

CISCE Champions Shared Benefits of Supply Chain

Voice of the World

By LI Linxu

Featuring multiple highlights, more innovation and greener practices, the third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) was held from July 16 to 20 in Beijing, demonstrating the country's ongoing striving for high-standard opening up.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng said on July 16 that China will adhere to the principles of division of labor and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, while acting as a promoter of mutual benefits and win-win outcomes in global industrial and supply chains.

Themed "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," the event attracted 651 companies and institutions from 75 countries and regions, with overseas exhibitors accounting for 35 percent, a three-percentage-point increase from last year.

"This high-level expo is crucial for both our nations because it promotes trade, investment, cooperation, innovation, and learning within the global supply chain ecosystem," South Africa's Deputy President Paul Mashatile said on July 16.

This year was South Africa's first participation at the CISCE. "It is our firm belief that the CISCE will be instrumental in linking up



People visit the clean energy chain area of the third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Beijing. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Chinese buyers and importers with the South African producers at the stands today," Mashatile said, urging all stakeholders to seize these opportunities, foster partnerships, share best practices, and collectively shape the future of supply chain management to build a more connected, resilient, and prosperous world.

Bolivia's participation in the expo reflects its confidence in the Chinese market, according to Bolivian Ambassador to China Hugo Siles. He described the event as an ideal space for

connecting with suppliers and buyers of export products, as well as for promoting trade and technological innovation.

The CISCE is an excellent opportunity to establish a network of cooperation partners, according to Ndusi Ruziga, economic counsellor at the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in China. This year marked the DRC's second participation in the expo, showcasing the country's numerous unique advantage products, ranging

from mineral resources to agricultural products.

The expo has become a major platform for companies from all countries to enhance resource sharing and technology interconnection.

Among the first-time multinational participants were major players such as Nvidia, Schneider Electric, L'Oreal, Louis Dreyfus and Medtronic.

China's open-source AI is a catalyst for global progress and Chinese AI models are "world-class," Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang said when addressing the expo's opening ceremony.

Huang told the media that he expects to get the first batch of U.S. export licenses soon, so Nvidia can resume shipments of its H20 AI chips to China, while underlining the importance of U.S. access to the Chinese market.

The announcement from Nvidia boosted tech firms around the world, with Wall Street's Nasdaq exchange rising to another record high, according to AFP.

"The CISCE shows not only the global business community's unwavering commitment to upholding the smooth operation of industrial and supply chains but also an industrial ecosystem where global supply chains are deeply integrated and enterprises worldwide thrive through mutual success," Yu Jianlong, vice chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said during a press briefing on the expo.

3rd CISCE Yields Fruitful Outcomes

Edited by WANG Xiaoxia

More than 6,000 cooperation agreements were signed and cooperation intentions reached during the recently concluded 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Beijing, according to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the organizer of the expo.

The world's first expo on supply chains, the CISCE aims to connect upstream, midstream and downstream

sectors, bring together large, medium and small enterprises, coordinate industry, academia, research, and practical application, and foster interaction between Chinese and international businesses.

CCPIT vice chair Li Xingqian called it "a grand event with fruitful results." A total of 1,200 Chinese and foreign enterprises and institutions participated while the number of online and offline visitors exceeded 210,000, an increase of five percent compared with

the previous session.

This year, 152 new products, technologies and services were launched on this platform, an increase of 67 percent compared with last year's numbers. The exhibitors established connections with 42,000 upstream and downstream enterprises.

The CISCE is committed to creating a new window for promoting a high level of openness. Since the first edition held three years ago, the proportion of overseas exhibitors has

been rising year by year, increasing from 26 percent to 35 percent this year.

The exhibitors expanded from 55 countries and regions in the first session to 75 this time, with Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders accounting for more than 65 percent.

