

Umpisa-Testsigma deal to help firms automate software testing

TECH STARTUP Umpisa, Inc. has teamed up with US-based test automation platform Testsigma to help businesses adopt artificial intelligence (AI)-driven software testing in the Philippines.

“With the growing complexity of modern applications, software teams need testing solutions that are not only fast and reliable but also intelligent and adaptable,” Pamela Isabelle Z. Belen, chief executive officer at Umpisa, said in a statement.

Under the deal, Umpisa will integrate Testsigma’s low-code, AI-driven platform, enabling software teams to create automated tests using plain English, Umpisa said.

The codeless test creation and AI-powered maintenance is expected to reduce automation costs by as much as 70%.

The partnership also seeks to address challenges raised by businesses in maintaining speed and accuracy during rapid release cycles.

“This collaboration is about enabling software teams to focus on delivering quality without being held back by traditional testing processes,” Ms. Belen said.

San Francisco-based Testsigma specializes in cloud-based infrastructure for software testing across web, mobile and applica-

tion programming interface and sales force applications.

This lets teams easily run tests at any time and integrate seamlessly with DevOps workflows.

Testsigma is used by global companies like Cisco, Samsung, Bosch, Oscar Health and Nagra and is backed by investors including MassMutual, Accel, Strive and Bold Cap.

Only 22% of Philippine companies said they are fully ready to capture AI’s potential, citing gaps in infrastructure readiness, data center network performance and cybersecurity, according to Cisco’s 2024 AI Readiness Index.

“By streamlining testing processes, the partnership seeks to help businesses improve efficiency, accuracy and scalability in their software development efforts,” Umpisa said.

Testsigma CEO Rukmangada Kandyala said its partnership with Umpisa is a major step into their global expansion to help firms adopt digital transformation practices.

“The Philippines is a dynamic technology market,” he said in the statement. “Umpisa’s strong local presence and technical expertise make them an ideal partner to bring our generative AI-powered codeless test automation solutions to the region.” — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**



EDG ADRIAN A. EVA

Yeskah’s Eco-friendly Shop makes money from paper

YESKAH’S Eco-friendly Shop, a Quezon City-based business, is promoting the country’s circular economy by upcycling discarded paper into profitable products.

The business started by selling paper bags in 2020 and has since expanded to various upcycled products.

The paper scraps left from making paper bags are transformed into various products including woven boxes, fans, paper seed bombs — recycled paper pulp mixed with seeds — and more.

“A lot of scraps came to me, so what we did was innovate — we transformed them into new products,”

owner Jessa R. Velo Aterero-Sabaldan told *BusinessWorld* in Filipino during an ecofriendly bazaar at Farmers Plaza, Quezon City last month.

They have also expanded into bags and purses made from discarded jeans and clothing, which were a crowd favorite at the bazaar.

Ms. Sabaldan said she did not originally mean to promote sustainability, but she eventually realized that she was doing so by finding ways to make money from waste.

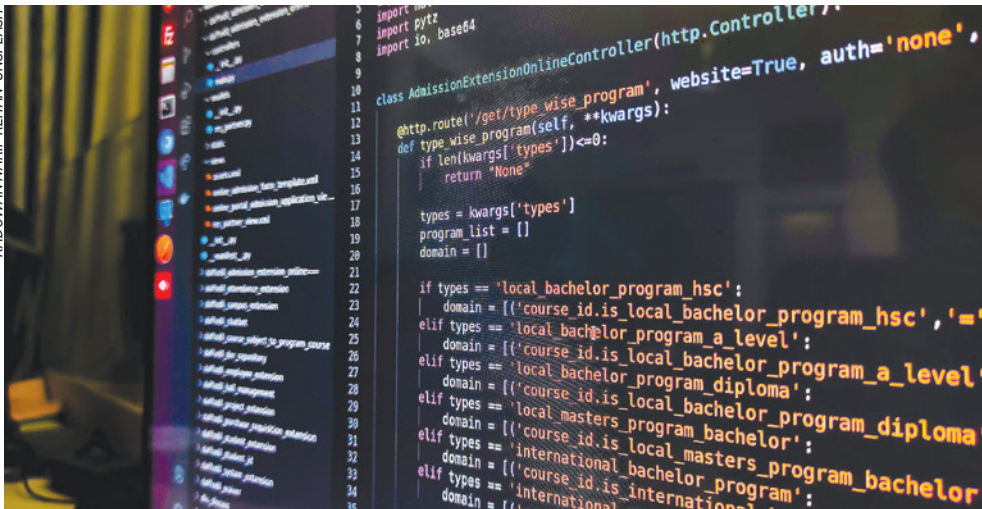
The Department of Trade and Industry in a 2022 report said the local paper industry has boosted recycling efforts in the past 10 years, with 85%

to 90% of its fiber now obtained from locally recovered paper.

