

Chinese firms accelerate in race toward driverless future



Members of Changan Automobile's self-driving car development team pose for pictures in front of their self-driving cars after the cars completed a test drive from Chongqing to Beijing, China.

Chinese manufacturers and Internet giants are in hot pursuit of their US counterparts in the race to design driverless cars, but the route to market is still littered with potholes.

While Google has been working on autonomous vehicles for at least six years, with the likes of BMW, Volvo and Toyota in its wake, more recently Chinese businesses have entered the race, from Internet search giant Baidu to manufacturer Changan.

Last week, ahead of the Beijing Auto Show opening on Monday, two self-driving Changan cars made a mountainous 2,000 kilometre (1,200 mile) journey from Chongqing in the southwest to the capital in the country's first long-distance autonomous vehicle test.

Another Chinese Internet giant, LeECO, is also venturing into autonomous technologies, unveiling Wednesday in Beijing an electric car that can park itself and be summoned to its owner's location via smartphone.

And late last year Baidu tested China's first locally designed driverless vehicle, a modified BMW, with a 30 kilometre ride through the streets of Beijing.

Despite China's relatively late entry to the field, analysts believe the country could become

a key market for driverless vehicles thanks to a more favourable regulatory and consumer environment.

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) forecasts that global sales of driverless cars will reach 12 million by 2035, with more than a quarter sold in China.

Vehicles which automatically adjust their routes in response to real-time traffic information could solve chronic gridlock in China's major cities, BCG's Xavier Mosquet told AFP.

"If they believe this would ease traffic, Chinese authorities will do all they can to promote the development of this technology and then its use," he said.

Public concerns over the safety of driverless cars are far lower than elsewhere, according to a survey by Roland Berger consultants in 2015, which found 96 percent of Chinese would consider an autonomous vehicle for almost all everyday driving, compared with 58 percent of Americans and Germans.

In a country notorious for accidents, the promise of better safety through autonomous technologies could also be appealing.

The ultimate prize, say analysts, will be when mass transport firms such as taxi-hailing giant Uber, or its Chinese rival Didi, can deploy huge fleets of robot taxis.

"The real payoff for truly driverless technology will come when cars on the road are no longer owned by people, but are owned by fleet management services," said Bill Russo, managing director of the consultancy firm Gao Feng.

"That's where you want to think about taking the driver out of the equation. Mobility on demand is hugely popular here."

In the Roland Berger survey, 51 percent of Chinese car owners said they would prefer to use robot taxis rather than buy a new vehicle themselves, compared with 26 percent of Americans.

With a ready market, China may soon become the top location for companies to refine driverless technology.

Swedish manufacturer Volvo, owned by China's Geely since 2010, this month announced plans to test drive up to 100 of its vehicles on Chinese roads this year.

Changan, a partner of Ford, is set to roll out commercial autonomous vehicles for motorways from 2018, while mass production of driverless city cars is projected to begin in 2025.

Baidu, meanwhile, says it will launch self-driving buses by 2018, which will operate on fixed routes in select cities in China.

Like Google, the Internet giant already owns detailed roadmaps and has experience in electronic security, and a company spokeswoman told AFP it had had "very positive feedback" from the government.

But analysts are more cautious, predicting slow-moving autonomous vehicles will not appear in towns until at least 2020.

Production costs were still too high to make a robot taxi fleet viable, BCG's Mosquet said.

"There are still many questions to be resolved" before fully autonomous vehicles can be put into public use, said Jeremy Carlson, a senior analyst for IHS.

He pointed to "chaotic traffic situations" on roads shared with cyclists and pedestrians, and less-than-adequate infrastructure.

Technology will be the first to see solutions, he said, but that still left regulation and issues around liability and insurance to be addressed.

For some, there are moral dilemmas as well.

"If you have someone jumping out in front of an autonomous car, does the car have to choose between killing that person, or swerving and crashing and killing the passenger?" asked Robin Zhu, senior analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein.

