

# Haidian Science Park not resting on its laurels

## Nation's 'Internet Plus' strategy boosts innovations, R&D

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Haidian Science Park in Northeast Beijing is making great headway in boosting innovations.

A number of successful innovations have been born in the park, but rather than resting on its laurels, the park is beefing up efforts to initiate a number of new projects in a bid to echo the nation's "Internet Plus" strategy.

It has announced tailor-made measures for integrated circuit design, as well as intelligent hardware industries.

During the first half of this year, a new sector was opened at Beihang University and the Zhongguancun Intelligent Hardware Center was inaugurated at the Hailong Building.

To accelerate the convergence among the cultural, education and sci-tech industries, the businesses of 18 incubators have been approved and currently 2,498 new firms are being incubated there.

Meanwhile, leading listed firms including the New Oriental and Tomorrow Advancing Life entered the Zhongguancun Internet Education Innovation Center during the first half of the year.

Eyeing the rapid growth of the sector, more investors and venture capital firms have been attracted to Haidian Science Park.

Statistics indicate that during Jan-June period this year, the number of such firms was more than 2,500, including 900 angel capitalists and stock and investment institutes.



The capital they are managing is 300 billion yuan (\$46.2 billion).

Haidian Science Park itself offered a total of 600 million yuan to 16 funds and set up one parent fund to support local innovations.

Internet finance agencies, a new finance model encouraged by the government as a way to collect capital from the public through online services, hit 220 during the same period.

Leading crowdfunding agencies including JD and Ant Cloud finance are present in the park, along with some of the big name Chinese Internet finance leaders such as Renrendai and Jinxin 99.

HSP has also blazed trail in the macro loan management sector.

Chinalco Captial and Wumart Finance have a foothold in the park, and a training center for Shenzhen-listed companies was established in the park during the first half of the year.

Statistics indicate that the number of listed firms increased by 44 during this period, bringing the total number to 416 in the park.

### On the fast track

Thanks to its efforts to boost innovation, Haidian Science Park is going from strength to strength and its GDP is gaining new momentum.

Its GDP hit 98.2 billion yuan during the



A glance of the Haidian Science Park, China's innovation hub. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

first quarter, accounting for one-fifth of the city's total and ranking the second in Beijing.

The GDP grew by 7.5 percent year-on-year, with the growth rate ranking first in Beijing.

During the first quarter this year, information, the finance and technological research sectors contributed up to 78.4 percent of the

local GDP.

Industries powered by high technologies sustained a 10 percent around growth rate.

The information technology sector realized combined revenues of up to 121.3 billion yuan during the Jan-May period, up 7.9 percent year-on-year.

## 98.2 billion yuan

The GDP of the Haidian Science Park during the first quarter

## Face++ gains global spotlight

By HAO NAN  
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Ma Yun's keynote address at the opening ceremony of CeBIT 2015 in March in Hanover, Germany, brought a Zhongguancun high-tech startup into the global spotlight. At the end of his speech, Alibaba's founder bought a stamp on the Taobao site, which Ma also owns, and paid for it by using the startup's facial recognition technology.

The company, Megvii, was founded in 2011 by three Tsinghua University graduates, who were born in 1987, 1988 and 1989. The young company, however, features strong innovation capacity and technological strengths in computer vision and deep learning.

The Beijing-based company now has nearly 70 engineers, of whom nearly 90 percent are graduates of Tsinghua University, one of China's most prestigious colleges. Moreover, most of them have taken a first prize in international computer programming contests.

One of the company's important service platforms is called Face++, or Face Plus Plus, which, as its name suggests, focuses on facial recognition technology.

"Plus Plus" means a new version or better things in computer language, and we are working on the creation of a next-generation face recognition engine," said Yin Qi, one of Megvii's founders.

Face++ is a cloud service platform offering three core vision services — detection, recognition and analysis. It also provides offline customized products and services.

Since its establishment in 2012, the platform has enabled more than 30,000 software applications, mobile apps and websites, and handled about 6 billion pictures. It is the world's largest face recognition platform and is known for its "powerful and professional technologies" in Silicon Valley and Southeast Asia, Yin said.

Customers of the platform were mainly involved in the entertainment industry in its early days, such as image processing software Meitu Xiuxiu, iOS game Crows Coming and dating website Jiayuan.com.

Face++ is seeking more partners in the fields of finance and transportation, to realize a deeper application of the technology.

In future, face recognition technology could be applied to every industry and field, Yin said. In 2013, the global biometrics market was worth more than \$7.3 billion, 18 percent of which was contributed by face recognition products.

In 2017, the total biometrics market will grow to nearly \$11 billion, according to technology strategy and research consultancy Acuity Market Intelligence.



