ITA TUBE INFO
International Tube Association
No.7 / 2026
Your Comprehensive Update on Events, News and Trends in the Tube Industry

Tube China 2026 | 39 days to go

ITA interview: Evian Gu on tube market trends and key topics ahead of Tube China

ITA: For the past several years, Tube China in Shanghai has become an ideal location for the Chinese tube industry to meet. How many exhibitors from which parts of the world will present their products and latest technologies on the show? What is the increase in scale compared to the last edition?

Evian Gu:
First launched in Shanghai back in 2004, Tube China is an official edition of the global Tube Worldwide exhibition series. Over its 22 years of development, this biennial show has cemented its position as Asia's premier trade fair dedicated to the tube and pipe industry.

For the 2026 edition hosted at Shanghai New International Expo Centre, we anticipate over 400 leading exhibitors worldwide showcasing their latest products and cutting-edge technologies across a total exhibition space of 35,000 sqm. Compared with Tube China 2024, the overall scale of the 2026 show will grow by 22%.

The international exhibitor roster boasts strong participation from key manufacturing markets, including Germany, Italy, Finland, Switzerland, France, the United States, Norway, India, South Korea and Japan.

Market dynamics:
China's role in global pipe production

ITA: China accounts for 56% of global pipework production this year, even as export pressure mounts in the US and, increasingly, in Europe. How is that shift visible on the trade fair floor – and where do you see the market heading from here?

Evian Gu
General Manager
at Messe Düsseldorf
(Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Evian Gu:
Against the backdrop that China contributes 56% of the world's total tubular output, Chinese pipe manufacturers are seeing rising exports to the US and a growing number of European destinations. This industry shift can be clearly observed across all exhibition zones of Tube China 2026.

Although Chinese steel pipe enterprises face varying trade challenges in European and American markets, domestic manufacturers' enthusiasm for participating in Tube China keeps climbing. To date, more than 400 Chinese companies have confirmed their booths, making up 93% of all exhibitors. The strong domestic turnout reflects robust demand for tubular products driven by China's new infrastructure initiatives, including 5G base stations, data centers and ultra-high voltage power transmission projects.

The exhibits on display further mirror China's industrial upgrading amid surging global exports. Driven by national key technological breakthroughs in nuclear power, deep-sea oil & gas exploitation and hydrogen energy sectors, high-end steel pipe products have achieved remarkable localized production.

Evian Gu:
Top domestic manufacturers such as Tianjin Youfa, Hengyang Valin, Tianjin United Steel and Tianjin Yuantai Derun Pipe will showcase their cutting-edge products and proprietary technologies at the show, highlighting China's leading manufacturing strengths in the global tubular industry.

Looking ahead to market prospects, two major growth engines will fuel Chinese steel pipe exports in the coming years. The first is oil and gas resource development projects across the Middle East; the second is large-scale infrastructure construction within ASEAN nations. Meanwhile, pre-registration data for professional buyers has reflected widespread global interest in Chinese tubular products. We have received registrations from purchasing delegations spanning India, Türkiye, Egypt, Indonesia, South Korea, the US, the UAE, Mexico, Brazil and numerous other markets.

Backed by the world's largest pipe production capacity, Made-in-China tubular goods are drawing increasing attention from emerging economies worldwide. As for mature markets in Europe and the US, despite current trade frictions, Chinese manufacturers will continue advancing high-value, green and intelligent tubular solutions to tap new market opportunities in these regions.

Outlook to 2030: Sustainability and digital transformation

ITA: What are the long-term prospects for the tube industry in China, particularly with regard to sustainability and technological trends. What role does Tube China play in this transformation process?

Evian Gu:
The Chinese tube industry is moving towards a more environmentally friendly, intelligent, and efficient future, driven by the deep integration of digital technologies, the growing use of lightweight materials, and the adoption of green and low-carbon solutions.

The development goal of China's tube industry is to further enhance its capabilities in resource security, independent innovation, and international competition by 2030. The industry aims to achieve world-leading levels in technological equipment, quality and branding, digital transformation, and green and low-carbon development. It strives to fully establish a modern steel industry system with significant global influence, strong industrial independence, and high development contribution.

From the perspective of long-term export potential, the deepening of international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and green energy projects will drive the upgrading of the export structure. The coordinated growth trend of welded pipes and seamless pipes will continue. It is expected that China's high-end steel pipes will have a higher potential for market share increase in the global market in the coming years.

Tube China plays a key role in this transformation. As Asia's leading platform of the tube and pipe industry, it showcases innovations across the entire value chain, from material development to advanced processing, and hosts forums that facilitate industry dialogue on sustainability and technological advancement.

Industry forum: From global market trends to green automotive manufacturing

ITA: What are the key themes of this year's conference, particularly with regard to the impact of current economic developments in Asia, the global market as well as technological trends?

Evian Gu:
The concurrent events at Tube China 2026 include: 3rd China International Steel Tube & Pipe Summit, the Green Automotive and Tube Technology Innovation Forum, the Seminar on Application of Tube Products & Technologies in the Marine Industry, etc.

Evian Gu:
These sessions focus on topics such as situation and trend of global tube market analysis, carbon peaking, digital and intelligent manufacturing, as well as technological innovation within the tube sector, aiming to foster international cooperation and address industry challenges.

Visitor highlights: New thematic zones and matchmaking

ITA: The organisers of Tube China have always created an exceptional environment in which the industry can network, exchange ideas and build strong business relationships. What exciting new features or special highlights can you highlight that attendees can look forward to this year, and which should definitely motivate them to take part in this inspiring event?

Evian Gu:
Tube China 2026 will launch the brand-new "Nonferrous Metals & High Performance Alloy Materials China", alongside upgraded Thermprocess China and Saw & Laser Cutting China. Together, they offer comprehensive solutions spanning material innovation to advanced processing technologies.

Attendees can enjoy an enhanced Business Matchmaking Program, which facilitates one-on-one supplier meetings. Group visitors, especially those from the Yangtze River Delta region, will benefit from fast-track entry, VIP services, exclusive gift packages, and complimentary shuttle services for larger groups.

A new thematic award program has also been introduced. It features three award categories that recognize outstanding innovation, green development, and digital intelligence transformation in the tube industry. Exhibitors can submit their company and product information to compete for these honors. This interactive element adds an engaging dimension to the show.

ITA:
Evian, thank you very much for this detailed and in-depth insight into the Chinese tube market and all the exciting aspects of TUBE China 2026. We look forward to seeing you again in Shanghai!

Tube China 2026: 4 insights for your strategy

• **Substantial Growth:** A 22% increase in exhibition space - now covering 35,000 sqm, demonstrates firm industry commitment despite market volatility. Over 400 exhibitors are converging on Shanghai, cementing the event as the primary hub for the Asian market.

• **From Volume to Value:** While China commands 56% of global output, the strategic focus is shifting decisively. The emphasis is moving away from sheer capacity towards high-value, intelligent, and green tubular solutions for international trade.

• **The 2030 Roadmap:** The industry is actively transitioning from a mass-production giant to a pioneer in digital integration and low-carbon manufacturing. The priority is no longer just scale, but technological sophistication and production quality.

• **Driving Tangible Returns:** New thematic zones - such as non-ferrous metals - and an upgraded matchmaking programme are designed to cut through the noise, simplifying supplier discovery and ensuring measurable ROI for every attendee.