

# Xiaomi launches flagship 12T Series phones

XIAOMI on Tuesday launched globally its latest flagship 12T Series smartphones, which feature its new imaging system.

The consumer electronic company said in a statement that both the Xiaomi 12T Pro and 12T come with pro-grade cameras for an “exceptional smartphone photography experience.”

The Xiaomi 12T Pro features a triple rear camera setup with a pro-grade 200-megapixel (MP) main imaging system and the company's own AI algorithms for improved clarity, better night photography and quick focusing.

“These, together with a variety of other optimizations, allow the capturing of fine details even

in low-light conditions, or when shooting fast-moving subjects without losing focus,” Xiaomi said.

The phone's main camera also has an in-sensor 2x zoom and a large 1/1.22” sensor size for portraits.

The other lenses are an 8MP ultra-wide camera and a 2MP macro lens.

“With Xiaomi ProCut and Ultra burst, Xiaomi 12T Pro helps you intelligently crop and create professional-looking content. To unlock movie-making creativity, Xiaomi 12T Pro supports 8K video in full resolution,” the company said.

The phone also has a 20MP front camera and stereo speakers tuned by Harman Kardon.

The Xiaomi 12T Pro is powered by the Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1 processor and has a heat dissipation system for greater power efficiency. It has a 6.67-inch AMOLED display and is available in several storage and memory options.

Meanwhile, the Xiaomi 12T also comes with a triple lens rear setup: a 108MP pro-grade primary camera, 8MP ultra-wide camera, and 2MP macro camera. The company said these cameras have strong low-light capability.

It has a 20MP selfie camera and a 6.67-inch AMOLED display and comes with 8GB RAM and storage options of 128GB and 256 GB. The phone is powered by a

MediaTek Dimensity 8100-Ultra chipset.

Both Xiaomi 12T Series have a 5,000 mAh battery and support fast charging.

“Additionally, with Xiaomi AdaptiveCharge, the devices learn users' day-to-day charging routines to optimize long-term battery health. Supported by Xiaomi's long-lasting battery and super charging, users can confidently go anywhere, do anything, and never miss a moment,” the company said.

Both phones come in three colors: Black, Silver, and Blue. Pricing and availability of in the Philippines will be announced soon, Xiaomi said. — **BVR**



## Gov't creating new cybersecurity roadmap, says cybercrime agency

By **Arjay L. Balinbin**  
Senior Reporter

THE GOVERNMENT is coming up with a new roadmap to update the National CyberSecurity Plan 2022 that was created prior to the pandemic, the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) said.

The goal is to make the country's cyber-security roadmap more adaptive to change, Mary Rose E. Magsaysay, deputy executive director at CICC, said during a briefing in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday.

“We found that the roadmap was pertaining to the government being at the height of a pyramid, while what the new one has is a federated approach, which means that we may be there to assist but everybody is treated equally in terms of their capabilities and inputs to help in the cybersecurity to go against cybercrime,” she said.

“Things change. There was no COVID when it was created, and it had the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) at the helm,” she added.

The National CyberSecurity Plan 2022, which was launched in May 2017, was developed to “assure the continuous operation of our nation's critical infrastructures, public and military networks

and implement cyber-resiliency measures to enhance our ability to respond to threats before, during and after attacks,” the DICT said on its website.

At the same time, it was created to ensure effective coordination with law enforcement agencies and improve cybersecurity awareness.

The plan was updated in 2021 to strengthen the cybersecurity capabilities of both government and private organizations.

“We are going to be coming out with a more realistic perspective — as I've mentioned, implementing plans and procedures, not anymore IRR (implementing rules and regulations),” Ms. Magsaysay said.

“We have to be setting the tenor as government, and that's why the new roadmap is working on including the word ‘change’ as a very important part, as well as agility,” she added.

Ms. Magsaysay noted that 37% of online users in the country reported cyberattacks in 2020.

At least 73% of consumer data from micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises were lost to attackers, greater than the 56% figure in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to cybersecurity firm Sophos, the Philippines placed third in worldwide ransomware payments in 2021, with local organizations paying an average of \$1.6 million, doubling the country's average of \$820,000 in 2020.