"If your car could choose to kill you, would you get in it?"



M Nazeem A Choudhury, head of consumer banking of Eastern Bank, and Mohammad Shah Newaz, director for marketing and sales at Biman Bangladesh Airlines, exchange documents of a signed agreement in Dhaka on Thursday. EBL cardholders will enjoy 20 percent and 15 percent discounts on economy class fares for travel to Kathmandu and Bangkok respectively.

EU to draw up tax haven blacklist

BBC NEWS

EU nations have agreed to draw up a blacklist of tax havens in the wake of the Panama Papers leaks. Finance ministers have endorsed the move, which is to be completed by the end of the summer.

The European Commission says nations on the tax blacklist should be sanctioned if appeals for change go unheeded.

The leak of millions of files from

Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca revealed how the rich and powerful use tax havens to hide their wealth.

Plans for a single EU list of "non-cooperative jurisdictions" have been blocked in the past by conflicting national interests.

Currently the 28 EU states have different national lists of tax havens and can decide individually whether to impose restrictive measures.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Hathazari Pourashava
District: Chittagong

IFT (OTM)-02/2015-2016 (Re-Tender)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
1	Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives/Local Government Division.
2	Agency	Hathazari Pourashava.
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director (Assistant Engineer), Hathazari Pourashava.
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring Entity District	Chittagong.
6	Invitation for	Tender (Works)
7	Invitation Ref No.	Hat.Pou./Engg.Dept./2016- 94.
8	Date	20/04/2016.
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	National Open Tendering Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCT), MoEF
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	7016
13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Construction of RCC drain.
14	Tender Package No.	BCCTF/PD-01
15	Tender Package Name	Construction of RCC drain with slab at Mora Chora (Khal) from Model Thana to Kachari Road.
16	Tender Publication Date	25-04-2016
17	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	09-05-2016 Up to 5.00pm.
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	10-05-2016 12:30pm.
19	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: - Selling Tender Document Office of the Assistant Engineer, Hathazari Pourashava, Hathazari. - Selling Tender Document (Others) 1) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, District: Chittagong. 2) Office of the Superintendent of Police, District: Chittagong. 3) Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Chittagong. - Places of Receiving Tender Document i) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, District: Chittagong. ii) Office of the Superintendent of Police, District: Chittagong. iii) Office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Hathazari, Chittagong. ii) Office of the Assistant Engineer, Hathazari Pourashava, Chittagong. - Places of Opening Tender Office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Hathazari, Chittagong.
20	Time of Opening Tender	Date: 10-05-2016 Time: 2:30pm.
	Pre-Tender Meeting	Date and Place: 04-05-2016 & Office of the Hathazari Pourashava Time: 11.30am.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	The tenderer shall have at least five (5) years of specific experience in construction works. Similar contract, requisite turnover, liquid assets, equipments, manpower and all other documents specified at Section 02: TDS.
22	Brief Description of Works	E/W, Sand filling, CC, RCC, Earth filling etc.
23	Brief Description of Physical Services	None
24	Price of Tender Document	Tk.10,000.00 (Taka ten thousand only.)
25	Package No.	Identification of Scheme Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in Days
01	BCCTF/PD0 1	Construction of RCC drain with slab at Mora Chora (Khal) from Model Thana to Kachari Road. Mora Chora from Model Thana to Kachari Road. 7,00,000/= (Bank Draft) 150 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Tender Validity Period	120 Days
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Belal Ahmed Khan
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director (Assistant Engineer).
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Assistant Engineer, Hathazari Pourashava, Chittagong.
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No. 01819-097222, 01711-122233 Fax No. 031-2601242 e-mail: bkhanpou@yahoo.com
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	
		Project Director (Asst. Engr.) Hathazari Pourashava, Chittagong

Mitsubishi Motors to pay owners of fuel-cheating cars

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors plans to compensate customers in a bid to limit the fallout from a fuel-efficiency cheating scandal, the Nikkei reported on Saturday.

