

Trump administration seeks to toughen semiconductor controls over China

THE TRUMP administration is planning to toughen semiconductor restrictions on China, continuing and expanding the Biden administration's efforts to limit Beijing's technological prowess, Bloomberg News reported on Monday.

US officials recently met with their Japanese and Dutch counterparts about restricting Tokyo Electron and ASML engineers from maintaining semiconductor gear in China, the report said.

Some Trump officials also aim to further restrict the quantity and types of Nvidia chips that can be exported to China without a license, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Nvidia, Tokyo Electron, ASML, the White House, the Dutch Foreign Trade Ministry and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Mr. Trump's goal is for key allies to align with the US in imposing restrictions on China, similar to those placed on American chip gear companies like Lam Research, KLA and Applied Materials, as per the report. — *Reuters*

Apple plans \$500 billion in US investment, 20,000 research jobs in four years

APPLE said on Monday it would spend \$500 billion in US investments in the next four years that will include a giant factory in Texas for artificial intelligence (AI) servers and add about 20,000 research and development jobs across the country in that time.

That \$500 billion in expected spending includes everything from purchases from US suppliers to US filming of television shows and movies for its Apple TV+ service. The company declined to say how much of the figure it was already planning to spend with its US supply base, which includes firms such as Corning that makes glass for iPhones in Kentucky.

The move comes after media reports that Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook met with President Donald J. Trump last week. Many of Apple's products that are assembled in China could face 10% tariffs imposed by Mr. Trump earlier this month, though the iPhone maker had secured some waivers from China tariffs during the first Trump administration.

"This pledge represents a political gesture towards the Trump administration," said Gil Luria, analyst at D.A. Davidson, who estimated Apple has already committed to spend more than \$150 billion per year in the United States, including cost of goods sold and capital expenditure.

"Even without growing that spend very much, they would only need 3 to 4 years to meet their obligation."

Apple made a similar announcement about its US spending plans in 2018, during the first Trump administration, when it said its new and ongoing investments would contribute \$350 billion to the US economy over five years.

The company's shares were up 1.2%.

Mr. Trump, in a Truth Social post, thanked Apple and Mr. Cook, saying the move reflected the company's faith in his administration.

Most of Apple's consumer products are assembled outside the US, though many of Apple components are still made there, including chips from Broadcom, Skyworks Solutions and Qorvo.

Apple said last month it started mass producing chips of its own design at an Arizona factory owned by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC).

Bringing TSMC to Arizona and helping introduce legislation that later became the CHIPS Act to bolster US semiconductor production were two of Mr. Trump's biggest industrial policy moves during his first term.

Apple said on Monday it will work with Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, to build a 250,000-square-foot facility in Houston, where it will assemble servers that go into data centers to power Apple Intelligence, its suite of AI features that help draft e-mails and perform other tasks. Those servers are currently made outside of the US, Apple said.

Apple said it plans to increase its Advanced Manufacturing Fund from \$5 billion to \$10 billion, with part of the expansion being a "multibillion-dollar commitment from Apple to produce advanced silicon" at TSMC's Arizona factory.

Apple did not disclose details of its deal with TSMC, but it has in the past used the fund to help partners build out the infrastructure needed to deliver products or services for Apple.

Apple will also open a manufacturing academy in Michigan where its engineers, along with local university staff, will offer free courses for small and midsize manufacturing firms in areas such as project management and manufacturing process optimization. — *Reuters*

Trump says Canada, Mexico tariffs on schedule despite border, fentanyl efforts

WASHINGTON — US President Donald J. Trump said on Monday that tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports are "on time and on schedule" despite efforts by the countries to beef up border security and halt the flow of fentanyl into the US ahead of a March 4 deadline.

"The tariffs are going forward on time, on schedule," Mr. Trump told a joint news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. He had been asked whether Canada and Mexico had done enough to avoid the punishing 25% US duties.

Many had hoped the top two US trading partners could persuade Mr. Trump's administration to further delay tariffs that would apply to over \$918 billion worth of US imports from the two countries, from autos to energy. This could wreak havoc on the integrated North American economy, with the automotive sector hit particularly hard.

Mr. Trump did not specifically mention the March 4 deadline. He later referred to his desire for "reciprocal" tariffs to match the duty rates and offset the trade barriers of all countries, including France.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Macron did not publicly discuss another sticking point — digital services taxes imposed by France, Canada and other countries aimed at dominant US tech giants including Google, Facebook and Amazon.

On Friday, Mr. Trump ordered his administration to revive tariff investigations into countries that levy digital service taxes on US firms.

BORDER HOPES DIMMED

Canada and Mexico have taken steps to beef up border security, which bought them about a month's reprieve from Mr. Trump's earlier Feb. 1 deadline to impose the tariffs, based on a national emergency declaration.

Any further delay negotiated ahead of the deadline will keep the tariff threat in place at least until clear evidence emerges that Canadian and Mexican measures are working, said Dan Ujcz, a lawyer specializing in US-Canada trade matters.

"There's progress being made on the security front," said Mr. Ujcz, senior counsel with Thompson Hine in Columbus, Ohio. "But it's overly optimistic to think that those tariffs would be fully rescinded."

