

## Samsung to launch multi-device security system Knox Matrix

SAMSUNG Electronics Co. Ltd. is set to launch next year a multi-device security system called Knox Matrix.

Knox Matrix is a data security platform for Samsung device ecosystems, Shin Seungwon, Samsung vice-president and head of security for its mobile business, said in a briefing on Tuesday. It will let Samsung smart devices enhance security through multi-layered mutual monitoring, functioning as a user's private blockchain system.

"Understanding that security and privacy are top priorities for its users, Samsung Electronics is taking its device security experiences to the next level with the upcoming solution, Samsung Knox Matrix," Samsung said in a statement.

"In order to protect user's smart home from unauthorized access and to make the login process more convenient, Samsung Knox Matrix will share credentials device-to-device and protect sensitive information even between trusted devices. Whether your Samsung devices are based on Android, Tizen, or other OS, Samsung Knox Matrix will be able to provide a unified security SDK (software development kit)," it added.

Mr. Shin said aside from protecting data, the security platform will make the login process for users more convenient throughout the entire device ecosystem.

It will also inform users of needed updates across all devices, he said. The system builds on the company's existing Knox platform for collaborative protection amid increasing connectivity, especially for device ecosystems at home.

It works by having any device detect and analyze a possible threat or breach and blocking it on all connected gadgets.

Samsung Knox Matrix will also include the Knox Vault, which is already available on the company's flagship smartphones. Knox Vault includes a secure processor and memory that isolates sensitive data like passwords, biometrics, or blockchain keys from the phone's main operating system.

Samsung Pay will also be included in the applications protected by Knox Matrix. The company said they are working to protect third-party apps as well.

The Knox Matrix has four main functions that can be mainly accessed through a smartphone: the Privacy Dashboard, which lets the user view and control the applications that have permission to use device features; the Privacy Indicator, which alerts users when an application attempts to access the microphone or camera; the Secure Folder, which stores photos, files, documents and applications in a separate folder with access control; and Private Sharing, which allows the user to control access to shared files and photos by setting expiration dates or revoking viewing rights.

When asked about access to users' personal information, Mr. Shin said only Knox has access to that data and the company itself is not able to access it.

"With Samsung Knox Matrix, we envision that users need not compromise on their connectivity in order to stay protected. Samsung Knox Matrix is set to provide the devices within a user's ecosystem with fewer vulnerabilities through strong, diverse security practices," the company said. — **A.M.C. Sy**

# Samsung, Huawei units are top 5G devices in the country — Ookla

MOBILE and broadband network intelligence company Ookla said consumers in the Philippines have a handful of top fifth-generation (5G) devices they can upgrade to, including Samsung and Huawei handsets.

Ookla, the network testing company behind Speedtest, said there is no statistical winner for the fastest 5G device in the Philippines for the third quarter, but there are many 5G devices that Filipinos can upgrade to.

"The Samsung Galaxy A53 had a median 5G download speed at 199.90 Megabits per second (Mbps), the Huawei Nova 7 5G was at 192.80 Mbps, the Huawei Nov 7 SE 5G at 188.32 Mbps, the Xiaomi Redmi Note 11 Pro 5G at 185.85 Mbps, and the Samsung Galaxy A52s 5G at 183.54 Mbps," Ookla said in an e-mailed statement.

Ookla said it used Speedtest Intelligence to look at 5G performance data in 10 countries,



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including the Philippines, with the highest number of connected mobile devices.

Market intelligence firm International Data Corp. (IDC) announced recently that smartphone shipments to the Philippines significantly declined in the third quarter of the year as a result of inflation and recent typhoons.

Shipments "declined by 8% quarter on quarter and 6.8% an-

nually, bringing in 3.9 million units in the third quarter," IDC said in its report.

Recent typhoons and inflation hurt both consumers and vendors, according to the market intelligence firm.

The top five smartphone brands in the Philippines in terms of market share in the third quarter were realme (23.4%), Transsion (15.8%), Samsung (15.6%), OPPO (15.5%), and vivo (13.2%).

"Vendors took a more conservative approach by clearing inventories, maintaining prices of existing models, and sustaining momentum by bringing in more affordable smartphones," IDC Philippines Market Analyst Angela Jenny V. Medez noted.

Inflation accelerated to 7.7% in October, the fastest pace in nearly 14 years, as the prices of food and utilities continue to rise. In the first 10 months, headline inflation averaged 5.4%, faster than the central bank's 2-4% target but below its 5.8% forecast for the year.

"The last quarter of the year is the peak sales period for smartphones, buoyed by holiday buying," Ms. Medez said.

"But as inflation is expected to linger and peak towards the end of year, we anticipate an annual shipment decline towards the end of 2022," she added. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## Xiaomi's flagship 12T Series phones now available in PHL

XIAOMI Philippines last week launched its flagship 12T Series phones in the country, which feature the company's latest imaging system for better performance and easier content creation.

