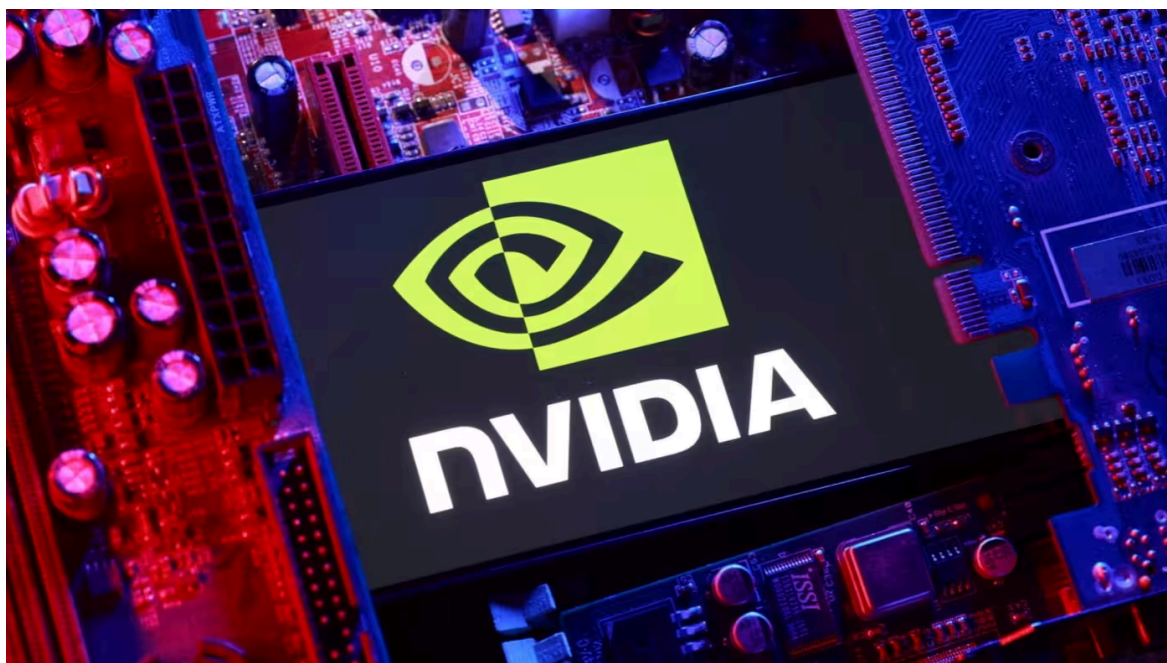


Nvidia**China bans tech companies from buying Nvidia's AI chips**

Beijing steps up efforts to boost semiconductor independence and compete with US



Beijing is pressing Chinese tech companies to break their reliance on Nvidia in order to achieve an independent semiconductor supply chain © Dado Ruvic/Reuters

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China's internet regulator has banned the country's biggest technology companies from buying Nvidia's artificial intelligence chips, as Beijing steps up efforts to boost its domestic industry and compete with the US.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) told companies, including ByteDance and Alibaba, this week to end their testing and orders of the RTX Pro 6000D, Nvidia's tailor-made product for the country, according to three people with knowledge of the matter.

Nvidia shares fell around 3 per cent on Wednesday.

Several companies had indicated they would order tens of thousands of the RTX Pro 6000D, and had started testing and verification work with Nvidia's server suppliers, the people said.

After receiving the CAC order, the companies told their suppliers to stop the work, the people added.

The ban goes beyond [earlier guidance from regulators](#) that focused on the H20, Nvidia's other China-only chip widely used for AI. It comes after Chinese regulators concluded that domestic chips had attained performance comparable to those of Nvidia's models used in China.

Jensen Huang, chief executive of Nvidia, told reporters in London on Wednesday that he expected to discuss the chipmaker's ability to do business in China with Donald Trump that evening during the US president's state visit to the UK.

"We can only be in service of a market if the country wants us to be," he said. "I'm disappointed with what I see. But they have larger agendas to work out, between China and the US, and I'm understanding of that. We are patient about it."

Beijing is putting pressure on Chinese tech companies to boost the country's homegrown semiconductor industry and break their reliance on Nvidia so it can compete in an AI race against the US.

"The message is now loud and clear," said an executive at one of the tech companies. "Earlier, people had hopes of renewed Nvidia supply if the geopolitical situation improves. Now it's all hands on deck to build the domestic system."

[Nvidia](#) started producing chips tailored for the Chinese market after former US President Joe Biden banned the company from exporting its most powerful products to China, in an effort to rein in Beijing's progress on AI.

Beijing's regulators have recently summoned domestic chipmakers such as Huawei and Cambricon, as well as Alibaba and search engine giant Baidu, which also make their own semiconductors, to report how their products compare against Nvidia's China chips, according to one of the people with knowledge of the matter.

They concluded that China's AI processors had reached a level comparable to or exceeding that of the Nvidia products allowed under export controls, the person added.

The Financial Times reported last month that China's chipmakers were seeking to [triple the country's total output](#) of AI processors next year.

"The top-level consensus now is there's going to be enough domestic supply to meet demand without having to buy Nvidia chips," said an industry insider.

Nvidia introduced the RTX Pro 6000D in July during Huang's visit to Beijing, when the US company also said Washington was easing its previous ban on the H20 chip.

China's regulators, including the CAC, have warned tech companies against buying Nvidia's H20, asking them to [justify having purchased them](#) over domestic products, the FT reported last month.

The RTX Pro 6000D, which the company has said could be used in automated manufacturing, was the last product Nvidia was allowed to sell in China in significant volumes.

Alibaba, ByteDance, the CAC and Nvidia did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Additional reporting by Eleanor Olcott in Zhengzhou

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