

IMI's German unit planning to delist from NYSE

A UNIT of Ayala-led Integrated Micro-Electronics, Inc. (IMI) intends to voluntarily delist its American depositary shares (ADS) from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) as part of cost-cutting measures.

Germany-based VIA optronics AG notified the NYSE on April 9 regarding its intent to voluntarily delist, IMI said in a stock exchange disclosure on Thursday.

The company also said that VIA will terminate its registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as well as its ADS program.

VIA is a supplier of interactive display solutions for multiple end markets. Its interactive display systems combine system design, interactive displays, software functionality, cameras, and other hardware components.

"VIA believes that delisting and deregistration of the ADSs from the US public markets will be more economical for the company, taking into account the low liquidity of its ADSs and the high costs of maintaining the NYSE listing and US SEC registration on an annual basis," IMI said.

"VIA further believes that delisting and deregistration, and consequently the suspension of its US SEC reporting obligations, will allow the company to allocate resources more efficiently to execute its current business strategy by enabling its management and employees to focus more on managing its businesses and strengthening relationships with customers and business partners," it added.

VIA also notified The Bank of New York Mellon, which acts as depository under the ADS program.

Meanwhile, IMI said that VIA is anticipated to file a Form 25 with the US SEC in relation to the delisting and deregistration of its ADSs on or around April 19.

The last trading day of the company's ADSs will be on or about April 29.

"Unless the Form 25 is earlier withdrawn by VIA, the delisting of the ADSs will be effective ten days after the filing of the Form 25," IMI said.

Following the delisting and after the required filings, VIA is expected to file a Form 15 with the US SEC to deregister its ADSs and

suspend its reporting obligations under US Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

"The process for delisting from the NYSE, suspending US SEC reporting obligations and terminating the ADS program is expected to take time, require filings and notifications, and compliance with certain requirements. As such, VIA cannot provide assurances yet as to whether or when these actions will be consummated," IMI said.

"VIA had previously disclosed that it received notice from the NYSE that it is not

currently in compliance with the continued listing standards of the NYSE," it added.

IMI is the manufacturing unit of AC Industrial Technology Holdings, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala Corp.

IMI produces electronics for segments such as automotive, industrial electronics and aerospace. The company widened its net loss to \$109.19 million last year as revenues dropped by 6% to \$1.3 billion.

On Thursday, IMI shares dropped by 1.5% or three cents to P1.97 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Investments,
from SI/1

"This is the first time that we're going to have the three countries — Japan, the Philippines, and the United States — going together to enhance economic cooperation," Mr. Romualdez said.

The US' gross domestic product (GDP) hit \$27.36 trillion last year, while Japan's was \$4.2 trillion. The Philippines, meanwhile, is still struggling to become an upper middle-income country by 2026 with a P21.05-trillion economy last year.

The GDP of China, the Philippines' second-largest export market and largest source of imports, hit \$17.52 trillion in 2023.

"With the Philippines' bilateral relations with China further disintegrating as a result of real injuries in the West Philippine Sea, the previous regime's special relationship with Beijing is all but over," Terry L. Ridon, a public investment analyst and convenor of InfraWatchPH, said in an e-mail.

"The era of former President Rodrigo R. Duterte's kowtow to China is over."

Despite China's show of force at sea, its economy is expected to slow this year. The Asian Development Bank forecasts China would expand by 4.8% in 2024, weaker than its 5.2% growth in 2023. Next year, China's GDP growth is seen to slow to 4.5%.

FREE TRADE DEAL WITH US?

Mr. Romualdez said Manila was "seriously" considering a free trade agreement (FTA) with the US.

In April last year, US Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai said an FTA with the Philippines was not on the table as the Biden government is focused on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

The Philippines and Japan are part of the US-led IPEF, which was launched a few years after the launch of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest FTA, of which Manila is also a member.

"There will be an economic framework, the IPEF meeting in Manila this coming May. This is probably where we are going to be given a more clear picture of where this IPEF is going," Mr. Romualdez said.

Mr. Ridon said Philippine expectations for its investment ties with the US and Japan could be realized because the two powers have increased their presence in the country in recent years.

"Tokyo has been the nation's most reliable development partner, with its massive development commitments in improving our railway infrastructure such as the Metro Manila Subway and the North South Commuter Railway Project," he said.

