

MIIT Green Industrial Design Demonstration Program

Policy Briefing on 2021 Application Notice | May 2021

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (MIIT) has launched the Green Industrial Design Demonstration Program in 2019 to **promote manufacturers with advanced eco-friendly designs**¹. The application process starts with a yearly application notice from MIIT that includes annual green manufacturing objectives and application materials. Successful applicants are subsequently published on an annual list. The 2021 Notice² is the third and latest call for application of the program with a **submission deadline until 31st May 2021**.

Overview on the Green Industrial Design Demonstration Program

The Notice indicates the Chinese government's annual green manufacturing market priorities

- The **2019** Notice was a **key driver for China's industrial policy actions in the field of green manufacturing**; It aimed at improving resource efficiency, adopting clean production, and relying more on renewable energies.³
- The **2020** Notice targeted manufacturing sectors with **high consumption rates, greater impacts on the environment and long-haul delivery needs**.
- The **2021** Notice calls for green industrial designs that facilitate the realisation of **carbon peak before 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060 in China**.

Selection Process

Interested companies must first self-assess according to the requirements of the application brochure⁴ and hand in their applications to the regional departments of MIIT or eligible state-owned enterprises (SOEs) under the direct management of the Chinese government. These regional departments or SOEs will subsequently nominate selected applicants based on the results of their self-assessment. Finally, MIIT selects the successful applications among the nominees on a central government level and publishes them on an annual list.

Targeted sectors

The 2019 and 2020 Notices specifically mentioned industrial areas of building materials, textiles, electronics, machinery, automotive and chemical production. So far, most selected companies have come from the light industry (German: Leichtindustrie), producing consumer goods.

¹ The green industrial design covers the whole production cycle of the industry that reduces reliance on harmful raw materials and carbon emissions.

² The 2021 Application Notice in Chinese can be assessed [here](#).

³ These goals were set out in the 2016-2020 Green Manufacturing Plan. The plan in Chinese can be accessed [here](#).

⁴ The 2021 Application Brochure in Chinese can be downloaded [here](#).

What is new in the 2021 Notice?

Political Guidance on Carbon-Peak and Carbon-Neutrality Goals

The 2021 Notice was the first of its kind to incorporate the carbon peak and carbon neutrality recommendations of *2021 State Council's Guideline* published in February 2021. This Guideline advises all industries to cut carbon emissions by 2025 and introduce green industrial designs.

The 2021 Application Notice is underpinned by the 14th Five-Year Plan

The Green Industrial Design Program plays a pivotal role in implementing China's recent industrial sustainable development strategies. For instance, the 2021 Notice objectives follow the *14th Five Year Plan* (**Further Information**) actions on environmental sustainability as follows,

- Enabling the green transitions in coalmining, steel, chemical and building materials industries
- Improving the resource efficiency within the manufacturing sector
- Implementing circular-economy methods in production lines, raising the recycling and reusing rates of all industries

Why is this program relevant?

- The Program offers a **reference point to understand the Chinese government's focus areas with regards to green manufacturing**. At the same time, the selected companies showcase the current "sustainability" benchmark of (Chinese) companies in different areas.
 - o For instance, **circularity and energy efficiency in manufacturing** were stressed by the government notices in 2019 and 2020 and were featured in many selected companies' eco-friendly designs across different industries.
- Only Chinese companies were selected for the award in 2019. The 2020 selection included only a few **foreign companies with Chinese legal entities**: Schneider Electric, ABB, Hitachi, and Nippon Paint.
- No official mentions about financial benefits for selected companies similar to the MIIT Manufacturing Pilot and Demonstration Program (**further Information here**) have been published.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this Policy Update and welcome your comments and suggestions. Your feedback to info@i40-china.org is highly appreciated. More policy products can be found in our **Download Area**, more information about the Sino-German Industrie 4.0 Cooperation is on our **Project Website**.