Authorities raided the company's office on Thursday after the company admitted it had falsified efficiency data for hundreds of thousands of vehicles.

Mitsubishi Motors shares plunged more than 40 percent in the three days after the news emerged, their worst hat-trick of losses since the company listed in 1988.

The scandal has raised questions about the Japanese carmaker's future, after German giant Volkswagen posted its first loss in 20 years in 2015 because of the fallout from its own huge emissions-rigging scandal.

Mitsubishi Motors plans to offer to cover the extra fuel costs incurred by vehicle owners because their engines were less efficient than advertised, the Nikkei reported.

The move aims to "appease angry customers' nonstop inquiries" and prevent an "exodus" of buyers, the Japanese business daily said, without giving its sources.

Mitsubishi Motors has said it will halt production of more than 600,000 affected vehicle models -- mini-cars sold in Japan, including some made for rival Nissan.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR OF STORES & SUPPLIES, CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES DEPOT 30 SHAHEED TAJUDDIN AHMED SHARANI, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1208.

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Cobalt Teletherapy Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP) Credit No. 4954-BD

IFB No. CMSD/G-1562/ICB/2015-2016/D-4/66

Date: 21-04-2016

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in UNDB; issue no 803 of 31 July 2011
- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association & grants from development partners toward the cost of Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of "Cobalt Teletherapy".
- The Director (Stores & Supplies), & Line Director, Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management, DGHS, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Cobalt Teletherapy as follows:

Lot No.	Brief Description of Goods	Quantity	Delivery Location	Delivery Period
Lot-1	Cobalt Teletherapy	04 Nos.	1. Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chittagong, Bangladesh 2. Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Rajshahi, Bangladesh 3. Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet, Bangladesh and 4. Khulna Medical College Hospital, Khulna, Bangladesh	112 days from the date of signing of contract

- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Office of the Director (Stores & Supplies), & Line Director, Procurement, Logistics and Supplies Management, DGHS, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 . to 17:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.). The bidding document is also available at the website (<http://www.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/dghs-tender>). However, the web version of the document is for information purpose only.

Qualifications requirements include:

(i) Liquid Asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination

At least the amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination mentioned below:

USD 1,800,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency (ies)

(iii) General Experience:

The Bidder (in case of JV, each partner) should have at least five (5) years of general experience in supplying any medical equipment (i.e. years counting backward from the date of IFB publication).

(iv) Specific Experience:

The Bidder (in case of JV, each partner) will at least have experience of supplying any medical equipment having value mentioned below in not more than two contracts within the last five (5) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of IFB publication): USD 1,800,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency (ies).

(v) **Manufacturer's Capability and Capacity:** Manufacturer has manufactured and marketed the specific goods i.e., Cobalt Teletherapy for at least last three (3) years, and for similar Goods (any medical equipment) for at least last five (5) years [years counting backward from the date of bid submission deadline];

(vi) The manufacturer should have annual manufacturing capacity of Cobalt Teletherapy of three (3) times the offered quantities as per the schedule of requirement

(vii) Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

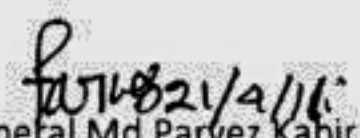
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of BDT 4,000 or USD 50 only. The method of payment will be in Pay Order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.

The Bidding Documents will be delivered from the counter of CMSD to the bidders or their authorized representative. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing any international courier service to collect the same from the following address.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+ 6 hrs.) on 08-06-2016. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11: 00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 08-06-2016.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 70,000. or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency

9. A pre-bid conference will be held on 08-05-2016 in the office of the undersigned at 11: 30 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.). All Bidders are requested to attend the conference on time.


Brigadier General Md Parvez Kabir
Director, (Stores & Supplies) & Line Director, Procurement,
Logistics and Supplies Management, DGHS, CMSD,
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh
Tel: 9129231; Fax: 9126547
e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net