

Anthropic's Ban Fails to Curb China's Booming AI Industry



By LIANG Yilian & HU Dingkun

Editor's Note: In today's world, co-operation and mutual benefit have become mainstream concepts. International collaboration in science and technology, along with talent exchange, has become a vital pathway for advancing sci-tech progress as well as industrial development. However, some countries have been politicizing, stigmatizing, and demonizing international sci-tech cooperation. Science and Technology Daily launches "Clear Voice," a new column to clarify misconceptions and set the record straight.

Recently, U.S. AI giant Anthropic announced a ban on Chinese-controlled enterprises from using its services, including the Claude model, a family of large language models (LLMs) developed by it.

This is not limited to China alone; overseas companies with direct or indirect Chinese ownership exceeding 50 percent are also within the scope of the ban. Furthermore, the announcement was heavily charged ideologically, falsely accusing foreign entities of leveraging U.S. technology to serve their military and intelligence sectors.

Previously, U.S. AI developers such as Anthropic and OpenAI had already restricted entities within China from using their services. Anthropic's move marks the first time a prominent U.S. AI company has imposed restrictions on overseas Chinese-controlled enterprises.

Against the backdrop of escalating



U.S. technological suppression of China, it is hardly surprising that U.S. AI giants like Anthropic are tightening restrictions on Chinese companies — whether driven by "corporate self-awareness" or underlying political forces.

But in today's China, where domestic models like DeepSeek and Qwen are flourishing and the concept of "technological self-reliance" is deeply ingrained, forward-thinking tech companies will not pin their future on U.S. AI technology.

Banning Chinese users will not stifle the development of China's AI industry. On the U.S. social platform Reddit, under a post about Anthropic's ban, the vast majority of comments viewed it as positive news for China's domestic AI models.

One particularly telling comment was: "Remember what happened after the chip sanctions were announced? What was the long-term impact on

China? It only spurred China to innovate around chips. This is just another identical 'nothingburger.'"

The future path of U.S. AI technology may grow narrower.

Currently, to maintain a unilateral technological advantage and prevent other countries from leveraging its achievements, the vast majority of U.S. AI models have adopted a closed-source development approach.

In July, *The New York Times* reported that even Meta, which had previously adhered to open-source development, would shift to developing closed-source AI models. Renowned U.S. AI policy expert Ethan Mollick lamented on social media that with this, the U.S. is mostly out of the frontier open source large LLM race.

Compared to open-source, closed-source inevitably hampers technological iteration and innovation. As one of the world's largest AI markets, China boasts

the most comprehensive industrial categories and the richest AI application scenarios. By "voluntarily withdrawing" from the Chinese market, Anthropic is not only losing "hundreds of millions of dollars," but also a crucial source of experience and momentum for driving technological iteration and development.

In contrast to the U.S., China's AI models have consistently adhered to an open-source development philosophy, continuously achieving technological breakthroughs.

In July, multiple foreign media outlets reported that according to the rankings by "LMarena," a benchmark testing platform created by University of California researchers, Chinese open-source AI models such as Kimi K2 by Moonlit AI, DeepSeek R1 by DeepSeek, and Qwen3 by Alibaba had outperformed similar products from U.S. giants Google and Meta.

According to Tech Wire Asia, the future of AI may indeed be open — and increasingly shaped by Chinese innovation.

In April, Anthropic accused China of smuggling chips. At the time, a spokesperson for U.S. chip company Nvidia criticized the allegation, saying: "American firms should focus on innovation and rise to the challenge, rather than tell tall tales..." This criticism equally applies to Anthropic's recent restrictions on Chinese users.

Banning Chinese users is a loss for U.S. AI companies. Instead of becoming pawns in the politicization, instrumentalization, and weaponization of technological issues, tech companies like Anthropic should focus on technological innovation and their own development.

biomaterials experts then take control, inventing functional contact lenses that bring numerous benefits to humanity.

Nanotechnology's promising future

According to the *China Nanotechnology Industry White Paper (2025)*, the global nanotechnology market is expected to reach \$1.5 trillion by the end of 2025, with an estimated compound annual growth rate of over 17 percent between 2018 and 2025. China's nanotechnology patent transfer and licensing rate has exceeded 8 percent, and the efficiency of technology transfer continues to improve. In the future, more nanotechnology is expected to move from the laboratory to industrialisation, and its applications are diverse and numerous.

Professor Wang Bo, vice president of the Beijing Institute of Technology and editor-in-chief of *APL Materials*, believes that nanotechnology holds great promise for the future, notably through the application of novel nanoporous materials and biomimetic open frameworks in fields such as biomedicine and energy.

With its micro power able to impact the macro world, nanotechnology will continue to expand, providing unending momentum for building a smarter, greener and healthier future society and turning what was once "impossible" into a "real reality" that benefits people everywhere.

ideas and reach a better understanding of future research directions.

