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Inside C2

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Economic Watch: Increasing online demand boosts internet companies' revenue amid pandemic

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30 (Xinhua) -- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for home office, online learning and shopping is increasing, leading to the high-tech companies' results generally above market expectations in their quarterly financial reports released this week.

In Apple's second quarter of fiscal year 2021 ending on March 27, the company's operating income reached 89.6 billion U.S. dollars, up about 54 percent year on year, the highest level in the same period in history.

The company posted quarterly earnings per diluted share of 1.40 dollars, compared to 0.64 dollar for the same period of fiscal 2020, far exceeding market expectations.

Apple said consumers' home office trends have boosted company performance. Sales of iPhone amounted to approximately 48 billion dollars, up 66 percent from 29 billion dollars a year ago.

Facebook's financial report showed that its quarterly revenue grew to about 26.2 billion dollars, a year-on-year increase of 48 percent, with net income growing 94 percent to 9.50 billion dollars for the quarter ending on March 31.

Google's parent company "Alphabet" reported its first-quarter revenue at 55.3 billion dollars, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Its net profit amounted to 17.93 billion dollars, up by 162 percent.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West said consumers have gradually switched their work, study, shopping and social habits to an online mode, bringing business opportunities to the tech companies.

Amazon announced its financial results for the first quarter ending on March 31, with net sales of 108.5 billion dollars, up by 44 percent year on year. Its net income increased to 8.1 billion dollars in the quarter compared with 2.5 billion dollars a year ago.

Twitter announced financial results for its first quarter of 2021 with a total revenue of 1.04 billion dollars, up by 28 percent. Its quarterly net income amounted to 68 million dollars, compared with a net loss of 8 million dollars in a year ago.

Microsoft posted the quarterly financial report



with a revenue of 41.7 billion dollars, a year-on-year increase of 19 percent. The company's net profit was 15.5 billion dollars, up 44 percent.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, global digital demand continued to grow, said Satya Nadella, Microsoft's chief executive officer (CEO).

However, the revenues of some leading manufacturing companies like Boeing and General Electric (GE) decreased largely year on year.

GE's financial report showed that its revenue in the first quarter was 17.1 billion dollars, down by 12 percent from the previous year. The quarter's net loss was approximately 2.8 billion dollars, while the net profit in the same period last year was about 6.2 billion dollars.

The continuing pandemic and supply chain issues are putting pressure on business operations, said the company.

The Boeing Company reported 2021's first-quarter revenue of 15.2 billion dollars, a 10-percent decrease from a year earlier, primarily driven by lower 787 deliveries and commercial services volume reduction amid the pandemic.

Its commercial airplane first-quarter revenue decreased to 4.3 billion dollars, a 31-percent drop year-on-year. The company's net loss for the quarter was approximately 560 million dollars.

Boeing President and CEO David Calhoun said the global pandemic continues to challenge the overall market environment, and with the acceleration of vaccine distribution, the company views 2021 as a key turning point for the industry's recovery.

Iran's police dismantle online weapons trade gang

TEHRAN, May 1 (Xinhua) -- The Iranian police dismantled a gang involved in online weapons trade, a police commander said on Saturday.

Qassem Rezaee, deputy commander of the police, said that all the weapon traders were arrested within less than two weeks after being detected.

All the weapons put up for sale by the gang are made in the United States and smuggled into Iran from Turkey, Rezaee was quoted as saying by Tasnim News Agency.



2021年5月2日

Indian People Are

WEALER'S GLOBAL MOTES
CORONAVIRUS DIARY 05/01/2021



policy will not apply to

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas







President Biden finally restricted travel from India starting next Tuesday. The American citizens, lawful permanent residents or other exempted individuals, but people in those categories will still have to test negative prior to travel.

India surpassed 200,000 COVID-19 deaths with experts warning that the actual death toll is much higher. The surge in new infections has stretched India

s hospitals to the breaking point causing a shortage of oxygen, hospital beds and

other supplies.

As the COVID-19 crisis spreads, oxygen has become one of the scarcest commodities. One young man waited for five hours to get oxygen for his sick grandparents.

China and India foreign ministers held a conference call on Friday and agreed to keep the supply chains and

cargo flights open to ensure a steady flow of medical supplies.

