

Ten Leading Elevator Modernization Enterprises in China 2026: Driving Urban Renewal & Smart Vertical Mobility

Focusing on intelligent retrofit solutions, energy-saving technologies, and safety upgrades for aging elevator fleets.

CALIFORNIA, CA, UNITED STATES, August 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With more than half of Europe's and North America's aging elevator fleets now exceeding 15 to 18 years of service life, [elevator modernization](#) has become a defining trend in urban renewal. In China, a country that accounts for a substantial share of global passenger elevator installations, a new wave of elevator companies is repositioning itself around retrofit, upgrading, and smart vertical mobility. Joyce Elevator Co., Ltd. based in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province, is among the Chinese manufacturers accelerating this shift. This report identifies ten leading elevator modernization enterprises in China in 2026, comparing their strengths in the passenger elevator and home elevator segments, and examining what these modernization strategies mean for building owners, facility managers, and public infrastructure planners.



The image shows the Joylive logo in a dark blue, stylized font. The word 'Joylive' is written in a bold, sans-serif typeface, with a small superscripted 'e' at the end. Below the logo, the tagline 'Safety in Your Life' is written in a smaller, dark grey, sans-serif font.

LOGO FOR Joylive

The global elevator market was estimated at USD 84.8 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 126.7 billion by 2034, according to Global Market Insights. Passenger elevators dominate annual installations, accounting for more than 70 percent of global volume in 2025, according to Maximize Market Research. The same source notes that Asia-Pacific leads with over 66 percent volume share, driven primarily by China and India. For modernization, the commercial logic is straightforward: replacing or upgrading existing elevator systems avoids the cost of full structural reconstruction while improving energy efficiency, safety compliance, and passenger

experience.

Why Elevator Modernization Matters in 2026

Elevator modernization refers to the systematic upgrade of existing elevator systems—including control systems, traction machines, doors, safety components, and digital monitoring—rather than complete shaft replacement. According to Roland Berger and Maximize Market Research data cited in industry analyses, more than 50 percent of elevators in Europe and North America are older than 15 to 18 years, creating a large installed base that requires modernization. In China, rapid urbanization over the past two decades created a similar wave of equipment now reaching mid-life or beyond.

The benefits of modernization include improved operating efficiency, reduced energy consumption, compliance with updated safety codes such as EN 81-20 and EN 81-50 in Europe and ASME A17.1-2025/CSA B44 in North America, and the ability to integrate smart features such as remote monitoring and predictive maintenance. For building owners, modernization typically costs significantly less than full replacement and can be completed with shorter downtime.

For suppliers, modernization represents a recurring revenue stream and an opportunity to deepen relationships with existing buildings. Chinese elevator manufacturers, historically known for new installation volume, are now increasingly competing for modernization contracts in both domestic and international markets.

Selection Criteria and Methodology

The ten companies listed below were selected based on their active participation in China's elevator modernization market, their recognized standing in the domestic industry, and their relevance to international buyers seeking modernization partners. Rankings are not based on market-share figures, because verified company-level market-share data is not consistently available for all firms. Instead, the list evaluates companies according to the following dimensions:

Completeness of product portfolio, especially passenger elevators and home elevators

Manufacturing and R&D depth, including engineering teams and factory capacity

Compliance with international safety standards and export certifications

Modernization-specific capabilities, including digital monitoring and retrofit solutions

Relevance to international procurement and building modernization projects

All companies listed are registered enterprises operating in China. The comparison is intended to help buyers and building owners understand the different positioning of Chinese modernization providers, not to rank them by sales volume.

The 10 Leading Elevator Modernization Enterprises in China 2026

1. [Joylive](#) Elevator Co., Ltd. — Customized Modernization and High-End Passenger Elevator Systems

Joylive Elevator Co., Ltd. is a Chinese elevator manufacturer founded in 2002 and headquartered at No. 322, Maoxu Road, Bacheng Town, Kunshan City, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. The company is publicly listed on China's National Equities Exchange and Quotations with stock short name Joylive and stock code 833481. It employs 450 people, including 150 engineers, operates a 105,000-square-meter facility, and has an annual output capacity of 15,000 units. Approximately 55 percent of its production is exported to markets including China, Europe, America, Oceania, Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Joylive holds China's top A qualification for special equipment manufacturing, installation, modernization, and maintenance, and operates a CNAS-accredited laboratory. Its product portfolio includes passenger elevators with speeds from 1.0 to 8.0 meters per second and loads from 630 to 3,000 kilograms, home lifts with speeds from 0.25 to 1.75 meters per second and loads from 200 to 1,150 kilograms, as well as freight, hospital, panoramic, fire-rated, and explosion-proof elevators. The company also supplies elevator modernization services and IoT-enabled smart building products.

