

Ningbo Companies on the Global Stage

Jialian Technology: Pioneering Biodegradable Solutions for Global Expansion

By Jin Lu

From a humble chemistry teacher to a corporate leader, Wang Xiong, Chairman of Ningbo Jialian Technology Co., Ltd., has charted an impressive course in life. Under his leadership, Jialian Technology has experienced remarkable growth. As a nationally recognized manufacturing leader, the company is engaged in the research, production, and sale of biodegradable products and plastic items for daily use, while offering comprehensive green solutions for caterers, supermarkets, aviation companies, and major sporting events.

A Green Product Lineup

Jialian Technology's commitment to sustainability is evident in its product showroom, where a standout item is the "SLIBB," a recyclable plastic clothespin.

"Traditional clothespins rely on metal springs for rebound force to secure garments on a clothesline, but such springs require manual installation. Automating the process is impractical for most companies," explained Tian Xiaofeng, director of the company's marketing department. But Jialian Technology, a company that prioritizes the environment over mere profit, decided to find a greener replacement for metal springs.

After drawing up the designs and identifying the best recyclable plastics, Jialian Technology conducted 5,000 compression tests. The result was a clothespin that could be assembled automatically and boasts a lifespan of around eight years. Its green, durable, and mass-producible qualities have made it popular with household product brands worldwide.

The clothespin is just the tip of the iceberg of Jialian's large portfolio of exceptional biodegradable materials and products.

In the showroom, a wide



Ningbo Jialian Technology Co., Ltd. [Photo provided to Ningbo Times]

range of products—from straws and forks to cups and plates—highlights Jialian Technology's extensive line of biodegradable items. "For example, this PLA biodegradable straw is made from starch-based polymer materials. We currently offer dozens of biodegradable straw models," said Tian. Once disposed of, these products can undergo processing that ensures they do not pollute soil or water resources.

"Last year, Jialian Technology's 15-piece environmentally friendly tableware set was used at the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games," stated Wang proudly.

A Greener Ecosystem

Jialian Technology is the first in China's catering packaging industry to release an ESG report, which details a company's performance in balancing environmental protection, social responsibility, and corporate governance.

"The report covers not only Jialian Technology's carbon emissions but also those of our partners. This reflects our commitment to promoting green and low-carbon practices and encouraging our upstream and downstream partners to join us in going green," said Tian.

Jialian Technology has been

actively pursuing green initiatives. For example, consider the commonly seen bubble tea cup, printed with the store's logo. The cup itself is made of polypropylene, while the plastic film used for the logo is polyethylene. Although both materials are recyclable individually, their combination renders the cup non-recyclable due to differing melting points, leading to environmental pollution if discarded improperly.

"We are encouraging upstream suppliers to develop new polypropylene films to make the cups fully recyclable and assisting them in finding new markets," explained Tian.

Going green also involves shifting from disposables to durable alternatives. Originally, Jialian Technology used disposable stretch films to secure food in trays. However, to get at the food, the user has to peel back or cut open these films before discarding them, leading to waste and pollution. Jialian Technology worked with upstream partners to develop reusable stretch bags that resemble stockings; they can wrap up the entire tray and can be sealed with Velcro. The user simply opens the Velcro to access their meal, with no damage to the stretch bag.

"This change saves us 2

million yuan annually. As long as they are not lost, these stretch bags can be used indefinitely," Tian said.

According to the ESG report, Jialian Technology aims to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions across its entire ecosystem by 2050.

A Greener Future for the World

Prominent domestic and international brand logos displayed at the entrance of Jialian Technology's showroom highlight the company's global partners and affirm the global market's recognition of its green initiatives. These brands include Walmart, Costco, and Amazon.

Jialian Technology is a supplier of household products to major overseas supermarkets. "To better serve our international clients, we acquired a company in the US and established a pilot factory. We also leased a 25,000-square-meter facility in Thailand, which began production before the 2024 Chinese New Year. Additionally, we are developing 24 hectares of land in Thailand, readying it for the construction of a 100,000-square-meter factory as part of phase one," said Wang, detailing the company's overseas expansion plans.

Adapting to the evolving global landscape, Jialian Technology is pursuing a dual-track strategy, focusing equally on both the Chinese and international markets. As a result, the company's domestic sales have been rapidly increasing.

"In China, we primarily supply packaging products to bubble tea shops, caterers, and cafes," said Tian. "We aim to expand the use of plant fiber products in the domestic food packaging market, as this area remains largely untapped."

