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U.S. moves toward expelling 200,000 Salvadorans

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Some 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants allowed to live and work in the United States since 2001 will lose their right to remain in the country in 2019, officials said on Monday, marking the Trump administration's latest move to tighten immigration enforcement. Salvadoran immigrant Mirna Portillo watches on during a media conference at the New York Immigration Coalition following U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement to end the Temporary Protection Status for Salvadoran immigrants in Manhattan, New York City, U.S., January 8, 2018. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly

The United States will end the Salvadorans' temporary protected status (TPS) on Sept. 9, 2019, giving them 18 months to leave or seek lawful residency, and for El Salvador to prepare for their return, officials said. The status was granted in the wake of two devastating 2001 earthquakes in El Salvador that left hundreds of thousands in the country homeless.

The decision to end TPS for Salvadorans is part of the administration's broader push to tighten immigration laws and expel those living in the United States illegally. The move was heavily criticized by immigrant advocates who said it ignored violence in El Salvador and gave the Salvadorans few options but to leave the United States or remain illegally.

The Trump administration has faced a series of deadlines over the past year to decide whether to end the protected status of immigrants in the United

States whose home countries have been affected by disasters. Salvadorans are by far the largest group under TPS, a program administration officials said is supposed to provide a temporary haven for victims, not a permanent right to remain in the United States.

Critics have complained TPS has allowed participants to repeatedly extend their stays in 6-month to 18-month increments.

Trump administration changes to the TPS program mean that over the next two years approximately 250,000 people who previously had permission to live and work in the United States will be subject to deportation if they remain.

Haitians and Nicaraguans will lose their protected status in 2019 and Hondurans, the second largest group in the program, could lose their rights later this year.

"The past practice of allowing foreign nationals to remain in the United States long after an initial emergency in their home countries has ended has undermined the integrity of the program and essentially made the 'temporary' protected status a front operation for backdoor permanent immigration," said Roy Beck, president of NumbersUSA, which favors less immigration overall.

Demonstrators hold signs protesting the termination of Salvadorans' Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., January 8, 2018. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Advocates of the program say long-



Protest over termination of the Salvadorans' TPS in Washington

term resident Salvadorans and their children should not be sent back to El Salvador, a country struggling with a weak economy and gang violence that has given it one of the world's highest murder rates.

"Our (U.S) government is complicit in breaking up families — nearly 275,000 U.S.-born children have a parent who is a TPS holder — and further destabilizing our neighboring countries," said Oscar Chacon, executive director of Alianza Americas, an immigrant advocacy group.

A senior administration official brief-

ing reporters on the decision said it was based on the status of El Salvador's recovery from the 2001 earthquakes. The country has received millions of dollars in aid for the recovery and rebuilt schools, homes and hospitals, the official said. In the past two years, the United States has repatriated 39,000 Salvadorans back to the country, showing the ability of the country to absorb an influx of its citizens, the official said. The government of El Salvador said Monday it was glad the administration decided to at least leave the program in place

until September 2019.

"El Salvador's Foreign Ministry lobbied heavily for the interests of our fellow citizens," the government said in a statement, adding that it would continue to search for alternative solutions, seeking action by the U.S. Congress to protect the immigrants.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce had urged the government to extend TPS protections for Salvadorans, Haitians and Hondurans, saying "the loss of employment authorization for these populations would adversely impact several key industries," including "construction, food processing, hospitality, and home healthcare services."

Vietnam starts high-profile trial over oil firm losses

HANOI (Reuters) - Vietnam began the trial on Monday of 22 executives charged over losses totaling hundreds of millions of dollars at the state oil firm, Petro-Vietnam, with the most serious offences potentially carrying the death penalty.

A policeman directs traffic in front of a court in Hanoi, Vietnam January 8, 2018. REUTERS/Kham

The defendants included the communist state's first politburo member to face trial in decades and a businessman who Germany says was kidnapped by Vietnamese agents from a Berlin park.

The trial is part of a widespread crackdown on fraud and mismanagement in the energy and banking sectors that intensified after the security establishment gained greater influence in the ruling party last year. The Petro-Vietnam trial in Hanoi was taking place simultaneously with a separate trial in the commercial capital Ho Chi Minh City, where a fraud case involving Vietnam's Construction Bank was being heard.