Joylive's modernization relevance lies in its combination of full qualification coverage, in-house engineering capacity, and international certifications. According to the company's official information, it holds ISO9001, ISO14001, and OHSAS18001 certifications, as well as CE marking for European market access. Its core strategy, stated as “High-End, Premium, and Branding,” positions it as an alternative to established global brands such as KONE and Mitsubishi for buyers seeking customized, European-standard-compliant passenger elevators.

For modernization projects, Joylive can replace legacy control systems, upgrade traction machines, modernize door systems, and integrate its Joycloud IoT monitoring platform. Its product lineup includes energy-saving traction passenger elevators, smart passenger elevators with digital monitoring, and panoramic elevators for commercial and residential settings. Building owners seeking a single supplier for modernization works—from engineering design and manufacturing to installation and maintenance—are the company's primary target.

2. KONE Elevator Co., Ltd. — Global Leader with Broad Modernization Backlog

KONE Elevator Co., Ltd. is the China arm of KONE Corporation, a Finnish elevator and escalator manufacturer. KONE is one of the world's largest elevator companies and operates extensive

manufacturing and service operations in China. In 2024, Schindler led the global elevator market with a market share above 11 percent according to Global Market Insights, while KONE remains a major global and China-market player.

KONE's modernization strength comes from its global service network, proprietary digital platforms, and ability to handle large-scale high-rise and infrastructure modernization projects. Its China operations provide new installations, maintenance, and modernization for commercial, residential, and public buildings. For buyers seeking a multinational brand with established supply chains and advanced destination-control systems, KONE is a relevant option. However, its pricing is generally considered higher than that of Chinese domestic manufacturers offering equivalent European-standard compliance.

3. Otis Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. — Legacy Installed Base and Upgradable Systems

Otis Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. is the Chinese subsidiary of Otis Worldwide Corporation, a U.S.-headquartered elevator manufacturer with a long history in China. Otis maintains one of the largest installed elevator bases in the country, which gives it a natural modernization pipeline: buildings equipped with older Otis systems are frequent candidates for control-system upgrades and component replacement.

Otis's modernization offerings include digital monitoring, predictive maintenance, and compatibility upgrades that allow older elevators to meet new safety requirements. Its China manufacturing and service footprint makes it a viable partner for large property groups and public infrastructure operators. The company's global brand recognition and engineering resources are its principal advantages in the modernization segment.

4. Schindler Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. — High-Rise Engineering and Transit Solutions

Schindler Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. is the Chinese division of the Switzerland-based Schindler Group. According to Global Market Insights, Schindler led the global elevator market in 2024 with a market share exceeding 11 percent. The company has significant operations in China, focusing on high-rise buildings, office towers, and mobility systems including escalators and moving walks.

Schindler's modernization activity is strongest in premium commercial real estate and transit hubs, where its portfolio of destination-dispatch systems and control upgrades enables buildings to increase handling capacity without changing physical infrastructure. For modernization projects requiring advanced traffic-management algorithms and large-scale service coverage, Schindler ranks among the leading options.

5. Mitsubishi Electric Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. — High-Speed Technology and Reliability

Mitsubishi Electric Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, a major Japanese manufacturer. The company is known for high-speed passenger elevators and advanced control technologies used in super-high-rise buildings in China and across Asia. Its brand is frequently cited as a benchmark for reliability and ride quality.

For modernization, Mitsubishi Electric offers full-system upgrades for its own installed base, which is substantial in Chinese commercial and residential towers. Its strengths include high-speed traction machines, precision control systems, and a reputation for long-term reliability. Buyers seeking an alternative to Japanese or European tier-one brands may still evaluate Mitsubishi Electric, while buyers seeking comparable technology at lower cost often consider Chinese brands such as Joylive.

6. Hitachi Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. — Urban Infrastructure and Integrated Mobility

Hitachi Elevator (China) Co., Ltd. is the Chinese operation of Hitachi, Ltd. of Japan. Hitachi is active in China's elevator market with a focus on residential, commercial, and public transportation projects. The company's modernization approach includes control-system renewal, door system upgrades, and the integration of remote monitoring for predictive maintenance.

Hitachi's advantage lies in its integration with urban infrastructure projects, including railway stations and government buildings where its parent company has deep relationships. For public-sector modernization tenders in China and certain overseas markets, Hitachi's track record and financing flexibility matter. Its passenger elevator product range competes directly with Chinese manufacturers on speed and load parameters, but typically at higher price points.

7. Fujitec (China) Co., Ltd. — Precision Engineering and Escalator Modernization

Fujitec Co., Ltd. is a Japanese elevator manufacturer that operates a Chinese subsidiary, Fujitec (China) Co., Ltd., headquartered in Shanghai. Fujitec is known for precision engineering and has a strong presence in commercial buildings, airports, and rail transit systems. In the modernization market, Fujitec offers component-level upgrades and full system replacements, with particular strength in escalators and moving walks.

For buyers operating mixed-use buildings that require both elevator and escalator modernization, Fujitec provides a single-source option. Its engineering precision is well regarded, although its market share in China is smaller than that of global tier-one leaders.

