

# Computer Daily News

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TECHNOLOGY  
STOCK  
PRICES  
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AUSTRALIA'S DAILY E-MAIL TECHNOLOGY NEWS SERVICE – AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUBSCRIPTION

BIG SPENDING COMES BACK

## Morrison pledges 'millions of jobs' in next week's Budget

CANBERRA: Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** is promising a budget that "will have the most unprecedented investment in Australia's future that this country has ever seen," when he delivers it on Tuesday next week.

In a speech in South Australia at the weekend, the PM said with his usual eloquence: "It's gonna be a great Budget." And he added that it would provide "the most unprecedented investment in Australia's future that this country has ever seen" – a promise some Labor leaders, past and present, might challenge.



In case anyone got too carried away Morrison added: "I can assure Australians that articularly the Finance Minister and I and the

Treasurer have been over every dollar, and every dollar we're spending is targeted and it's proportionate.

"It's temporary for those programs that are designed to be so. And it's designed to ensure that Australia comes out of the Covid recession in the way we all want it to happen – with thousands, indeed millions, of jobs."

However don't expect speedy emergence of all those jobs. According to an *Australian* newspaper report, the "centrepiece" of the budget will be a five-year blueprint to

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## New Optus biz plan gives cash-conscious SMBs a boost

SYDNEY: **Optus** has launched a new mobile plan targeted at cash-conscious small-medium businesses to help keep a lid on communication costs.

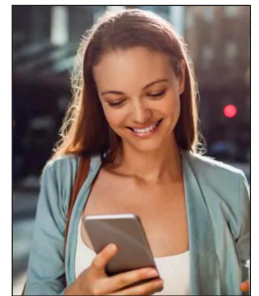
With businesses under pressure to keep costs low and manage spending against a tough economic backdrop the **Optus Business Connect Plan** offers up to four dedicated

mobile numbers, a huge 250GB of monthly shared data and unlimited standard national talk and text for \$149 a month. The month-to-month plan also includes unlimited standard international talk and text from Australia to 35 destinations.

Optus MD of SMB, **Libby Roy**, said: "Mobile connectivity is critical to any small businesses operation and in response to our small business customers' needs, we've introduced the Optus Business Connect Plan."

She said this is unique in market and designed specifically to address the new reality of work, and provide additional value and options to help small business owners succeed, connect with their customers in new ways."

The company says that new and existing Optus small business customers can join the Optus Business Connect Plan by – natch! – visiting an Optus store, or heading to [www.optus.com.au/team](http://www.optus.com.au/team).



## Aussie lithium ore miner inks deal with Tesla: shares surge

SYDNEY: Australian lithium miner **Piedmont Lithium** said it has signed a five-year deal with US-based **Tesla** to supply high-purity lithium ore mineral to the electric carmaker.

The announcement yesterday sent shares in the Aussie miner up 83 percent, to their highest level since May 2007.



The initial five-year agreement will see Piedmont supply about a third of its planned 160,000-tonnes-per-year spodumene concentrate produce from its deposits in North Carolina.

Both companies have an option to extend the deal for another five years.

The deal comes just days after Tesla's "Battery Day" presentation last week when CEO **Elon Musk** shared his vision of novel, proprietary Tesla batteries, following

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which Tesla stock speedily lost more than \$30 billion in market value.

Piedmont said the agreement marks the beginning of its first US domestic lithium supply chain and that talks are ongoing over other sales arrangements.

## ACMA to trial devices that offer GPS signals in tunnels

CANBERRA: The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is set to run a trial in conjunction with emergency services to test the use of 'repeater' devices which transmit navigational signals such as GPS in road tunnels.



Emergency services rely on GPS for navigation and vehicle management, but can lose track of vehicles in road tunnels.

The trials will be used to test the technology with a view to establishing a licensing arrangement for the devices.

Repeater devices have been prohibited, because they can interfere with GPS signals when not operated properly.

The ACMA meanwhile has amended any laws that prohibit the devices, so that they can be allowed specifically for the purpose of trials.

## SA space-city beckons Accenture

ADELAIDE: Attention, Adelaide property shifters: leading tech outfit **Accenture**, currently Sydney-based, is said to be quietly on the hunt for a spot overlooking the Torrens, where it might set up house to eventually launch an assault on the growing SA defence, aerospace and – yes – space business ventures.

Actually, SA readers of *CDN* have reminded us that Accenture already employs around 150 people in its Adelaide office, and –yes! – we did know that, but the whisper is that Accenture is quietly looking to boost its numbers in the once treeless city – now the home of Australia's major space agency, and several good places to eat, not to mention quaffing Adelaide Hills wine.

Interesting choice, Accenture: we'll watch with interest – Ed.

## Aussie outfits join forces on AI

SYDNEY: Two Australian outfits have joined forces in a bid to tackle what they see as a major problem facing

Australia today: establishing leadership in the ethical development and use of AI.

The two are non-profit **Gradient Institute** and consultancy **Ethical AI Advisory**.