The brand announced that the Xiaomi 12T and 12T Pro are available for pre-order until Nov. 29. The Xiaomi 12T Pro's 12GB RAM + 256GB storage model will be priced at P37,999, while the 12T (8GB+256GB) will be sold for P26,999.

Devices purchased during the pre-order period will come with a free Xiaomi Watch S1 Active.

Both can be pre-ordered at Xiaomi's physical stores as well as the company's Lazada and Shopee stores.

Both smartphones come with pro-grade cameras. The 12T Pro has a 200-megapixel (MP) main wide-angle camera powered by Xiaomi's own artificial intelligence algorithms for clear photos, even at night, 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 in a statement.

The Xiaomi 12T Pro's camera also has an in-sensor 2x zoom for better portraits.

"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 an 8MP ultra wide-angle camera and a 2MP macro lens at the rear, and comes with a 20MP front camera.

Meanwhile, the Xiaomi 12T comes with a 108MP wide angle lens as its main camera, with the triple-camera rear array completed by 8MP ultra-wide angle and 2MP macro lenses. The phone also has a 20MP selfie camera.

The Xiaomi 12T Pro is powered by a Snapdragon 8+ Gen1 processor for improved performance and reduced power consumption.

"Equipped with a heat dissipation system comprised of a vapor chamber 65% larger with 125% higher thermal

material coverage than Xiaomi 11T Pro, Xiaomi 12T Pro also provides smooth user experience and great power efficiency without worrying about overheating," the company said.

Meanwhile, the Xiaomi 12T comes with a MediaTek Dimensity 8100-Ultra chipset.

Both 12T Series smartphones come with a 5,000mAh battery that support 120-watt HyperCharge 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," Xiaomi said.

The two phones have a 6.67-inch CrystalRes AMOLED display enhanced by the AdaptiveSync feature that adjusts the screen's refresh rate depending on the content being viewed.

The 12T Pro has dual speakers powered by Harman Kardon, which also support Dolby Atmos.

The 12T Series smartphones come in three colors: Blue, Black, and Silver.

## Banana supply headache fuels Russia-Latin America shipping route negotiations

MOSCOW — Fesco, one of Russia's largest transportation companies, said on Tuesday it was in negotiations to establish a shipping route between Russia and Latin America, in a move driven by the need for bananas from Ecuador.

The West has imposed sweeping sanctions against Russia over its actions in Ukraine, while the world's three largest container shipping lines, Denmark's Maersk, France's CMA CGM and Swiss-based MSC,

have suspended bookings to and from Russia.

"We are currently holding negotiations with our partners — retailers who are interested in restoring lost routes," Andrei Severilov, chairman of

Fesco's board of directors, said in a statement. The company is above all discussing delivering bananas from Ecuador, as well as agricultural products from other Latin American countries, he added.

Mr. Severilov said the key problem was the lack of a large capacity fleet and that Fesco plans to buy ships with more than twice the capacity of those it has today, up to 7,000 TEU, a measure of container capacity.

Bananas are one of the most popular fruits among Russian consumers. According to NielsenIQ data, bananas accounted for 21.7% of fruit sales in monetary terms between January and October this year. — **Reuters**

## Drugmakers Teva, Sandoz make major push in production of biosimilars

GENERIC drug makers Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and Sandoz say they are planning a significant ramp-up in production of biosimilars — copies of high-priced drugs used to treat illnesses such as rheumatoid arthritis and cancer — aiming to increase their share of an expanding market.

More than 55 brand-name blockbuster biologic drugs, each with peak annual sales above \$1 billion, are due to come off patent by the end of the decade, according to industry estimates.

Executives from Teva and Sandoz said they are targeting top-selling biologics such as Humira, AbbVie, Inc.'s top-selling arthritis drug, which came off-patent in Europe and is due to come off-patent in the US next year. But both companies face commercial and regulatory challenges, especially in the US, where biosimilars have not resulted in dramatically lower prices for consumers.

Biologics are complex molecules cultivated inside living cells, making it impossible to manufacture exact copies, as is the case with conventional pharmaceuticals made from chemical compounds.

Use of brand-name biologics typically account for an outside proportion of drug spending in wealthier countries.

One of the biggest makers of generic drugs, Israeli-based Teva said it aims eventually to secure a 10% global market share of biosimilars. The company has been grappling with a heavy debt load since a 2016 acquisition and lawsuits arising from the US opioid epidemic.

Teva currently has three approved biosimilars and 13 in development.

"We are going full blast now," Teva Chief Executive Kåre Schultz said in an interview with Reuters.

He said the company was targeting "80% of what's going off-patent in the next 10 years" including big sellers like the cancer drug Keytruda.