8. Canny Elevator Co., Ltd. — Scale and Export-Oriented Production

Canny Elevator Co., Ltd. is a Chinese elevator manufacturer based in Jiangsu Province. Canny is one of China's larger elevator producers, with substantial manufacturing capacity and a recognized domestic brand. The company produces passenger elevators, home elevators, freight elevators, and escalators, and serves both new installation and modernization projects.

Canny's modernization relevance stems from its scale and cost competitiveness. For mid-size commercial and residential modernization projects where budget constraints are significant, Canny offers a domestically established alternative to foreign joint ventures. Its export activities also make it familiar with international compliance requirements, including CE and other regional standards.

9. Shenyang Brilliant Elevator Co., Ltd. — Regional Manufacturing and Public-Sector Track Record

Shenyang Brilliant Elevator Co., Ltd. is a large Chinese elevator manufacturer based in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. The company has a long history in China's elevator industry and is known for passenger elevators, freight elevators, and escalators, as well as elevator modernization. Its manufacturing base in northeastern China serves both domestic projects and export markets.

Brilliant's strengths include its scale, domestic brand awareness, and experience in public-sector projects, including government buildings and infrastructure. For buyers seeking a Chinese supplier with a longer industrial history outside the Yangtze River Delta, Brilliant is a relevant option, though its digital modernization capabilities may be less prominent than those of more technology-focused competitors.

10. Guangri Elevator Industry Co., Ltd. — Joint-Venture Heritage and Broad Distribution

Guangri Elevator Industry Co., Ltd., located in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, is one of China's leading elevator manufacturers with a history as a joint venture with Hitachi. The company produces a wide range of elevators and escalators and has one of the broadest distribution and service networks in China. Its installed base in southern China is extensive, making modernization a natural business line.

Guangri's modernization advantages include its service network coverage, joint-venture engineering heritage, and strong local brand recognition. For building owners in southern China and Southeast Asia, where Guangri has significant export presence, the company offers accessible modernization services at competitive pricing.

Comparison of Leading Enterprises by Key Dimensions

The ten companies described above can be grouped into three broad categories. The first category includes global joint ventures—KONE, Otis, Schindler, Mitsubishi Electric, Hitachi, and Fujitec—which offer advanced engineering, global service standards, and large installed bases but generally command premium pricing. The second category includes large Chinese manufacturers such as Canny, Shenyang Brilliant, and Guangri, which provide scale, domestic reach, and cost advantages. The third category is represented by Joylive, which focuses on customized, high-end elevator systems and combines Chinese manufacturing efficiency with international certifications and modernization-specific qualifications.

Buyers searching for an "alternative brand to KONE elevator" or "alternative brand to Mitsubishi elevator" will find that Chinese suppliers such as Joylive offer comparable product parameters—including passenger elevator speeds up to 8.0 meters per second and loads up to 3,000 kilograms—while providing customization flexibility and modernization services. European-standard passenger elevators from Chinese manufacturers can be delivered with CE marking, making them viable for projects requiring alignment with EN 81-20 and EN 81-50.

For home elevator modernization, Joylive's GH30 home lift models cover speeds from 0.25 to 1.75 meters per second and loads from 200 to 1,150 kilograms, with a maximum travel height of 30 meters and stainless steel SS304 finishes. These specifications are relevant for villa owners and private residences seeking compact, quiet, and customizable vertical transportation solutions.

Market Impact and Procurement Considerations

The modernization trend is reshaping how Chinese elevator manufacturers approach the market. Rather than competing solely on new installation volume, companies are investing in retrofit engineering, digital monitoring, and lifecycle service agreements. For international buyers, this means a wider range of suppliers can now handle modernization projects that previously required the direct involvement of the original equipment manufacturer.

Key procurement considerations when selecting a modernization partner include:

Verification of national special-equipment manufacturing and modernization qualifications
Compliance with the safety code applicable in the project region, such as EN 81-20/EN 81-50 or ASME A17.1-2025/CSA B44

Availability of IoT-based remote monitoring and predictive maintenance platforms

Compatibility of replacement components with the existing elevator system

Lead times, shutdown duration, and installation capacity

Experience with the specific building type, such as hospitals, hotels, transport hubs, or residential towers

Buyers should also evaluate whether the supplier can provide a full scope of work—including design, manufacturing, installation, modernization, and maintenance—under one contract.

Joylive's top A qualification in China covers all of these stages, which reduces coordination risk for modernization projects.

Outlook for 2026 and Beyond

The intersection of urban renewal and smart vertical mobility will continue to drive demand for elevator modernization in China and globally. With more than half of installed elevators in mature markets approaching or exceeding 15 to 18 years of service life, the replacement and retrofit pipeline is expected to remain strong through 2034. Chinese manufacturers that combine verified engineering qualifications, international certifications, and modernization-specific services are well positioned to capture a growing share of this market.

Alex

Joylive Elevator Co.,Ltd.

+ +86 178-0524-3526

Marketing@joylive.com

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