## Security Bank taps AWS to support digital transformation

SECURITY BANK Corp. has tapped Amazon Web Services (AWS) to support its digital transformation as it seeks to provide more innovative products and services for its clients.

“Aligned with our vision to be the most customer-centric bank in the Philippines, we're investing in our customers and in what matters to them,” Security Bank Enterprise Technology and Operations (ETO) Head Lucose Eralil said in a statement on Wednesday.

“With AWS, we will innovate digital interactions faster and harness the power of data. Through actionable intelligence, we'll create new ways of personalizing and delivering services like promotions and special offers to enhance customer experiences,” Mr. Eralil said.

AWS will support Security Bank's data transformation initiatives to help it cater to evolving consumer demands and requirements.

The lender earlier launched the first iteration of a cloud-native, production-grade, enterprise data platform built on AWS. This will allow Security Bank to leverage on data-rich insights and deliver improved business outcomes.

“AWS security, identity, and compliance services, including AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS), Amazon GuardDuty, and AWS Security Hub, help Security Bank ensure that data governance and

security comply with regulatory requirements,” the bank said.

Security Bank is also looking to deliver increased business agility and quicker time-to-market, increase employee productivity, and reduce unplanned downtimes once it fully transfers its infrastructure and services to the cloud.

“To thrive in a cloud environment, we will create a high-tech learning and delivery capability through practical hands-on cloud skills and continuous learning initiatives,” Security Bank Head of Human Capital Management Nerissa C. Berba said.

“We're excited to build a ‘workforce of the future’ as we also reach our goal to be the Employer of Choice in PH banking,” Ms. Berba said.

SBC Academy, the bank's training arm, is working with AWS to upskill more than 7,000 employees with vital cloud skills to support the integration of cloud-based technology into its operations.

Information technology (IT) professionals are joining advanced trainings, while other employees are learning basic digital skills that will help them operate in the cloud. To date, Security Bank has trained about 1,000 employees who are now completing their AWS certification.

“The banking industry in the Philippines is rapidly digitizing to ensure cus-

tomers have access to the most secure, personalized and innovative services. AWS is excited to support Security Bank as it embraces cloud computing and digitization,” AWS Association of Southeast Asian Nations Head of FSI Peter Murray said.

“We applaud Security Bank's decisive move to invest in their people with a broad-based training and enablement strategy that will create a Center of Excellence for skills,” Mr. Murray said. “We are excited to partner with Security Bank and ensure we are helping build cloud-native customer services with increased efficiency, savings, and speed to benefit their customers here in the Philippines.”

Security Bank in June tapped Microsoft Philippines to help it build innovative solutions aimed at ensuring faster and customer-centric banking experience.

With Microsoft's technology and support, the bank developed its Sales Proposal Builder application and embedded it into Microsoft Teams.

Security Bank recorded a P6.24-billion net profit in the first half of the year, more than double the P3.12 billion booked in the same period in 2021. This was driven by growth in its core businesses, lower credit provisions, and normalized income tax provisions.

— **K.B. Ta-asan**

## Converge proposes shared underground pipes to reduce rollout costs

CONVERGE ICT Solutions, Inc. said installing underground pipes for telecommunication cables will translate to lower capital costs for internet service providers.

This will “make sure telecommunications infrastructure is already installed whenever new road infrastructure is built,” Converge said in an e-mailed statement on Tuesday.

To attain this goal, “multi-stakeholder coordination among government, information and communications technology players, and utility companies” is necessary, the company added.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is undertaking an underground cable system project in the National Capital Region.

The project involves relocating the overhead utility lines on major roads below ground. This will cover Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, Radial Road 10, and Circumferential Road 5.

According to Converge Chief Operations Officer Jesus C. Romero, the “joint use” mechanism allows the government to install underground pipes for telecommunication cables wher-

ever there is public works construction.

“This can be done in expressways linking parts of the metro together. Submarine cables are expensive. We could do with a lot more diversity and connectivity. This joint use of infrastructure will go a long way,” he said.

“As an internet service provider, we're willing to pay for our share [of the cost],” he added.

He said the shared use of underground pipes “will translate to lower capital costs” for Converge and “will widen access to

the broadband infrastructure, especially to rural communities.”

