Sanctions-hit Huawei ramps up investment in Chinese tech sector

Reuters, *Shanghai*

Huawei Technologies has built up stakes in Chinese semiconductor companies and other tech businesses as the world's largest telecoms equipment maker bolsters its supply chain in the face of pressure from the United States.

Habo Investments, set up by Huawei in April 2019, has closed 17 deals for stakes in Chinese tech companies since August last year, public records show.

The investment arm was established in response to what Huawei's rotating chairman, Guo Ping, last week described as "suppression" by the United States after escalating restrictions that have cut off Huawei's supplies of many overseas chips and effectively barred it from building its own.

"Since Huawei is only one company, we use investment and technology to help our supply chain partners become mature," he said.

The company has emerged as a focal point in deteriorating US-China relations with President Donald Trump's administration alleging that its equipment could be used by Beijing for spying, which the Chinese company has denied repeatedly.

Huawei's investment push also coincides with ramped-up government efforts to boost China's semiconductor sector, which still lags behind leading chip producers including the United States, South Korea and Taiwan.

While the investments might help Huawei in the future, analysts say they have done little so far to address the supply chain gaps that are undermining its once-booming smartphone business and could eventually threaten its core network equipment operations.

"It will take a long time," said one Chinese chip investor. "But they don't have many good options, so they must turn to investing outside."

Huawei declined to comment on the investment division's operations.

Most of Habo Investment's deals have been in chip-related Chinese start-ups, a few of which have become part of Huawei's supply chain.

Vertilite, which was founded in 2015 and received an investment from Huawei this year, makes VCSEL sensors that support facial-recognition technology in cameras.

The company did not respond immediately to a request for comment, but one Vertilite investor said its sensors are used in a number of Huawei handsets.

However, many of the businesses Huawei has backed are at an early stage in their development.

"Most of these companies are small, niche players who are good at what they do, but they are not necessarily globally competitive," said Ivan Platonov, who tracks China's chip sector at research company EqualOcean.

Shoulder Electronics, for example, makes RF filters that enable wireless communications but has yet to achieve compatibility for advanced 5G phones. A spokesman for the company, which received investment from Habo in January, could not be reached outside business hours on Monday.

3Peak, which also received investment from Habo this year, makes analogue-to-digital converters (ADC) used in wireless network base stations. US players dominate that market segment and 3Peak generated only 300 million yuan ($43.99 million) in revenue last year, according to a prospectus it issued before listing on Shanghai's STAR market.

3Peak did not respond immediately to an emailed request for comment.

Habo's portfolio also includes companies outside Huawei's core telecoms operations. Several investments in chips, raw materials and battery technology companies point to ambitions in self-driving cars.

Late last month it also closed an investment in Open Source China, a Shenzhen-based business behind Gitee, a Chinese rival to US coding platform GitHub.

Walmart looking at up to $25b investment in Tata Group's 'super app'

Reuters, *Bengaluru*

Walmart Inc is in talks with Tata Group for a potential investment of up to $25 billion in the Indian salt-to-software conglomerate's new "super app", the Mint newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to ongoing discussions between the two companies, the super app could be launched as a joint venture between Tata and Walmart, leveraging on the synergies between Tata's e-commerce business and Flipkart, Walmart's e-commerce unit, according to the report.

The news comes as Reliance Industries Ltd, controlled by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, raised over $20 billion from investors including Facebook, Alphabet's Google, KKR & Co and Silver Lake Partners by selling stakes in its digital business Jio Platforms.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported Tata Group is in discussions with potential investors about stakes in its new digital platform.

Recovery still a long way off for steel makers

FROM PAGE B4

By doing so, both the construction and steel sectors will recover hand in hand.

The steel industry in Bangladesh is now worth Tk 55,000 crore, according to market players.

Tapan Sengupta, deputy managing director of BSRM, said the country needs to improve its ease of doing business ranking in order to help the economy recover rapidly.

The National Board of Revenue blocked over Tk 4,000 crore from the steel sector as advance income tax over the past 10 years but even now, it has not paid back the millers.

"Our capital has been blocked but we are paying interest against the blocked capital," he said, adding that If the blocked capital is returned, the sector could utilise the money to survive the pandemic.

"Neither the government nor the steel makers are benefitting from the blocked capital. Our liabilities are increasing continuously," said Sengupta said.

In light of the situation, Sengupta urged for a reduction in advance income tax at the import stage.

He said tax deductions at source should not be considered as a minimum charge so that the steel industry can get some breathing space.

Despite being a capital-intensive sector with very low profit margin, the steel makers have to pay a minimum tax of Tk 1,150 for each tonne of steel produced, which has made it impossible to make any profit now, he said.

He now fears that the steel industry could collapse after suffering continues losses due to the pandemic.

Over the past few years, the country has seen the establishment of a good number of new steel and re-rolling mills that use state-of-the-art technologies and churn out world-class products, Sengupta said.

Earlier, Md Shahidullah, secretary general of the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers' Association, said Bangladesh has about 40 active factories, which have a combined capacity to produce nine million tonnes of steel annually.

Of them, Abul Khair Steel, GPH Steel, BSRM and KSRM meet more than half of the annual domestic demand of about eight million tonnes.

"We have been left in a pickle as the pandemic has broken the supply chain for all the countries from where we source our raw materials," said Shahidullah, also managing director of Metrocem Steel.

The government's infrastructure projects account for 35 to 40 per cent of the total steel consumption in Bangladesh, up from 15 per cent a decade ago.

If a steel factory can run at 60 to 70 per cent capacity, it should be able to maintain a break-even point, he said.