At the 2025 E-commerce Convention, a parallel forum of CIFTIS, Dorothy Tembo, deputy executive director of the International Trade Center, said the center has been collaborating with China's Ministry of Commerce to build the capacity of policymakers in developing countries.

Hundreds of policymakers have come to China to learn how to regulate e-commerce, increase logistics efficiency, ensure consumer protection and develop rural e-commerce. "It's international collaborations like these that are making it possible to put more countries on the digital fast track," she said.

Voice of the World

China's Rising Role in Novel Drug Research

By GONG Qian

China's pharmaceutical industry now ranks second largest in the world, accounting for about 30 percent of the global total of innovative drugs being researched, said Yang Sheng, deputy head of the National Medical Products Administration at a press conference on August 22. Since the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), China has approved 204 innovative drugs and 265 innovative medical devices, Yang said.

China's growing role in biotechnological innovation has received increasingly more global attention, with its innovative drug development making great strides in quantity and quality.

According to Bloomberg, in 2015, the year China began reforming its drug regulatory system, it contributed only 160 compounds — less than 6 percent of the world's pipeline of innovative drugs. Over the following decade, however, China's presence in global drug research surged. By 2024, more than 1,250 novel medicines — including those for cancer and weight-loss — entered development in China, far surpassing the European Union and close to the U.S.' total of about 1,440.

From 2020 to 2024, 20 of the world's top 50 producers of innovative drug candidates were Chinese companies, compared with only five in the previous five years, Bloomberg reported.

The statistics support *The Economist's* observation that Chinese pharmaceutical companies are at the cutting edge of development, creating innovative drugs at lower costs than their rivals, and making China the second-largest developer of new drugs after the U.S.

Beyond the numbers, the more important progress lies in the rising quality of Chinese biotech innovation. Now, the pace of deals between Western biopharma and China's biotech laboratories has accelerated rapidly. One reason

is the improving quality of the drug compounds being developed, Andy Plump, head of research at Takeda Pharmaceutical, told *BioPharma Dive*, a leading industry publication. For example, China-based drugmaker BeiGene's blood cancer drug Brukinsa outperformed established treatments of the same type in 2024.

Analysts attribute China's rapid progress to several factors. One key factor behind the rise of China's novel medicines is its faster and cheaper clinical trials.

The Economist said China's biotech boom has been propelled by a vast patient pool that simplifies recruitment, along with government incentives encouraging hospitals and doctors to back research, adding that, "Faster trials have made Chinese drugs even more attractive to global drugmakers."

"Not only is China becoming a larger contributor to global clinical trials, but the cost of trials is not rising and the per patient trial cost is less than that in the U.S.," said Clinicaltrialsarena website, a part of global data analytics company GlobalData. To further accelerate novel drug development, China posted a draft policy this June, proposing to reduce the clinical trial review waiting period for novel medicines from the current 60 working days to 30 working days.

Another key driver is the inflow of capital and expertise. *The Economist* said China's vast domestic market attracts big drugmakers, bringing know-how and talent. Meanwhile, the Center for Strategic and International Studies said China has been bolstering intellectual property protections and investing heavily in both basic and applied research.

From policy support to global partnerships, China's biotech industry is on a strong growth trajectory. As innovation rises, the country is becoming a major player, destined to shape the future of global drug development.

Macro Potential of Micro Nanotechnology

Opinion

By BI Weizi

"Nanotechnology is a driving force behind breakthroughs in strategic areas such as green energy, biomedicine and information technology, accelerating the formation of new quality productive forces," said Bai Chunli, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chair of the ChinaNANO 2025 Conference.

Speaking at the conference launch on August 30, Bai said that China has become a major contributor to global nanotechnology and a leader in cutting-edge industries. The rise of artificial intelligence has brought revolutionary opportunities to the field of nanoscience and is profoundly reshaping its research paradigm, he added.

Founded in 2005, ChinaNANO is an international conference held biennially that has grown into a major platform for sharing global nanoscience knowledge and stimulating collaboration. During the conference, *Science and Technology Daily* spoke with several domestic and

international experts about the rapid development of nanotechnology in China and its prospective wide range of applications.

China leads global nano patents count

The *China Nanotechnology Industry White Paper (2025)*, which was released at the conference, shows that China is leading the way in nanotechnology patents and that the industry continues to grow. From 2000 to 2025, the total number of authorised nanotechnology patents worldwide exceeded 1.078 million, 464,000 of which were from China, ranking it first in the world.

Matteo Cavalleri, publisher, portfolio strategy at AIP Publishing, said China's rise to the top in nanotechnology patents reflects the success of China's scientific research transformation paradigm. It demonstrates China's commitment to valuing the quality and quantity of scientific research and reveals the commitment of the Chinese government and scientists to basic scientific research, he said.

Interdisciplinary research key to advancing nanotechnology

According to Bai Chunli, innovations in cutting-edge fields often emerge

from the intersection of disciplines. "It isn't a single, isolated discipline, but is intertwined with physics, chemistry, materials science, electronics, life sciences and more," said Bai.