The initiative diverts 1.4 million tons of waste yearly and contributes more than P7 billion to the informal economy, it said.

Ms. Sabaldan said apart from the business’s sustainability efforts, the heart of her business also lies in the craftsmanship of at least 10 single mothers and senior citizens in their neighborhood.

She plans to hire more local women as her business grows. She also dreams of having her own space once she has saved enough. — **Edg Adrian A. Eva**



RADWAN NAKIE REHAN-UNPLASH

BPI taps ACEN RES for renewable energy supply

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has tapped ACEN RES, the retail electricity supply arm of the Ayala group, for its power supply under the government’s expanded retail aggregation program (RAP).

BPI aggregated the power demand across its 70 branches, making it the first customer in the banking sector under the government program, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) said in a statement on Monday.

“BPI’s participation in RAP sends a clear message to other banks and the entire financial sector: the retail electricity market is viable and offers real opportunities to enhance the bankability of energy projects,” ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta said.

“My hope is that banks across the country will recognize the enormous potential in retail competition — that they are not just financiers of power projects, but also active contributors to the country’s energy security,” she added.

The enhanced RAP allows facilities owned by the same consumer within the same franchise area of a distribution utility to aggregate their demand to meet the 500-kilowatt threshold and select their power supplier.



BW FILE PHOTO

gate their demand to meet the 500-kilowatt threshold and select their power supplier.

BPI also moved its corporate office in Manila to renewable energy through the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP), a voluntary mechanism that allows electricity end-users to choose renewable energy as their power source.

BPI Chief Finance Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer Eric M. Luchangco emphasized that switching 70 branches to RAP is “just the beginning of the bank’s broader efforts to promote energy sustainability within its operations.” — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

First Gen expects LNG delivery this month

LOPEZ-LED First Gen Corp. expects a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo delivery this month to meet the supply requirements of its gas-fired power plants in Batangas.

The company said it recently completed a tender for its seventh LNG cargo, which is due to arrive in April, according to its annual report.

“The IOT (interim offshore LNG terminal) project will enable the company to utilize both Malampaya gas and LNG for the 2,000 MW (megawatts) of power plants located at the FGEN Clean Energy Complex,” the company said.

Last year, First Gen completed the tender and receipt of six LNG cargoes following the completion of the terminal in 2023.

First Gen operates four existing gas-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 2,017 MW, located at the First Gen Clean Energy Complex in Batangas. These plants have been supplied for many years with gas from the Malampaya gas field.

In 2023, its subsidiary, FGEN LNG Corp., completed the interim offshore LNG terminal and entered into a five-year time charter party for its floating storage and regasification vessel, BW Batangas.

Earlier this year, FGEN LNG received a permit from the Department of Energy to operate and maintain its interim offshore LNG terminal for 25 years.

Currently, First Gen has a total of 3,668 MW of combined capacity from its portfolio of plants that run on geothermal, wind, hydro, solar energy, and natural gas.

The company aims to expand its portfolio to 13,000 MW by 2030.

For 2024, First Gen reported an attributable net income of \$252.9 million, down 19% due to lower contributions from its green energy business. On the local bourse, shares in the company declined by 1.23% to close at P16 each on Tuesday. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

PAL eyes up to 20% growth in passenger volume this year

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL), operated by PAL Holdings, Inc., expects passenger volume to grow by up to 20% this year.

“Between 10% and 20% increase,” Philippine Airlines President and Chief Operating Officer Stanley K. Ng told reporters on Monday.

“We have recovered some of our grounded aircraft,” he added.

For 2024, PAL Holdings recorded a total comprehensive net income of P10.01 billion, down 51% from P20.48 billion in 2023, due to lower revenues during the period.

In 2023, PAL Holdings posted P178.01 billion in revenue, a 0.62% decrease from P179.12 billion in the previous year.

Despite carrying 15 million passengers in 2023, the flag carrier said the revenue decline was primarily due to a lower load factor of 79.1%, compared to 80.8% in 2022.

This year, PAL has launched new routes and expanded existing services.

The airline is set to begin non-stop Da Nang–Manila flights by July and increase its Manila–Hanoi–Manila service to daily flights as part of its Vietnam expansion.

PAL’s expected passenger growth this year is also attributed to the utilization of its restored aircraft, Mr. Ng said.

“After the pandemic, we were down to 60-plus planes in the air. Now we’re back to 79,” he added.

In 2024, PAL announced plans to acquire at least 22 aircraft, to be delivered between 2025 and 2029.

Mr. Ng said the company hopes to receive the first delivery by yearend.

The new aircraft include nine A350-1000s and 13 A321neo (New Engine Option) jets, intended to serve the airline’s non-stop flights to North America and other overseas destinations, as well as regional routes in Asia and Australia.

Meanwhile, PAL is also planning to resume its Manila–Sapporo service, Mr. Ng said, although supply chain issues remain a constraint.

