility (e.g. booklet, newsletter, nomination of speakers for events, digital map, etc.). In 2016, the Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project has identified 4 cooperation projects in addition to the 14 projects selected by MIIT.

In 2017, the Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Project became the only foreign organisation entitled to nominate cooperation projects to MIIT. A total of 35 pilot cooperation projects have been selected by the end of 2017.

As for the next steps, the Industrie 4.0 Project supports BMWi and MIIT in conceptualising the harmonisation process of the selection concept for pilot cooperation projects. The cooperation partners aim at presenting a new joint approach officially supported by BMWi and MIIT by 2018 which will provide companies from both countries with an even more visible and internationally recognised platform.



