

# 5 'NEW CITIES' on track for fast growth with ambitious projects

Staff Reporters

Construction for 40 key projects in Shanghai's five "new cities," with investment totaling 132.82 billion yuan (US\$20.84 billion), kicked off early this month, as the city continued to press ahead with its strategic master plan on the development of the five suburban areas to boost its economic and social growth.

The 40 projects cover various sectors, including high-end industries, science and innovation, infrastructure as well as those closely related to people's well-being.

In breakdown, there are 20 industrial development projects worth 115.59 billion yuan, eight traffic infrastructure projects worth 1.91 billion yuan, 10 well-being-related (housing or public service) projects worth 14.8 billion yuan, and two projects involving the improvement of ecological environment, with a total investment of 520 million yuan.

The plan to build five "new cities," in suburban Jiading, Qingpu, Songjiang and Fengxian districts as well as Nanhui in the Pudong New Area, was first introduced in January 2021 when the city released its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), saying they will be developed into conveniently accessed livable areas where urban life and industrial development are well integrated, with each leveraging its own strength for future growth.

According to the government blueprint, there will be around 3.6 million permanent residents in the five "new cities" by 2025

and the number will grow further to 5 million by 2035.

The development of the five "new cities" is projected to hit the fast track in the New Year, amid construction of a slew of big projects.

In Qingpu, construction kicked off for 11 projects with a total investment of about 5.371 billion yuan (US\$842 million), while agreements were also signed for three plans with a

## 40 key projects

cover various sectors, including high-end industries, science and innovation, infrastructure as well as those closely related to people's well-being.

total investment of 3.038 billion yuan.

They cover a wide range of areas such as industry, infrastructure, public services and ecology and include the Sanyuan Road sewage pipeline renovation, a kindergarten and a primary school in Qingpu New City, the renovation of the Qingpu branch of Zhongshan Hospital, and river course improvement projects at Yangjiabang and Shuidubang.

The three projects for which deals were signed involve life science, biomedicine research and development, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

"The construction and (agreement) signing for these projects are of great significance in

accelerating the industry upgrade of Qingpu, lifting the suburban district's appearance, and improving the public's life and ecological environment," said Xiao Hui, an official with the Qingpu District government.

The development of Qingpu New City was mapped out as well.

As Qingpu is rich in water resources, piers for sightseeing cruise ships and yachts will be built in the core area of Qingpu New City.

"Qingpu New City will develop water sightseeing and tourism, and build more 'green' paths along rivers for walkers and joggers," said Xiao. "A number of rest stations where people can read books and sip a cup of coffee will be created."

A central park covering 1 square kilometer and a transport hub in the new city is also on the agenda.

Songjiang New City, meanwhile, will embrace a lovely future with a beautiful environment and high-tech industries as the first batch of projects went into operation yesterday, the Songjiang District government said at an opening ceremony to launch the projects.

As a highlight, construction for a new ecological waterfront project, surrounding the area of Shanghai's "high-tech film and television city," has begun.

It will integrate many functions such as public space, non-motorized traffic and public art with scenic lakes and rivers. The project's lake water area will cover about 450 mu (30 hectares), with the perimeter of the main lake about 3km long.

"The waterfront project, which



### Jiading New City

Its emerging industries include car-making, intelligent sensors and the Internet of things and high-performance medical equipment and precision medicine sector.

kicked off today, will build a blue-green intertwined, open and connected ecological pattern," said Zeng Fuqiang, a deputy director of Songjiang New City's lead construction team.

"In the near future, local residents can enjoy walking and jogging along the main lake of this ecological project," Zeng added.

A total of 14 major projects, with an investment of more than 5 billion yuan, have gone into full operation, it was announced at the ceremony.

Songjiang New City now has about 850,000 residents, and it aims to have about 1.15 million permanent residents by 2035.

Jiading New City kicked off six projects yesterday.

A medical treatment industry demonstration base focusing on medical treatment equipment and an aviation and aerospace high-tech industry base were among the projects.

The Jiaxin Highway expansion project will tackle traffic congestion near the Jiading District Administration Service Center.

In Fengxian New City, a public space where people can read books and take rest will be built, with construction starting yesterday.

The Dingfeng Sauce Plant, with a 100-year history, will also be renovated.

Nanhui New City signed agreements on two projects yesterday. They cover digital circuits and AIDS drugs.



### Qingpu New City

It will step up the development of the digital economy and create a green and competitive industrial system, including innovative development, MICE and tourism.



### Songjiang New City

It will improve its industries, including intelligent manufacturing and digital information, and develop cultural tourism and the movie and media industry.



### Fengxian New City

It is building a "world-class beauty and health industry highland." The new city's three pillar industries are biopharmaceuticals, beauty and cosmetics, and food and health-related segments.

### Nanhui New City

It will build emerging industries, including integrated circuit, artificial intelligence, biomedicine and aerospace, as well as an international talent service.



## Development goals for Shanghai's suburbs

Unit: 100,000

2035

Population in each "new city" is expected to reach 1 million



2025

Total population in the five "new cities" is expected to reach 3.6 million. Combined GDP will hit 1.1 trillion yuan (US\$172.47 billion)

