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U.S. to remove tariffs on Canadian metals, Mexico deal imminent



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## U.S. may scale back Huawei trade restrictions to help existing customers

(Reuters) - The U.S. Commerce Department said on Friday it may soon scale back restrictions on Huawei Technologies after this week's blacklisting would have made it nearly impossible for the Chinese company to service its existing customers.

The Commerce Department, which had effectively halted Huawei's ability to buy American-made parts and components, is considering issuing a temporary general license to "prevent the interruption of existing network operations and equipment," a spokeswoman said.

Potential beneficiaries of the license could, for example, include internet access and mobile phone service providers in thinly populated places such as Wyoming and eastern Oregon that purchased network equipment from Huawei in recent years.

In effect, the Commerce Department would allow Huawei to purchase U.S. goods so it can help existing customers maintain the reliability of networks and equipment, but the Chinese firm still would not be allowed to buy American parts and components to manufacture new products.

The potential rule roll back suggests changes to Huawei's supply chain may have immediate, far-reaching and unintended consequences.

The blacklisting, officially known as placing Huawei on the Commerce Department's entity list, was one or two efforts by the Trump administration this week allegedly made in an attempt to thwart national security risks. In an executive order, President Donald Trump also effectively barred the use of its equipment in U.S. telecom networks.

The United States believes Huawei's smartphones and network equipment could be used by China to spy on Americans, allegations the company has repeatedly denied.

The latest Commerce move comes as China has struck a more aggressive tone in its trade war with the United States, suggesting talks between the world's two largest economies would be meaningless unless Washington changed course.

A spokesman for Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Out of \$70 billion Huawei spent buying components in 2018, some \$11 billion went to U.S. firms including Qualcomm, Intel Corp and Micron Technology Inc. If the Commerce Department issues the license, U.S. suppliers would still need separate licenses to conduct new business with Huawei, which would be extremely difficult to obtain, the spokeswoman said.

The temporary general license would last for 90 days, she said, and would be posted in the Federal Register, just as the rule adding Huawei to the entity list will be published in the government publication on Tuesday.

"The goal is to prevent collateral harm on non-Huawei entities that use their equipment," said Washington lawyer Kevin Wolf, a former Commerce Department official.

The entity listing bans Huawei and 68 affiliates in 26 countries from buying American-made goods and technology without licenses that would likely be denied.

The entities list identifies companies believed to be involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

In a final rule posted on Thursday, the government tied Huawei's entity listing to a criminal case pending against the company in Brooklyn, New York.

U.S. prosecutors unsealed the indictment in January accusing the company of engaging in bank fraud to obtain embargoed U.S. goods and services in Iran and to move money out of the country via the international banking system.



FILE PHOTO: A woman looks at her phone as she walks past a Huawei shop in Beijing, China May 16, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/File Photo



Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, daughter of the company's founder, was arrested in Canada in December in connection with the indictment, a move that has led to a three-way diplomatic crisis involving the U.S., China and Canada.

Meng, who was released on bail, remains in Vancouver, and is fighting extradition. She

has maintained her innocence, and Huawei has entered a plea of not guilty in New York.

Trump injected other considerations into the criminal case after Meng's arrest when he told Reuters he would intervene if it helped close a trade deal.

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## Bernie Sanders hires Beto O'Rourke critic as top aide in 2020 race

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders on Tuesday said he is hiring a well-known liberal journalist with a history of sharply criticizing other Democratic presidential candidates, including Beto O'Rourke. Sanders' campaign said it is bringing in David Sirota, whose work has appeared in The Guardian and Newsweek, among other outlets, as a senior adviser and speechwriter.

The move could stoke tensions within the Democratic field since Sirota has previously targeted O'Rourke, a former U.S. congressman from Texas who entered the presidential race last week, and other rivals.

Sirota on Twitter and in published articles has accused O'Rourke of siding with President Donald Trump and Republicans while a member of the House of Representatives, as well as being overly friendly with the oil and gas industry.

Sirota's criticism of O'Rourke in December drew a warning from Neera Tanden, a top ally of former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and president of the Center for American Progress, a Democratic think tank.

"A supporter of Bernie Sanders attacking a Democrat," Tanden tweeted. "This is seriously dangerous. We know Trump is in the White House and attacking Dems is doing Trump's bidding."

The conflict was a reminder of the bad blood between the Clinton and Sanders camps when they battled for the Democratic nomination ahead of the 2016 presidential race and the mistrust between the party's moderate and progressive wings.

Sirota also has slammed presidential candidates Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand and Kamala Harris, as well as former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, for being overly cozy with corporate

interests.