Jialian Technology has already established nine intelligent production bases worldwide, including locations in Zhejiang, Guangxi, Guangdong, the United States, and Thailand. The company also plans to expand its footprint in China by building additional production facilities in central and northern regions.

"With our global production network and the ongoing rollout of new green product categories, our competitive edge has grown significantly. I'm confident that our company will continue to grow and succeed," said Wang, expressing a vision for Jialian Technology to become a world-class manufacturer of green materials and household products.

Which Companies Lead This Year's Ningbo Top 100 Enterprises Rankings?

By Zhao Yu

On the afternoon of August 30th, the 2024 Ningbo's Top 100 Enterprises Rankings were officially released.

The rankings feature one primary list—the 2024 Ningbo's Top 100 Enterprises—alongside three sub-lists: 2024 Ningbo's Top 100 Manufacturers, 2024 Ningbo's Top 100 Service Providers, and 2024 Ningbo's Top 100 Most Competitive Companies.

Let's take a look at who made the cut!

The Top 100 Enterprises collectively reported an income of 2.47 trillion yuan last year, marking the third consecutive year that companies on this list surpassed the 2-trillion-yuan threshold. This represents an increase of 137.982 billion yuan, or 5.92%, compared to the previous year's total of 2.33 trillion yuan.

Ningbo's Top 100 Manufacturers of 2024 collectively reported an income of 1.53 trillion yuan in 2023, marking the first time this figure has surpassed 1.5 trillion yuan. This reflects an increase of 90.581 billion yuan, or 5.93%, compared to the previous year.

Ningbo's Top 100 Service Providers of 2024 collectively reported an income of 711.945 billion yuan last year, marking a rise of 35.980 billion yuan, or 5.32%, compared to the previous year.

On the other hand, the threshold for making it onto the Top 100 lists has risen year after year, with many of the included companies benefiting from economies of scale.

The revenue of the 100th company on the Top 100 list is 4.239 billion yuan, marking an increase of 142 million yuan, or 3.47%, from the 4.097 billion yuan of 2023's 100th company.

The threshold for entry into the Top 100 Service Providers has risen to 247 million yuan, up from 179 million yuan the previous year—an increase of 68 million yuan, or 37.99%.

In this year's Top 100 list, five companies reported revenues exceeding 100 billion yuan, matching the number from last year. Youngor Group maintained its position at the top for the third consecutive year, with a revenue of 191.5 billion yuan—an increase of 20 billion yuan from the previous year.

Sinopec's Zhenhai Refining and Chemical Branch, which holds the second position with a revenue of 149.6 billion yuan in this year's rankings, leads in tax payments with 16.709 billion yuan.

Jintian Investment Holdings ranks third with 142.6 billion yuan in revenue, while Geely Automobile and China-Base Ningbo Group hold the fourth and fifth spots with 130.5 billion yuan and 126 billion yuan, respectively.

Chief Adviser: Zhao Qingchuan
Proofreader: Yan Yiran

SPOTLIGHT

Domestic Flight Check-in Deadline Extended to 30 Minutes Before Takeoff at Ningbo Airport

By Yan Yiran

Starting September 1, Ningbo Lishe International Airport will extend its domestic flight check-in cut-off time to 30 minutes before departure.

The cut-off time is when check-in ends for a particular flight. Major airports across China typically have a 40-minute cut-off time for domestic flights. Ningbo Airport first pushed back its check-in deadline from 40 to 35 minutes before takeoff on September 1 last year. On May 1 this year, it extended the cut-off to 30 minutes for a number of

flights to Beijing, Guangzhou, and Chengdu. Now, this 30-minute cut-off will apply to all domestic flights at the airport.

According to preliminary data from Ningbo Airport's ground service department, more than 10,000 passengers check in between 30 and 35 minutes before departure each year.

Lengthening the check-in window allows staff more time to process passengers, reducing waiting times and expediting the check-in process.

"Ningbo Airport's staff are available to guide passengers through check-in and assist those who arrive late," said Dong Yueqin, Business Man-

ager of the Service Quality Department.

At the check-in area, Ningbo Airport has designated staff to identify latecomers, issue them special bracelets, and escort them to an expedited check-in counter. Afterwards, passengers are guided to the security check area, where security personnel facilitate fast-track screening. Additionally, the airport has prominent signboards and PA announcements in the security check waiting area to inform passengers of their options if they arrive close to their departure time.

Extending the deadline was a significant achievement for Ningbo Airport, involving



Ningbo Lishe International Airport. [Photo by Wang Jiabin]

the coordination of check-in, security, boarding, baggage handling, and apron operations.

However, readers should

note that the cut-off time for international flights and departures to Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan remains at 40 minutes before departure.