

Overstretched Security Concerns Can't Stop Win-win Cooperation



By GONG Qian & ZHANG Mengran

A yet-to-break-ground car factory recently stirred unease within certain Spanish government departments. Attempts to block the project, however, cannot hold back the momentum toward deeper and more substantive China-Spain cooperation.

In June, the regional government of Galicia in Spain announced that Chinese carmaker SAIC Motor will build its first European electric vehicle (EV) plant in port city Ferrol, with an initial investment of 200 million euros, and estimatedly create over 2,300 new jobs. For this old industrial city described by local authorities as "in particular need of such opportunities," the investment comes as much-needed, timely support.

Yet at a time when the project is awaiting final approval, Spain's Defense Ministry and the National Intelligence Center unexpectedly raised security concerns, claiming that the plant's proximity to a military shipyard and naval base might facilitate so-called Chinese "espionage operations."

However, the allegation doesn't withstand basic logical scrutiny. Enrique Santiago, the parliamentary spokesperson for the political coalition United Left, argued that if China wanted to monitor Spain's naval movements, it would use its vast satellite network or launch cyber operations, rather than build a plant employing thousands of local workers. Santiago said on X: "With



The first car carrier from the Chinese automotive giant SAIC Motor is welcomed in Ferrol, Spain on July 9, 2026. (PHOTO: VCG)

satellites existing, it is not credible that a factory is a 'threat.'"

Exactly! Suspecting a factory of spying when it is in full public view and subject to local government oversight is not a security assessment — it is overactive imagination.

What makes the issue even more thought-provoking is its timing. Alfonso Rueda, president of the regional government of Galicia, put it plainly: Two tiers of government had worked on the project for months without a single security concern being raised. "It is surprising that a central government department is now making such statements."

Spanish left-wing coalition Sumar pointed a finger at NATO, alleging behind-the-scenes pressure from external actors. Spanish political parties and officials know that the so-called security

issue is nothing more than a pretext for maligning competitors one cannot out-compete.

However, rational voices soon prevailed. Sources from the Spanish Prime Minister's Office clarified that the Defense Ministry's objection was merely a report and was "non-binding." Óscar López, Spanish minister for digital transformation and public function, made it clear that the government is convinced the Chinese investment will be compatible with industrial growth, job creation and national security.

Trade unions also backed the project for a straightforward reason: It will create quality jobs and opportunities for digital and energy transition.

According to insiders, the project is set to be approved as public opinion, employment and economic development

represent tangible livelihood interests that cannot be overlooked.

Spain in fact has a bigger picture to consider. It harbors ambitions to take the lead in EV production in Europe, a goal that hinges on partners such as SAIC Motor with proven technological and supply-chain strengths. Yolanda Díaz, Spain's second deputy prime minister and a native of Ferrol, discussed advancing the project with Chinese counterparts during her China visit in May. From national authorities to local governments, politicians to trade unions, Spanish stakeholders share one overriding attitude: eager for delivery.

The Ferrol controversy drives home two key points. First, "security" is a serious concept. When weaponized for extraneous purposes, it becomes a cover for protectionist self-interest and undermines international trade rules. Second, hard facts will eventually dispel artificially stoked fears.

A July 2025 study by top European think tank Bruegel notes that Chinese investment can reindustrialize European regions hit hard by the decline of the combustion-engine sector: CATL's plant in Hungary is projected to create 9,000 jobs, while Chery plans to reactivate the former Nissan plant in Barcelona, Spain.

As an old Chinese saying goes: A straight foot is not afraid of a crooked shoe. Chinese companies go global on the strength of their own technology and production capacity, bringing jobs and industrial upgrading to host economies. Roadblocks built on overstretched security arguments cannot stop win-win cooperation. The imperative for development will ultimately drown out politically motivated noise.

definition, data compliance and intellectual property ownership. In addition, there are inconsistent regulatory rules and incomplete compliance systems at the supervisory level.

Therefore, to promote the steady and sustainable development of "AI + OPC," all sectors of society need to build consensus and work together.

According to Wang, OPCs should adhere to the principle of technology for good and strive for alignment at the value, institutional and philosophical levels. He emphasized the need to focus on key core technology bottlenecks, build an open and collaborative industrial ecosystem, deeply engage with the real economy, and empower the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries. At the same time, talent development systems should be strengthened to cultivate a fertile ground for innovation.

