

Press release

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Bekaert Asia Research and Development Center opens in Jiangyin, Jiangsu Province (China)

Today, Bekaert officially opened its Asia Research and Development Center in Jiangyin, Jiangsu Province (China).

The 8-story building is the second R&D Center of Bekaert in the world, next to the Technology Center in Belgium. With the new, state-of-the-art facility, Bekaert further strengthens its commitment to develop and supply innovative products to Asian customers while enhancing its technological leadership in the region.

The new R&D center employs 250 researchers and laboratory technicians. It is equipped to provide fast and adequate support to Bekaert's customers and operations in a wide range of activities, among which laboratory services for material analysis, prototype development and production, and specific R&D.

The opening of the new Bekaert Asia Research & Development center demonstrates Bekaert's long-term strategy of sustainable profitable growth by staying at the forefront of technological innovation.

The opening ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Wang Xi'nan, mayor of Jiangyin city. He highly appreciated Bekaert's efforts and contributions to Jiangyin and Wuxi city's economic and social development over the years. *"We are glad to see Jiangyin becoming the home of Bekaert's new R&D center, next to the company's largest production platform in China. We are looking forward to its great achievements in innovation and its contribution to China's transformation from manufacturing leadership into a knowledge economy."*

Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and a market leader in drawn wire products and applications. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 23 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generates annual combined sales of €3.3 billion.

Bekaert in China

Bekaert is present with a manufacturing platform in China since the early nineties. The company experienced significant growth in China in recent years and operates 16 sites at 8 locations there (Shenyang, Weihai, Jiangyin, Wuxi, Shanghai, Suzhou, Chongqing, Huizhou), including 13 manufacturing plants, an R&D center and Engineering plant, a trading company, and the Regional Headquarters Bekaert Asia. At present, 8500 people are working for Bekaert in China.

Pictures of the inauguration event:

www.bekaert.com: about us – press & media – image library

direct link: <http://www.bekaert.com/en/About%20us/Press/Image%20Library.aspx>, see BARDEC pictures