

SCPG in acquisition mode to meet demands of China's middle class

CHINESE developer SCPG is on the hunt for further acquisitions as it continues to take advantage of China's fastest growing income bracket — that of mid-to-high earners. According to McKinsey by 2020 middle class consumers will total 700 million in China.

SCPG owns and manages 33 shopping malls in the country, seven of which are still under construction. One opens next year, followed by two in 2017, three in 2018 and one in 2019.

The growth will mainly come from the company's Incity format, which is aimed at the mid-to high-end family consumer and focuses primarily on fashion.

Leo Ding, chairman and chief executive officer at SCPG, said there would be both expansion and improvements of existing centres. "We will improve the quality and increase the size and number of shopping malls in China and will look for opportunities



SCPG's Leo Ding (left) and Blackstone's Lawrence Hutchings

to purchase more shopping malls to speed our growth," he said.

SCPG, which has the US's Blackstone as its largest shareholder, said ambitions were big. "We would like as many as possible but it depends on the opportunities," Ding said.

SCPG will also introduce smart internet services and wifi within its centres that will, for example,

help customers find their cars and manage restaurant queueing.

As well as Incity the company operates Inreach, its community-based shopping centre; Inplace, its neighbourhood service centre; and SCPG Center, its mixed-use scheme format.

The company changed its name from SCP Group to SCPG in March this year.



THE PARTICIPANTS of the annual Cycle To MAPIC charity event arrived at the steps of the Palais des Festivals yesterday after a tough four-day ride. The cyclists, known as Club Peloton, rode the 820 km from Barcelona to Cannes to raise money for children's charity Coram. The ride has been held for the past three years, in which time it has raised a total of £100,000. One of the participants, CBRE chairman for EMEA retail Malcolm Dagleish, said: "We've had more people than ever taking part this year, the group was fantastic. It's a great event that's growing every year."