

Stellantis plays down European scope for JLR and Tata partnerships

TURIN—Stellantis has no significant plans to expand its recent partnerships with Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Tata Motors to Europe, its Europe chief Emanuele Cappellano said on Friday.

The automaker last month announced a series of cooperation agreements under its new long-term strategy, including with Jaguar Land Rover for the US market and Tata Motors for India.

Analysts have speculated the tie-ups could also support Stellantis in Europe, where it is still assessing technology options, including for larger vehicles.

Mr. Cappellano said expanding the JLR and Tata joint ventures (JVs) to Europe was not a priority.

“We didn’t think to develop these JVs for the United States and India with Europe in mind,” he told a media conference in Turin, where he described the European aspects of the business plan Stellantis presented last week.

“If there were any benefit to it—say, a product opportunity—we might well consider it,

but at the moment it’s not our main focus.”

Mr. Cappellano said earlier this week that Stellantis was studying options to underpin future large models of its European premium brand Alfa Romeo, either in-house or with a partner.

Alfa Romeo plans to launch two new mid-sized models by 2030, but has withdrawn firm dates for the new versions of its larger Giulia sport sedan and Stelvio SUV.

Mr. Cappellano said on Friday Stellantis was also considering selling in Europe a niche, low-volume Jeep model to be made in China with local partner Dongfeng.

Stellantis and Dongfeng this month signed a \$1.2-billion deal to produce Peugeot- and Jeep-branded vehicles in China, both for domestic sales and export.

The two companies also announced plans for cooperation in Europe, including for manufacturing, adding to Stellantis’ partnership with Chinese EV maker Leapmotor. — **Reuters**

Dell unveils \$699 XPS 13 laptop in challenge to Apple’s MacBook Neo

DELL on Sunday unveiled its most affordable laptop, XPS 13, as the personal computer (PC) maker aims to capture market share from Apple’s MacBook Neo by attracting students and young professionals.

Starting at \$699 and a reduced \$599 for students aged 16 and older during the back-to-school season, the XPS 13 seeks to offer a superior experience compared to the MacBook Neo, Dell said.

The aggressive push into the PC market with a lower-priced laptop shows how Dell has taken cues from Apple to broaden its reach in a price-sensitive industry that is facing tighter memory chips supply.

Dell said the XPS 13 will be its thinnest and lightest model, about half a pound lighter



DELL XPS 13

than Apple’s MacBook Neo, while also featuring a larger display.

Apple debuted the MacBook Neo lineup starting at \$599 in March, which boosted its fiscal second-quarter results a month later. The Neo costs \$500 for students and competes with Chromebooks and affordable Windows devices.

“I’ll give them (Apple) credit. It’s a good product and it validates the market we’ve been talking about.

Students and consumers deserve better options at accessible price points, and we agree,” Dell Chief Operating Officer Jeff Clarke said.

Dell’s new laptop comes after the company said in January at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas that it was looking to compete across all price points in the consumer PC market and announced plans to launch the XPS 13.

The company also brought back its popular XPS laptop lineup in January. The efforts aim to mitigate the expected slowdown in PC unit shipments in the second half of the year due to the rising memory chip costs.

XPS 13 with Intel Core Series 3 processors will be available soon, while the model with Intel Core Ultra Series 3 processors and the Storm color is expected later this summer. — **Reuters**

Hitachi Energy India eyes bigger slice of data center industry boom with ‘grid-to-rack’ push

HITACHI Energy India plans to tap into 30% of the overall spending in the country’s data center industry, from a previous aim of 10-15%, by offering a broad “grid-to-rack” power solution, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Venu Nuguri told Reuters.

India’s data center market, valued at \$5.55 billion in 2025, is projected to reach \$13.11 billion by 2034, driven by digital transformation, cloud adoption and escalating artificial intelligence (AI) workloads, according to consulting firm IMARC Group.

Hitachi Energy India, a unit of Zurich-based Hitachi En-

ergy, makes and supplies power equipment and grid technology for several industries, including data centers. It controls about half of India’s high-voltage direct current market, manufacturing equipment that transmits bulk electricity over long distances.

The firm had earlier pegged 10%-15% of total data center spending in the country as its addressable market through both equipment and software offerings.

Its “grid-to-rack” solution, according to Mr. Nuguri, integrates power infrastructure for energy-hungry data centers from the

grid-level connection to server rack-level distribution.

