

# 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

## Apple, Google face class action brought by Aussie consumers

MELBOURNE: Class actions against big tech companies, **Google** and **Apple**, have been launched on behalf of Australian consumers seeking compensation for what they claim are high commission charges deployed by the companies which are ultimately passed onto consumers.

Both claims are due to be heard before **Justice Perram** in the Federal Court on July 22. Lawyers representing the consumers, **Phi, Finney, McDonald**, would not say how much compensation they were seeking. The lawsuit is said to cover anyone who purchased apps in the App Store or Google Play between November 6, 2017 and June 20, 2022.



In dispute are the fees charged to developers to sell their apps on the app stores and the resulting cost to consumers. The lawsuit also claims the tech giants are contravening the Competition and Consumer act and the Australian Consumer Law as they are anti-competitive. The lawsuits estimate that 55 pct of the 20.6 million smartphones in Australia are iPhones while 45 pct use Android phones.

Faced with increasing litigation in the US, Google has bowed to pressure on the issue, announcing late last year that it would drop its commission rates to a straight 15 pct,

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## Space research network launched as Wolfpack opens to start-ups

SYDNEY: Space-based defence surveillance technologies to improve the performance of computers in space and deliver sovereign production of communication systems

are among projects being funded under a landmark new program launched by the NSW government.

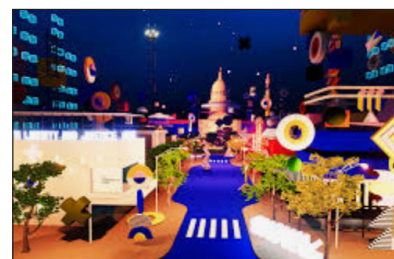
The NSW **Space Research Network (SRN)** will fund seven projects through its first Research Pilot Program, with two additional projects receiving seed funding. The SRN is a university-led initiative, funded by the NSW Government, designed to enhance the local space industry through collaboration with government and academic research institutions. SRN co-director, **Stefan Williams**, said the Network will develop and support a comprehensive strategy to grow state-based space research and industry capacity.



At the same time Australian space companies, **Saber Astronautics** and **TCG Group** have launched the Wolfpack Space Hub's new facility in Sydney's Waterloo district. The new site will incubate local space tech companies and support Australia's rapidly growing space industry. The new facility has a manufacturing laboratory for space start-ups to rapidly prototype and experiment with flight hardware products, allowing them to quickly and safely iterate new designs for spacecraft, robotics, and satellite components.

## South by Southwest heads south

SYDNEY: One of the world's biggest tech, innovation, music, film and gaming festivals, **South by Southwest (SXSW)**, is coming to Sydney next year.



The city has been chosen to host the first international version of the famous annual event that originated in Austin, Texas. SXSW will run from

October 15th to 22nd, 2023 in Sydney. The event draws together some of the world's most creative thinkers and

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innovators and explores future trends and emerging tech. One of the main attractions for techies and start-up entrepreneurs is the SXSW Pitch which will feature 40 interactive technology companies from eight different categories including Artificial Intelligence to Voice, & Robotics and the Metaverse.

## NBN upgrades business ethernet plans to 10Gps

SYDNEY: NBN Co's enterprise ethernet service for businesses is going up a gear, with retailers now able to offer plans of up to 10Gbps to around 900,000 businesses nationally.

NBN Co said the move would particularly help regional businesses compete with their big city counterparts and those who have made a tree change to the regions.

Approximately two-thirds of locations with fibre zones will be eligible for the ultrafast services to be delivered within 50 days, the fibre network company said, with upfront installation costs fully subsidised for businesses within those zones.

"We expect demand for higher speed services to grow over time, as businesses further invest in technologies that require reliable, secure, high-speed broadband connectivity, including those in regional areas," said NBN Co's Steve O'Rourke.



## MacData to offer cooler data

SYDNEY: Macquarie Data Centres (MDC) and ResetData are bringing what they say is world-leading data centre cooling technology to Australia.

MDC says it delivers governments, gamers and meta-verse builders the opportunity to use data more efficiently by enabling vital technologies such as GPU-as-a-service inside a sovereign and secure data centre facility. MDC, which is part of Macquarie Telecom Group, has signed a

multi-year deal with ResetData, to use Submer data centre cooling technology, a first in Australia. Submer's immersion cooling can reduce CO2 emissions by up to 45 pct and creates zero wastewater, compared with traditional water and air-cooling technologies. It also reduces the physical footprint by up to 90 pct, and the heat generated by the infrastructure can be 99 pct recycled.