Sanders' campaign did not respond to a request for comment on Sirota's hiring. Sirota worked for Sanders as a press secretary when Sanders was a member of the House of Representatives in the early 2000s. Sen. Warren tests 2020 message in deep South An article Sirota wrote in 2013 for the liberal news website Salon praising the economic record of Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's late socialist president, also attracted criticism on social media from Sanders' Democratic Party critics and conservatives alike. Sanders recently refused to label Venezuela's current president, Nicolas Maduro, a dictator or recognize the opposition leader, Juan Guaido, as the country's rightful leader - the current U.S. position.

Guaido invoked the constitution to assume the interim presidency in January, saying Maduro's re-election was not legitimate.



FILE PHOTO: Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) speaks during an event to introduce the "Medicare for All Act of 2017"



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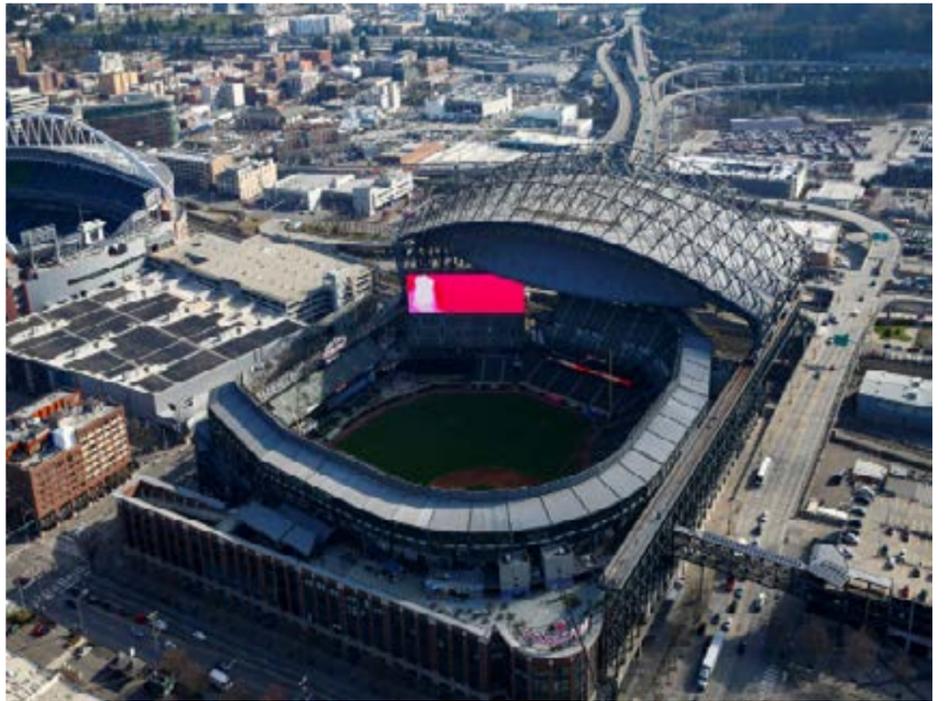
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# Editor's Choice



The Space Needle and Seattle Center grounds are seen in the foreground, with Elliott Bay at left in this aerial photo facing east in Seattle, Washington, U.S. . Picture taken. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson



The T-Mobile Park, formerly Safeco Field, in this aerial photo in Seattle



A Boeing KC-46A Pegasus sits on the tarmac at Boeing facilities at Boeing Field in this aerial photo in Seattle



FILE PHOTO: Soccer Football - Ireland Press Conference - Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland - Chief Executive of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) John Delaney with new manager Mick McCarthy REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne/File Photo



A cruise ship Viking Sky drifts towards land after an engine failure in Hustadvika



Demonstrators attend a protest against President Aleksandar Vucic and his government in central Belgrade



Soccer Football - Euro 2020 Qualifier - Group J - Liechtenstein v Greece - Rheinpark Stadion, Vaduz, Liechtenstein - General view of the match ball before the match REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann



U.S. 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris greets a young supporter at the end of a rally at Texas Southern University in Houston

**Now In Katy, TX: One Of The World's Fastest Supercomputers**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



**Bryan Bennett, Matt Lamont and Phil Schwam pose for a photo at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)**

Katy, Texas, isn't where you'd normally expect to find one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. But Thursday, an Australian company will fire up a digital behemoth in a data center near that Houston suburb that, when it is fleshed out by the end of the year, will have world-class computing power.

Coily dubbed DUG McCloud, the system takes up a 22,000-square-foot room at the Skybox Data Center on Franz Road in Katy, with another identically sized room in waiting for expansion. When completed by the end of the year, it will be comprised of 40,000 processors. All this hardware is immersed in a chilled, non-toxic oil to keep it cool.