They note that, despite the rapid pace of growth of the AI sector, there are few laws, regulations, practical guidelines or software tools to assist companies developing or deploying AI.

Now the two have joined forces with **Catriona Wallace**, founder and CEO of **Ethical AI Advisory** team.

Says Gradient CEO **Bill Simpson-Young**: "We think that Gradient's expertise in the technical aspects of ethical AI and Ethical AI Advisory's expertise in governance and organisational design for AI are highly complementary.

"We are looking forward to together helping establish Australia's global leadership in the ethical development and use of AI."

## Get fit Australia, says Huawei

SYDNEY: **Huawei** may feel that – like the **US Government** – the **Australian Government** is attempting to bundle it out of participating in the local market, but it doesn't cease from seeking to strike a chord with Aussie buyers.

Huawei's latest effort, now available Down Under, is for a batch of handsome looking hand-watches in its "fitness" – read sporty – range.

These are dubbed the Huawei Watchfit range, and they certainly look classy.

The basic Watch Fit sports a rounded rectangular face with a large AMOLED display, said to encourage users to get into new forms of exercise through "a variety of animated fitness courses, workout modes and scientific health tracking features".

It's also said to boast 10 days battery life, a built-in animated personal trainer and the ability to track and monitor workouts, heart rate, sleep, stress levels and blood oxygen saturation.

Blimey, what more could a snoozing, beach-sleeping Aussie want?

## Canberra plans 'world-first virtual govt. comms conference'

CANBERRA: Canberra-based government communication agency Content Group is set to host what it claims is the world's first virtual government communication conference, dubbed the **GovComms Festival**, as part of the **OECD's Government After Shock** global dialogue on November 17.

Government After Shock is led by the OECD and the **European Commission**. It will explore the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on all areas of government and the impact on communication.

The first GovComms Festival will gather analysts, re-

## PM pledges millions of jobs

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create millions of "future" jobs and reshape Australia's post-pandemic economy.

The **Deloitte** company is predicting a likely budget deficit of \$198.5 billion.

It predicts corporate and personal tax revenues will probably be higher than the "low bar set for them in official forecasts".



searchers from inside and outside of government, service providers and public servants, the organisers say.

They plan to explore “the critical role of effective communication in successful digital transformation”.

## Flying vehicle gets to flutter at Beijing auto show

SHANGHAI: The **Beijing Auto Show** got off to a flying start with Chinese electric car-maker **Xpeng** unveiling the prototype of an electric flying vehicle that it is developing.

The vehicle, *pictured*, has eight propellers and a capsule-like frame and resembles a human-carrying drone, more than a flying car.

The **Alibaba**-backed auto-maker is putting money into flying car technology as part of its long-term strategy.

Its flying vehicle can hold up to two passengers and is designed for low altitudes of about five to 25 metres.

Globally, the matter of regulation has been a major hurdle for the development of human-carrying drones and self-driving cars.



## Australian services impacted as Tayler Technologies attacked

SAN FRANCISCO: Software vendor **Tyler Technologies** says that some of its customers have reported suspicious log-ins in the days since Tyler warned that it had been hacked with ransomware.

Tyler said it had received reports of several suspicious log-ins to client systems. It added that the hack, which occurred last Wednesday, appeared confined to its internal network.

Tyler urged clients to reset passwords that company staff would use to access customer versions of its software.

The company provides a wide range of software to local governments – including some in Australia – and recently won a contract to supply services to the Northern Territory court system.

It is cooperating with the **FBI** but declined to say which customers had detected improper logins.

## Twitter warns developers: private keys exposed

SAN FRANCISCO: Short messaging service **Twitter**, has e-mailed developers, warning of a bug that may have exposed their private app keys and account tokens.

The social media giant said private keys and tokens may have been improperly stored in the browser’s cache by mistake.

“Prior to the fix, if you used a public or shared computer to view your developer app keys and tokens on developer.twitter.com, they may have been temporarily stored in the browser’s cache on that computer,” Twitter said in its e-mail.

## INSIDE COMPUTER DAILY NEWS

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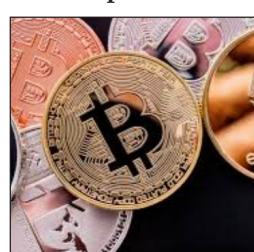
In some cases, Twitter warns, developers’ access tokens for their personal Twitter accounts may have also been exposed.

Private keys and tokens are considered secret, like passwords, because they can be used to interact with Twitter on behalf of the developer.

## EU plans crypto-currency clamp

BRUSSELS: The EU is looking at introducing new legislation to reduce the risks of investing in cryptocurrencies, while also giving legal certainty to those issuing these assets.

EU regulators say Brexit has ushered in a new urgency for a **Capital Markets Union**, while the **European Commission** has put forward plans to regulate crypto-assets in what will be its first ever attempt to oversee the nascent technology.



Regulators say one of the aims of the new legislation is for the EU to reduce “market fragmentation” in the crypto-asset space.

