

# VW engine plant swings into emergency mode amid crisis

Li Huacheng and Li Xinran

SHANGHAI Volkswagen Powertrain Co Ltd has been in closed-loop production since Puxi area went into lockdown on April 1 to ensure continuous supply to its whole industry chain.

Most workers have received multi-role training for the position rotation system, so 550 multi point injection engines rolled off the production line to meet the urgent needs of customers on the first day of the lockdown.

"We feel a special sense of achievement in ensuring continuous supply for customers during the pandemic," said You Fengqing, manufacturing director of the company.

"With a minimum production staff of 16 percent and a single shift, 30 percent of production capacity has been rapidly restored, and more than 11,000 engines have rolled off the production line."

After learning that most areas in

Shanghai would go into lockdown, Wang Dong, senior manager of the logistics and planning department, organized logistics resources in case of stopping production.

Eighty fully-loaded trucks brought in enough raw materials in just one day to ensure that the company's parts inventory met production requirements.

"Production cannot be stopped. There are always more ways than difficulties," said Wang.

For an engine assembly manufacturer, there are hundreds of key parts in an engine, while the raw materials come from more than 120 suppliers in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces and Shanghai.

"Once Puxi area goes into lockdown, the supply of our parts will be blocked, so we had to prepare the stock of parts before the lockdown began," said Wang. "This was a real challenge that I had never faced before."

"With the support and help of the

Shanghai Commission of Economy and Informatization and the Jiading District, we obtained a cross-provincial transportation permit to ensure that the engines we produce can be fully supplied to Anting, Yizheng, Nanjing and Ningbo bases of SAIC Volkswagen."

The company always makes the requirements of pandemic prevention and control and the health and safety of employees its top priority.

Every corner is equipped with pandemic prevention, and every one had done the PCR testing. The staff working, activity and temporary accommodation areas are under strict grid management.

The pandemic prevention staff also quickly created four independent emergency isolation areas of more than 800 square meters and conducted two pandemic prevention emergency drills within three days, ensuring that every employee knows how to deal with emergencies

## Supermarket camps out to ensure supplies

Li Pin and Li Xinran

AT 10pm on a recent night, Li Bin, manager of the Century Mart Chengzhong outlet, took out his mobile phone and made a video call to his father and children in Yangpu District after another tiring day.

This was the 16th day he had stayed in the store under lockdown.

Li and his colleagues have many duties during the day, including receiving, distributing, packing and delivering goods. When their work day is over, they sleep in the store.

At 2pm on April 11, Li and his colleagues were ready to start the afternoon's sorting and distribution. The store is mainly connected with each residential compound in Jiading Town.

Their mission is to ensure grocery supplies to the communities before the materials passed on to every resident in need.

Supplies range from fresh meat to apples, from cauliflower, lettuce, cucumbers to eggs. The staff wear masks while they sort the fresh food into different categories.

The staff begin to move, load and deliver food from 8am. The work lasts long into the evening — even at 10pm, they are still busy delivering packages to the community.

In addition to the communities, the store also tries to take care of some special groups, including hotel guests and the lonely elderly who call to ask for help.

The store delivers to dozens of hotels and every day supplies about 30 elderly people living alone. Due to the limited transportation capacity, they focus on meat, vegetables and eggs.

Wu Yan, head of the store's distribution sector, stays in the store because she feels she can help others.

"Despite working in the supermarket for so many years, we never felt that we are needed," she said. "But during this time, we have received so many sincere 'thank you' from people in need."



### Honoring 'big white' heroes

Guitar teacher Li Yucun, who lives in Jiading New Town, composes a piece of music "Hear me to say thank you" to honor dabai, or "big whites," a nickname for medical workers in all-white protective suits. He is excited to use his talent to encourage these heroes in harm's way after witnessing their efforts in the community.

## Medical company works overtime in pandemic battle

Yin Qinqin and Li Xinran

SHANGHAI Shenwei Medical Instrument Co is providing pandemic-prevention materials for all public hospitals, quarantine sites and mobile cabin hospitals in Jiading.

Since the recent resurgence of COVID-19, the company has made every effort to ensure the supply of these materials.

It has expanded its warehouse twice and recently borrowed more than 1,000 square meters of a nearby

warehouse to store materials.

On April 7, as soon as a truck loaded with supplies arrived at the company's warehouse, workers quickly unloaded it.

Truck driver Sun Shaoxiang works for one of the company's suppliers and delivered protective clothing from Yangpu District to Jiading. He said although he is 60 years old, he decided to stay at the front line.

"I work with young people side by side," Sun said.

Wu Yue, a company employee,

said that for more than a month, he and his colleagues have worked and lived in the warehouse. Every night, they prepare nucleic acid test tubes, reagents and other materials with manufacturers for next-day deliveries.

In the past several weeks, the company has supplied almost 2.9 million disposable medical masks and more than 1.2 million N95 masks. The company also dispatched 10 engineers to laboratories to reinforce frontline manpower for regular PCR testing.