

China's Huawei launches ad blitz as UK reconsiders its role

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In this May 18, 2020, file photo, a man wearing a face mask to protect against the coronavirus walks past a Huawei retail store in Beijing. One of China's biggest tech companies has criticized the Trump administration for "politicizing business" after it slapped export sanctions on 33 more Chinese enterprises and government entities. The announcement expanded a U.S. campaign against Chinese companies Washington says might be security threats or involved in human rights abuses. Beijing criticized curbs imposed earlier on tech giant Huawei and other Chinese companies but has yet to say whether it will retaliate.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

Huawei has launched an advertising campaign in Britain as officials reconsider the Chinese technology company's role in supplying equipment for the country's next-generation high speed mobile networks.

The company took out full-page ads in British national newspapers outlining its commitment to providing mobile and broadband companies with equipment for fifth-generation networks, even though "some now question our role in helping Britain lead the way in 5G."

Huawei is stepping up its efforts to win over [public opinion](#) as it faces increasing pressure from a U.S.-led campaign aimed at persuading allies to shun its telecom equipment over fears that Beijing could use it for spying or sabotage—a charge the company has consistently denied.

Huawei was granted a limited role in January to build the U.K.'s new high-speed 5G networks. However, last week the U.K.'s National Cyber Security Centre began a review to examine the impact new U.S. sanctions against Huawei could have on the country's networks, officials said.

The U.S. restrictions on foreign semiconductor makers unveiled last month are aimed at limiting Huawei's ability to use American technology, escalating a geopolitical battle between Washington and Beijing over industry development and security.



In this March 8, 2019, file photo, A logo of Huawei retail shop is seen through a handrail inside a commercial office building in Beijing. The U.S. government is imposing new restrictions on Chinese tech giant Huawei by limiting its ability to use American technology to build its semiconductors. The Commerce Department said Friday, May 15, 2020 the move aims to cut off Huawei's undermining of existing U.S. sanctions. (AP Photo/Andy Wong, File)

The sanctions "will definitely damage the global supply chain of the semiconductor industry, which lots of industries rely on," though it's too soon to draw a conclusion about the impact, Huawei Vice President Victor Zhang told reporters on a conference call.

Huawei faced a setback last week in Canada, where two of the three major telecommunication companies decided not to use its equipment

for their 5G networks.

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