GARMIN INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Garmin's new premium fitness watch Venu X1 now in the Philippines

GARMIN'S latest premium fitness smartwatch, the Venu X1, is now available in the Philippines.

The watch has a suggested retail price of P47,990 and is now available at all Garmin Brand Stores and through the official online Garmin Stores via Kinetic, Shopee, and Lazada. Customers can choose between two color options: black and moss.

"Venu X1 is the perfect blend of form, function, and style. Not only does it pack all of Garmin's most popular features into a slim profile, but the large display makes it easy to see everything from preloaded maps and workout stats to health insights and smart notifications with stunning clarity," said Susan Lyman, Garmin International, Inc. vice-president of Consumer Sales and Marketing.

The smartwatch has an ultra-thin design with an 8-millimeter rectangular watch case with rounded corners. It features a lightweight titanium caseback and scratch-resistant sapphire lens.

Its body weighs 34 grams and 40 grams when paired with the 24-millimeter quick-release ComfortFit nylon band.

It has a 2-inch AMOLED display with a 448 x 486 resolution that allows users to read data as well as maps easily, and its built-in watch faces are customizable. It also has more font sizes.

"Made to be worn all day every day, Venu X1 includes an LED flashlight that provides greater visibility in dark environments. The built-in speaker and microphone let users make and take calls from the watch when it's paired with a compatible smartphone and use the phone's voice assistant to respond to text messages," Garmin said.

"Certain voice commands like "start a running activity" and "set a timer for 5 minutes" can also be activated right from the watch — no phone connection required."

The Venu X1 has a battery life of up to eight days, the brand said. It has a 32 gigabyte memory.

It comes with health and wellness monitoring features, built-in mapping, safety and tracking features, as well as workout and training plans. It also has several activity profiles. — **BVR**

AI writing assistant Jenni AI sees PHL market as key growth driver

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

JENNI, Inc. the US-based company that built artificial intelligence (AI)-powered writing assistant Jenni AI, is optimistic about expanding its presence in the Philippines as more universities explore the benefits of using AI tools in the academic setting.

"The Philippines is poised to become one of Jenni AI's fastest-growing markets over the next 18–24 months for several reasons," Justin Wong, head of commercial operations at Jenni AI, said in an e-mail. "Although English is considered a second language for most of the population, the Philippines ranks as one of the highest English-proficient countries in the world, which gives academics an advantage since the majority of scientific and research articles are published in English."

Jenni AI is an AI-powered tool that provides writing and research assistance for both the academic and professional setting.

At present, it is being used by over 4.5 million academics worldwide, including 300,000 researchers, post-graduate students, and faculty based in the Philippines, the company said.

"We see that universities in the Philippines, such as the University of Santo Tomas and De La Salle University, are now pushing new digital transformation initiatives to implement ethical AI tools like Jenni into both learning and research workflows," Mr. Wong said.

AI writing assistants like Jenni help ease academic workload by allowing users to focus on tasks that require more critical thinking, he said.

"By instantly cleaning grammar, suggesting specific phrasing, and automatically generating relevant citations, Jenni lowers the language and formatting barriers, enabling Filipino scholars to earn more recognition from top scholarly journals."

Philippine users of Jenni AI mainly use its productivity features like the auto-citation, fluency improver, and outline builder, the company said.

Moving forward, Jenni AI is looking to roll out new features and product improvements every two weeks to better support academic users, including allowing document collaboration.

To help ensure the ethical use of AI, the company is also set to release an AI Usage Report feature, Mr. Wong said. This will help users strike a balance between their own inputs in their manuscripts with Jenni AI's contributions.

This feature is expected to help users "ensure they are following the appropriate guidelines set by scholarly journals or their university," the official said.

Another feature the company is working on is personalized article recommendations, where users can find new papers based on the sources they upload to Jenni AI.

The company also recently teamed up with CE-Logic, Inc. a local educational publishing and e-learning provider, to introduce AI solutions that can help enhance research productivity and learning in academic institutions nationwide.

"In partnership with leading experts and researchers, we've developed introductory and advanced modules to teach academics at every level how to use Jenni ethically," Mr. Wong added.

The official said he believes banning the use of AI, especially in schools, is unrealistic.

"It is more important to keep the author in the driver's seat, preserve academic integrity through transparent audit trails, and ultimately accelerate the journey from an idea to a peer-reviewed research contribution," Mr. Wong said.

Microsoft nears OpenAI agreement for ongoing tech access

MICROSOFT Corp. is in advanced talks to land a deal that could give it ongoing access to critical OpenAI technology, an agreement that would remove a major obstacle to the startup's efforts to become a for-profit enterprise.