DownUnder GeoSolutions, based in Perth, Australia, conducted a global search for the data center to house its creation and settled on Katy, just a few miles from its Houston office. Two big reasons: cheap electricity and fast connectivity.



**Under the files at the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)**



**The cooling unit outside the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)**



Servers in oil keep cool at the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"We looked at power costs and fiber-optic availability," said Matthew Lamont, DownUnder's chief executive and co-founder. "We found this beautiful new facility, and it's in Houston, where the oil industry lives. It makes sense having it in Houston."

The 21st century oil and gas industry thrives on hardcore computing power, crunching data derived from seismic testing to find oil deep in the ground and below the sea. Supercomputers speed up the process of analyzing and visualizing that data, and the faster they are, the better. DownUnder declined to disclose the names of any customers.

**Orders of magnitude**

While the laptop on your desk or the smartphone in your pocket are certainly powerful computers, they pale in comparison to supercomputers. While PCs and mobile devices typically have a single microprocessor handling computational chores, Supercomputers have thousands of them.

Traditional computers tackle one problem at a time, but supercomputers are designed to take a problem and break into many smaller pieces, with many processors working to solve them. In the case of DUG McCloud, the system has between 5,000 and 6,000 processors from Intel, with more on the way. By the end of the year, there will be 40,000, said Phil Schwan, DownUnder's chief technology officer.



Servers in oil keep cool at the super-

computing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"Basically, Intel can't make them fast enough," Schwan said. "We are their primary customer for them."

The system is built on a type of Xeon Phi processors from Intel, which makes DUG McCloud a rare machine. Many supercomputers are built on GPUs, or graphical processing units, which have the same kind of architecture as the chips found in high-end video cards. But there are features of the Intel chips that make them better suited for what DownUnder wants to do, Schwan said.

Timothy Pickett Morgan, co-editor of Next Platform, a trade publication focused on high-performance computing, said DownUnder has done a good job of making Intel's processors, which are an older model released in 2016, "sit up and bark with their code."

"They are the last buyer of any size for the Knight's Landing processors," he said, referring to the generation name of Intel's Xeon Phi chips. "They've got this marvelous code that would normally run on GPUs and they've done a great job of tuning that code for these processors."

**Built to expand**

Morgan said DownUnder's business model is similar to that of Google or Amazon Web Services, which sell access to high-performance systems and can expand as needed. To that end, there's another 22,000-square-foot room at Skybox reserved for DUG McCloud, and a 10-acre building is in the works for even more expansion.



Under the tiles at the supercomputing

installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"They're running a supercomputer as a service," he said. And doing that involves finding ways to cut costs and boost profits.

For example, DownUnder has a method of connecting the processors to each other that dramatically reduces the amount of wiring, and thus the cost.

Because the hardware is submersed in oil to stay cool, fans and costly air conditioning systems aren't required, reducing power costs. The Skybox Data Center is located next to a CenterPoint power substation, so the electricity flowing into it is stable — and inexpensive.

"Houston has some of the lowest electricity costs in the country," Lamont said. He would not say how much DownUnder is paying for power.

Top500, found online at top500.org, lists the 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world. It is updated twice a year, and was last updated in November 2018. A system named Summit at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, is currently at the top of the list at about 200 petaflops.



Operators of supercomputers can make the list by submitting the results of a benchmark test called Linpack. But that program doesn't run well on DUG McCloud because it's tuned for oil and gas applications, not for benchmark programs. Schwan said that, as a result, DownUnder won't be seeking inclusion on the list. (Courtesy chron.com)

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Tesla CEO Elon Musk is banking on a risky new strategy for the electric automaker: a robotaxi service that he argues will transform Tesla into a \$500 billion company. Like other AV companies, Musk is fixated on a potential \$3 trillion market opportunity for autonomous mobility as a service. But while most say fully self-driving cars are still a decade away, Musk is telling investors they'll be here by next year and that Tesla will have first mover advantage with a million robotaxis on the road. Investors are eager to fund his plans — witness last week's fresh \$2.7 billion equity and bond deal.

Musk's track record is spotty, though — even he admits to blowing his self-imposed timetables — but in the end, he insists, "I get it done."

Still, his latest idea — for Tesla owners to rent out their cars via a vast Tesla robotaxi network — seems "half baked," as Cowen analyst Jeffrey Osborne put it to CNBC.

Musk touted the Tesla car-sharing network at an investor event on April 22.

