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KAZAKH PRESIDENT'S PET PROJECT GETS BOOST FROM CHINA

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China wants to help Kazakhstan create a new Dubai on the Central Asian steppe. During a recent trade event in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, Chinese and Kazakh officials agreed in principle on 24 different projects to develop Alatau City, a futuristic urban center intended to become a regional hub of finance and digital innovation. It is widely considered President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's signature initiative. Agreements were signed on the creation of next-generation battery production, energy storage systems, modern agricultural machinery, development of electric transport and charging infrastructure, construction of industrial enterprises, energy facilities, engineering, transport and logistics infrastructure, as well as the introduction of Smart City technologies, according to a Kazakh government statement. Although not finalized, the agreements are potentially valued at up to \$6 billion. Kazakh officials tout Alatau City as a future-oriented urban center that prioritizes sustainability, technological innovation, and green growth [and] aims to redefine a future of urban living in Kazakhstan.

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