Helplessness, frustration and anger has been blamed on the government which has failed because of policy makers and politicians who have put contingency plans ahead of the crisis.

Two air force transport planes carrying U.S. supplies of oxygen cylinders and masks arrived in New Delhi Friday. The White House has

pledged to help India combat the pandemic.

Anger toward Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is growing because of his decision to hold huge election rallies as the pandemic soared.

We really don't understand why this politician still wanted to accomplish his political goals in order to sacrifice the lives of so many people.

























Editor's Choice



Syringes are seen prepped at a coronavirus vaccine clinic held by Variety the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley on their campus in Worcester, Pennsylvania, April 29. REUTERS/Hannah Beier



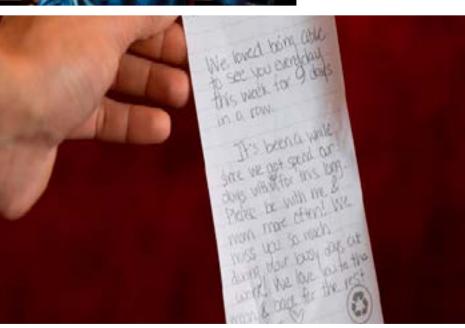
Thomas Macconnell, 16, who is on the autism spectrum, receives a coronavirus vaccine in Worcester, Pennsylvania, April 29. REUTERS/Hannah Beier



Michelle Melton, who was 35 weeks pregnant when she received her first vaccine from Dr. Mayank, sits with her 10-dayold baby after receiving her second vaccine



Dr. Mayank Amin draws the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine at a clinic run by Skippack Pharmacy in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, March 7, 2021. Montgomery County has one of the highest per capita vaccination rates in the state. On a gray Saturday morning in late February, Amin slipped into a Superman costume, the remnant of Halloweens past that he now sometimes wears for vaccina-



Dr. Mayank Amin holds a note from his wife during his morning puja (daily ritual) at his parents' home in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, February 27. The young pharmacist reunites with



Michael Farris, 21, who is on the autism spectrum, looks outside after receiving a coronavirus vaccine at Variety - the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley during a vaccine clinic on their campus in conjunction with Skippack Pharmacy

The Company Will Establish Two Orbital, And Two Suborbital Launch Pads

SpaceX Reveals The Grand Extent Of Its Starport Plans In South Texas



An orbital view of SpaceX's South Texas launch site, with SN10 on the pad, in early March.

By Guest Writer, Eric Berger, Senior Space Editor At Ars Technica

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

As part of a federal review process for its plans in South Texas, details of SpaceX's proposed spaceport have been made public. They were posted late last week in a public notice from the US Army Corps of engineers, which is soliciting public comments on the changes.

Most notably, the new documents include a detailed architectural drawing of the multi-acre site at the southern tip of Texas, along the Gulf of Mexico. The major hardware that exists or will be built includes:

- •Two orbital launch pads, one of which is already under constriction
- •Two suborbital launch pads, one of which al-
- •Two landing pads, one of which already exists •Two structural test stands for Starship and the
- Super Heavy booster •A large "tank farm" to provide ground support
- equipment for orbital flights •A permanent position for the totemic "Starhop-
- per" vehicle at the site's entrance.

What is striking about this architectural drawing is its compact nature, largely because SpaceX has limited land to work with at the facility and must include stormwater ponds to mitigate against flooding. All of these facilities will be concentrated within a couple dozen acres, which is in stark contrast to more expansive launch sites in Florida at Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. However, SpaceX appears confident that it can control the launch and landing of its vehicles such that any mishaps will not severely damage nearby equipment. This is a non-traditional and possibly risky bet, but SpaceX has always been willing to take risks during development programs in order to move more quickly.

These detailed plans also provide more evidence that company founder Elon Musk is all in on Texas for the future of SpaceX. These four launch pads, in conjunction with the acquisition of two oil rigs named Phobos and Deimos, provide some sense of the company's operational capabilities.

