Founded in 1920, Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) is an established hub for engineers, and is a leader in aerospace technology. With science and engineering as its core, it has also developed multidisciplinary programmes encompassing liberal arts, management, economics and law. It is a national key university, and a member of China’s ‘985’ Project and ‘211’ Plan. President of HIT and a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Yu Zhou, mentioned its goal of becoming a world-class university, says Yu Zhou, president of HIT and a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

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**HIT Harbin**

Established in 1997, the School of Astronautics of Harbin Institute of Technology (HITSA) is the first in China dedicated to cultivating talent and conducting cutting-edge research in the field of aerospace. Renowned for its research on micro-satellites, laser communication, composite materials and control theory, HITSA is a leader driving the advancement of China’s aerospace industry.

Consider Kaizhou-1, a novel spacecraft where a satellite and a launch vehicle are integrated. This solid-fueled carrier rocket is used to launch satellites that monitor natural disaster sites, providing data for relief and rescue. HITSA boasts record-breaking speed in pushing it from launch preparation to in-orbit application.

HITSA is also the developer of Longjiang-2, the world’s first micro-satellite that independently completed Earth-to-Moon transfer, near-moon braking, and circumlunar flight. Launched in 2018, this low-cost satellite is designed to test the ultra-long wave astronomical observation technology.

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**HIT Weihai**

HIT has produced a large number of achievements that have contributed to major space missions, including the first launches of the Long March 7 and the Long March 5, as well as the Jiangong-2 space lab and the Shenzhou-11 manned spacecraft. It was the first to reveal the structure of a lipase complex in the HIV virus. HIT has produced a large number of achievements that have contributed to major space missions, including the first launches of the Long March 7 and the Long March 5, as well as the Jiangong-2 space lab and the Shenzhou-11 manned spacecraft. It was the first to reveal the structure of a lipase complex in the HIV virus.

**HIT Shenzhen**

In 1920, Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) was the first university to establish a school of astronautics; the first university to independently develop a small satellite; and the first to realize the scientific experiment of man-machine coordination in-orbit maintenance (the Jiangong-2 space manipulator). It built the world’s first micro-satellite (Longjiang-2) to complete Earth-to-Moon transfer, near-moon braking, and circumlunar flight, and was the first in China to achieve satellite-ground laser link communications. It was a pioneer in realizing target and multi-beam laser auto-alignment of large laser device, as well as space application of magnetic focusing Hall thruster. It developed China’s first computer to play chess and talk to humans, China’s first new type long range ocean detection radar system, and its first arc- and spot-welding robot. It was the first to reveal the structure of a lipase complex in the HIV virus.

HIT has signed exchange and cooperation agreements with 278 universities in 37 countries, and, since 2011, has led more than 180 international collaborative research projects. In 2011, HIT initiated and jointly established the Association of Sino-Russian Technical Universities (ASRTU) that now counts 67 elite universities as its members. In 2018, HIT became a member of the University of the Arctic, the largest international academic organization in the Circumpolar North. Its expansion has seen the growth of its campuses in line with regional development. In the coastal city of Weihai in East China, HIT opened a campus in 1985, focusing on developing marine research and ocean economy, as well as intelligent manufacturing and smart cities. It has undertaken more than 1,000 projects, including ocean detection technologies, unmanned vehicles, intelligent robots, new information technology, cyber security, new materials, water purification, and renewable energy, generating hundreds of patents.

Seizing the opportunity of the growth of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, HIT’s Shenzhen campus is becoming a hub for scientific and technological innovation. Starting from the HIT Shenzhen Graduate School in 2002, it has since established comprehensive degree programmes. Its 10 schools and four research centres focus on research ranging from materials and artificial intelligence, to space science and bio-pharmaceuticals. It is striving to be an international, high-skilled, and research-oriented campus, by revolutionizing higher education and enhancing international collaboration.

With a ‘one university, three campuses’ model and an expanding international network, ‘HIT is striving to reach its goal of becoming a world-class university,’ says Yu Zhou, president of HIT and a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

**HIT in numbers**
- 22 schools, 86 undergraduate major programmes, nine national key disciplines
- Seven state key laboratories
- 38 members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences or the Chinese Academy of Engineering
- 14 disciplines ranked among the global top 1% according to the Excellence in Science and Innovation Index (ESI) database, with materials science and computer science ranking among the top 1%.
- Engineering discipline ranking among the global top 5% according to the Excellence in Science and Innovation Index (ESI) database.
- In the 2020 ranking of U.S. News & World Report, HIT ranked 1st on the list of the “Best Global Universities for Electrical and Electronic Engineering” and 6th on the list of the “Best Global Universities for Engineering”, respectively.

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