Fact Sheet for Southwest China

- Southwest China is made up of the provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou and the municipality of Chongqing, with a total of over 190 million population in an area as big as Western Europe.

- Southwest China’s combined nominal GDP in 2015 was US$ 1.1 trillion, making the 4 provincial economies equivalent to the then 14th largest economy in the world.

- Two of the new seven Free Trade Zones announced in August 2016 were in Chongqing and Sichuan, opening more business opportunities for British companies.

- 80% of China’s shale gas is produced in Chongqing (2015). SW China is piloting the opening up of the world’s largest electricity market (worth approx £300 billion a year). The pilot markets in Chongqing, Guizhou and Yunnan are worth £20 billion a year.

- One in three of all laptops and one in eight of all cars in the world are made in Chongqing. 70% of all iPads and 50% of CPUs in the world are made in Chengdu.

- China’s first National Big Data Comprehensive Pilot Zone was established in Guizhou in February 2016 and the first national crowdfunding centre is also in Guizhou.

- Chengdu is China’s fourth largest aviation hub in mainland China. Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport is among the world’s top 40 busiest airports in terms of passenger traffic and currently handles approx 2m more passengers than Gatwick.

- Chongqing Cuntan International Container Terminal is the largest inland shipping terminal in China. More than 80% of China’s rail cargo to Europe travels from rail hubs in Chongqing and Chengdu.

- The West China Hospital Chengdu is China’s largest hospital with over 7000 beds and 5 million outpatients and 225,000 inpatients (2015).
ADVANCED ENGINEERING SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Automotive

Chongqing is one of the largest automobile and motorcycle manufacturing bases in China. There are 27 complete vehicle manufacturers, including international brands such as Ford, and more than 800 auto parts suppliers, such as GKN. There are also 31 motorcycle manufacturers, such as Loncin and Lifan. Chongqing manufactured over three million vehicles in 2015 (the UK produced 1.5 million), an eighth of China total production of 24.5 million.

**Opportunities**

Local car manufacturers are keen to improve their technologies on power train, transmissions, new energy (Hydrogen, electric and hybrid vehicles), weight reduction and autonomous vehicles.

**Examples**

- Chang’an Auto has invested in a R&D centre in Birmingham working on power train R&D.
- Lifan worked with Ricardo on turbocharged technologies.

Aerospace

China is the world’s fastest growing aerospace market. Chengdu’s aerospace industry accounted for nearly 3% of the city’s industrial output. The government plans to transform this industry to a pillar of the local economy.

**Opportunities**

There are opportunities to export UK expertise/components to local aviation companies and airlines on design, engines, avionics, maintenance service and pilot training.

**Examples**

- Chengdu Chengfei Commercial Aircraft Co., Ltd. has been supplying parts to Rolls-Royce.
- CETCA and Thales established a JV in Chengdu to provide in-flight entertainment systems for COMAC C919 aircraft.
- Sichuan Airlines have been working with RR, choosing Trent 700 engines to power its fleet of Airbus A330-200 twin jets.

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THE BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL CHONGQING

The consulate opened on 1 March 2000.

It represents the UK across Southwest China. It does this through collaboration with local partners to achieve their shared outcomes of sustainable growth through transition to a low carbon economy, promotion of UK research and technology, the pursuit of commercial opportunities for UK businesses in priority sectors and Chinese investment to the UK.

Department of International Trade team working within the consulate focus on the priority business sectors of Automotive & Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing & Transport, Construction, Environment and Infrastructure, Consumer, Creative and Education, Energy (Oil & Gas, Renewable, Nuclear), Information and Communication Technology and Life Science, Health and Social Care, but also seek out emerging opportunities for UK companies.