The 46 defendants include the bank's ex-chairman Pham Cong Danh, who is accused of causing losses of 6.1 trillion dong (\$268.62 million), according to the government's news website.

Total losses caused by fraud at the bank amounted to 15.5 trillion Vietnam dong (\$682.55 million), a previous report said.

The Petro-Vietnam case at the Hanoi People's Court was not open to the public and security was tight. Photographs released by the Vietnam News Agency, the official state news provider, showed defendants handcuffed as they were led to the courtroom.

Of the 22 executives on trial, 12 are accused of "violation of state regulations on economic management causing serious consequences". Eight are accused of embezzlement, according to the government's offi-

cial news website. Two are accused of both.

The most senior former executive on trial is Dinh La Thang, who was arrested last month. He is a former politburo member who was dismissed from his post over the losses at Petro-Vietnam and then stripped of his role as party head of Ho Chi Minh City.

Also on trial is Trinh Xuan Thanh, who Germany says was kidnapped last year and taken home against his will to face accusations over losses of more than \$150 million at a subsidiary of Petro-Vietnam.

Thanh is accused of both corruption

and breaking state rules on economic management. A Reuters reporter saw the bespectacled Thanh arrive under police escort at the court on Monday.

Thanh appeared on state television in August and said he had decided to return home to turn himself in. Neither Thanh nor Thanh made any comment at the court and Reuters was unable to contact the lawyers representing them.

The maximum jail term for deliberate violation of state regulations is 20 years in prison, state television VTV1 reported in a news bulletin on Monday.

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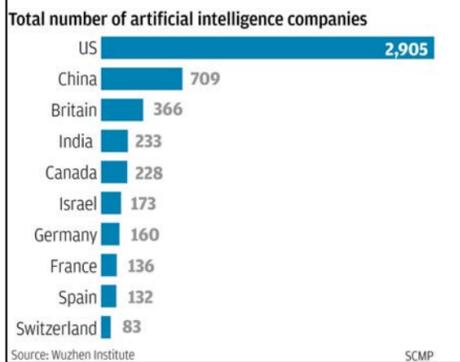
China Is Building A US\$2.1 Billion Research Park Dedicated To Artificial Intelligence

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



This file photo taken on July 23, 2013 shows a robot retrieving medicines in the pharmacy of the Argenteuil hospital, in Argenteuil, a Paris suburb. Technology has long impacted the labor force, but recent advances in artificial intelligence and robotics have heightened concerns on automation replacing a growing number of occupations including highly skilled or "knowledge-based" jobs. (Photo: AFP)

China is planning to build a 13.8 billion yuan (\$2.1 billion) technology park in the suburban Mentougou district in Beijing dedicated to developing artificial intelligence (AI), state-backed news agency Xinhua reported last Wednesday. Last year, China laid out plans to become a world leader in AI by 2030 and China wants to make a "major breakthrough" in AI technology by 2025.



The campus will be constructed within five years and situated in the suburban Mentougou district in western Beijing. It will cover 54.87 hectares, Xinhua said. The technology park will be home to around 400 businesses and is expected to create an annual output value of about 50 billion yuan.

High-speed big data, cloud computing, biometrics and so-called deep learning, a strand of AI, will be the focus of the new park. It will also have 5G mobile internet, a super computer and cloud services, according to Xinhua. The news follows the Chinese government's announcement in July 2017 that laid out plans for the country to become a world leader in AI by 2030, with the aim of making the industry worth 1 trillion yuan.

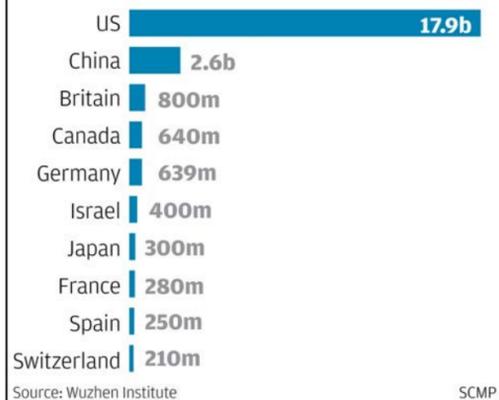
Beijing hopes to help accelerate the commercialization of AI in China in areas such as smart cities, but is also eyeing its military capabilities, something that could worry the broader international community. Already, the U.S. is taking note. A recent Pentagon report showed how worried Washington was about Chinese firms investing in U.S. start-ups, suggesting that there might need to be tighter controls around this.