On the closing day of this year's expo, 102 enterprises and institutions from home and abroad, including Alibaba, Honeywell, GE Healthcare, Siemens, Sumitomo Electric, China Resources Group, and Winner Medical, signed intentions to participate in the 4th CISCE.

SCO Promotes Regional Innovative Cooperation

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Kazakhstan is exploring technology R&D, equipment manufacturing, project investment and talent nurturing in the new energy sector, according to an official from Shymkent, a city in Kazakhstan. He hoped Chinese entrepreneurs, investors and technological experts would visit Kazakhstan and participate in the construction of the country's new energy projects.

Cooperation in marine IoT would have natural advantages as most SCO member states and dialogue partners have vast oceans or long coast lines. With marine IoT and the smart application of marine big data, coastal pollution monitoring, sea farming, and marine forecasting and disaster prevention and mitigation have entered a new development phase, Wang Juncheng, academician of the

Chinese Academy of Engineering, said.

"It is a general trend to vigorously develop marine IoT. We look forward to all parties embracing the vast market of SCO member states, enriching the connotation of cooperation and expanding the space for cooperation," Wang said.

Qingdao is planning to develop future marine industries, including

marine IoT. The port city will focus on technological breakthroughs and infrastructure upgrade, nurturing marine IoT players and industry clusters, and expanding application scenarios and global synergy.

It will also seek to deepen marine IoT industry cooperation with global partners, according to Meng Qingsheng, director of Qingdao Municipal Marine Development Bureau.

Soft Concrete Safety Net Stops Aircraft Overruns

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But the stringent requirements in mechanical properties, durability and weather resistance when it is used in EMAS, pushed the team to find the right production solutions.

Foaming is a critical link in the production of the ultra-light foam concrete, and the research team conducted countless experiments with different choices of foaming agents, air entraining agents, temperatures and humidity.

A maleated rosin based Gemini type air entraining agent was finally introduced by the research team to enhance the thickness and strength of the bubble liquid film, thus avoiding the collapse of the ultra-light foam concrete.

Stable long term performance

EMAS needs to work outdoors for prolonged periods, and a key issue is to maintain the stable mechanical properties of the material in long-term exposure to wind and rain.

The research team figured out a two-level strength control mechanism. Through the precise control of the process, the strength is formed, and can be released layer by layer. In this way, strength loss caused by the environment can be made up by the slow release of the strength of ultra-light foam concrete itself.

In traditional concrete, there are active admixtures like slag and coal ash besides cement, and they can provide certain strength. The multiple source of

strength makes precise control difficult.

The best way to precisely control the formation process of concrete's strength is to make cement the only source of strength, as it can be realized via the precise control of the relevant parameters of cement, Fang said. The research team suggested replacing active admixture with inert admixture to dilute the cement clinker, thus eradicating the influence of secondary hydration on the increase of strength.

To allow strength release layer by layer as designed, the particle size of cement and the hydration speed need to be balanced. The research team designed a multi-level hydration cementitious system with "concentrated distribution in narrow intervals, gradient

Comment

Not Market Falling, But Building Ecosystem

By YU Haoyuan

In early 2025, China's DeepSeek-R1 emerged as a domestic challenger to the United States' ChatGPT, quickly capturing a peak market share of over 7.5 percent in January, according to international research firm SemiAnalysis.

However, data from SemiAnalysis also shows that DeepSeek's share had plummeted by nearly three percent within just a few months. Moreover, the share of tokens generated by DeepSeek models across the network from DeepSeek's own platform had dropped to only 16 percent by May.

But this decline in fact does not necessarily indicate the downfall of the company. Rather, when viewed alongside broader AI usage trends, it reflects the evolving dynamics of China's AI landscape and the increasingly sophisticated demands of its users.

The limitations of statistical methodologies are often underestimated. In explaining its report charts, SemiAnalysis explicitly states that it tracked the Chinese usage of DeepSeek-R1 poorly. The report primarily measures user engagement based on official website traffic, omitting third-party platforms such as Tencent Yuanbao, Baidu and Quark.

