

## OpenAI backs startup that focuses on blocking AI-enabled bioweapons

SAN FRANCISCO — ChatGPT maker OpenAI on Thursday said it will invest in a startup focused on blocking bad actors from creating biological weapons powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

OpenAI is the lead investor in a \$15-million seed round in Red Queen Bio, which is trying to make sure the AI industry's defenses are growing at least as rapidly as those who seek to exploit models to harm humans, the startup's co-founder Hannu Rajaniemi said.

The investment is part of OpenAI's broader effort to invest in startups that seek to contain the risks posed by AI. Last month, the company backed Valthos, a New York-based biosecurity software startup. OpenAI Chief Strategy Officer Jason Kwon said OpenAI would consider investing in other startups focused on similar problems.

"We want to increase the overall resilience of the overall ecosystem," Mr. Kwon said in an interview. "One of the best ways you can deal with the risk mitigation is more technology."

Researchers and safety advocates say AI technology could soon accelerate drug development or design new vaccines. But those same capabilities could make it easier for bad actors to develop new and powerful biological weapons.

Red Queen Bio was spun out of Helix Nano, a clinical-stage

mRNA therapeutics company that has been using AI more in drug design. Helix Nano has also worked with OpenAI to create tests to determine AI's biorisks, Mr. Kwon said.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and board member Nicole Seligman, who had previously invested in Helix Nano, will receive shares in Red Queen Bio as part of the transaction. Mr. Kwon was indirectly an investor through Y Combinator, a Silicon Valley startup incubator. His stake is valued at less than \$2,500, OpenAI said.

The executives did not take part in approving OpenAI's investment in Red Queen Bio, a company spokesperson said. OpenAI's chief compliance officer and unconflicted members of OpenAI's board reviewed and approved the investment.

Red Queen Bio will rely on AI models as well as more traditional laboratory experiments to uncover new risks and develop new defenses. The startup's name comes from a scene in Lewis Carroll's book, *Through the Looking-Glass*.

"It was clear that biological capabilities were advancing faster than we anticipated," Mr. Rajaniemi said. "We felt we needed to start developing defenses."

Other investors in Red Queen Bio are Cerberus Ventures, Fifty Years and Halcyon Futures. — **Reuters**



## Product standard law to boost MSME competitiveness

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz  
Reporter

A PROPOSED LAW to create a unified framework for product standards and testing should prioritize micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to ensure smaller firms can meet global market requirements, analysts said.

"Normally, micro and small companies may not have the kind of quality control setup that larger firms possess, but we don't want them left behind," Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman George T. Barcelon said by telephone. "The law must be simple to understand and easy to apply."

The National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) bill, under consideration in both the House of

Representatives and Senate, seeks to consolidate standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment across industries.

It aims to align Philippine practices with international norms, potentially opening access for domestic products to foreign markets.

Teddy G. Monroy, Philippine representative for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said the framework should address challenges faced by MSMEs, including fragmented regulations, unclear standards and limited access to accredited testing laboratories.

The NQI framework should equip smaller enterprises with the tools and guidance to participate more effectively in global markets, he said in an e-mailed reply to questions.

Mr. Barcelon noted that existing compliance rules tend to favor larger producers such as electronics manufacturers.

"The law has to be crafted in a way that is understandable and practical so that smaller companies can comply," he said.

UNIDO said a well-drafted NQI Development Act could streamline regulatory processes, reduce duplicative procedures and expand access to reliable certification services.

A national framework that consistently applies standards "will help MSMEs gain the trust of consumers and buyers, build reputations for quality and participate in higher-value supply chains," Mr. Monroy said.

The measure will also support small firms in upgrading production capabilities and accessing

government support programs, complementing the Tatak Pinoy Act, which provides financing and incentives to domestic producers.

UNIDO is offering technical assistance to lawmakers and agencies in implementing the measure.

MSMEs, which account for more than 99% of Philippine businesses and contribute roughly 40% to the nation's gross domestic product, are widely regarded as a key driver of economic growth.

By establishing a modernized, integrated system for standardization and quality assessment, the NQI Act could provide a critical boost to smaller enterprises, helping them compete abroad while enhancing domestic product quality and market trust.