On Tuesday, the U.S. government failed to approve MoneyGram's multi-million-dollar merger with Ant Financial, an affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. Some experts including noted venture capitalist Jim Breyer have compared the competition between the U.S. and China in AI to the "space race of the '50s." However, he did say that the U.S. will lead Chi-

na in AI.

"I don't think they'll (China) be number one, because I think there's still a level of genius and creativity in Silicon Valley that persists and will always persist," Breyer said during a CNBC-hosted panel in November.

Size of financing received by artificial intelligence firms between Q1 2012 and Q2 2016 (US\$)



Xinhua said the Beijing park will be developed by Zhongguancun Development Group, which will seek partnership with Chinese and overseas universities, research institutes and large enterprises to establish a number of research hubs on the premises. These will include a "national-level" artificial intelligence lab, Xinhua said.

Related: World dominance in three steps: China sets out road map to lead in artificial intelligence by 2030

The Chinese government's July 8 plan aims to keep pace with AI technology by 2020, make major breakthroughs by 2025, and lead the world in AI by 2030.

China, already the world's second-largest investor in artificial intelligence (AI), has set out an ambitious plan to leap frog ahead of the United States to be the global leader in the field by 2030.

The proposal, laid out on July 8 by the State Council and distributed on July 20,

takes a three-step approach: firstly keep pace with leading AI technology and applications in general by 2020, make major breakthroughs by 2025, and be the world leader in the field five years thereafter.

The ambitious plan will be an economic bonanza for the country's technology firms, as the area defined as core AI is expected to be valued at 150 billion yuan by 2020, while AI-related fields are valued at 1 trillion yuan, according to the government's forecast. By 2025, those values will exceed 400 billion yuan and 5 trillion yuan (US\$739 billion) respectively. Government finance will lead the way in AI research, including the development of supercomputers,

and high performance semiconductor chips, software and the hiring of key talent to lead the field, China's science and technology minister Wan Gang said in March during the country's parliamentary meeting.

The focus on AI sets a new director for China's economic model, which is trying to wean industries and state-owned enterprises off years of exports manufacturing to reinvent themselves to stay relevant for the future. Up to 26 per cent of China's gross domestic products (GDP) could

be generated by AI-related industries by 2030, making the country the world's biggest winner from investing in the field, according to a report last month by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

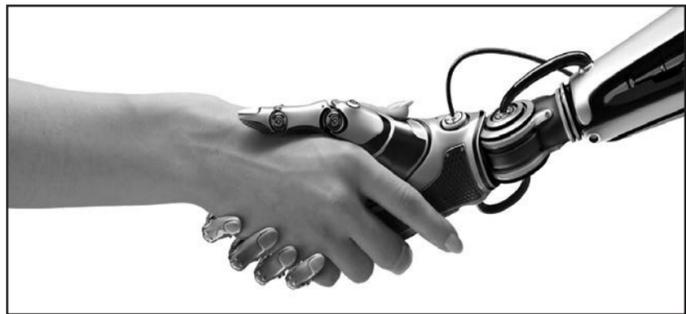
AI technologies are expected to bolster global GDP by 14 per cent by 2030, the equivalent of US\$15.7 trillion, by improving labour productivity and spurring consumption, said the report.

JD.com, one of China's biggest e-commerce service providers with 120,622 employees on staff, is using AI and robotics to improve efficiency in logistics and warehousing, said its founder and chairman Richard Liu Qiangdong.

"In the next 12 years, we aim to have multiple-fold growth in our business," Liu said during a technology conference on Thursday in Shanghai. "I believe that 10 years from now, the total number of employees may be even smaller than what we have today. Our aim is to have 80,000 employees."

JD.com is not alone. Chinese internet companies led by Alibaba Group Holding, Baidu and Tencent Holdings have been investing heavily in AI applications. Alibaba, which owns the South China Morning Post, already has an AI bot that can recognise counterfeits on its Taobao Marketplace and Tmall.com online shopping platforms, while Baidu is developing AI-assisted autonomous driving system with Microsoft and other major companies.