Liang proposed a shift from investing in hardware to investing in people, from venue leasing to opening up real-world scenarios, from cash subsidies to computing and model vouchers, and from isolated entrepreneurship to community synergy. "Make money first, then pursue perfection. AI is your employee, and you are the CEO. One-person entrepreneurship does not mean fighting alone; joining a community is a necessity for OPC survival."

stronger industrial ecosystem."

Er. Bikash Gurung, president of the Robotics Association of Nepal, said China's robotics industry is the market leader in the world. The innovation in robot world models, the dexterity of the robots, and the growing physical ability of humanoid robots is surprising the world. As the world heads for a trillion-dollar intelligent robot industry, China will have a major share of the market and the investment from China-based robotics companies will grow exponentially. Nepal and China already have co-operation for robotics development. "Our association is supporting the uptake of China-based robots, whether industrial, humanoid or sorting robots."

Voice of the World

A Solid Legal Model for Clean and Beautiful World

—— International Experts Weigh In on China's Ecological and Environmental Code

Edited by QI Liming

China's Ecological and Environmental Code, the world's first code specifically named after the ecological environment, has drawn the attention of experts from around the globe. They regard it not only as a significant legal achievement in advancing China's ecological civilization, but also as a solid legal model for promoting the joint construction of a clean and beautiful world.

The Code integrates pollution control, ecological protection, green and low-carbon development, and accountability into a single institutional framework. Sam Geall, associate fellow at the Chatham House Environment and Society Centre in the UK, said China's comprehensive and systematic approach to establishing an ecological environment legal system holds great value. The Code has devoted a separate chapter to "green and low-carbon development" and a separate section to "addressing climate change," providing a reference for other countries in promoting green and low-carbon transformation.

Gaston Kouao, an environmental protection expert in Côte d'Ivoire, said, "Environmental issues have never been problems faced by a single country alone; rather, they are challenges that all of humanity must confront together." China has long maintained consistency in policies and actions regarding biodiversity conservation, pollution control, and ecological environment protection.

The Code is not only an important institutional outcome of China's ecological civilization construction practice, but also provides a new practical sample for other countries to promote green development through the rule of law, he said.

According to Dimitri de Boer, chief representative of the global environmental organization ClientEarth's office in China, the Code is not only a crucial milestone in the development of China's environmental legal system, but also provides innovative institutional solutions that can serve as a reference for global environmental governance.

The Code is not only driven by strong practical needs but also has a solid theoretical foundation. In the eyes of Clifford Cobb, vice president of the U.S. Institute for Postmodern Development of China, it embodies China's experience in environmental governance, and represents a fruitful achievement in China's efforts to promote ecological civilization.

Dubravka Ćedović Handanović, Serbian minister of energy and mining, said, "The issue of ecological environment involves multiple aspects such as economy, society, resource utilization and people's livelihood. It requires governance through systematic institutional arrangements." The Code incorporates ecological environment protection into the framework of legalization and institutionalization, which is of great significance for improving the ecological environment governance system and provides a reference for other countries, she added.

Hi-Tech

Smart Mosquito Traps Make Summer Parks More Pleasant

By Staff Reporters

As evening falls, visitors stroll along the shores of Northwest Lake Park in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, enjoying the cool air. Many have noticed a striking difference this summer: Unlike in previous years, when mosquitoes frequently feasted on parkgoers, there seem to be far fewer of the insects buzzing around.

The change can be attributed to a batch of high-tech mosquito traps that have gone into operation in the park.

"These smart, breathing-simulation biological mosquito traps use biomimetic technology to capture and eliminate mosquitoes, without using chemical agents throughout the process," said Wang Zeming, a senior engineer at the park.

The machines attract mosquitoes by releasing carbon dioxide at a specific concentration to continuously simulate human breathing. Standing quietly among the grass, the black cylindrical devices have a simple, understated design that blends into the surrounding

landscape. An electronic display on each machine provides real-time updates on mosquito-catching data, making the equipment's operating status easy to monitor.

When in operation, the traps also activate special-spectrum lights that provide a secondary attraction for mosquitoes in the surrounding area, improving the capturing efficiency. Once mosquitoes are lured close to the machine, a negative-pressure airflow draws them inside like a vacuum cleaner, where they are confined in a sealed collection box and killed by dehydration.