“In pursuing this policy, cooperation among the national government agencies such as the DPWH, local government units, and private sector operators is critical as the digital infrastructure deployment has to be aligned with public works plans,” Converge also said.

Utility service providers have said they are willing to shift to an underground cable system if the government provides subsidies and if given adequate planning of the infrastructure. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**



## SMC's Eagle Cement acquisition seen to cut costs

SHARES in Eagle Cement Corp. are seen to rise with the planned acquisition of the cement maker by San Miguel Corp. (SMC), which in turn could see its input costs decline after the deal, analysts said on Wednesday.

“The tender offer could possibly prompt Eagle's stock price to surge during the offer period, and is likely to plunge once it has ended,” Regina Capital Development Corp. Head of Sales Luis A. Limlingan said in a Viber message.

Separately, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said the acquisition is important for SMC to reduce costs in its projects.

“Cement business is an important component to [SMC's] various infrastructure projects, both ongoing and upcoming. This would help reduce input costs, especially for large infrastructure projects,” he said in a Viber message.

Both analysts said estimates placed the value of the acquisition at around P97.4 billion.

On Wednesday, SMC said that a special board meeting on Oct. 4 authorized the acquisition of 88.5% of Eagle Cement, which manufactures and distributes cement.



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Both companies are chaired by Ramon S. Ang, who is also among the selling shareholders in Eagle Cement for P22.02 per share.

Eagle Cement separately said that its controlling stockholder, Ang-led Far East Holdings, Inc., was in discussions with SMC.

SMC said that the acquisition will trigger notification with and clearance from the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) due to the value involved.

“[It has to be raised to the PCC] due to the large amount of transaction value

involved as thresholds have been reduced recently, after being raised during the pandemic,” Mr. Ricafort said.

Last month, the PCC provisionally placed thresholds for mandatory mergers and acquisitions notification at P6.1 billion for the size of a transacting party, and P2.5 billion for the size of the transaction.

As defined by the PCC, size of party is the aggregate value of assets in the country of the ultimate parent entity of one of the parties to a transaction, while size of transaction is the value of assets of the acquired entity and the entities it controls.

“The conglomerate's P97-billion acquisition for Eagle Cement is part of the business amalgamation of business tycoon [Mr.] Ang,” Mr. Limlingan said.

SMC and Eagle Cement both said that they would make additional disclosures in due time about the acquisition.

On the stock market on Thursday, SMC shares added P2.35 or 2.43% to P99 apiece, while Eagle Cement shares climbed by P3.16 or 20.52% to P18.56 each. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## Aboitiz unit, EdgeConnex to develop data center platform

ABOITIZ InfraCapital, Inc. (AIC) has partnered with EdgeConnex to address the rising data usage by developing a data center platform in the country.

AIC, the infrastructure arm of the Aboitiz group, said in a press release on Wednesday that it plans to develop the data center in the National Capital Region. It also targets developing a secondary “hyperscale” campus in the so-called greater Manila area.

It described EdgeConnex as a global provider of full-range sustainable data center solutions.

“Businesses are increasingly turning to cloud service providers — or ‘hyperscalers’ — for cost efficiency, flexibility, and scalability; and thus, the need for data centers has never been more demanding,” Sabin M. Aboitiz, president and chief executive officer of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV), said.

Hyperscale data centers are business-critical facilities designed to support robust, scalable applications of cloud service providers, AIC said.

“This is complemented by AIC's local expertise, assets, and infrastructure portfolio, including its 1,400 hectares of prime industrial real estate and its affiliate AboitizPower's diversified renewable energy capacity, which the company aims to triple by 2030,” it said.

AIC President and Chief Executive Officer Cosette V. Canilao said the partnership would boost the country's infrastructure ecosystem and serve the local market demand.

“The Philippines is an underserved market, and is witnessing high data demand growth relative to Southeast Asia. The market size, favorable demographics, and proliferation of subsea cables make the Philippines an ideal destination for data center investments,” Ms. Canilao said.

In 2021, AIC entered the digital infrastructure sector through a joint venture with Unity Digital Infrastructure, Inc.

On Wednesday, shares in AEV closed 1.97% higher to finish at P56.90 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**