

Weichai Power sets Shandong province on route to ride new-energy boom

By YUAN SHENGGAO

From national fuel cell development to promoting hydrogen energy for the benefit of industry and people's lives, Chinese powertrain manufacturer Weichai Power is dedicated to seeking out achievement in the new energy industry.

In April, the National Fuel Cell Technology Innovation Center was launched in Jinan, Shandong province. Approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the center is the first of its kind in China and is led and contracted by Weichai Power.

Focusing on the research and development and application of cutting-edge and key generic technologies, the center is to serve the strategic needs of its industry. It aims to become a first-class international fuel cell technology innovation center that enhances the core competitiveness of China's fuel cells and related industries.

Headquartered in Shandong, the center will have branches across the country and it plans to expand overseas in the future.

The launch of the center came after a long period of evaluation, local officials said. As a national hydrogen energy powerhouse, Shandong's annual production reached 2.6 million metric tons. The province has great potential in the applications of hydrogen energy due to its strong foundation in the industry.

Last year, the province launched its medium and long-term development plan (2020-30). According to it, Shandong will develop into a leading highland for the hydrogen energy industry, helping promote the development of fuel cells and related industries.

Designated a leading role in the center, Weichai Power has a strong industrial basis and innovation capability in the fuel cell industry. It has invested a total of 4 billion yuan (\$617 million) in R&D, and applications in the new energy powertrain segment.

It has led the construction of the Shandong fuel cell technology innovation center, according to local officials.

Taking an active role in hydrogen development in Shandong, Weichai Power has constantly encouraged



Weichai Power puts 150 hydrogen fuel cell buses into operation in Weifang, Shandong province in 2020. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



From left: A hydrogen refueling station in Weifang, Shandong province. A range of Weichai Power's vehicles are on display in front of the Great Hall of Shandong.



cell engine plant was opened, marking a major step for the company to commercialize its business at a top level around the world.

The company said the plant helped Shandong's progress in replacing old growth drivers with new ones.

According to the company's plan, it will put more effort into developing hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered equipment, contribute to the development of the global industry and promote its industrial transformation and upgrading.

With the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Shandong province, Weichai Power said it is putting effort into fields such as building teams for new energy R&D and establishing a leading technological innovation center.

Presently, the company has built an industrial chain for hydrogen fuel commercial vehicles that combine batteries, engines and vehicles.

In March, Weichai Power announced it is to cooperate with Fischer Spindle Group, a Swiss manufacturer of fuel cell air compressors, to buy shares in its fuel cell air compressor business and build a joint venture in China.

The partnership is part of Weichai Power's effort to expand its industrial layout in fuel cells and enhance its competitiveness.

The two parties will use their advantages in industrial resources and R&D to provide global users with high-quality products.

Fischer Spindle is a company with nearly 100 years of history and its performance in fuel cell air products has won wide recognition, according to the company.

Weichai Power's efforts to promote fuel cell air compressors in Shandong with hydrogen fuel cell engine technology will contribute to the country's development in hydrogen fuel cell engines, the company said.

Dedicated to contributing to China's goal of peaking carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, the company said it has completed the layout of its core technologies of hydrogen fuel cell and solid oxide fuel in the field of new energy.