The companies have discussed new terms that would let Microsoft use OpenAI's latest models and other technology even if the startup decides it has reached its goal of building a more powerful form of artificial intelligence (AI) known as artificial general intelligence (AGI), according to two people familiar with the negotiations. Under the current contract, OpenAI attaining AGI is seen as a major milestone at which point Microsoft would lose some rights to OpenAI technology.

Negotiators have been meeting regularly, and an agreement could come together in a matter of weeks, according to three people with knowledge of the situation, who requested anonymity to discuss a private matter. OpenAI Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman and Satya Nadella, his Microsoft counterpart, discussed the restructuring at the Allen & Co. conference in Sun Valley, Idaho, earlier this month, two of the people said.

While the tone of the talks has been positive, some of the people cautioned that the deal isn't finalized and could hit new roadblocks. Moreover, OpenAI's restructuring plans face other complications, including regulatory scrutiny and a lawsuit filed by Elon Musk, an early backer who split with the company and accused the startup of defrauding investors about its commitment to its charitable mission. (OpenAI has pushed back at Mr. Musk's claims and said the billionaire is trying to slow down the company.)

Negotiations over OpenAI's future as a profit-company have dragged on for months. Microsoft, which backed OpenAI with some $13.75 billion and has the right to use its intellectual property, is the biggest holdout among the ChatGPT maker's investors, Bloomberg previously reported. At issue is the size of Microsoft's stake in the newly configured company.

The talks have since broadened into a renegotiation of their relationship, with the software maker seeking to avoid suddenly losing access to the startup's technology before the end of the current deal, which expires in 2030.

Microsoft and OpenAI declined to comment.

A FRAYING PARTNERSHIP

The partnership between the two companies helped inaugurate the AI age. Microsoft built the supercomputer that OpenAI used to develop the language models behind ChatGPT and, in exchange, won the right to bake the technology into its software offerings. The relationship began to fray when the OpenAI board fired (and then rehired) Mr. Altman in November 2023, an episode that shook Microsoft's faith in its partner.

The rift only widened when the two companies began competing for the same customers — consumers who use their chatbots at home and corporations that have deployed the AI assistants to boost office productivity.

Even as executives publicly touted their close ties, OpenAI sought to loosen its dependence on Microsoft, winning permission to build data centers and other AI infrastructure with rival companies.

OpenAI is eager to alter its complicated nonprofit structure, in part to secure additional funding to keep building data centers to power its next-generation AI models. SoftBank Group Corp., which has said it would back OpenAI with tens of billions of dollars, has the option to reduce that outlay if OpenAI's restructuring isn't completed by the end of the year.

OpenAI wants a larger slice of the revenue currently shared with Microsoft, and has sought adjustments to Microsoft's access to its intellectual property, two of the people said. Microsoft is looking for continued access to OpenAI technology after the current contract expires in 2030.

There are a range of concerns for OpenAI. The startup wants to ensure its business is well-positioned with whatever share of revenue and equity Microsoft receives in part to guarantee its nonprofit will be well-resourced with a significant stake in OpenAI, one person said. OpenAI also wants the ability to offer customers distinct products built on top of its models even if Microsoft has access to the same technology, the person said. And OpenAI wants to be able to find a way to provide its services to more customers, including government providers, not all of which are on Azure, Microsoft's cloud computing platform, the person said.

At the same time, OpenAI seeks to guarantee that Microsoft adheres to strict safety standards when deploying OpenAI's technology, especially as it gets closer to AGI, the person said.

THE AGI QUESTION

Reaching agreement on what happens once OpenAI achieves artificial general intelligence has been particularly thorny. It's not clear why the language is in the contract, but it gives OpenAI a built-in way to strike out on its own just as its technology matures. — ***Bloomberg***

FULL STORY
Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
<tinyurl.com/54tjh5z5>

Palo Alto Networks in talks to buy CyberArk in deal worth over $20 billion, *WSJ* reports

PALO ALTO Networks is in talks to acquire CyberArk Software in a deal that could value the Israeli cybersecurity firm at more than $20 billion, the *Wall Street Journal* (*WSJ*) reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Shares in CyberArk rose about 13%, while Palo Alto Networks' stock fell roughly 2%.

The Santa Clara, California-based company could finalize a deal for CyberArk as soon as later this week, the report said.

CyberArk declined to comment on the report when contacted by Reuters. Palo Alto did not immediately respond.

Cybersecurity deal activity has been robust in recent years as large corporations have increased spending on security tools.

Google-parent Alphabet said in March it would buy Israeli cybersecurity startup Wiz for about $32 billion.

