

# **OLD BASE, NEW INITIATIVE**

## **AN INTERNATIONAL PLANNING AND DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE URBAN REGENERATION OF HARBIN MEASURING & CUTTING TOOL FACTORY**

Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC)  
in collaboration with CAST,  
Harbin City Planning Bureau etc.

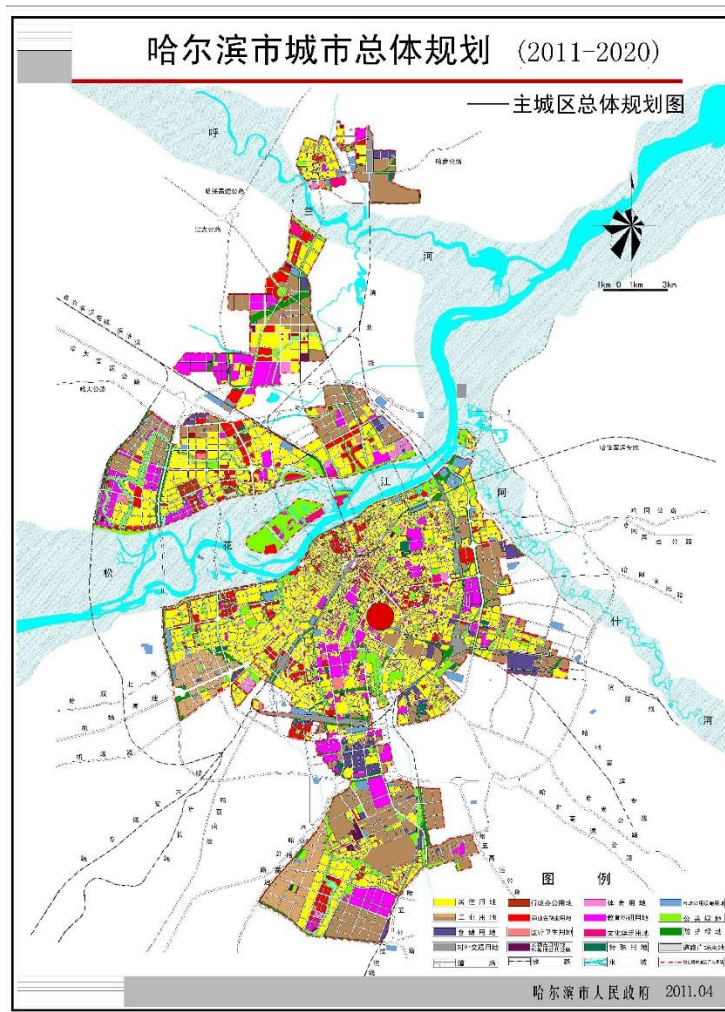
March 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **I. The City**

Harbin, located in the middle reaches of the Songhua River in the Songliao Plain, located between 44°04' N to 46°40' N, is the capital of Heilongjiang Province, the political, economic, cultural and transportation center and the largest central city in the Northeast of Heilongjiang Province. It is known as "Pearl under Swan", "Ice City Summer Capital", and "Lilac City" and so on. Harbin city prospered along the railway. In 1898, Russia built the Middle East Railway, selecting Harbin as the management center because of its important location. In 1903, the railway was officially launched, which was the prelude to the construction of the city. It was once known as an international metropolis in the Far East, and during the War of Liberation it became an important strategic rear area and the first big city to be liberated in the country.

For more than a century, Harbin has become a border developing and open center city with a national strategic position, a regional center city in Northeast Asia and a center city for cooperation with Russia. She is not only a famous historical and cultural city and a famous tourist city, known for its charming ice and snow, architecture, music, summer resorts and so on, but also an important industrial city nicknamed as "the eldest son of the People's Republic of China". Since the first Five-year Plan period after the founding of the People's Republic of China, Harbin has been built as one of the country's important pioneer industrial bases. Among the 156 Key Projects assisted by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in China, 13 key projects have been located in Harbin. The industrial economic structure laid great on heavy industry, which was characterized with many large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises. Industrial culture has become an important part of Harbin urban culture.

