

When Hot Meals Drop from the Sky



By Song Yue and Zong He

As a key component of the future space industry, the low-altitude economy has become an important driver for advancing new industrialization, developing new quality productive forces, and empowering emerging sectors.

On one side of the city, drones loaded with food deliveries lift off from the Wujiaochang commercial area, skillfully avoiding obstacles between buildings and flying steadily along preset routes. On the other side, at Meituan's Low-Altitude Operation Management Center in the Connected Hub, chief pilot Zhang Haotian keeps a close eye on the real-time data displayed on the screen. "Order volume has grown significantly in recent weeks," he says, "but our drones are still maintaining a high

on-time delivery rate."

Today, the low-altitude economy has been included in China's list of strategic emerging industries. The number of professionals like Zhang working in this field is steadily increasing. Technological innovation is fueling new stories of dedication and progress on this stage just a hundred meters above the ground.

With a background in aviation and five years of experience in the civil aviation sector, Zhang Haotian has long been connected to the skies.

In 2023, Zhang made a career shift into the low-altitude economy, focusing on the use of small aircraft in commercial logistics. He admits that the early days were tough, with the pressure and challenges of "rebuilding" his technical foundation. Civil aviation

and drone delivery differ in many ways, including workflow, system architecture, and operating models, all of which required him to relearn and adapt. "I've always been interested in drones," Zhang says, "but once I joined the field, I realized turning an interest into a career requires deep knowledge and strong technical skills."

He began by studying drone flight systems and exploring how technologies like artificial intelligence and big data could be applied to delivery services. At the same time, he worked to understand the regulations and industry standards that govern the low-altitude economy, ensuring that drone delivery operations could grow in a safe and compliant way. As a newcomer, Zhang quickly realized that constant learning was the only way to gain a foot-

hold in this emerging sector. "It felt like going back to square one. I spent every day buried in books."

Drone delivery is far more complex than simply flying a package from one point to another. It involves route planning, flight safety, capacity scheduling, and emergency response. "Civil aviation is about mastering the skies at 10,000 meters," Zhang explains. "But the low-altitude economy is opening up a brand-new space below a few hundred meters. It functions like the capillaries of a city, requiring refined and intelligent operations."

In 2023, Meituan launched its first drone delivery route in downtown Shanghai, delivering meals from Hopson One to CapitalLand Guozheng Center. In 2024, a new route was added, connecting Wujiaochang to Huangxing Park and creating an aerial corridor for food delivery. In 2025, Fudan University joined the low-altitude network, opening the door to even more possibilities. Having watched drone delivery grow from a niche pilot program to a popular service, Zhang feels proud. "Three years ago, drone delivery seemed like science fiction. But now, in parks, tech

zones, and university campuses across Yangpu, people scan screens at lockers to pick up their orders like it's completely normal. I used to think airline captains had the coolest job. But now, building aerial corridors in cities is just as exciting. We're not just delivering packages—we're delivering hot, ready-to-eat moments of daily life."

Yangpu District has introduced a dedicated policy titled Measures to Promote the Development of the Low-Altitude Economy (Trial). The policy encourages the use of drone delivery services in commercial areas, campuses, industrial parks, and residential communities. It also aims to attract leading "chain owner" enterprises and fast-growing startups, while fostering a cluster of innovative small and medium-sized companies. The district plans to build a complete ecosystem for the low-altitude economy. By 2027, Yangpu aims to significantly boost its capacity for innovation and industrial clustering, becoming a key hub for low-altitude economic development with a strong value chain, diverse application scenarios, and a dynamic innovation environment.



Going Global Together: How Companies Are Setting Sail for Overseas Markets

By Tang Shunjia

As the global digital economy continues to expand and data becomes a key driver of growth, Chinese companies are accelerating their international strategies. Today, Southeast Asia—especially Singapore—is emerging as a critical hub and destination, thanks to its geographic advantages. In this rapidly growing digital landscape, businesses face the challenge of balancing development and security.

Shanghai Shengshuiyuan Management Consulting Co., Ltd., based in Yangpu, specializes in investment promotion for overseas industrial parks. The company offers integrated services including registration, site selection, and factory setup abroad, helping Chinese enterprises "go global" with greater ease.

Recently, the fifth session of the YangshuPu Digital Salon's special series on compliant international expansion, titled "Digital Enterprises Going Global: Unlocking the Singapore Market," was held at Changyang

Campus. For Hu Xinjian, General Manager of Shengshuiyuan, the event hit the mark. "Right now, many companies are focusing on Southeast Asia. We hope to further improve our services in the region," said Hu. "It's what we call 'the government sets the stage, and businesses put on the show.' We're going abroad together."

As a major hub in Southeast Asia, Singapore offers a unique combination of strategic location, open economy, international business environment, strong policy support, and a deep talent pool. These advantages make it an ideal springboard for Chinese enterprises pursuing global expansion.

At the salon, Hu Liying, Senior Manager of International and M&A Tax Consulting at Ernst & Young, gave a comprehensive overview of Singapore's tax system and incentives. She noted that companies meeting certain criteria can enjoy tiered tax rates ranging from 0 to 15 percent. To attract cross-border investment and diversify industries, the Singapore government has intro-

duced a series of incentive programs such as the Regional Headquarters Scheme, Pioneer Manufacturing Incentive, and Global Trader Programme.

Hui Zhibin, Director of the Internet Research Center at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and Chief Researcher at the Cyber Research Institute, provided an in-depth analysis of Singapore's advantages as a regional digital hub. He highlighted the country's digital business environment, data governance framework, and internet-related policies. Addressing the needs of Chinese enterprises, Hui also discussed how key industries—such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, e-commerce, and digital content—can establish a presence in Singapore, while noting compliance challenges related to cross-border data flows, content regulation, and intellectual property protection.

Shi Tian, China Director at LexisNexis Risk Solutions, focused on Singapore's regulatory system for

sanctions compliance and export controls. He emphasized that companies should build a two-pronged risk management approach. On one hand, businesses should adopt automated screening systems to monitor customers, suppliers, and other related parties in real time to ensure compliance with multilateral sanctions. On the other hand, they should use professional tools to review export products, particularly those involving controlled technologies, to establish a comprehensive compliance system for cross-border operations.

The digital economy has become a new engine of global growth, offering vast market potential and opportunities for innovation. Shen Chao, a solutions expert from UCloud, shared current trends in global digital development. He noted that Chinese companies in manufacturing, e-commerce, and technology are accelerating their expansion efforts. In 2023, the number of outbound companies rose by 20 percent year-on-year, with especially strong

growth in tech and e-commerce sectors.

Since its launch, the YangshuPu Digital Salon has attracted growing participation from companies across different districts. One such company is Shanghai Lanxihang Technology Co., Ltd. from Fengxian, which has attended two sessions so far.

"There used to be many challenges and uncertainties in our operations and partnerships. We really needed professional insights," said General Manager Tang Yizhen. "This salon provided a detailed explanation of relevant laws and policies, which was very helpful. You can feel the momentum of digital economic development here in Yangpu, and the strong push for overseas expansion. We're grateful for this learning opportunity."

Looking ahead, the series on compliant international expansion will introduce a compliance guide for digital enterprises going global, helping more companies explore and expand into international markets.