However, the country's steel makers are still unable to take their production levels over 40 per cent at this point, the managing director added.

Govt doesn't allow unnecessary foreign trips

FROM PAGE B4

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority is implementing the project and it was scheduled to be completed by December 2025.

According to the project summary, the project has been revised due to division of works and service packages into different lots, changes to the total number of packages, inclusion of new items and increase in cost of certain packages.

There has also been changes in cost of various items, increase in US dollar exchange rate and extension of the project implementation period.

The planning commission in its recommendation said if the project was implemented, it would be possible to develop the capacity and security systems of the maritime corridor in the Chittagong-Dhaka-Ashuganj region.

This would enable transportation of passengers and goods by inland waterways and establish it as a sustainable sector.

The "Bhairab River Re-excavation (Phase II)" project involving Tk 237.60 crore and the "Removal of water-logging of Begumganj, Chatkhil, Senbagh and Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali district" involving Tk 71.87 crore were also approved.

Four projects, including a revised one, worth Tk 697.45 crore were also given the go-ahead.

Of the total outlay, government financing amounted to Tk 623.75 crore and the rest Tk 182.60 crore would come as loans from foreign sources.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Kendua, District: Netrakona
www.lged.gov.bd

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No. 46.02.0000.7247.99.001.20-334 Dated: 29.09.2020

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Document last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1.	465109	Construction of classroom of Purboroy Government Primary School under NBIDGPS Project-1. (Package No. e-Tender/NBIDGPS/NET/KEN/2019-20/W1.06096	29-10-2020 12:00	29-10-2020 14:00
2.	463466	Construction of additional classroom of Itachaki under PEDP4	22-10-2020 12:00	22-10-2020 14:00
3.	491813	Construction of additional classroom of Namdhar Bhuiyan Batta under PEDP4	22-10-2020 12:00	22-10-2020 14:00
4.	491818	Construction of Boundary Wall including Gate at (a) Gopalasrom Govt. Primary School (b) Paikura Kanibag Govt. Primary School (c) Ramchondropur Govt. Primary School	22-10-2020 12:00	22-10-2020 14:00
5.	491989	Construction of Boundary Wall including Gate at (a) Chandragati Cmminity Primary School. (b) Miargathi RPS	22-10-2020 12:00	22-10-2020 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' up to abovementioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1554

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উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.19.0000.019.07.791.2020.605 Date: 29/09/2020

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 01 (DPP-R&D)/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works. Tender is given below.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives/Local Government Division.	
2	Agency	Gazipur City Corporation.	
3	Procuring entity name	Mayor, Gazipur City Corporation.	
4	Procuring nature	Works.	
KEY INFORMATION			
5	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM) (e-GP).	
6	Source of funds	GOB & GCC.	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB & GCC.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
8	Project name	Infrastructure Improvement in Gazipur City Corporation (Roads and Drains).	
9	Tender Package No.	GCC RD 022, GCC RD 044, GCC RD 053, GCC R 054.	
10	Schedule tender publication date & time	**Date**	**Time**
		29/09/2020	14:00
11	Tender documents last selling date & time	27/10/2020	17:00
12	Tender closing date & time	28/10/2020	14:00
13	Tender opening date & time	28/10/2020	14:00
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
14	Brief description of works:		

Sub-Package No.	Tender ID No.	Identification of works	Tender/proposal security (Amount in Tk)	Price of tender/ document (Tk)	Completion time (days)
GCC RD 022	498778	1. R-3301 Improvement of BC Road at Abbas Member House Road from Dhaka-Mymenshingh Road to Bottola Road via Enar Pokur. 2. D-3301 Construction of RCC Drain at Abbas Member House Road from Dhaka-Mymenshingh Road to Bottola Road via Enar Pokur. 3. D-3503 Construction of RCC Drain from Dhaka-Mymenshingh Road to Gacha Road via Siddik House by RCC Drain work.	22,70,000.00	4000	180
GCC RD 044	498779	1. R-5106 Improvement of Sataish Road to Darpara Road by BC. 2. D-5104 Construction of R.C.C drain Sataish Road to Darpara Deep tube well. 3. R-5205 Improvement of Mudafa Bagbari Road by BC. 4. R-5206 Improvement of Tilar Gati Road to Gosulia by BC. 5. D-5205 Construction of R.C.C drain beside Tilar Gati Road to Gosulia. 6. R-5208 Improvement of Mudafa-Tilar Gati Road by RCC. 7. R-5301 Improvement of Borodewra Adorshaw Para Road by RCC. 8. D-5301 Construction of R.C.C drain beside Borodewra Adorsha Para Road.	18,00,000.00	4000	180
GCC RD 053	498780	1. D-2201 Construction of RCC drain from Shikder Bari Road to Naila Textile BGMEA President. 2. R-2104 Construction of BC Road from Zolarpar Bazar to Zahiruddin High School. 3. R-2202 Construction of BC Road from Nanduain Rashid Market to Bangla Bazar. 4. R-2302 Construction of BC Road from Gazipur Railway Station to Fulchan Market.	12,70,000.00	4000	180
GCC RD 054	498781	1. R-0103 Construction of BC Road from West Panishail R.K Redial to Baghber Doular Gazi Pond side. 2. R-0101 Construction of BC Road from Madhabpur Enayet Members House to Muchi Bari Bottala via Gayenbari Mosque.	12,50,000.00	4000	180
15	Tender validity period				90 days

Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches until **17:00, 27 October 2020.** Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Nurul Amin Bhuiyan
Project Director
Infrastructure Improvement in
Gazipur City Corporation
(Roads and Drains)
&
Superintending Engineer (I/C)
Gazipur City Corporation
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GD-1547