

Apple supplier BOE plans new factories in Vietnam — sources

HANOI — Chinese display maker BOE Technology Group Co. Ltd., a supplier of both Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., plans to invest a substantial sum to build two factories in Vietnam, two people familiar with the matter said.

The investment may total up to \$400 million, one of them said.

The plan underscores efforts by technology firms led by US iPhone maker Apple and Taiwanese device assembler Foxconn to lower supply chain exposure to China amid trade and geopolitical tension between Beijing and Washington and production disruption caused by China's coronavirus disease 2019 containment measures.

BOE is in talks to rent dozens of hectares of land in north Vietnam to add to its relatively small plant in the south that supplies mostly television screens to South Korea's Samsung and LG Electronics, Inc., the people said, declining to be identified as negotiations were confidential.

BOE declined to comment. Northern Vietnam has in recent years attracted significant investment from electronics giants, becoming a major hub for the production of smartphones, computers and cameras, including flagship goods from Apple and Samsung.

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Ltd. (Foxconn) and China's Luxshare Precision Industry also make or plan to assemble

a number of Apple products in the area such as laptop and tablet computers.

BOE plans to rent up to 100 hectares and use 20% for a plant making remote control systems at a cost of \$150 million, one of the people said.

The rest would be for displays, with BOE spending \$250 million to build a plant on 50 hectares while suppliers would use the remaining 30 hectares, all by 2025, the person said.

BOE plans to make the more sophisticated organic light-emitting diodes (OLED) screens at the site rather than liquid-crystal displays (LCDs), the person said.

Apple, which included BOE in its 2021 list of manufacturing partners, uses OLED screens for its latest iPhone smartphones.

China's biggest display maker by output is set to become the largest supplier of displays for new iPhones by 2024, analyst Kuo Ming-chi at TF International Securities forecast last week.

The US tech giant, however, plans to start making mobile screens in-house by next year, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday.

Apple declined to comment. BOE's Vietnam plan is not specifically aimed at supplying Apple, the person said.

Customer Samsung, the world's largest smartphone maker, produces half of its handsets in Vietnam while LG has a large operation in the country and is planning new investment. — **Reuters**

Data security more important as digital transformation accelerates

DIGITAL transformation will continue to accelerate, leading to cybersecurity becoming “the cornerstone for everything” and not just a concern of security and risk management, according to Amazon Web Services (AWS).

“Around the world, the public is becoming more discerning about how personal data should be gathered, stored, and processed — and governments are responding by creating new legislation to protect personal data,” Phil Rodrigues, AWS's head of security for Asia-Pacific & Japan, said in a statement.

Technological research and consulting firm Gartner said three-fourths of the world's population will have introduced data protection legislation by 2024, while large organizations are expected to invest \$2.5 billion in privacy technology.

In the Philippines, legislation like the Data Privacy Act and SIM Card Registration Act have been implemented to deter

cybercrime. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also kicked off 2023 with a “Check-Protect-Report” information drive to educate and protect financial consumers.

Moving forward, instead of conducting periodic cybersecurity reviews, a future where organizations will shift to continuous automated security is expected, Mr. Rodrigues said.

He added that cybersecurity will eventually be built into everything organizations do from the very start, with trends like cloud-based artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) expected to add a layer of automation in cloud environments.

“Cloud-based AI/ML offers predictive capabilities derived from collected information that can play a role in making cybersecurity more proactive by identifying outliers and offering recommendations on how to address vulnerabilities,” Mr. Rodrigues added.

The workforce must also grow to keep data safe and be trained not just in technical skills like AI and cloud computing, but also in communication-related skills, he said.

He said cybersecurity professionals themselves name communication, flexibility, and leadership as the top three skills they can be better trained in, citing a 2022 study by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association.

In 2022, the International Information System Security Certification Consortium also found that there was a global shortage of 3.4 million cybersecurity practitioners.

Meanwhile, Reynaldo C. Lugtu, Jr., chairman of the Information and Communications Technology committee of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, told *BusinessWorld* in an interview that consumers can be prepared

for risks if data security issues are better communicated to them.

Though the Philippines has made big strides for financial inclusion, Filipinos still have “issues of security, trust, and lack of knowledge,” he said.

“Financial institutions should give contact details for any issue [customers] encounter, like problems with accounts, money transfers, or transactions. They should be able to go to a chatbot, e-mail, or hotline,” Mr. Lugtu said in a mix of Filipino and English.

“What’s important is they communicate [security risks and protection measures] to consumers. With social media, they can reach a wide consumer base,” he added. — **Brontë H. Lacsamana**

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Weaponized AI: How organizations can prepare to deal with the threat

By Ramprakash Ramamoorthy

AS organizations gear up to construct robust, secure ecosystems, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a competent tool for enhancing their security postures. Despite AI's transformative capabilities in cybersecurity, it can also be weaponized by hackers to disrupt the security networks of companies. McKinsey & Company report that hackers are carrying out increasingly sophisticated attacks using AI, machine learning (ML), and other technologies.

A weaponized AI system breaks down performance and disrupts normal operations by leveraging vulnerabilities in a network. AI's unique abilities — such as informa-

tion retention, learned intelligence, automation, and improved speed — are used to penetrate networks and systems. By weaponizing AI to model adaptable attacks and develop intelligent malware programs, cybercriminals have been able to program these attacks to collect knowledge of factors that proved to be successful.

A data breach in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region takes roughly 184 days to identify and 65 days to contain, according to data from Ponemon Institute. Threat actors may exploit this knowledge when initiating cyberattacks. Despite the fact that the digital economy in the ASEAN region is predicted to grow by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years, many organiza-

tions in the ASEAN region lack the appropriate cybersecurity awareness and security infrastructure to effectively mitigate the risk of AI-enabled attacks. This can impede the digital transformation initiative undertaken in the region.

FULL STORY

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A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: AI USED TO PERPETRATE CYBERATTACKS

Features that make AI and ML systems vital to businesses, such as the automation of predictions through analyzing large volumes of data and finding patterns, are the very same features that cybercriminals abuse.

Ramprakash Ramamoorthy is the Director of Research at ManageEngine.

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