

# US tech industry cool on Trump deal on France digital tax

AFP, Washington  
A US trade group representing major technology firms on Tuesday denounced an agreement on France's digital tax announced by Presidents Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron that leaves the levy in place until a new international taxation plan takes effect.

The Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) reacted a day after Trump and Macron agreed on a plan that would see France scrap its digital tax once a new international levy being discussed is in place.

"France's unilateral digital tax action aimed at leading American companies is unjustified, and if tolerated, will encourage other countries to follow their example," said Ed Black, the president of CCIA, which counts Google, Amazon and Facebook among the companies it represents.

"We should not support a compromise that would green-light discriminatory taxes against US tech companies for some vague promise of possible partial reimbursement years later," Jennifer McCloskey of the Information Technology Industry Council, which includes Apple, Google, Amazon and Facebook, said it is important to reach a global agreement quickly on taxation.

"Unilateral proposals that depart from stable, predictable international tax policies and increase the likelihood of global tax policy fragmentation remain unacceptable," McCloskey said in a statement.

"Any agreement between France and the United States must encourage a multilateral approach and avoid the proliferation of unilateral proposals." - Targeting Silicon Valley - France's levy of three percent of revenues of big tech firms which take in at least 750 million euros (\$830 million) annually has been criticized in Washington for departing from precedent on taxing revenue instead of profits and for targeting a narrow group of companies.

The French parliament passed the tax in July amid frustration at the slow pace of negotiations on a new global accord that would allocate more tax revenues of large international tech firms outside their home countries.

Under the agreement struck at the G7 meeting of world leaders in Biarritz, French tax authorities will reimburse companies if they paid more than they would have under the yet-to-be-decided international formula, French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said.



US President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron attend a lunch ahead of the G7 summit in Biarritz, France on August 24.

The agreement appeared to head off a threat by Trump to retaliate with tariffs on French wine, although the US president offered no specifics on his commitment.

Before the agreement, US lawmakers and industry leaders had called for an

investigation and potential retaliation for the French tax which affects some 30 companies, mostly from Silicon Valley.

"It is hard to imagine that the US would take no action against France's digital tax targeting US companies," CCIA's Black said.

# UK employers want more staff, but fear shortages as Brexit nears

REUTERS, London

British employers plan to hire more staff even as they remain pessimistic about the economy in the run-up to Brexit, according to a survey published on Wednesday which showed no sign of a weakening of the strong labour market.

But the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC) said severe skill shortages remained, especially in the public sector, and the government's proposed restrictions on European Union workers after Brexit could make them worse. Hiring intentions improved for permanent staff in the short and medium term, the REC survey showed.

Economists are watching for any signs that employers might cut back on hiring as the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline nears.

A fall in unemployment to its lowest rate since the mid-1970s has helped Britain's economy to outperform most analysts' expectations over the three years since the 2016 Brexit referendum.

REC said despite the stronger hiring plans, 46 percent of employers were concerned that they would be unable to find enough suitable candidates, especially among firms seeking workers with health and social care skills.

Within the public sector, 45 percent of employers said they had no spare capacity in their workplace, highlighting an immediate need to take on new staff.

"EU workers are an integral part of our health and social care system and the UK workforce as a whole," Tom Hadley, REC's director of policy and campaigns, said.

"It is essential that the government has in place a sensible transition towards an evidence-based immigration policy to help reassure employers and EU citizens."



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Ltd (FSIBL), opens an agent banking outlet of the bank at Solua Bazar of Chougachha upazila in Jashore on Tuesday.



Pierre Boutros Obeid, chief technology officer and acting chief commercial officer of Banglalink, launches a new flagship customer centre of the telecom operator at Gulshan in Dhaka.



Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, CEO of Midland Bank, and MM Monirul Alam, CEO of Guardian Life Insurance, sign a memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday in presence of David James Howard Griffiths, a director of the insurer. Guardian Life Insurance will provide insurance coverage on the bank's personal and unsecured SME term loans and monthly savings scheme deposit products.

