

The Reibel Group opens in China

The authorities of Changle City (an urban area of Fuzhou) in the Chinese province of Fujian (South-East) have accorded the Belgian group Reibel and its partners – among which the local Weiming Investment Group – a site of twenty hectares (200,000 m²) in a free-trade airport economic zone where, theoretically in two years' time, a logistic centre of 124,000 m², already named the “Sino-Eur Reibel (Fuzhou) Airport Bonded Logistics Park Co Ltd”, will be constructed. Dedicated to investment and trade between Europe and China, the capital of this enterprise will break down into 70% for Weiming, 10% for Winhopes and the remaining 20% for Reibel, which will contribute its know-how in the area of transport and international logistics and bonded import-export services; the Brussels company will furthermore be entrusted with the operational management. It will also act as a trade bridge by facilitating the setting up in Brussels of a Port of Fuzhou trade agency and by actively promoting trade from Europe. On the other hand, it will make no cash contribution. The estimated global figure for future infrastructure investments, in money terms, is approximately 150 million dollars.

The industrial project motivating the future accommodation site consists in the objective of attracting other European companies and acting as a springboard or base for them in their future development in China. Divided into three zones, namely business, manufacturing and facilities, the buildings envisaged will be traditional trade warehouses (one of which with controlled temperatures in order to preserve the cold chain necessary for, among other things, chocolate, beer, wine, delicatessen meats etc) or will be reserved for e-commerce, service centres for trade in raw materials intended for the textile industry – all of this under bond (“bonded warehousing”) – as well as a building reserved for administration and advisers (offices which can accommodate, in particular, solicitors, barristers, translators etc.) and an exhibition hall devoted to Sino-European trade. There will be provision for show-rooms, for example, so that SMEs can exhibit their products. Finally, it is intended that the park will include safe-access apartments for expatriates.

In concrete terms, the local authorities at the origin of the project see this hub as a means of developing new European trade routes in the economic zone of the West Coast of the Taiwan Archipelago, with the specific objective of extending the depth of the maritime hinterland of this zone up to the restricted port zone of Fuzhou, and also to increase the level of investment and foreign trade of the said economic zone.

“The project was initiated approximately two years ago by Reibel, but the development of the site was decided more than twenty years ago by the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping,” says Giovanni Esposito, the CEO of Reibel.

“The complete support of Messrs Wangshaozhi (Secretary of Changle City), Wangsong (Mayor of Changle City) and Yangyue (Secretary of Fuzhou), given concrete form by the assignment agreement of 17 and 18 May last at Fuzhou, during the ‘16th Cross Straits Fair for Economy and Trade’, is an essential step towards the globalisation of the Region of Fujian through the port of Fuzhou and the airport of Fuzhou-Changle. This project is also an exceptional opportunity for companies from Belgium and Europe in general to set up direct outposts on the Chinese market,” he added.

“I particularly want to thank all my Chinese colleagues and also the Chinese officials, with whom we have succeeded in moving this project forward both very quickly and in a structured way. The people we met in Fuzhou were exceptionally friendly, with a very serious approach to business,” concluded Giovanni Esposito.



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s.a. REIBEL n.v. | t +32 2 421 99 11 | f +32 2 421 99 40
Chaussée de Vilvorde 11 Vilvoordsesteenweg
Bruxelles 1120 Brussel | Belgium | info@reibel.be | www.reibel.be

TVA/BTW BE 0426 767 732 | RPM BRUXELLES RPR BRUSSEL | RCB 467 264 HRB | WC N° 1333.001 LCE
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