The new plan will mean crypto-asset companies authorised by one of the 27 EU countries will be able to provide its services across all the other member states.

## Space junk not being tracked

SPACE: An astronomical survey has revealed that three-quarters of orbital debris floating among satellites in geosynchronous orbits around Earth is not being tracked.

Small bits of space junk identified by the study are often overlooked if they’re faint, small and in a region monitored less intensively than low-Earth orbit.

Scientists probing geosynchronous orbits above the equator found the majority of debris located 36,000km out remains uncatalogued.

The survey said this could become a danger for any spacecraft placed in those orbits.

The report says the debris is probably from old bits of

metal that have broken off from ancient satellites due to collisions, or from fuel explosions.

The debris appears trapped because there are no natural processes like atmospheric drag that can dislodge them from their orbits and are likely to build up over time.

## Chinese optical fibre probed

BRUSSELS: The EU has launched an investigation into imports of optical fibre cable from China.

It follows concerns raised by fibre cable EU manufacturing companies, which believe the Chinese product is being sold in Europe at artificially low prices.

**Europacable**, which brought the complaint on behalf of the EU producers, said around 1.2 million kilometres of fibre cable were sold in Europe last year, with 15-20 percent coming from China.

The total EU market for fibre cable last year was worth about €1 billion (A\$1.6 billion).

Chinese imports rose by 150 percent from 2016 to 2019, the industry group said.

## New plans seek to regulate, as US, UK ink AI agreement

LONDON/WASHINGTON: The **Trump Administration** has announced the US and the UK have signed a new agreement to cooperate on research and development of artificial intelligence.

Analysts say the agreement is squarely aimed at providing a buffer against China, which the US fears will surpass it in artificial intelligence development, particularly regarding military weapons and systems.

The partnership also reveals that the US and UK are taking a "two heads are better than one" approach, believing they have a better chance at beating China by linking up.

The partnership will include the two countries working together on research and development of AI, including on issues of explainability and fairness.

"America and our allies must lead the world in shaping the development of cutting-edge AI technologies and protecting against authoritarianism and repression," said **Michael Kratsios**, US chief technology officer.

## U.S. STOCK PRICES

Stock	Close	Change	52-wk range
Nasdaq	10913.5	+241.26	12074 - 6631.42
A M D	78.06	+2.24	94.28 - 27.43
Accenture	214.63	+0.21	247.82 - 137.15
Adobe	479.78	+12.11	536.88 - 255.13
Alphabet	1439.06	+16.20	1726.1 - 1008.8
Amazon	3095.13	+75.34	3552.25 - 1626.03
Apple	112.28	+4.06	137.98 - 53.15
Atlassian	181.29	+5.51	199.50 - 107.00
Autodesk	227.80	+6.84	261.94 - 125.38
CheckPoint	120.19	+2.01	130.98 - 80.06
Cisco	38.45	+0.60	50.28 - 32.40
Citrix	136.13	+2.28	173.56 - 94.17
Dell	65.72	+0.35	68.61 - 25.51
Electronic Arts	131.19	+1.87	147.36 - 85.69
F5 Networks	119.99	+1.08	156.36 - 79.78
Facebook	254.82	+5.29	304.67 - 137.10
H P	18.30	+0.15	23.93 - 12.54
I B M	118.95	+0.86	158.75 - 90.56
Intel	49.94	+0.78	69.29 - 43.63
Lenovo	12.87	-0.59	15.51 - 8.92
Microsoft	207.82	+4.63	232.86 - 132.52
Norton	20.90	+0.44	28.70 - 15.12
Nuance	33.14	+0.94	34.34 - 13.51
Nutanix	21.78	+0.52	37.86 - 11.31
Oracle	59.80	+0.50	62.60 - 39.71
S A P	152.06	-1.28	169.30 - 90.90
Salesforce	242.74	+5.19	284.50 - 115.29
Snap	24.69	+0.37	26.76 - 7.89
Teradata	23.00	+0.26	31.42 - 17.62
Tesla	407.34	+19.55	502.49 - 44.86
Texas Instruments	138.32	+1.63	148.37 - 93.09
Twitter	43.84	+0.70	46.82 - 20.00
Unisys	10.32	+0.01	18.13 - 6.46
VMware	141.65	+1.27	173.37 - 86.00
Xerox	17.98	+0.19	39.47 - 14.22
8x8	15.28	+0.38	21.57 - 10.70

## AUSTRALIAN STOCK PRICES

AfterPay	79.80	+3.85	95.97 - 8.01
Appen	32.91	+0.11	33.00 - 15.70
Data#3	6.54	+0.08	6.07 - 1.81
Kogan	20.61	+0.58	18.46 - 16.83
Macquarie Telecom	45.64	+0.63	34.69 - 19.20
MNF	4.65	+0.05	5.55 - 2.77
NextDC	12.37	-0.09	0.40 - 5.71
Telstra	2.84	-0.02	3.94 - 2.87
Technology One	7.91	+0.02	10.26 - 6.36
WiseTech	25.83	0.01	38.80 - 9.97

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