Then, according to CNBC and Bloomberg, he doubled down a week later on a private investor call, saying AVs are now the fundamental driver of value for Tesla and making his case for that \$500 billion market cap.

**How it will work**, according to Musk:

•Tesla owners can offer their cars for rent on Tesla's car-sharing network.

•They could pocket up to \$30,000 a year (Tesla would keep 25% to 30%) and their cars will rise in value — up to \$250,000 within 3 years, Musk claims — as more self-driving capabilities are added via software updates.

•Tesla would supplement the fleet with company-owned cars as needed.

The economics of the plan seem dubious and there are a host of serious legal, logistical and technology questions that remain unanswered.



•Tesla says it made a technological leap by replacing a Nvidia processor with a new

## Tesla's Long-Shot Robotaxi Plan



(Illustration/Aida Amer/Axios)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

proprietary AV computer chip, which will enable self-driving capabilities starting in 2020.

•"I feel very confident predicting autonomous robotaxis from Tesla next year. Not everywhere. But we will have regulatory approval somewhere," Musk says.

•But there are no federal regulations on AVs and no prescribed validation methods, so states are still trying to figure out how to govern self-driving cars.

### What they're saying:

•The new focus on autonomy could push out the path to profitability even further, Barclays analyst Brian Johnson wrote in a research note Tuesday.

•Patient investors will be rewarded, ARK Invest analyst Tasha Keeney tells Axios. "It's not too wild to say the company be worth \$500 billion in the next 5 years."

•"Let's count how many truly autonomous (no human safety driver) Tesla taxis (public chooses destination & pays) on regular streets (unrestricted human driven cars on the same streets) on December 31, 2020. It will not be a million. My prediction: zero.

Count & retweet this then," tweeted robotics pioneer Rodney Brooks.

Tesla's strategy is far-fetched, but plausible, if, as Osborne says, they are better than GM at manufacturing, better than Nvidia at hardware, better than Google at software, and better than Uber at running a taxi service. That's a lot of ifs.

### Related

Tesla owners already share their cars on Turo



Photo: Manuel Romano/NurPhoto via Getty Images

If it seems unlikely that wealthy Tesla owners would want to share their high-tech cars with the masses, think again. Teslas are al-

ready among the most popular cars rented on Turo, the original peer-to-peer car-sharing site.

There's an established market for occasional use of a Tesla, and owners can make good money renting out their car when they're not using it. Instead of a side hustle, Turo pitches car-sharing as a way to "car up" to a premium vehicle you might not otherwise afford.

### By the numbers, per Turo:

•Tesla's Model S is the 6th most popular car rented on Turo, and Models X and 3 are 10th and 11th.

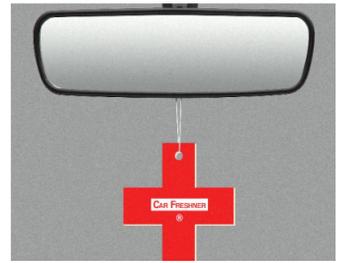
•Turo lists 6,000 Teslas for rent.

•Model S owners earn \$1,200 per month by renting their cars an average of 11 days.

•The average monthly finance cost to purchase a Tesla is \$1,020, which means "you can essentially get a free Tesla if you're willing to share it on Turo 10 days a month," Turo CMO Andrew Mok tells Axios.

If self-driving Teslas are going to appreciate the way Musk promises, savvy entrepreneurs ought to build up their own mini-fleets to rent via both sites. (Courtesy axios.

com)  
**Related**  
Cars of the future need to be able to heal themselves



(Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios)

High-tech cars of the future may be subject to attacks, viruses, and even minor programming bugs — which is why they need to be able to fix themselves.

We're not driving cars anymore — we're driving computers:

•When a software glitch occurs on our smartphone or laptop, it's an annoyance.

•But when there's a programming defect in an autonomous vehicle, it could have dire consequences. This, in turn, could set back the entire industry plus undermine the chance to build public trust in self-driving cars.

Some Tesla owners last week reported in an online forum that they could no longer access the car's Autopilot system and related assisted-driving features, with some speculating it was tied to a recent firmware update.

Cars are complicated, with 100 or more computer-controlled subsystems that are needed for functions like steering, braking, and adjusting the seats. And all that hardware is embedded with massive amounts of software.

•By 2020, 98% of new cars will be connected to the internet, making it easier to add new features or capabilities via over-the-air software updates.

•Samsung's Harman subsidiary handles OTA updates for 24 automakers, but most carmakers still require customers to make a trip to the dealership for driving updates.

•Tesla is the exception. The company says it has pushed out hundreds of OTA updates to its vehicles since 2012. (Courtesy axios.com)

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