Professor Monica Lira-Cantu, full professor and group leader of Nanostructured Materials for Photovoltaic Energy at ICN2, Barcelona, echoed Bai's sentiments, emphasizing the indispensable role of interdisciplinary collaboration in stimulating innovative ideas and advancing innovative products. As an expert in nanostructured materials and photovoltaic energy, Lira-Cantu used artificial retinal lenses as an example to demonstrate the important role of interdisciplinary research in solving practical problems.

When light enters the eye, it passes through the cornea and lens, focusing on the retina. This process converts the light signal into neural signals and transmits them to the brain for processing. The retina is like a high-tech 'photosensitive film', and its 'light sensors' are crucial, she said. These cells are specifically responsible for sensing light intensity and colour. Without these cells, we would be unable to see. While optics experts are solely responsible for collecting the light,

brought together different segments from the creative design industry, to the building engineering industry, and to the manufacturing industry. All the service and supply chain industries also came together. "Because of that, we're able to create new collaborations and new opportunities with these companies," he said.

Paulo Debiagi, an assistant professor at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China, has been working in China for more than two years. He has collaborated with institutions like Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology and Northwestern Polytechnical University, and expected to promote networking at CIFTIS with people from different companies and research institutions, exchange

or conference attendees, the consensus was that cooperation was an indispensable part of CIFTIS.

Mohammad Miri, advisor to the CEO of Iran's Chabahar Free Zone on International Affairs and Foreign Investment Attraction, said CIFTIS was a very good platform for bringing different service sectors together to help each other enhance the economy.

Satoshi Ohashi, director of Zaha Hadid Architects China, said CIFTIS provides a platform for all the companies and industries to connect. It

CIFTIS Puts Cooperation on Fast Track

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Mikio Arai, head of a Japanese company selling hand-made iron kettles, was on his fourth mission at CIFTIS. He was a little worried the number of visitors would decrease due to the change in the venue, but the waves of people on the first day of the exhibition made him relieved. Arai said he wanted to introduce Japanese handicrafts to Chinese consumers, and would be very happy if the handicrafts were welcomed.

Creating new collaborations

Be it exhibitors, purchasers, visitors

Hi-Tech

By GONG Qian

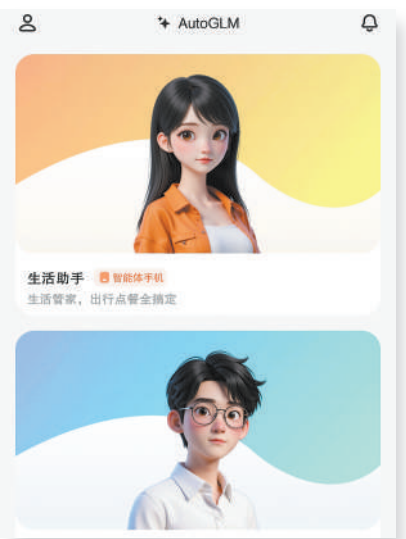
Chinese tech company Zhipu Huazhang Technology has released the world's first mobile phone agent, AutoGLM 2.0. Powered by the domestically developed open-source models GLM-4.5 and GLM-4.5V, the app is now available for download on a mobile phone or computer for the general public.

Simply put, an AI agent is capable of autonomously executing tasks. Traditional AI (such as ChatGPT) primarily relies on user-input instructions, while an AI agent can think, make decisions and carry out complex tasks on its own — acting like an AI assistant that performs a range of functions independently.

What can it actually do? In AutoGLM 1.0, the agent could replace users in handling some mobile operations, but only within limited scenarios. AutoGLM 2.0 has evolved into an execution-oriented assistant, capable of independently completing a wide variety of tasks in the cloud.

In daily scenarios, users only need to give a single voice command, and AutoGLM 2.0 can operate dozens of apps to order food, book flights, or check housing listings.

In workplace scenarios, it can also operate platforms such as NetEase Mail, Zhihu, and Weibo to handle information search, content writing, video generation, and creation of powerpoint presentations. This means AI is no longer just a "chat tool" but a versatile agent that



Zhipu unveils mobile agent AutoGLM 2.0. (PHOTO: SCREENSHOT)

not only provides solutions but also executes tasks, helping users save both time and energy.

One major technical upgrade in AutoGLM 2.0 is the integration of local devices with the cloud. Previous mobile agents often occupied the user's screen and computing power. AutoGLM 2.0 equips AI with dedicated agent mobile phones/agent computers, enabling the AI to directly call app services in the cloud to complete tasks without occupying the user's local device. During this process, users can freely use other apps, such as playing mobile games.

However, it should be noted that issues such as AI agent stability, account security and privacy authorization are still challenges that all tech companies, including AutoGLM, need to focus on and address sooner, rather than later.