ResetData will also provide disaster recovery-as-a-service housed in Macquarie Data Centre's sovereign facilities. The company is targeting growth within government, gaming, video production, rendering and other data-heavy industries needing to balance cost, environmental concerns, and fast-rising compute needs.

## Microsoft names A/NZ Partner of the Year winners

SYDNEY: Microsoft has unveiled the Australia and New Zealand winners for the 2022 Partner of the Year Awards.

This year's international awards were the most successful for A/NZ partners. Collectively, they won a record five awards, and a further 14 companies were finalists. EY Australia was chosen as Microsoft's Partner of the Year for Australia for its commitment to increasing the diversity of talent in the STEM workforce.

Cybersecurity specialist DEFEND was named Microsoft's Partner of the Year for New Zealand. Consulting firm Barhead Solutions won the Community Response award in the Social Impact category. Data#3, one of the world's largest Microsoft device resellers, was named Device Partner Distributor/Reseller of the Year.

Engage Squared claimed the Employee Experience award in the Modern Work category, while Modis took home the Inclusion Changemaker award in the Social Impact category. Myriad Technologies won the Defence & Intelligence award in the Industry category for its Secure Search and Information Exchange (S2IX).

## AEMO gives renewables the pathway to blossom

CANBERRA: If you're reading this by candlelight, you'll be pleased to hear that Australia's Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has released its roadmap to a rapid



transition to a grid dominated by renewables.

The roadmap includes two-way energy flows and technologies that will draw on cheap, green power rather than coal, gas and oil.

"Investment in low-cost renewable energy, firming resources and essential transmission remains the best strategy to deliver affordable and reliable energy, protected against international market shocks," said AEMO CEO, Daniel Westerman.

The country's main grid is expected to surge from

## Apple, Google face class suit

*Continued from page 1*

mostly as a concession to lawmakers and regulators. Google has been hit by claims in a lawsuit lodged by 36 US states, that its mobile app store abuses the search giant's marketing power and forces aggressive terms on developers.

Apple, meanwhile, has been accused of restraining developers from developing apps outside the Apple Store and forcing them to only use Apple pay solutions. The maker of popular online Fornite, Epic Games, has also appealed to the Australian courts making similar claims against Apple and Google but the trial won't be heard until 2024, by which time probes by regulators in the EU and UK, may have brought the issue to a head.

around 30 pct share of renewables now to 83 pct renewables by 2030. The target coincides with the government's targets, before growing to 96 pct by 2040 and 98 pct by 2050.

## New telco rules in force to protect customers

CANBERRA: New rules to protect consumers from scams that target customer interactions with telcos are now in force.

The rules pre-empted by the **Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)** in April, are designed to prevent unauthorised access by scammers to people's telco services and personal information. These types of scams cost victims in Australia an average of around \$28,000, ACMA said. The obligations apply when telcos undertake high-risk transactions such as SIM-swap requests, changes to accounts or disclosure of personal information.

The legislation requires telcos to protect their customers by using multi-factor identity authentication to confirm that a person is the customer or their authorised representative and having systems in place to identify customers at risk of fraud. ACMA says it has a range of enforcement actions available for telcos found to have breached the new rules, including commencing court proceedings.

## EU backs crypto anti-money laundering regulations

BRUSSELS: European Union negotiators have reached a provisional agreement on anti-money laundering rules for cryptocurrencies that would spur crypto firms to check their customers' identities, in the latest regulatory tightening of the freewheeling sector.

The rules, opposed by major US exchange **Coinbase Global**, would also require crypto firms to report suspicious transactions to regulators to help crack down on dirty money, the **European Parliament and Council** said.

The rules still require approval by several bodies to take effect. The oversight would ensure that crypto assets can be traced in the same way as traditional money transfers.

## New supercomputers to forecast weather across US

PHOENIX: The US equivalent of our **Bureau of Meteorology**, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NOAA)**, has begun using twin supercomputers, developed and operated by **General Dynamics Information Technology**, to forecast the country's complex weather patterns.

The twin HPE Cray supercomputers are among the top

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50 fastest in the world and operate at a speed of 12.1 pet-



flops and provide approximately three times the computing capacity for advanced weather monitoring than the previous supercomputers used by the NOAA. Both supercomputers are entirely dedicated to weather modelling and

are identical to ensure rapid change over if the production role has to move from one site to the other.

## Google establishes new government division

WASHINGTON: **Google** is bringing its full suite of cloud computing, analytics, cybersecurity and technology tools to federal, state and local governments, as well as educational institutions, with the launch of a new division.

Called **Google Public Sector**, the new division follows years of effort the tech giant has spent making inroads in the potentially highly lucrative public sector market. In the past three years alone, Google says it has increased its public sector-focused employee count ten-fold and the company is betting big that its mix of talent and technology will help it become a major player in a market worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

The new division makes clear that Google is not shying away from military or defence business but creating an entity that uniquely serves all levels of government.