Rising competition among all-in-one cybersecurity platforms has reshaped the industry, making several companies attractive takeover targets for larger rivals and private equity firms.

As of Monday's close, CyberArk had a market capitalization of $19.3 billion, according to data compiled by LSEG. — ***Reuters***

Meralco eyeing to build EV charging network

POWER DISTRIBUTOR Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) has entered into a partnership with a Vietnamese electric vehicle (EV) firm and a ride-hailing service provider to support the development of green mobility solutions.

In a statement on Wednesday, Meralco said it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with EV charging firm V-Green Global Charging Station Development Corp. and ride-hailing company Green and Smart Mobility Joint Stock Co. to support the country's shift toward cleaner and more sustainable transport.

Under the partnership, the companies will identify and evaluate sites for EV charging stations and electric taxi hubs, support the rollout of charging networks, explore opportunities to scale up EV adoption, and engage in technical cooperation and knowledge exchange on EV technologies and system design.

"This partnership brings together our collective strength in infrastructure, technology, and experience that will redefine our cities and our communities. Together, we intend to reframe the way we think about energy, transport, and sustainability," Meralco Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Manuel V. Pangilinan said.

As the country's largest electricity distribution company, Meralco said it is committed to taking the initiative in advancing the goals of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act through the deployment of integrated EV and charging infrastructure for businesses and the public.

V-Green CEO Nguyen Thanh Duong said that the partnership with Meralco would help the company in its mission to accelerate the "green mobility revolution" in Southeast Asia.

"By combining our expertise in EV charging infrastructure with Meralco's strong local presence, we aim to rapidly deploy a reliable and accessible charging network across the Philippines," he said.

"Together with VinFast and Green GSM, we are proud to contribute to a comprehensive EV ecosystem that supports the country's journey towards a cleaner and more sustainable future," he added.

Green GSM Philippines' CEO Dao Quy Phi sees the Philippines as a "vibrant and fast-growing market" for clean mobility solutions.

IN PHOTO ARE (L-R) Senior Vice-President and Chief Revenue Officer Ferdinand O. Geluz, Meralco Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Ronnie L. Aperocho, Meralco Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Manuel V. Pangilinan, Vingroup JSC Chief Corporate Development and Strategic Finance Officer Thuy Vu Dropsey, V-Green Philippines Chief Executive Officer Luu Viet Hung, and Green GSM Philippines Chief Executive Officer Dao Quy Phi.

"Through this collaboration with Meralco and V-Green, Green GSM is excited to expand our 100% electric ride-hailing service to more cities nationwide. Our goal is not only to provide safe, convenient, and affordable transportation, but also to play an active role in building a greener future for Filipino communities," he said.

In Vietnam, V-Green serves as the exclusive charging infrastructure partner for VinFast electric vehicles. Green GSM, meanwhile, is an innovative electric ride-hailing platform that operates a fleet powered entirely by VinFast EVs.

"This collaborative model is poised to deliver meaningful benefits to the public, from cost-effective mobility to safer and seamless travel experiences, while laying a strong foundation for the country's transition to a greener future," Meralco said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

PXP Energy Q2 net loss widens to P13.37 million

PXP ENERGY CORP. saw a wider attributable net loss of P13.37 million for the second quarter of 2025, compared with P6.55 million in the same period last year, amid lower revenues and higher expenses.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Wednesday, the upstream oil and gas company reported a 22.9% decline in its petroleum revenues to P12.82 million from P16.62 million in the previous year.

Costs and expenses rose by 14.6% to P25.21 million from P22 million a year ago.

For the six months ended June, PXP said it had incurred a core net loss of P21.1 million, primarily due to softer crude prices, lower volumes from Galoc operations, and higher petroleum production costs.

Revenues dipped by 22.6% to P33.2 million, reflecting a 9.2% drop in sales volume to 280,742 barrels and a 13.9% decrease in the average realized crude price to $70.70 per barrel, amid global market adjustments.

"Galoc operations remained stable during the period, providing consistent output," the company said.

Costs and expenses climbed by 12% to P33.2 million, mainly due to higher petroleum production costs and a one-off increase in overhead at a foreign subsidiary.

Regarding prospects, PXP said it continues to evaluate the feasibility of the Dalingding prospect under Service Contract (SC) 40, located onshore in northern Cebu. It is also keeping its doors open to pursuing other oil and gas opportunities across the country.

Furthermore, the company and its joint venture partners are awaiting the anticipated awarding of two pre-determined areas offshore in the southwest portion of the Sulu Sea basin for potential petroleum exploration. It is also on standby for its SC applications covering the former SC 6A Octon and SC 6B Cadlao blocks located offshore in northwest Palawan. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**