

La Chine automatise à 90% son 'atelier du monde'

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Une usine du complexe industriel de Dongguan en Chine s'apprête à remplacer 90% de sa main d'œuvre, soit environ 1.600 employés, par un millier de robots d'ici 2016, rapporte le South China Morning Post. La société Shenzhen Evenwin Precision Technology Co. a déjà commencé cette phase d'automatisation, qui lui permettra d'atteindre une capacité de production annuelle de 2 milliards de yuan (soit environ 290 millions d'euros).

Les robots sont appelés à s'imposer dans les nombreuses usines du delta de la Rivière des Perles, une région du sud de la Chine surnommé « l'atelier du monde », en raison de la présence de nombreuses usines de production concentrées principalement sur les exportations. Pendant des années, ces usines ont fait face à des pénuries de main-d'œuvre, mais il semble que les robots pourront apporter une solution partielle à ce problème.

Depuis le mois de septembre, 505 usines locales ont investi plus de 4,2 milliards de yuan (environ 607 millions d'euros) pour remplacer plus de 30.000 travailleurs par des robots, selon les chiffres du bureau de l'économie et de l'information Dongguan Bureau de la technologie. En 2016, elles devraient être 1500 à en faire de même.

Les autorités locales ont annoncé qu'elles allaient investir 943 milliards de yuans (environ 136 milliards d'euros) sur les trois prochaines années dans le remplacement de travailleurs par des robots. En 2020, 80% des employés de la ville auront été remplacés par des automates.

Building work starts on first all-robot manufacturing plant in China's Dongguan

<http://www.scmp.com/tech/enterprises/article/1786484/building-work-starts-first-all-robot-manufacturing-plant-chinas>

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Construction work has begun on the first factory in China's manufacturing hub of Dongguan to use only robots for production, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

A total of 1,000 robots would be introduced at the factory initially, run by Shenzhen Evenwin Precision Technology Co, with the aim of reducing the current workforce of 1,800 by 90 per cent to only about 200, Chen Xingqi, the chairman of the company's board, was quoted as saying in the report.

The company did not give a figure for the investment in the factory, but said its production capacity could reach a value of 2 billion yuan (US\$322 million) annually. [Robots are set to take over in many factories in the Pearl River Delta](#), the area of southern China known as the 'world's workshop' because of the huge export

manufacturing industry there, as labour shortages bite and local authorities face the need to spur innovation to counter the economic slowdown.

Since September, a total of 505 factories across Dongguan have invested 4.2 billion yuan in robots, aiming to replace more than 30,000 workers, according to the Dongguan Economy and Information Technology Bureau. By 2016, up to 1,500 of the city's industrial enterprises will begin replacing humans with robots.

The provincial authorities of Guangdong said early this year they would spend 94.3 billion yuan on replacing human labour with robots within the next three years. Cities in the province are handing out annual subsidies of between 200 and 500 million yuan to makers of robots and to manufacturers who install robots on assembly lines. The provincial capital, Guangzhou, has set a goal of fostering a robot-manufacturing industry with an output value of more than 100 billion yuan by 2020, as well as automating more than 80 per cent of the city's manufacturing production. The government of the city of Foshan has said the value of its automation and robotics market would reach 300 billion yuan in five years.

Labour shortages have long troubled the Pearl River Delta region, though the situation has improved slightly in the past few years.

According to Guangdong's labour department, in March 2015 after the Lunar New Year holiday, the province needed between 600,000 and 800,000 workers. That was about the same as in 2014 but less than the 1 million shortage in 2012. In the same period in 2010, the shortage had been 2 million.

The period after the Lunar New Year is traditionally the time of greatest labour shortages since most workers in the province are migrants and many do not return to their jobs after going back home for the holiday.