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BUSINESS

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The plan is likely to conduct launches from South Texas and land vehicles on these modified platforms and to fly Starships on suborbital hops from South Texas to these platforms for orbital launches. This effectively provides the Starship Launch System with four orbital launch pads-and possibly a fifth one should SpaceX continue work on site modifications at Kennedy Space Center.



The US Army Corps review is not the only regulatory process underway in South Texas. In addition to satisfying the Army Corps of Engineers, SpaceX is also undergoing an environmental assessment by the Federal Aviation Administration. Since first acquiring the south Texas launch site in 2014, the company's planned scope of activities has grown dramatically, from about 10 Falcon 9 launches a year to launches of the massive Starship vehicle. SpaceX is working to provide the FAA with an updated environmental assessment that the federal agency will then evaluate.

Musk has also proposed the incorporation of nearby Boca Chica Village into a new city, called Starbase, Texas. Such a city would need to have at least 201 residents and follow state rules for incorporation. Prior to SpaceX's arrival, the small Boca Chica community consisted of several dozen homes. Somewhat controversially, in recent years, the company has sought to buy out or otherwise remove residents so that it has more control over its nearby launch activities.

SpaceX is making huge moves in developing its launch site in South Texas, Ars Technica reports, with plans for its expanded spaceport now public. The plans, as outlined in a public notice, include plans for "the continued development of the SpaceX vertical launch area with the expansion and addition of test, orbital, and landing pads, integration towers, associated infrastructure, stormwater management features and vehicle parking."

The company is also planning to construct one additional orbital and one suborbital launch pad, as well as a large "tank farm" for ground support equipment — a substantial expansion of its existing launch facilities.

Starship HO

The expanded launch site will cover a vast area. "The proposed expansion will impact 10.94 acres of mud flats, 5.94 acres of estuarine wetlands, and 0.28 acres of non-tidal wetlands," the notice reads. That is still far smaller however than other launch sites, including the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral, as Ars points out.

Sketches for the proposed site even include a final resting place for "Starhopper," the company's first Starship prototype, near the site's entrance.

The company is still undergoing an environmental assessment by the Federal Aviation Administration.



The news comes after SpaceX CEO Elon Musk suggested incorporating the nearby village of Boca Chica to create a new town called "Starbase." SpaceX has had to buy considerable amounts of land and property to make room for the testing site.

It makes sense for the company to build out its Starship HQ, and fortunately, SpaceX is going by the books, for instance including stormwater ponds as a way to safeguard against possible

But if recent squabbles with the FAA over safety measures surrounding its recent Starship launches are anything to go by, the area is about to become a lot busier — and louder. (Courtesy arsTechnica.com and Futurism.com)

Could SpaceX move in next to the new Tesla gigafactory? Experts Suggest Elon Musk Is Into Texas Big Time



With blinding speed, Tesla has erected the shell of its new factory in eastern Travis County in a matter of months. Just southwest of the factory site, sources say Elon Musk could build a facility for SpaceX.

AUSTIN (Austin Business Journal) — Elon Musk could be planning another facility across the toll road from the Tesla Inc. gigafactory rising in eastern Travis County. But instead of making more room for his electric car company, multiple sources told Austin Business Journal that land has been set aside for his space exploration company, SpaceX



The \$1.1 billion Tesla factory is obviously the biggest project in the recent history of this largely rural part of eastern Travis County. But CEO Elon Musk could have much bigger plans in store for the thousands of acres his companies now own along the SH 130 toll road. Construction at Tesla facility in Travis County. (Photo/KXAN/Frank Martinez)

It's no secret that Musk wants to locate some operations for Space Exploration Technologies Corp., or SpaceX, in Austin — job postings in early March sought someone to oversee construction of a manufacturing facility in the region. But Musk, the company's CEO, has not publicly said where such a facility would land in Central Texas. Representatives for Tesla and SpaceX did not immediately return requests for comment.