Yin Qi, co-founder and CEO of Megvii

## Tus-Holdings improves services it provides to startups, tech companies

By SONG MENGXING  
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Tus-Holdings Co, which developed and runs the Tsinghua University Science Park, has been constantly improving the service it provides to startups and innovative companies.

The company now boasts a seven-step system for incubating businesses and helping them develop well, according to Li Zhiqiang, director with the administrative committee of the science park.

The system offers classes related to the establishment of companies, helps startups get financial and law services as well as attract investments, and helps develop high-tech companies with high potential.

Li said, "There is no need to register

a company in the first three steps and it can be just a startup project."

That policy particularly aids startups as it is not easy to register companies, and they need to pay taxes after registration, Li said.

Tus-Holdings set up 50 incubation centers worldwide by May this year, and established the InnoSpring incubator in Silicon Valley in 2012 together with other organizations.

The incubator aims to help entrepreneurs from China and the United States set up and develop companies. It offers services including capital, guidance, office sites and audits.

To date, Tus-Holdings has incubated more than 2,000 companies and helped 18 businesses go public.

Among the listed companies are www.ChineseAll.com, a Chinese digital publication provider that went public in January,

and Spreadtrum Communications, a leading mobile phone chip company in China.

Li said Tus-Holdings is focusing on scientific and technological services and building an eco-system for startups and innovative companies, combining resources including funds, a media subsidiary and government support to better serve the companies.

Tus-Holdings was set up in 2000 based on what was the Tsinghua University Science Park Development Center. The university still holds 45 percent of the shares in Tus-Holdings.

One of the functions of universities is to serve society, Li said.

He said to fulfill that function, Tus-Holdings aims to serve startups and innovative companies and promote the idea of innovation through the seven steps in its system.



A sculpture at the Tsinghua University Science Park. Under the Tus-Holdings, the park aims to optimize its services to investors and startup firms.

## Firm on the brink of harnessing a robot brain

By SONG MENGXING

Horizon Robotics is currently developing brain chips for robots and aims to be the Intel of the robotic age, said company founder Yu Kai.

He said Horizon's robot brain chips are vastly different from most computer chips, which he said "cannot handle very complex tasks". His company's chips, on the other hand, will be used for a robot's perception and interaction.

He founded the company in June after resigning from Baidu. Other co-founders of the startup have worked for Google, Facebook, Nokia and Huawei.

Yu said he started the company

because he wanted to realize his vision of helping create more intelligent products.

He said Horizon's products will enable robots to do complex tasks such as operating a coffeemaker to make a cup of coffee.

He said he believes all consumer electronic goods, such as vehicles, home appliances and toys, will eventually become an automated robotic machine. Horizon, he added, will design different chips to



Yu Kai, founder and CEO of Horizon Robotics

revolutionize these goods.

The company has signed partnerships with several large Chinese manufacturers and its first products will be launched at the end of the year.

"We will first center on household products. Our chips will be used in home appliances and toys," Yu said.

Chip-related companies including ARM Holdings have expressed a desire to cooperate with Horizon, Yu said.

He said a big issue that many Chinese semiconductor businesses face is a lack of key intellectual properties. Horizon, on the other hand, has begun to create its own designed products since its establishment.

"We are applying for patents and formulating a patent plan," Yu said.

## Creating smartwatch for Chinese market

By SONG MENGXING

Li Zhifei and his partners developed a voice search application called Chumenwenwen in 2013 and launched a smartwatch based on the technology two years later.

Li said the watch, called Ticwatch, has superior interaction modes compared with other similar products.

Apart from using voice and touch interactions to control the watch functions, Li's company, Mobvoi, invented another interaction they call the "tickle".

By sliding a touch bar on the right side of the Ticwatch, users can enlarge and reduce the picture size and adjust the volume.

The watch is based on a Chinese operating system called Ticwear developed by Mobvoi in the second half of 2014.

Li said the smartwatch is cost effective, with the average price of various models standing at about 1,100 yuan (\$173).

The watch is like an intelligent personal assistant and helps make and receive calls as well as send messages if told to do so.

Li Yuanyuan, co-founder of Mobvoi, said the company cooperates with several popular Chinese applications, including car-hailing app Didi and group-buying app Meituan, to better serve Chinese customers.

Ticwatch can help owners call a taxi and find local restaurants that offer discounts.

Li Zhifei and his partners, who worked as scientists in the Silicon Valley and are top overseas returned students, set up the company in Shanghai in 2012 and later moved to Zhongguancun Haidian Science Park in Beijing.

Li Yuanyuan said, "We came here for talents and the Internet atmosphere."

She said there are more people in Beijing than in Shanghai who want to join in startups.

To date, Mobvoi has sold about 10,000 smartwatches, according to Li Yuanyuan.

She said the smartwatch is just the beginning of the company, which plans to develop vehicle-mounted software and hardware products as well as robots for use at home.



Li Zhifei, founder and CEO of Mobvoi