

Alibaba joins China arms maker to offer location services

August 20 2015



New York-listed Alibaba and China North Industries Corp. (Norinco) have created a 2.0 billion yuan (\$313 million) joint venture to offer services using Chinese satellite navigation system Beidou, Norinco said in a statement on its website

Internet giant Alibaba has joined forces with China's biggest defence company to offer location-based services using a homegrown satellite navigation system that competes with the US GPS network, the firms

said.

New York-listed Alibaba and China North Industries Corp. (Norinco) have created a 2.0 billion yuan (\$313 million) joint venture to offer services using Chinese satellite navigation system Beidou, Norinco said in a statement on its website.

Each company has a 50 percent stake in Shanghai-based Qianxun Weizhi network, which was set up on Tuesday, it said.

Norinco, a leader in China's military trade, is a sprawling state-owned group selling everything from tanks to air defence systems. It is the authorised company for research and applications for the Beidou system, state media said.

Beidou, which began offering both commercial and public services in late 2012, says on its website it has a network of 35 satellites.

Its services are centred on the Asia-Pacific region but it is scheduled to provide global coverage by 2020, and it is viewed as a competitor to the global positioning system (GPS) developed by the United States.

"This signifies that China's own Beidou navigation satellite system has taken an important step and revealed a new chapter," Norinco said.

Alibaba's Tmall platform is believed to command more than half the Chinese market for business-to-consumer transactions and its Taobao platform holds more than 90 percent of the consumer-to-consumer market in China.

Location-based services can enable companies to offer products or applications to people at targeted places through mobile devices, and Alibaba said the venture would allow it to improve its offerings.

"Location-based services are an important part of the Internet infrastructure," an Alibaba spokeswoman said in a statement provided to AFP on Thursday.

"We hope to be able to provide businesses and developers with better location-based services."

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Alibaba joins China arms maker to offer location services (2015, August 20) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-08-alibaba-china-arms-maker.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.