Md Faruque Hossain, executive chairman of National Skills Development Authority, poses with two Bangladeshi competitors, Nafisa Sadaf Anchol and Tanjim Tabassum Islam, at the concluding session of World Skills Competition at Kazan in Russia recently. Anchol received a "Best of Nation Award" in the competition.



# Google to move Pixel smartphone production to Vietnam

REUTERS

Alphabet Inc's Google is shifting its Pixel smartphone production to Vietnam from China starting this year as it builds a cheap supply chain in Southeast Asia, the Nikkei business daily reported on Wednesday.

The move comes as labor costs are rising in China along with added pressure from spiraling tariffs due to the ongoing Sino-US trade tensions.

The US internet giant plans to move most of its American-bound hardware out of China, including the Pixel phones and its smart speaker Google Home, Nikkei said.

The company plans to ship about 8 million to 10 million smartphones this year, double from a year ago, making Vietnam a key part of Google's drive for growth in the smartphone market, the newspaper added.



## ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka- 1208, Bangladesh

### Invitation for Tenders

Office Equipment				
(Desktop Computer, Laptop, Printer, Photocopier, Scanner, Time Punching Machine, Fax Machine, Metal Detector, etc.)				
<b>GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH</b>				
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare			
2. Agency	Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka, Bangladesh			
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director			
4. Procuring Entity District	Gopalganj			
5. Invitation For	Supply, Commissioning, Testing, Fitting & Fixing, Networking and of Office Equipment			
6. Invitation Ref. No.	EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ Office Equipment/2019/32			
7. Date	27 August, 2019			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
8. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
9. Budget & Source of Funds	GOB (Government of Bangladesh)			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
10. Project Code	1270101-224020000			
11. Project Name	Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3 <sup>rd</sup> Plant), Gopalganj			
12. Tender Package No.	GD - 10			
13. Tender Package Name	Office Equipment.			
14. Location of the Project	Gopalganj Sadar, Gopalganj.			
15. Tender Publication Date	29 August, 2019			
16. Tender Last Selling Date	Date : 19 September, 2019, Time : 05:00 PM			
17. Tender Submission Date and Time	Date : 22 September, 2019, Time : 11:00 AM			
18. Tender Opening Date and Time	Date : 22 September, 2019, Time : 11:30 AM			
19. Name & address of the Office (Selling, Receiving and Opening of Tender Document)	Office of the Project Manager, EDCL (3 <sup>rd</sup> Plant), Gopalganj C/O: Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh			
20. Pre-Tender Meeting (Place/Date/Time)	Conference Room of MD Essential Drugs Company Limited 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh. Date: 13 September 2019, Time: 11:30 AM			
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
Eligibility of Tenderer :				
21. General Experience	Minimum 10 (Ten) years of general experience for Supplying of Office Equipment			
Specific Experience	The satisfactory completion of Supply, Commissioning, Testing, Fitting & fixing, Networking and Operating Standard license Software of Office Equipment with minimum value of Tk. 85.00 Lac (Eighty Five Lac taka) only in Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous under a single contract in the last 02 (Two) years. (i.e. years counting backward from the date of IFT Publication)			
Liquid Asset	The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 1.00 Crore (One Crore taka) only.			
22. Brief Description of Goods	Supply, Commissioning, Testing, Fitting & Fixing, Networking and Operating Standard license Software of Desktop Computer, Laptop, Printer, Photocopier, Scanner, Time Punching Machine, Fax Machine, Metal Detector, etc.			
23. Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	5,000.00 (Five Thousand) Taka only.			
24. Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in Days
01	Office Equipment	Gopalganj	Tk.2.40 Lac (Two lac and forty Thousand taka) only	60 Days
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
25. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir			
26. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3 <sup>rd</sup> Plant), Gopalganj			
27. Address of Official Inviting Tender	395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.			
28. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone : 8151080,8113463, 9130036 9130489-9130490 (PABX) Fax.: 8119697 E-mail: 3rdplant@edcl.gov.bd Website: www.edcl.gov.bd			
29.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.			

(Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir)  
Project Director  
Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3<sup>rd</sup> Plant), Gopalganj