These platforms are where the DeepSeek model is extensively integrated and which, in reality, serve as the primary access points for users. This approach is also actively encouraged by DeepSeek itself.

As stated on its official website on May 28 following the release of the R1-0528 version: "After this R1 update, the context length of the model remains at 64K across the official website, mini programs, mobile Apps, and APIs. If users require longer context lengths, they may call the open-source version R1-0528 with a context length of 128K through other third-party platforms."

This circumstance is not a decline but rather a democratization of technology. DeepSeek focuses on foundational capabilities, driving industry progress through open-source strategies. By integrating DeepSeek's models,

many applications allow users to access services without visiting DeepSeek's official site.

The results speak for themselves: Tencent Yuanbao saw its daily active users surge more than twentyfold between February and March, rising to become the third most popular AI-native mobile app in China by daily active user (DAU), while Quark recently topped usage charts. These developments confirm that the decline in direct website traffic paradoxically signals a deeper penetration of the technology.

In an interview with Chinese media outlet Waves, DeepSeek founder Liang Wenfeng emphasized that the company is currently in a phase of technological innovation rather than an application boom. Looking ahead, DeepSeek aims to establish an ecosystem that enables the industry to directly leverage its technologies and outcomes.

According to a recent KPMG report, the adoption of AI tools in Chinese workplaces has reached an impressive 93 percent, far exceeding the global average of 58 percent. Powered by DeepSeek's open-source models, AI tools are increasingly integrated across workplace ecosystems on multiple fronts: leading smartphone manufacturers have embedded DeepSeek models into their operating systems to enhance intelligent interactions, while major cloud platforms provide APIs with foundational support to industries such as finance, healthcare and e-commerce. This "device-cloud-ecosystem" collaborative model transforms AI from a technical hurdle into an accessible tool, marking China's AI industry shift from isolated breakthroughs to comprehensive system-level integration.

"Other companies develop B2B or B2C services based on our models, while we concentrate on fundamental research. Once the industry chain matures, there will be no need for us to develop applications ourselves. Of course, if necessary, we have the capability to do so — but research and innovation will always remain our foremost priority," Liang said.

Robot to Preserve World's Oldest Pagoda

Hi-Tech

By GONG Qian

The Yingxian Wooden Pagoda in north China's Shanxi province, built in 1056, is the oldest and tallest extant wooden multi-storied structure in the world and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Due to centuries of weathering, the 67.31-meter-high and nine-storey building has visibly tilted.

However, protecting the pagoda is an extremely complex and challenging task requiring precise scientific monitoring. Challenges such as lack of accuracy in traditional manual surveying, damage from people's physical contact and dim lighting inside the structure make preservation work more difficult.

To address the challenges, a six-legged robot dog has been developed to perform the task of intelligent 3D scanning and digital modeling, as part of the "AI Smart Yingxian Wooden Pagoda 2.0" project. This robot integrates

advanced technologies such as deep learning algorithms, a multi-modal sensor system, and bionic motion control.

Equipped with an intelligent 3D vision system, the robot dog can achieve millimeter-level scanning of ancient architecture without physical contact. It has already completed high-precision 3D digital modeling of the douba zaojing (caisson ceiling) structure of the pagoda on the first floor.

The robot dog is also equipped with a dual-spectrum imaging system capable of real-time fire detection and automatic early warning when temperatures exceed set thresholds.

In addition, its stable six-legged design, combined with dual laser radars, is capable of 360° omnidirectional scanning.

Researchers can use the reconstructed 3D model for detailed analysis. By comparing historical and real-time data collected by the robot's scans, AI algorithms can automatically detect subtle changes such as wood deformation and paint peeling, providing quantitative evidence for future preservation.



A six-legged robot dog helps to preserve the Yingxian Wooden Pagoda in north China's Shanxi province. (PHOTO: LENOVO)