Lenovo Group, the world's second-largest personal computer supplier as of the second quarter, said this week it has set aside at least US\$1.2 billion to beef up research and development in AI, as the company expects drastic changes to personal computing and consumer electronic devices over the next three to four years. (Courtesy http://www.scmp.com/tech/enterprises/article)



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Table with columns for days of the week (MON-SUN) and time slots (00:00-00:30, 00:30-01:00, etc.), listing various TV programs such as '中國文藝', '生活魔法師', '動物傳奇', 'Story China', '防務新觀察', '中國功夫', '今日關注', 'Chinese Class', '特別呈現', '空姐新發現', '國際新聞', '防務新觀察', '中國輿論場', '文明之旅', '國際新聞', '台灣心動線', '生活', '治安對談', '話劇《霸王別姬》', '體育報導火箭時間', '台灣心動線', '生活', '快樂童年', '王者歸來', '中國文藝', '海峽兩岸', '健康之路', '真情部落格', '明星加油站', '美南新聞', '幸福來敲門', '幸福來敲門', '幸福來敲門'.

A Snapshot Of The World



Salvadoran immigrants prepare to exit after a media conference at the New York Immigration Coalition following US President Donald Trump's announcement to end the Temporary Protection Status for Salvadoran immigrants in Manhattan, New York



Salvadoran immigrants Rosa Romero, Mirna Portillo and Aminta Romero prepare to exit after a news conference at the New York Immigration Coalition, in New York



Mexican Finance Minister Jose Antonio Gonzalez Anaya addresses diplomatic corps during the 29th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls in Mexico City



Acting German Chancellor Merkel attends a reception for carol singers in Berlin



Migrant child is carried as other migrants in a dingy are rescued by Libyan coast guards off the coast of Garabulli



75th Golden Globe Awards – Photo Room – Beverly Hills, California, U.S., 07/01/2018 – (L-R) Laura Dern, Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Reese Witherspoon and Shailene Woodley pose backstage after winning the award for Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television



A baby receives the sacraments during the Orthodox Christmas mass at the St. Clement Cathedral in Skopje



Kite-flying enthusiasts fly kites on the first day of the eight-day-long International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad



A boy rides a donkey as he collects recyclables from a garbage dump on the outskirts of the Red Sea port city of Hodeida

Drugmaker Pfizer will launch its own generic version of Viagra next week when the company's patent protection on the impotence pill expires and competition hits the market.

Pfizer Inc. will begin selling the pill — which is white instead of Viagra's trademark blue — at half the \$65-a-pill retail price on Monday, when its patent-protected monopoly ends, The Associated Press reported.

Many more generics go on sale next summer, which will steadily slash the price of generics, possibly by 90 percent.

"Patients are paying fortunes. When generic Viagra comes out, they will be very happy," said Dr. Nachum Katlowitz, a urologist at New York's Staten Island University Hospital.



Launched in 1998, Viagra was the first pill for impotence. It transformed a private frustration for many aging men into a publicly discussed medical condition with an easy treatment, far more appealing than options like penile injections and implants.

Eli Lilly's Cialis came out in 2003 and now dominates the U.S. market with on-demand pills and daily, low-dose ones. Viagra is a close second.

Pfizer says its market research shows 20 percent of customers are loyal to Viagra. So rather than give up sales to generic makers as brand-name drug makers once routinely did, the company is selling its own generic and also fighting to keep men on its blue pills.

"We believe that the story for Viagra isn't done. It's just going to be a new chapter," said Jim Sage, president of U.S. brands for Pfizer Essential Health, which sells its older medicines.

In January, the drug maker will offer two new discount programs and increase its copayment card discounts. Uninsured

Pfizer's Viagra Patent Protection Ends -- Generic Viagra Days Away

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



Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, photo shows Pfizer's Viagra, left, and the company's generic version, sildenafil citrate, at Pfizer Inc., headquarters in New York. The drug maker is launching its own cheaper generic version of Viagra rather than lose sales when its impotence pill gets its first generic competition. (AP/Photo)

men can get brand-name Viagra half off through an innovative online home delivery program, Pfizer Direct. Many insured patients will be able to get a month's prescription — typically six to 10 pills, depending on plan limits — for as little as a \$20 copayment.

"This is the most comprehensive pricing and marketing response I've seen to a generic," said Erik Gordon, a pharmaceuticals analyst at the University of Michigan's business school. "It's unprecedented."

Gordon thinks Pfizer's reduced prices will

retain some patients and attract others who buy pills, often counterfeits, from the internet.

