

ASRY Wins RoSPA Gold Medal for Health and Safety 2025

Manama

The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company (ASRY) – a leading maritime industrial hub – has won the RoSPA International Health and Safety Awards Gold Medal by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The award recognizes ASRY's consistent application of the highest workplace health and safety standards throughout 2024 and highlights its commitment to maintaining a safe and sustainable work environment that enhances the safety and well-being of its personnel. The company was honored during the official awards ceremony held in Dubai in September.

In this context, ASRY CEO Dr. Ahmed Al Abri affirmed that receiving this global recognition stems from collective effort and the firm application of strict safety rules. He emphasized that ASRY has firmly established a culture of safety as one of the



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fundamental pillars supporting sustainable development and operational excellence across all activities. He added that this achievement reflects a deeply rooted corporate culture, a spirit of collaboration, and cohesive teamwork that drive strong performance and safe operations, reaffirming the company's commitment to the highest safety standards.

Mahmood Abdulaziz, ASRY's HEE Manager, stated: "We are

honored to receive this prestigious recognition, which underscores ASRY's strong commitment to fostering a culture of occupational safety throughout all our operations. This global award is a testament to our ongoing efforts to provide a risk-free work environment and to implement world-class best practices that safeguard our employees and support the long-term sustainability of our business."

Trump renews tariff threat on movies made abroad

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday renewed his threat of imposing steep tariffs on films made outside the United States, claiming his country's industry has been "stolen" by others.

Trump's remarks come shortly after he threatened a slew of new tariffs to be imposed this week on branded pharmaceutical products, furniture, as well as heavy trucks respectively.

On Monday, Trump returned his focus to the film industry, charging in a Truth Social post that other countries have taken business from the United States, "just like stealing 'candy from a baby.'"

He criticized California Governor Gavin Newsom as "weak and incompetent," adding that the state has been heavily impacted.

"In order to solve this long time, never ending problem, I will be imposing a 100% Tariff on any and all movies that are made outside of the United States," Trump wrote.

He did not provide further details on his plans, or a timeline for when these tariffs might be enacted.

Trump's latest post echoes a threat he made in May, when he said the US movie industry was "dying a very fast death."

At the time, he said he was authorizing the Department of Commerce and US Trade Representative to start the process of instituting a 100-percent tariff.

AI company Whitebridge hit with complaint over selling personal data

AFP | Vienna, Austria

A privacy campaign group yesterday filed a complaint with Lithuanian authorities against Whitebridge AI, accusing it of illegally collecting and selling personal data via "reputation reports" generated by artificial intelligence.

Prominent Vienna-based organisation, Noyb -- whose name stands for "none of your business" -- said the company marketed its services as an AI tool that "will find everything about you online", offering "reputation reports" to "anyone willing to pay".

These reports illegally "compile large amounts of scraped personal information about unsuspecting people", including "AI-generated" data that is "not factual", Noyb said.

The AI-generated information includes "alleged personality

traits", background checks and data about "political or religious content".

"It seems the business model is largely based on scared users that want to review their own data that was previously unlawfully compiled," Noyb said in a statement.

"The amount of personal data that Whitebridge AI processes is downright spooky," said Noyb lawyer Aitana Pallas.

"This is made even worse by the fact that Whitebridge AI completely ignores data subjects when they try to exercise their rights.

Noyb said two complainants had requested access to the data about themselves, which contained "false warnings" about "sexual nudity" and "dangerous political content".

Their requests -- including for rectification of "false data"

-- were either ignored or rebuffed by the Lithuania-based company.

The complaint cites several violations of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) relating to the processing of their data and their right of access and rectification.

Every European citizen has the right to access their personal data free of charge.

The NGO has asked the Lithuanian data protection authority to compel Whitebridge to comply with the access requests, to stop the illegal processing of data and to impose a fine.

Noyb has launched several legal cases against US technology giants such as Meta and Google, often prompting action from regulatory authorities over violations of the GDPR.



WhiteBridge is building tools to let people control and monetise their own online data and reputation, rather than having big tech platforms sell it without consent. Their model is based on giving users transparency and potentially earning opportunities from their digital footprint, instead of being passive data sources.

Switzerland and US agree on no currency manipulation

Zurich, Switzerland

Switzerland and the United States said yesterday they had agreed that monetary policies should not target exchange rates to gain a competitive advantage.

The joint statement followed the US Treasury adding Switzerland to a watch list in June for countries that manipulate their currencies.

Swiss authorities affirmed in the statement that "monetary policy will remain oriented towards maintaining appropriate monetary conditions to safeguard price stability and will not target exchange rates for competitive purposes".

The United States made a similar engagement.

Many investors consider the Swiss franc a "safe haven" asset and will buy the currency when they sell off risky assets.

This can cause the value of the franc to rise, creating problems for the Swiss economy as its exports become less competitive while the price of imports falls, prompting the country's central bank to intervene on the currency markets.

The Swiss National Bank's purchases of foreign currencies help reduce the market value of the franc.



Indonesia fines TikTok over late Tokopedia acquisition notice

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia's antitrust agency has fined TikTok 15 billion rupiah (\$900,000) for failing to notify regulators in time about its acquisition of e-commerce platform Tokopedia, an official said on Monday.

TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, completed an \$840 million deal in January 2024 to acquire 75.01 percent of Tokopedia from PT GoTo Gojek Tokopedia, which retained the



remaining stake.

The acquisition allowed TikTok to relaunch its online shopping service in Indonesia, after the

government banned social media-based sales to protect small businesses.

Deswin Nur, spokesperson for the Indonesia competition commission (KPPU), said TikTok Nusantara (SG) Pte -- the entity established for the transaction -- failed to notify the agency within the required timeframe.

"Although KPPU previously conditionally approved this acquisition and assessed that it has no negative impact on business competition, administrative negligence was still categorised as a violation," Deswin said.

"Notification must still be submitted in a timely manner by the acquiring business entity."

A TikTok spokesperson told AFP the company respected KPPU's ruling and remained committed to upholding fair business competition principle