The solution would add another 10%-15% of power infrastructure spending, out of the overall data center segment, to the company’s addressable market, Mr. Nuguri said.

This week, Hitachi Energy India announced a 20 billion-rupee (\$210.53 million) investment in a greenfield, large power transformer facility in the western Indian state of Gujarat, taking its cumulative capital expenditure to 40 billion rupees across 19 factories in eight manufacturing locations.

The company closed 2026 with a record order backlog of 296 billion rupees.

The firm is also “actively looking into” acquisitions in data centers, digital layers, and power consulting, among others, to fill capability gaps, Mr. Nuguri said.

India’s peak power demand hit a record 270.8 gigawatts (GW) in May, up 68% from 148 GW in 2014, according to the Ministry of Power. Demand is projected to nearly double to 458 GW by 2032, data showed, a structural tailwind that Mr. Nuguri said the company counts among its key growth drivers. — **Reuters**

Berkshire Hathaway to buy Taylor Morrison for \$6.8 billion in cash

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY agreed on Sunday to buy Taylor Morrison Home Corp. for \$6.8 billion in cash, expanding the conglomerate’s housing business.

The transaction is Berkshire’s first multibillion-dollar acquisition since Greg Abel became chief executive officer at the start of 2026, replacing Warren Buffett, who remains chairman.

It also lets Mr. Abel spend some of Berkshire’s cash hoard, which ended March at \$380.2 billion. Mr.

Abel also oversees most of Berkshire’s common stock portfolio, led by Apple and including a growing stake in Google parent Alphabet.

Berkshire agreed to pay \$72.50 per share for Taylor Morrison, a 24% premium over the Scottsdale, Arizona-based company’s closing stock price of \$58.50 on Friday.

The companies said the takeover has an enterprise value of \$8.5 billion. Taylor Morrison posted net income of \$782.5 million on revenue of \$8.12 billion in 2025. — **Reuters**

PHL, Vietnam sign 15 trade, investment deals

PHILIPPINE and Vietnamese businesses signed 15 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) designed to boost trade and investment ties, an industry chamber said.

“The signing of 15 MoUs is a testimony of both our country’s confidence in the vast business potential in trade and technology development, energy—especially renewable, tourism, aviation, agriculture, telecom, transportation and AI,” PCCI President Ferdinand A. Ferrer said during the Vietnam-Philippines Business Forum on Monday.

The PCCI and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and

Industry signed an MoU to help expand trade and investment relations between the two countries.

It also noted that three MoUs were signed by the Department of Tourism, Philippine Airlines, and Trip.com with Vietnam Airlines and Saigontourist.

Another three MoUs were signed by Sun Prince TBA Group, Puregold Price Club and Planters Products with Vietnam National Chemical Group.

Two MoUs were signed by Viettel Cyber Security Co. and partners Globla Sapphire Philippines and Gocom Systems; and by Vinpearl and Klook Travel Technology Philippines and the Philippine Independent Travel Agencies Association.

MoUs were also signed by Petron Corp. and PetroVietnam Gas Joint Stock Corp.; Villgro Philippines and Hekate; and by Victoria Investment Group Joint Stock Co.

and Jet Construction and Development Group.

The Vietnam Association for Research and Application of Biomedical Technology also signed an MoU with Unciano Medical Center and Colleges, National University of Manila, and Centro Escolar University.

Vietnam is the Philippines’ 11th largest trading partner.

The two countries are looking to exceed a \$10-billion trade target following a meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and visiting Vietnamese President To Lam in Malacañang on Monday. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Japan firms tapped for Clark RE, smart-grid works

STATE-RUN Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said it is partnering with Japanese firms to advance renewable energy (RE) and smart-grid solutions within New Clark City in Tarlac and other BCDA-managed properties, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said.

In a statement on Monday, the DTI said the BCDA signed three memoranda of understanding with Sustech, Inc., Marubeni Corp., Index Strategy, Inc., and Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd. on May 29.

The agreements seek to integrate advanced renewable energy and smart-grid solutions, infrastructure-ready ecosystems, and transport connectivity within New Clark City and the Clark Integrated Transport System, the DTI said.

Under the partnership, BCDA and Sustech will explore the integration of renewable energy generation, demand forecasting, and grid-scale energy storage systems in New Clark City and other sites.

Meanwhile, the BCDA and Marubeni will assess opportunities for infrastructure and low-carbon

energy, including power generation projects in New Clark City.