Dr. Matthias Hofer, a urologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, said some of his insured patients who take Viagra wouldn't want a generic. "They will be ecstatic if they can save money and get the brand product from Pfizer," he said.

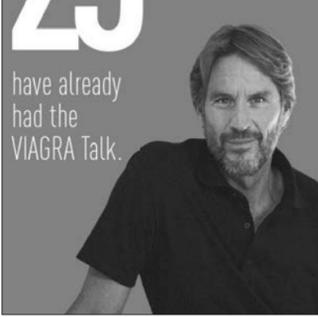
Last year, more than 12 million prescriptions for Viagra and Cialis were filled in the U.S., generating a combined \$3 billion in sales, according to health data and clin-

ical research company IQVIA. However, prescriptions have dropped more than 20 percent since 2012, as repeated price hikes put the pills out of reach for many men lacking good insurance.

According to health information analytics firm Elsevier, over just the past decade, retail prices jumped from about \$10 to \$62 per pill for Viagra and from \$11 to \$61 for Cialis. Pharmacies and other middlemen add a few dollars more per pill.

Generic Viagra, called sildenafil, will become even more affordable starting June 11, when more versions go on sale. "Many

MORE THAN 23 million men



have already had the VIAGRA Talk.

Cialis and Levitra, another pill launched in 2003, get their own generic competition next fall.

In the meantime, some doctors specializing in sexual dysfunction have found other options. Some prescribe generic Revatio, the blood pressure pill Pfizer was testing when older patients reported stronger erections as a side effect. It contains one-fifth the sildenafil dose in Viagra and costs as little as \$1 per pill.



Northwestern's Hofer arranges for his patients to receive made-to-order pills from a couple of specialty pharmacies.

Daniel Lobello, 60, is satisfied with those pills but thinks a lot of men probably would use cheaper generic or brand-name Viagra.

"It's great" that the prices are getting cut, said the West Chester, Illinois, electrical inspector, "because it's something men need." (Courtesy https://www.newsmax.com)

Advertisement for eSoon Travel (翼順旅遊) featuring travel packages, phone numbers, and website information.

Advertisement for ASAP Travelwise (快捷旅遊) listing various travel itineraries and prices.

Advertisement for TM Travel (千里行旅遊) with contact info, website, and travel offers.

Advertisement for USA Gateway (六福旅行社) listing office locations in Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

Advertisement for Majestic Vacations (明星假期) listing travel packages to various destinations.

Advertisement for Carnival and TAIWAN TAXI GO!GO! listing travel deals.

Advertisement for Majestic Vacations (明星假期) with contact information and website.

Large advertisement for Adolphus Rice, featuring product images and promotional text.

Independence Heights is the Houston neighborhood that “Has it all,” according to report



If you're looking for a Houston neighborhood that “has it all,” you'll want to look at homes in Independence Heights.

That's according to a study conducted by real estate company Redfin, who ranked neighborhoods based on their affordability, home selling speed, highly rated schools, transit and low crime rates.

Independence Heights is north of Loop 610 and west of I-45. The neighborhood's boundaries include Interstate 45 to the east, Tidwell Road to the north, North Shepherd Drive to the east, Yale Street to the west and Interstate 610 to the south.

Independence Heights has a median home price of \$137,000 and has 45 homes for sale as of December, according to Redfin.

Redfin defined affordability by zip codes that have a median home sale price below the national median of \$291,700. For home selling speed, the company found that homes in the top 25 neighborhoods that “have it all” had a median of 46 days on the market before being sold. As for schools, transit and crime rates, Redfin used its own data to sort the neighborhood.

Independence Heights ranks 13 out of 25 on Redfin's list of “have it all” neighborhoods. Independence Heights 5.667 for schools (out of 10), 50.5 for transit (out of 100) and 61 for a crime rate (also out of 100, where a lower score is better).

“More than half of the neighborhoods on the list are in the Chicago area, the rare major metro area that has remained relatively affordable and has largely bucked the severe inventory shortage trend seen across much of the country over the past few years,” Redfin wrote.

Of the top 25 that made the list, 13 of them are neighborhoods in Chicago, with Dunning taking the top spot.

Is tax overhaul really a good deal for Big Oil?