There used to be a large amount of industrial land at the center of Harbin city. The historical Xiangfang District occupied the largest industrial area, as the best representative of the industrial culture in the urban area. The large state-owned enterprises that were constructed one after another in the first Five-year Plan have become important industrial supports for Xiangfang area,



contributing to the status of industrial base for Xiangfang District. With the development of the city and the adjustment of the industrial structure, the municipal government has organized two large-scale enterprises relocation and land transformation initiatives. In 2004, the Harbin Municipal Government promulgated the Provisional Measures for the Relocation and Transformation of State-owned Industrial Enterprises in Harbin for implementing the "removing secondary industry, and introducing tertiary industry" plan for industrial enterprises. During this period, most enterprises were relocated and transformed; in 2011, the Harbin government began to guide enterprises which were located within the third Ring Road to move out of the city center, and listed some enterprises to be relocated and transformed one after another.

In 2014, the State Council listed the Xiangfang Old Industrial Zone as one of the pilot sites for relocation and transformation among the 21 old industrial districts throughout China. Harbin municipal CPC committee and municipal government expects to actively promote the overall relocation and transformation of Xiangfang old industrial zone with the support of national policy, so as to optimize the urban industrial structure and functions, elevate the image of the city, so as to rejuvenate the Xiangfang old industrial zone.

The mission of this competition is to find out how to scientifically and orderly carry out the relocation and transformation of the old industrial enterprises in the urban area so as to upgrade the urban functions, renovate the industrial structure, improve the regional functions, perfect the environment, protect heritage and lead in vitality again.

## **II. The District**

Harbin Measuring & Cutting Tool Group Co. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as HMCT) is located in the core area of Xiangfang District, inside the second Ring of the city, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Heping Road and Minsheng Road, and adjacent to the administration building of the Government of Heilongjiang Province. It is adjacent to the former "three major driving forces of Harbin" (that is, Harbin Electric Power Plant, Harbin Steam Turbine Plant and Harbin Boiler Plant, which were built in the 1950s, and then merged into the Harbin Electric Group).

Founded in 1952 and officially put into operation in 1955, HMCT was one of the 156 key projects assisted by the former Soviet Union during the first Five-year Plan period. At present, it is one of the largest precision measuring tools manufacturing enterprises in China, with the largest variety of products, the most comprehensive specifications, and the first-class quality.

The area of HMCT occupies 623 thousand square meters land, with a total of 263 square meters buildings. The factory has a long history. There are 35 buildings dating from the first Five-year Plan period(1950s), 19 buildings from the 1980s and 5 newly built architectures, among which the main building, cafeteria building and wall of the factory area are designated as immovable cultural relics. The architectural style is mainly European and Modern, with the rice white tone and in good architectural quality.

## **III. The Environs**

The design competition site covers an area of about 458 hectares, surrounded by Zhongshan Road, Wenchang Bridge, Three Driving Forces Road, Insulation Street, Railway and Xiangbin Road. The busy traffic and intensive development in this area together put great pressure on this area, and the conflicts are increasingly noticeable. Therefore, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the current situation and development conditions, this study should focus on traffic optimization and organization, regional carrying capacity and development intensity, historical buildings and functions, layout of public service facilities, and etc. (Relevant maps and more detailed information will be provided in the near future.)

## **IV. The Site**

The area to be designed in the competition is about 21.4 hectares, surrounded by Minsheng Road in the north, Binsui Railway in the south, Minsheng Sandao Street in the west and Heping Road in the east. The participating teams are required to carry out urban renewal design according to the characteristics of the plot on the basis of fully understanding and grasping the external development



opportunities and internal practical difficulties of the base. (Relevant maps and more detailed information will be provided soon.)

## V. The Deliverables

(a) From the point of view of coordinating urban development, it is required that future land use for HMCT should not include industrial land and logistics warehousing land, and the proportion of residential land should not exceed 30% of the total land area.

(b) The design plan should fully respect the cultural connotation of the region, by coordinating inheritance and innovation and creating an urban space with local and humanity characteristics.

(c) The plan should attach importance to ecological environment, by coordinating development and protection and realizing the concept of green and low-carbon development.

(d) The plan should include spatial planning and design schemes after fully studying and evaluating the industrial heritages. Some important buildings or important nodes should be designed in detail.

## VI. The Miscellaneous

(a) Plate documents: four A0 (vertical typesetting) plates containing planning and design diagrams, illustrations, text etc., without any disclosure of the information about the team and university are required. The plates shall be submitted in JPG format with resolution not lower than 300dpi. The results will be printed for jury and exhibition.

(b) The participating teams may, if necessary, produce a separate narrative report (pdf format).

(c) The project can be displayed either in Chinese or English.

(d) The intellectual property rights of the projects shall be jointly owned by the contestants and the organizers of the competition. The organizers shall be able to decide whether to use them for publication, planning reference or not, and shall no longer pay for them afterwards.