A division of Novartis, Sandoz is currently the second biggest player after Pfizer, Inc. in the biosimilar market by gross sales globally, per IQVIA data, cited by Sandoz. (Amgen is in third place).

Sandoz has launched eight biosimilar drugs.

"We now have over 15 products in development, and in the next five years we would like to double the value of our marketed portfolio," chief scientific officer Claire D'Abreu-Hayling told Reuters, adding that the biologics they intend to target are "really obvious opportunities".

### BLOCKBUSTERS COMING OFF PATENT

Novartis plans to spin off its Sandoz generics business in 2023. The Swiss drugmaker said the unit failed to attract a serious buyer earlier this year as it considered options for the unit's future.

The more than 55 blockbuster biologics coming off patent protection in the United States and Europe over the next decade account for more than \$270 billion in expected peak annual sales, according to a McKinsey analysis.

The analysis projected the value of the global biosimilar market could more than triple to an estimated \$74 billion by 2030.

Next year could bring a test case in the US market, with the anticipated launch of at least six biosimilars for Humira, which brings in about \$15 billion

to \$20 billion in annual sales and is approved for autoimmune conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and Crohn's disease.

Sandoz and Teva are both working on biosimilars for Humira.

But the crowded field raises a tough question: Should the companies target the biggest selling biologics such as Humira, or aim for smaller brands that will likely attract fewer players, said Barclays pharmaceuticals analyst Emily Field.

Teva aims to ensure it is one of the first three biosimilars on the market for any given biologic, according to Sven Dethlefs, executive VP, North America commercial. He said the company intended to kick off multiple biosimilar development programs but would halt production if it could not make the top three.

While going after Humira, Sandoz is also targeting drugs like Biogen's multiple sclerosis medicine Tysabri, which is used in a much smaller patient population. The company believes no other biosimilar is being actively developed for Tysabri, said Chief Operating Officer Pierre Bourdage.

A typical biosimilar costs \$100 million to \$300 million to develop and between six to nine years to win approval, according to McKinsey. About half of efforts launched across the US, European, and Japanese markets fail at the earliest stages, the report found. — **Reuters**

### FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link < [bit.ly/TevaSandoz121422](http://bit.ly/TevaSandoz121422) >

## Metrobank maintains top position in securities trading

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.'s (Metrobank) Financial Markets Sector was recently recognized by the Asset and the Bureau of the Treasury for its expertise in trading and for cornering the biggest market share in terms of trades this year.

At home, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) named Metrobank as the Top Market Maker for 2023, besting other government securities eligible dealers (GSED).

The National Treasury cited the Bank's efforts in helping the national government to meet its financing requirements and for supporting the initiatives of the BTr in enhancing the access of Filipinos to investment opportunities.

Meanwhile, offshore, Metrobank was given the Top Sell-Side Institution Award for both Peso Corporate and Government securities in the secondary market at the 2022 Asset Benchmark Research Awards for the third straight year. The Bank was also chosen as the Investor's Choice Top Arranger for government securities.

The Asset also recognized Metrobank's top traders under the Region's Best Local Currency Bond award category. Living up to the Bank's longstanding tradition of excellence and service, Metrobank Financial Markets Sector has once again proven that their expertise is at par with industry standards. The awardees were: Metrobank Rates and Credits Division Head Kathryn Abes and Government Securities Trading Department Head David Estacio who ranked first and second, respectively, in the Trading category; Sales Trader Samantha Dayrit and Financial Institutions Sales Head Gabriel Liboro who placed fourth and fifth,



Metrobank Head of Financial Markets Sector Fernand Tansingco (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) receives the 2023 Top Market Maker for Government Securities Eligible Dealers Award from National Treasurer Rosalia De Leon (3<sup>rd</sup> from left). Other people in the photo are (from left): Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Marino III, Deputy Treasurer Gisela Lood, Metrobank Rates and Credits Division Head Kathryn Abes, and Deputy Treasurer Erwin Sta. Ana.

respectively, in the Sales category; and Institutional Investors Coverage Division Head Ruben Zamora who ranked fourth in the Research category.

The Top Sell-Side Institution Award is given to banks that have captured the biggest market share for corporate and government bonds in the annual Asian Currency Bond Benchmark Review. The market share is then calculated from a detailed questionnaire completed by the leading institutional investors. On the other hand, for the individual category, the Asset Benchmark Research nominates the top sell-side performers in research, sales, and trading and winners are based on the number of votes from the public.

"We always strive to perform our best amid different market conditions. As financial market activities start to recover, we commit to our partners like the Bureau of the Treasury as well as to our retail and corporate clients that we will always strive to make our local markets more liquid, offer relevant products and insights, and ensure that the right mechanisms are in place to make it thrive," said Metrobank Senior Executive Vice President and Head of Financial Markets Sector Fernand Antonio Tansingco.