Index Strategy and Yachiyo Engineering will also work with the BCDA on a feasibility study for the Clark Integrated Transport System.

Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina A. Roque said the partnerships are crucial in deepening economic ties between the Philippines and Japan, while promoting investment in infrastructure, energy, and transport development.

“The initiatives support the Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC) and

help position the Philippines for more investment,” the DTI said.

Clark is among the sites designated as key LEC nodes, the others being Subic Bay, Metro Manila and Batangas.

The Philippines plans to further integrate RE into its power generation mix as the Middle East war affects oil prices and supply.

The share of RE in the Philippine power generation mix was 25% at the end of 2025. The Department of Energy is looking to raise this to 35% by 2030. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Peasants, climate advocates call on DAR to resolve land rights cases

PEASANT and climate justice groups expressed their support on Monday for a proposed dialogue with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to expedite the resolution of land rights cases involving thousands of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The coalition, known as the June 10 Land Rights Committee, is made up of farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous people, and climate activists.

Organizations listed as members of the coalition in-

clude the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), the Kilusan para sa Repormang Agraryo at Katarangan Panlipunan, the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan, the Pagkakaisa para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo, Focus on the Global South, Alter Trade Foundation, Inc., Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, the Pambansang Kaisahan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas,

the Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, and the Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura.

The committee submitted a letter to the DAR on May 28, requesting the resolution of 19 land cases involving 18,566 hectares affecting 7,887 farmers and ARBs.

In a statement, Campaign Senior Officer for Food, Land, Water, and Climate of the PM CJ Laica Rayel said that resistance

from landowners and inconsistent government support stood in the way of farmers achieving control, ownership, and management of awarded land.

“These obstacles must be addressed, as we are experiencing the combined impacts of a super El Niño and the energy and economic crises, which will make matters worse for agriculture and our ability to survive,” Ms. Rayel said in a statement. — **Marron Joshua F. Mendoza**

Ukraine foreign minister to visit PHL in July to press for trade commission

UKRAINE is pushing to deepen economic and agricultural ties with the Philippines through a proposed bilateral trade commission, and is currently awaiting a response from the Philippine government, the Ukrainian ambassador said.

Ambassador Yuliia Fediv said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha is expected to visit the country in July to discuss its proposal to set up a Joint Commission on Trade, Investment and Scientific-Technical Cooperation and possible agreements covering agriculture, defense and cybersecurity.

“We also would be happy to create the joint commission on trade investment between other countries and it’s still pending on the Philippine side,” Ms. Fediv told reporters on Monday. “I hope we can move forward because it’s always great to have this cross-institutional cooperation.”

Ms. Fediv said Ukraine is seeking stronger food security-related trade with the Philippines, describing agriculture as a shared area of interest.

She also said Kyiv is open to providing technical assistance on agricultural machinery to help improve Philippine farm productivity.

Bilateral trade between the Philippines and Ukraine has remained steady at about \$16 million, with the balance favoring the Philippines, according to the embassy.

Philippine exports include electronic parts and processed food products such as banana chips, while Ukraine exports wheat, soybeans, sunflower oil and pharmaceutical products.

She added that about 70% of the trade comes from the Philippines.

Ms. Fediv also expressed Ukraine’s openness to establishing Ukrainian businesses in the country and vice versa, but noted that the businesses are still studying the entry points for expanding bilateral trade.

“We want to do an online meeting, B2B, in the coming weeks. And this meeting will be dedicated just to brief both sides on how to do the businesses in both countries, about the legislation, about the loopholes, about the entry points,” Ms. Fediv said.

Kyiv is also considering establishing an agricultural hub within Southeast Asia.

According to Ms. Fediv, Ukraine has diplomatic representation in six Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, with the Philippines being the newest addition.

The Embassy of Ukraine in the Philippines officially opened in 2024, with the last bilateral political consultations held in 2010.

While Ukraine continues to prosecute its war with Russia, Ms. Fediv said the Philippines may consider taking part in reconstruction and issued an invitation to explore the use of Ukrainian technology and innovations.

“When you invest and you become part of the bigger corporate groups, then you see which technologies and which innovations Ukrainians are using for rebuilding Ukraine,” she said, noting that the Philippines may also benefit from the reconstruction, whose lessons could be applied to rebuilding after natural disasters. — **Kaella Patricia B. Gabriel**