The White House, US Trade Representative's office and Commerce department did not respond to requests for comment on negotiations expected this week ahead of the March 4 deadline.

MORE TARIFF THREATS

Since Mr. Trump's initial 25% tariff threat and imposition of a 10% duty on all Chinese imports, he has heaped on more tariff actions that could muddy the waters on border negotiations.

These include substantially raising tariffs on steel and aluminum to a flat 25%, rescinding longstanding exemptions for Canada and Mexico, the largest sources of US imports of the metals. These steep increases, which also extend to hundreds of downstream steel products, are due to take effect a week after the border tariffs, on March 12.

Mr. Trump has also said he wants to impose 25% tariffs on imports of autos, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors, and to match duty rates and trade barriers of other countries.

The threatened tariffs could kick off an early launch of a renegotiation of the US-Mexico-Canada agreement on trade that is due by 2026, Mr. Ujcz said.

Mr. Trump signed the USMCA into law in 2020 after renegotiating the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, but has increasingly expressed dissatisfaction with imports of autos from Mexico and Canada.

PROGRESS CITED

On Thursday, Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Thursday he had a "constructive dialogue" during a meeting with Mr. Trump's top trade officials.

Mr. Ebrard said in a post on X that the "joint work" on US trade matters starts on Monday.

Mexico has begun deploying as many as 10,000 national guard troops to its northern border, as part of the agreement that Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said also called on the US to work to stop the flow of firearms into Mexico.

Canada this month created a new fentanyl czar to coordinate the fight against smuggling of the deadly opioid, appointing senior intelligence official Kevin Brosseau to the post.

Ottawa also has reclassified drug cartels as terrorist entities and has deployed drones, helicopters and other surveillance technologies on the vast northern US border.


Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has kept in close contact with Mr. Trump on the border issues in recent days, including in a Saturday call that included discussions of joint efforts to curb fentanyl trade. He has threatened retaliatory tariffs on C\$155 billion (\$107 billion) of US imports, including American beer, wine and bourbon and Florida orange juice, but said last week that Canada is "going to do the work" to ensure that tariffs are not imposed. — *Reuters*

Vietnam's US exports account for 30% of GDP

HANOI — Vietnam's goods exports to the United States accounted for 30% of its gross domestic product last year, the highest share among US top trade partners, a Reuters review of public data show, making the country highly vulnerable to reciprocal tariffs.

Vietnam experienced a surge in foreign investment after the first Trump administration started a trade war with Beijing in 2018, as foreign multinationals moved factories from China to its southern neighbor to avoid US tariffs.

It hosts major operations of South Korea's Samsung Electronics and Taiwan's contract manufacturer Foxconn. Apple, chipmaker Intel and footwear and apparel giant Nike are among US corporations which bet on Vietnam as a production hub for goods often exported to the United States. — *Reuters*



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI

SANGGUNIAN PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

PRESENT:

Vice Mayor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
Councilor
LnB President
SK President

HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO – Presiding Officer
HON. DENNIS B. ALMARIO
HON. MARIA DOLORES M. ARAYON
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HON. JOEL M. ARIONES
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HON. JOSE C. VILLENA, IV
HON. ANNA ALCINA M. YABUT
HON. ROLANDO D. ALVAREZ, JR.
HON. JEROME TRISTAN G. PANGILINAN

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES

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Upon motion of Hon. A.P. Padilla, duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Ordinance No. 2025-032 on third and final reading.

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2025-032

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr., Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan, Hon. J.M. Ariones, and Hon. C.C. Ortega

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AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AIP) FOR C.Y. 2025 OF BARANGAY LA PAZ TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Sec. 25, Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments;

WHEREAS, Sec. 109 (b) (2) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the barangay development council shall, among others, prepare the barangay development plans based on local requirements;

WHEREAS, Sec. 114 (a) of the same Code states that the policies, programs, and projects proposed by local development councils shall be submitted to the sanggunian concerned for appropriate action;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Barangay of La Paz, by virtue of Barangay Resolution No. 009-025 Series of 2025, adopted its Annual Investment Program (AIP) for C.Y. 2025, a copy of such Resolution, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "A"**;

WHEREAS, in a *Joint Endorsement* dated 5 February 2025, the Urban Development Department (UDD) and Budget Department transmitted the aforementioned AIP to the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati for its appropriate action, a copy of such *Joint Endorsement* is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "B"**;

WHEREAS, after a careful perusal of relevant documents, the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati ruled that the proposed AIP for C.Y. 2025 of Barangay La Paz is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules, and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIAN PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:

Section 1. The Annual Investment Program (AIP) for C.Y. 2025 of Barangay of La Paz is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

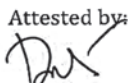
Section 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.


Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, and executive orders inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.


Section 4. Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department (UDD), Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)–Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of La Paz, and all other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance, and reference.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7854, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Makati.

ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIAN PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 19 February 2025.

Attested by:

ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Certified by:

HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

Approved by:

HON. MARLEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
City Mayor

Date of Approval: 19 FEB 2025