## MPTC moves forward with elevated toll road project in Jakarta



METRO PACIFIC Tollways Corp. (MPTC) is advancing plans to build an elevated toll road along the Jakarta Outer Ring Road (JORR), with the company currently in the financial proposal phase of the project.

"As far as I know, we are in a financial proposal phase. It has been going on for a bit," MPTC President and Chief Executive Officer Gilbert F. Santa Maria said at a recent media briefing. He was referring to the Jakarta Outer Ring Road project in Indonesia.

Last year, MPTC, through its unit PT Margautama Nusantara (MUN), said it would allocate P80 billion to construct a 21-kilometer elevated toll road along JORR.

JORR is a 65-kilometer toll ring road in Jakarta divided into sections, Mr. Santa Maria said, adding that the full stretch of the ring road carries about 560,000 vehicles daily.

The new project, to be developed by MPTC's unit in Indonesia, will be known as the JORR Elevated Toll Road and will extend from Jatiasih in East Jakarta to Ulujami in South Jakarta.

"For the Jakarta Outer Ring Road, we have one section of it right now. Different people own it, and different sections of it. It is one revenue pool and then we just share depending on how many kilometers we have. The share of revenue is under discussion, it is something that is in the cards now," Mr. Santa Maria said.

Last year, the company said construction of the elevated tollway was expected to take three to four years to complete.

The project is anticipated to ease traffic congestion along JORR, which forms part of the Trans-Java toll road network.

MPTC, together with its subsidiaries and Singapore's GIC Pte. Ltd., a global institutional

investor, had finalized a \$1-billion investment cooperation for the acquisition of a 35% stake in PT Jasamarga Transjava Tol (JTT), a major toll road operator in Indonesia.

PT Nusantara Infrastructure, which owns infrastructure concessions in both western and eastern Indonesia, operates businesses across transportation, toll roads, communications, and distribution networks.

MPTC is the tollway unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., alongside Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund's MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., holds a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Chelsea trims Q3 net loss on cargo, passenger volumes

CHELSEA Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp. narrowed its attributable net loss for the third quarter to P76.03 million, supported by a sustained recovery in cargo and passenger volumes.

For the three months ending September, the listed logistics and shipping firm reduced its net loss by 70.69% from P259.39 million in the same period last year.

The company reported gross revenues of P2.21 billion, up 9.95% from P2.01 billion a year ago.

"This period's performance reflects the resilience and agility of our organization. Supported by our dedicated employees, we've not only rebounded from last year's challenges but have laid a stronger foundation for sustainable growth," Chelsea Logistics President and Chief Executive Officer Chryss Alfonsus V. Damuy said in a media release on Tuesday.

For the nine months ending September, Chelsea Logistics posted an attributable net income of P155.33 million, reversing a P340.02 million net loss a year earlier.

Despite a 10.18% rise in gross expenses to P6.06 billion from P5.50 billion, combined revenues for the nine-month period grew 14.86% to P6.88 billion from P5.99 billion previously.

"This period's financial turnaround underscores our disciplined approach to cost management and strategic asset utilization. By maintaining stable operating expenses and executing a successful loan restructuring that lowered finance costs, we've fundamentally strengthened our bottom line," Chelsea Logistics Chief Financial Officer Darlene S. Agus-Binay said.

The company attributed its growth to strong performance across its freight, chartering, logistics, and food-and-beverage segments.

Segment-wise, freight revenues rose 12.59% to P3.13 billion from P2.78 billion, while the passenger segment posted P2.06 billion, charter fees reached P685.18 million, tugboat fees amounted to P261.67 million, and other services generated P484.39 million.

Chelsea Logistics said the growth was fueled by sustained recovery in cargo and passenger volumes, increased vessel deployment, and disciplined cost management and asset utilization.

"Our year-to-date September 2025 performance highlights not only consistent revenue growth but also our commitment to capital efficiency, laying the foundation for sustainable, long-term profitability," Ms. Agus-Binay added.