"On the other hand, Washington has remained committed to expanding its investments in the semiconductor and IT-BPO sector, both of which have been massive drivers of year-on-year growth," he added.

Among the US companies that Mr. Marcos is expected to have a meeting with in Washington is Seattle-based Ultra Safe Nuclear Corp., Mr. Romualdez said.

"The more exciting part of the clean energy projects that we're trying to lure into the country is the small modular nuclear power plants."

The envoy said a joint exploration within the Philippine exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea is also expected as Philippine companies that have been given concessions in the area have been seeking "potential partners" in the US for a joint venture in the exploration of energy sources.

Electricity costs in the Philippines are not only threatened by movements in the global energy markets but also by the expected depletion of the Southeast Asian nation's only indigenous source of natural gas.

The Malampaya gas field, which accounts for at least 40% of electricity needs in the Philippine capital region, is projected to run dry by 2027 with expected serious repercussions for the economy.

OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Romualdez said the Philippine energy and semiconductor sectors are expected to heavily benefit from the \$100-billion investments that the Philippines is expected to gain in the coming years.

"There is an opportunity for the Philippines to attract investments, particularly from US and Japanese firms,

that might leave China in the wake of the political tension in the West Philippine Sea," Georgo N. Manzano, a trade expert at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said in an e-mail.

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code
tinyurl.com/22u75fsh

OPENS TODAY!

PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION®

presents

FRANCHISE ASIA®

PHILIPPINES 2024

EDUCATIONAL / FRANCHISE
SEMINARS
SCAN TO REGISTER!

**FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS/
WOULD-BE FRANCHISEES**

HOW TO INVEST IN THE RIGHT FRANCHISE SEMINAR

APRIL 12 (Fri) 2PM-4PM
APRIL 13 (Sat) 10AM-12NN | 2PM-4PM
APRIL 14 (Sun) 10AM-12NN | 1PM-3PM
Meeting Rooms 4-6

FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

HOW TO FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS

APRIL 13 (SAT) & APRIL 14 (SUN)
9AM-12NN & 2PM-5PM
Meeting Rooms 7-9

5 WAYS TO GROW YOUR PROFIT

APRIL 13 (SAT) & APRIL 14 (SUN)
2:00PM-4:00PM
Meeting Rooms 2-3

HOW TO EXPAND YOUR FRANCHISE GLOBALLY

APRIL 12 (Fri)
2:00PM-4:30PM
Meeting Rooms 7-9

UNIFIED BRANDING: BRIDGING GENERATIONS FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND SCALE

APRIL 12 (Fri) & APRIL 14 (SUN)
10:00AM-12:00NN
Meeting Rooms 2-3

REGISTER ONLINE AT
franchiseasiaph.com/seminars

For Inquiries contact PFA Secretariat:
Mobile: 0932-3045336
Email: franchiseseminars@pfa.org.ph

Organized by **PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION®** Co-presented by

CREATING Enterprises. GENERATING Jobs. 1995

POWERED BY

PLATINUM PARTNERS

SMSUPERMALLS

GCash for Business

7 ELEVEN

Jollibee

CALTEX

SEA OIL

TGP

CONCEPCION

MEGAWORLD

GOLD PARTNERS

POTATO CORNER

Gateway 2

ROBINSONS MALLS

Francorp

Quali Plus International

GLOBALTRONICS

SILVER PARTNERS

LT&G CREDIT LINE

BBK

K2 PHARMACY

Kurimi

OR YSPA

goldilocks.

Famous Belgian Waffles

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

THE SHAWARMA SHACK

MAX'S GROUP

Pure Dectar.

grainsmart

Master Stomat

PHOENIX SUPER LPG

UB UnionBank

Living Water

BRONZE PARTNERS

Shakey's

Fruitas

macco

mister donut

Julie's

MR. QUICKIE

BPI

BENCH/

uni

Yale

WalterMart

COOLAIR

Allipay D-store

MEDIA PARTNERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER

BusinessWorld

NET25

THE FULL STORY STAB

ASIAN JOURNAL

megaMobile

INQUIRER.NET

BusinessMirror

MEDIA DUTIZ

balikbayan

HOTEL PARTNERS

MICROTREL BY WYNDHAM HALL OF ASIA

TRYP HALL OF ASIA

SUPPORTED BY

BusinessWorld

www.bworldonline.com