No permits have been filed yet with the city of Austin for commercial work on the site on the southwest side of State Highway 130, a short distance from the quickly developing Tesla factory, and it's still possible the company's plans could change. But Musk's land holdings and recent site work suggest something could soon rise there. (Courtesy https://www.kxan.com/news/)



The State Has Gained Four Million Residents And Two Congressional Seats Per Census

Texas Becomes The Second Largest State In America



By Guest Writer Acacia Coronado

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Since 2010, Texas has gained nearly 4 million residents more than any other state in sheer numbers. For perspective, that's roughly the entire population of neighboring Oklahoma. It is now home to more than 29 million people, second in population only to California, which has nearly 40 million. With the new census, Texas gains two seats in Congress with 38 seats and 40 Electoral College votes. The six states gaining House seats are Texas, Florida, Colorado, Montana, Oregon and North Carolina. Since the 2000 census Texas has gained eight seats while Florida has gained five and Arizona and Georgia picked up three each.

Texas' blazing growth over the past decade is paying off with a major boost in political clout — two additional congressional seats and electoral votes deepening its already massive influence in the nation's politics.

New U.S. Census Bureau figures released Monday confirm the relentless population boom in America's biggest red state. Since 2010, Texas has gained nearly 4 million residents — more than any other state in sheer numbers. For perspective, that's roughly the entire population of neighboring Oklahoma.

It is now home to more than 29 million people, second in population only to California, which has nearly 40 million. Texas has sustained double-digit percentage growth and increased congressional representation for 80 years, following in trend with its neighboring Southern states, the region with most growth at over 10 percent.



The constitutionally mandated 10-year census determines, among other things, how the fixed number of U.S. House seats and presidential electors will be allocated. The 2020 data was released

COMMUNITY

after months of delays and a head count conducted during the coronavirus pandemic, a heavy hurricane and wildfire season and amid civil unrest.

Texas will now have 38 congressional representatives—gaining more seats than any state— and 40 votes in the Electoral

Political tensions are expected to continue to rise as the state grows less white and more urban, demographics Democrats typically find favorable. Despite that, Republicans have managed to keep a tight grip on the state's political power.

'We are going to encourage our activists across the state to participate in that process at all levels of government," said Rose Clouston, voter protection director for Texas Democrats. "From the state Legislature, that is going to be drawing our congressional and state legislative maps, to our local city council and county commissions that are going to be drawing maps for their own districts."

They also will be in charge of the once-a-decade redistricting once the more detailed community-level census data comes out in late summer, and are expected to create gerrymandered legislative and congressional districts designed to keep them in power

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Texas Statistics From The U.S. Dept. Of Commerce



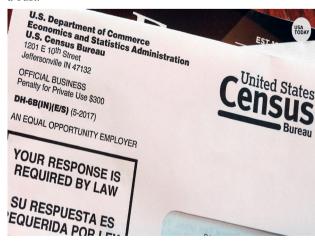
While the new census report does not include demographic data, Texas State Demographer Lloyd Potter said estimates show that rural counties continue to lose population while metro areas

such as Houston, Dallas and Austin continue to grow. Hispanics make up the largest percentage of growth, Potter said, pushing them closer to a plurality of the overall population.

Half of Texas' population gain comes from births, helping the state maintain a young median age, Potter said. Another major factor has been an ongoing influx of people from other countries and states, particularly California. Census Bureau demographers said Texas' population growth in 2020 was about 1 percent lower than expected, leading to one less congressional seat than predicted by state researchers, but said they were confident in the statistics.

That may sound good to Democrats, said Joshua Blank, research director for the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin, but it's no guarantee that the new arrivals will automatically align with their party. Democrats will have to figure out how to capitalize on the state's demographic changes, he said.

Democrats' last opportunity — the November election — was a bust.



Republicans continued their more-than-two-decades of control of statewide offices, retained power in both houses of the Legislature and kept Texas in the win column for former President Donald Trump, despite his eventual loss to Joe Biden.

What Texas Democrats hope will mobilize the party is the GOP-led campaign to tighten voting laws across the U.S. In Texas, that effort aims to outlaw drive-thru voting and 24-hour polling places, and to criminalize unsolicited absentee ballot applications. Those were all options that election officials in Houston — the biggest Democratic stronghold in Texas used or planned last fall to expand voting access during the pandemic.

Texas GOP chairman Allen West said in a statement that his party will "await the affirmed census results and will continue to deliver our message of economic growth, prosperity, individual Liberty and rights, quality education, small business entrepreneurship, and safety/security." (Courtesy https://apnews.