"Compared with traditional methods such as pesticide spraying and sticky mosquito traps, smart mosquito traps are environmentally friendly and pollution-free. They can operate around the clock, with real-time access to mosquito-control data," Wang said. "They target only blood-feeding mosquitoes, without harming beneficial insects such as bees and dragonflies, making mosquito control more efficient, environmentally friendly and visually unobtrusive."



A mosquito trap stands on the lawn at Northwest Lake Park in Wuhan, Hubei province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Experts Map Out Survival Rules for OPCs

Opinion

By LIANG Yilian & JIANG Yun

With the advent of the AI era, the entrepreneurial spark of One-person Companies (OPCs) is gaining significant momentum. As numerous cities roll out targeted policies and establish funds to support OPC development, industry experts at the inaugural "AI+OPC" Innovation and Development Conference in Hangzhou recently shared insights into how OPCs can thrive.

Why was OPC impossible in the past but possible today? In the view of many experts, what appears to be an accidental novelty is in fact an inevitable product of the times.

Wang Jiangping, former vice minister of industry and information technology, said the surge of OPCs is an inevitable outcome of the increasing accessibility of AI technology. The threshold for entrepreneurship has dropped significantly, unleashing individual creativity on an unprecedented scale.

"One person, one set of AI tools, and one complete industrial chain —

this new paradigm enables more creative and skilled individuals to pursue innovation and entrepreneurship at extremely low cost," Wang said.

Pan Yunhe, former executive vice president of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a professor at Zhejiang University, called the emergence of OPCs "a ripple effect of AI-driven industrial transformation."

Intelligent platforms provide not only computing power and data, but also models and a wide range of basic knowledge and technologies, greatly reducing the barriers to OPC formation, according to Pan. Liang Gui, former executive vice governor of Jiangxi province, pointed out that three forces are driving the rapid growth of OPCs. The first is the maturity of the tool chain: From 2024, AI has evolved from a mere assistant into a digital employee matrix, enabling a founder to hire a team of digital employees.

The second is extremely low start-up costs: Data shows that more than 90 percent of OPCs are launched with less than 500 USD, and the minimum monthly cost for an OPC in China can be less than 3,000 RMB.

The third is China's unique policy ecosystem: More than 30 cities across

the country have already introduced special OPC policies. In 2025, Shangcheng district in Hangzhou took the lead in Zhejiang province by issuing a "Six Ones" special policy package. The "Six Ones" are one plan, one policy, one guideline, one fund, one case study and one competition/conference to pitch and scale ideas.

According to the *National OPC Development Observation Report (2026)*, the industry currently faces many pain points: Local support policies are often highly homogenized, the overall supporting ecosystem remains inadequate, and there is a common tendency to emphasize hardware investment over software empowerment, and resource allocation over demand matching. In addition, more than 60 percent of entrepreneurs have cognitive bias regarding the OPC model, and the overall survival rate is below 10 percent.

In Liang's view, these failures can be attributed to five main "ways to die": the perfectionism trap, tool addiction, pseudo-demand self-indulgence, pricing phobia, and cash flow rupture.

Wang said OPC development faces issues such as amplified AI legal risks, confusion of legal personality, liability

holds enormous potential for trade between China and Europe.

In the eyes of Jacques Eone, president of the Cameroon Robotics Association, China's robotics industry is growing rapidly. He said that the development of humanoid and AI-powered robots, particularly by several companies encountered at the WRC 2026, is opening a new era of general-purpose robotics. "I see this as a major opportunity for Cameroon and Africa, where automation needs remain significant. We are exploring practical applications of robotics in agriculture, mining, security and other key sectors, with the ambition of improving productivity and supporting the emergence of a

Robotics Wows the World at WRC 2026

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Jeff Burnstein, president of the Association for Advancing Automation, the U.S., has come to the WRC nearly every year. Impressed by the crowds at the WRC and China's robotics development, he told *Science and Technology Daily* that although there are differences between Chinese and U.S. markets, China and the U.S. could strengthen cooperation in the robotics field, such as in standards.

euRobotics' Vice President Juha Rönning has more than one Chinese robot in his lab. He said the speed of China's robotics development exceeded his ex-

pectations. He believes that robots could be part of solutions to address global challenges such as an aging population and pollution.

Jack Perry Jr., chairman of the 48 Group and executive chairman of LEC Robotics, came to the WRC for the first time. He toured the exhibition booths and engaged with industry partners to explore potential opportunities for collaboration. He pointed out that Europe's demand for robotics is strong, with countless real-world applications yet to be fully recognized and explored. If properly developed, the robotics market