For Big Oil, the U.S. tax overhaul is turning out to be a mixed bag, especially for companies that drill overseas. Two weeks after President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans passed a sweeping rewrite of the tax code that cuts corporate rates, drillers are finding other changes that are less of a boon. BP Plc and Royal Dutch Shell Plc offered a preview recently, saying they may write off as much as \$4 billion in tax assets as a result. Caps on debt-interest payments and cuts to deductions from previous years' losses may hurt companies building capital-intensive projects with borrowed money. And other provisions, including time limits on expensing exploration, could hem in drillers with long-term projects, including Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. That may also give an edge to domestic shale production.

“This is an America First-type tax plan so oil and gas companies that have the majority of their business in the United States are going to do better than multinationals generally,” said Andrew Silverman, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst in New York.

Cutting the corporate rate to 21 percent from 35 percent likely makes the legislation positive overall, according to Greg Matlock, America's energy tax leader for EY, a global accounting and consulting firm. “But that's tempered

somewhat by several important provisions,” he said in an interview.

Those provisions include curveballs that could blunt or even eliminate the benefit for some sectors, including refining, BI said in a report Thursday. That's added a tinge of uncertainty as the industry prepares to unveil fourth-quarter earnings



later this month.

“We're going to have to see what companies say in their earnings call to get a sense of how they see this new law,” Silverman said. “In some cases it may be surprising.” Here's a look at how the overhaul may affect oil and gas businesses:

One downside to the lower corporate rate: Companies with so-called tax assets -- deductions from future earnings due to past losses -- will see the value of those deductions reduced. Furthermore, the new rules allow businesses to offset no more than 80 percent of a year's earnings, down from 100 percent previously, according to Steve Marcus, a Dallas-based tax partner at Baker Botts LLP.

As a result, Shell said it may take a charge of as much as \$2.5 billion against its fourth-quarter results. BP put the impact at \$1.5 billion, although both said they expect the tax bill to be a help in the long

term.

“A number of the US E&Ps will experience something similar,” Leo Mariani, an Austin-based analyst at NatAlliance Securities LLC, said by email. This “is just a non-cash accounting charge and is a one-time hit to net income.”

By contrast, EOG Resources Inc. will post a one-time gain of \$2.2 billion at its fourth-quarter results because of a net deferred tax liability, the Houston-based company said Jan. 4.

Exploration Expenses

The law's repeal of the alternative minimum tax for businesses will eliminate the ability to amortize exploration costs, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Those costs will now expire, for tax purposes, if they're not used to offset income the year they're incurred.

That could favor shale explorers whose wells come online in a matter of months over more conventional drilling operations that may take several years to start producing oil and gas, Silverman said.

Multinational Income

Domestic output may gain other incentives as well, as the legislation raises barriers to multinational companies that seek to transfer some income outside the U.S. The impact will be complicated, though, by the international nature of huge oil companies. Explorers with global reach such as Exxon or Hess Corp. also own some of the largest footprints in U.S. shale fields these days.

Representatives from Exxon and Hess declined to comment. Chevron said it's evaluating the new rules and its plans to invest \$8 billion in the U.S. this year are unchanged.

美南電視轉換新頻道15.3操作指南

美南國際電視網STV Channel 已由55.5 轉換至15.3，並正式擴大為十個頻道，廣大收視觀眾只要透過遙控器轉台至15.3，即可收看到美南電視節目，如果您家中的電視遙控器轉到15.3頻道，依然無法收看到美南電視，請依以下中英對照操作指南方式調整。

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How to complete a channel scan on your Digital TV to add Channel 15.3

Please note: All TV manufacturers differ, so menu options, wording and other items may vary. The best way to complete the channel scan is to refer to the TV owner's manual. If that is unavailable, the following general steps should guide you through the process.

1. Using your television's remote control, press the Menu or Settings option. Note: a "Smart TV" may have a smart button that must be used to access the settings menu. It will generally have the manufacturer's logo on it.
2. Locate Channels or Tuner Set Up option.
3. Check the menu for an option of Antenna Type or Connection Type followed by either Antenna or Cable.
4. Make sure that the designated setting is Cable (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Digital Cable, CATV or Cable STD)
5. From the menu, choose Digital Channel Search (based on manufacturer, alternate choices may include Channel Scan, Channel Search or Auto program.)
6. Allow the TV to complete the search. You will see a bar listing how many channels have been found. The process may take up to an hour.
7. Once complete, confirm the menu prompt, then press an exit or quit option.