## Siemens and Nvidia expand digital services

ZURICH: German industrial giant, **Siemens**, has signed a partnership agreement with chip designer **Nvidia Corp** to create an industrial metaverse.

The platform is an enhanced virtual reality for companies to reduce the costs of running their factories, buildings and speed up new product design. The deal is a cornerstone of Siemens Xcelerator, a new open digital platform also launched by the German technology and engineering company.

The cloud-based platform, which will feature hardware, software and digital services, is part of Siemens' ambition to grow its digital business by 10 pct a year from the €5.6 billion generated in 2021.

## Snap launches paid version of Snapchat app

SAN FRANCISCO: Snap has launched a paid version of the Snapchat app in the US, priced at US\$3.99 a month in a major move away from a revenue model dependent mostly on advertising.

Snap, which had teased the subscription version, Snapchat+, earlier this month, said it would be available in Canada, the UK, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates at launch.

## Chinese smartphone makers gain in Russian market

MOSCOW: Chinese smartphones accounted for two-thirds of all new sales in Russia between April and June, the country's top electronics retailer said.

It's the latest sign of how Moscow's invasion of Ukraine is impacting the country's consumer economy. Several major smartphone makers, including Apple and Samsung, have paused new sales in Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Russian retailers and consumers are looking towards China to fill the gap, boosting the total share of Chinese brands in the Russian market. Chinese smartphone sales are steadily increasing - from 50 pct in 1Q, to 60 pct in April and more than 70 pct in June according to Russian electronics retailer M.Video-Eldorado.

## Sony launches own brand PC gaming gear

TOKYO: Sony is launching its own range of gaming-focused computer monitors and headsets, hoping to tap into the lucrative high-end PC gaming market as it looks beyond its main PlayStation console brand.

Called Inzone, Sony's PC gaming line-up features two monitors. The Inzone M9 monitor is the priciest of the pair, retailing at US\$900. It features a 27-inch display with 4K resolution and a 144Hz refresh rate. A less expensive model, the \$530 Inzone M3, has a higher refresh rate but lower resolution. The Inzone M9 will be available within months, while the Inzone M3 won't be released until later this year.

## U.S. STOCK PRICES

Stock	Close	Change	52-wk range
Nasdaq	11177	-3.65	1486 - 10,519
AMD	77.99	-2.79	78.96 - 164.46
Accenture	279.81	-3.99	225.7- 137
Adobe	368.50	-15.44	673.8 - 4.20
Alphabet	2234.03	-6.12	78.96 - 27.43
Amazon	108.92	+1.52	3344.3 - 1626
Apple	139.23	+1.79	425.6 - 192.5
Atlassian	192.36	-0.24	98.41 - 107.00
Autodesk	176.85	+0.04	173.90 - 44.39
Checkpoint	121.21	-0.49	30.65 - 80.06
Cisco	42.88	-0.18	41.02 - 64.29
Dell	47.39	-1.55	255.8 - 137.10
Electronic Arts	122.83	-0.05	150.30 - 110.15
HP	33.61	-0.83	23.93 - 12.94
I B M	140.71	-0.94	58.75 - 90.56
Intel	37.29	-0.49	69.29 - 43.63
Lenovo	19.44	-0.22	15.50 - 8.92
Meta Platforms	163.94	+3.26	169.00 -384.33
Microsoft	260.27	+3.78	27.72 - 13.00
Oracle	69.21	+0.63	57.84 - 39.71
Tesla	685.47	-12.52	900.40 - 70.10
Twitter	37.80	-0.99	45.86 - 20.00
Unisys	11.66	-1.26	18.13 - 6.99
Vmware	116.25	-1.34	172.00 - 1216.8
Xerox	15.07	-0.50	26.96 - 17.05
8x8	5.31	-0.03	78.96 - 164.46

## AUSTRALIAN STOCK PRICE

Appen	5.61	-0.25	33.00 - 15.70
Kogan	2.78	-0.11	18.46 - 16.83
Macquarie Telecom	60.54	-0.54	34.69 - 19.20
NextDC	10.64	-0.06	10.40 - 5.71
Symbio	3.50	-0.02	4.01 - 7.58
Telstra	3.85	-0.04	3.94 - 2.87
Technology One	10.71	-0.09	10.26 - 6.36
TPG Telecom	5.97	-0.06	5.44 - 7.25
WiseTech	37.85	-0.17	38.80 - 9.97
Xero	76.96	-1.56	75.80 - 156.65

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