At the Philippine Stock Exchange on Tuesday, Chelsea Logistics shares rose P0.07, or 7.53%, to close at P1 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Salesforce opens main office in Makati City

AMERICAN cloud software company Salesforce officially opened its main office in Makati City on Tuesday, aiming to support more Philippine businesses in adopting agentic artificial intelligence (AI).

At a briefing, Salesforce Vice-President and Chief Technology Officer, Solutions for ASEAN Gavin Barfield said agentic technology can help Philippine businesses serve a larger customer base at speed.

"We all know that some companies in the Philippines are struggling with millions of customers. With agent and agentic technology, you can offer that level of customer service to a wide variety," he said.

The new Philippine office is located at Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower 2 within the Makati central business district.

"With our new office in the Philippines, we are better positioned to empower Filipino businesses to transform into agentic enterprises while also supporting the local ecosystem by equipping Filipino workers with the critical

AI skills needed for the future economy," said Abraham Cuevas, regional vice-president and country manager of Salesforce Philippines.

AI technologies have the potential to boost the Philippine economy by P1.8 trillion, according to a report by Google Philippines and consulting firm Public First. However, many local companies may face challenges in adopting agentic AI amid fragmented data and skills gaps.

"Salesforce is uniquely positioned to lead customers through this transformation by enabling them to become 'agentic enterprises,' a new model of work where AI elevates people rather than replacing them," the company said.

Among Salesforce's key products is Agentforce 360, which integrates apps, data, metadata, and agents on a unified platform to help clients automate routine tasks. The company also announced that its Agentforce for Service and Employee Agent platforms are now available in Tagalog, enabling more local businesses to serve customers in their native language. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

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### NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Dear Stockholder:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of **ALTERNERGY HOLDINGS CORPORATION** will be held on 10 December 2025, Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. via remote communication using the Zoom application. The meeting ID and password will be sent to successful registrants of the Meeting through electronic mail.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order;
2. Secretary's Proof of the Required Notice;
3. Proof of the Presence of a Quorum;
4. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Stockholders' Meetings;
5. Report of Management and the Board of Directors and Approval of the Audited Financial Statements as of the period ending 30 June 2025;
6. Ratification of All Acts, Transactions and Resolutions by the Board of Directors and Management since the 2024 Annual Stockholders' Meeting;
7. Election of Directors;
8. Appointment of External Auditor;
9. Other Matters;
10. Adjournment.

A brief explanation and rationale for each item of the Agenda is attached as Annex "A" of the Information Statement.

Only stockholders of record and in good standing as of 12 November 2025 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting.

The Guidelines for Registration and Participation in the Meeting, as well as the contact details for any inquiries, are attached as Annex "B" of the Information Statement. Registration will run from 19 November 2025 until 30 November 2025. Stockholders are encouraged to register online at least forty five (45) minutes before the Meeting.

For your convenience, the Corporation will be using the alternative mode for distributing and providing copies of this Notice, Information Statement and other materials for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting. In accordance with the Notice of the Securities and Exchange Commission dated 12 March 2025 regarding the Alternative Mode for Distributing and Providing Copies of the Notice of Meeting, Information Statement, and Other Documents in connection with the Holding of Annual Stockholders' Meeting and Special Stockholders' Meeting for the year 2025, a copy of the Definitive Information Statement, Management Report, SEC Form 17A, Audited Financial Statements and other pertinent documents will be available for viewing and downloading at the Corporation's website [www.alternergy.com](https://edge.pse.com.ph/companyDisclosures/form.do?cmpry_id=701) and PSE Edge at [https://edge.pse.com.ph/companyDisclosures/form.do?cmpry\\_id=701](https://edge.pse.com.ph/companyDisclosures/form.do?cmpry_id=701).

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Meeting. Should you, however, be unable to attend, you may designate an authorized representative by submitting a scanned copy of your proxy form to [ahc.shareholderregistration@alternergy.com](mailto:ahc.shareholderregistration@alternergy.com) no later than 2 December 2025. All proxies will be validated on 5 December 2025.

Lastly, a visual and audio recording of the Meeting will be secured in compliance with the requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ANNA MERCEDES MACAYTOO  
Corporate Secretary

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