“[We are looking at] Sapporo, but there’s a challenge with the engine situation — the supply chain,” he said.

At the local bourse on Tuesday, shares in the company closed unchanged at P4.50 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Career Opportunity in **Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.**

Accounts Manager (1 Vacancy)

Job Description:

The Accounts Manager position is responsible for bridging a strong connection between the Company and the Key Customer; gain business opportunities for the Company and deliver success to the customer as their business partner; lead the internal team to meet customer requirements, analyze customer needs and pain points; explore the business field to bring value to the customer.

Qualification (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specialized Training):

- Bachelor’s degree in Electrical/Electronic Engineering or Business Administration combined with a keen affinity for technical products
- 5-10 years of experiences in Account Management in ICT industry (preferably in Carrier Business)
- Fundamental knowledge of the ICT products and services. Good technical knowledge, coupled with a dynamic approach to sales
- Excellent communication and presentation skills. Goal-oriented and customer-focused team player
- Highly proficient in Chinese and English language considering the clients include both local and Chinese clients.

Applications may be sent to:

Jeanne Robles
Email: ph_recruitment@huawei.com

COMPANY / EMPLOYER	NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION
COMPANY NAME: Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. ADDRESS: U-5302 53/F PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue Cor. VA. Rufino St., Makati City NATURE OF BUSINESS: Information & Communications Technology	NAME: CHONG, KAI SHING ADDRESS: QUEZON CITY NATIONALITY: CHINESE INTENDED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT: One (1) year
Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment- National Capital Region located at 967 Maligna Street, Malate Manila	

Career Opportunity in **Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.**

Project Analyst (1 Vacancy)

Job Description:

Part of an international technical project team and will be mainly responsible for understanding customer requirements and finish the network design (LLD/DD), project delivery, Network migration and etc. Coordinate with internal and/or partner for delivering GSM/UMTS/LTE/OSS projects to customer, covering the solution validation, installations, acceptance and handover. Deal with complex network issues raised by customer, analyze and locate root cause, then provide solution.

Qualification (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specialized Training):

- At least Bachelor graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering or related courses with 2 years’ work experience
- Data communication network, Basic Knowledge and basic IP protocol, Microsoft Office Skills/Computer Skills, basic Network Troubleshooting, Customer Relation/Presentation Skills
- Good communication skills to engage with customers at all levels: technical level, provide professional sharing and technical guidance, and value presentation.
- Highly proficient in both Chinese and English language considering the clients include both local and Chinese clients.

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COMPANY NAME: Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. ADDRESS: U-5302 53/F PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue Cor. VA. Rufino St., Makati City NATURE OF BUSINESS: Information & Communications Technology	NAME: HE, YIXIANG ADDRESS: TAGUIG CITY NATIONALITY: CHINESE INTENDED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT: Three (3)Years
Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment- National Capital Region located at 967 Maligna Street, Malate Manila	

Career Opportunity in **Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.**

Position Title: Data Center Team Leader

Job Description:

Support the development and capability development of the data center facility solution, and propose solutions based on customers’ pain points and vision. Participate in facility solution design and planning and planning of L1 and L2 linkage solutions for intelligent computing to improve the competitiveness of DC solutions. Participate in the development of key DC projects and support the implementation of strategic projects and solutions. Be responsible for key technologies and project management during delivery solution weaving and solution implementation in data center projects. Ensure that the delivery solution is feasible and cost-effective. Be responsible for the technical results of the overall project delivery. Be able to cooperate with product lines for joint development.

Qualification (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specialized Training):

- Bachelor’s degree with at least 5 years of work experience
- Have a good command of the basic principles, main systems, and basic knowledge of the L1 layer of the data center. Have deep exploration in certain fields such as solution design, product development, data center energy saving, and prefabricated data center.
- Familiarity with liquid cooling systems, intelligent computing cluster solutions, or hardware is preferred. Ability to design and develop industry solutions. Experience in key project development is preferred.
- Understand the service processes, supporting technologies, and business models of data center external operation, such as web-hosting and co-location. Have a basic command of AI products, such as ModelArts, MindSpore, Manas, NAIE, and large model technologies, familiar with related data products, such as MRS, DWS, DGC, and GDE DataCube with the complete process of data integration and governance
- Be good at proactive thinking and self-driven, have strong execution and pressure resistance, have keen risk awareness and good risk identification ability, and have strong independent work ability and problem solving ability. Highly proficient in both Chinese and English

Applications may be sent to:

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Email: ph_recruitment@huawei.com

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COMPANY NAME: Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc. ADDRESS: U-5302 53/F PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue Cor. VA. Rufino St., Makati City NATURE OF BUSINESS: Information & Communications Technology	NAME: SUN, ZHENG ADDRESS: TAGUIG CITY NATIONALITY: CHINESE INTENDED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT: Three (3)Years
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