

China's market regulator opens antitrust probe into NVIDIA over Mellanox deal

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Nvidia Asserts Commitment to Fair Competition Amid China Antitrust Probe - Caixin Global

Dec 10, 2024 07:39 PM

BUSINESS

Nvidia Asserts Commitment to Fair Competition Amid China Antitrust Probe

By Liu Peilin , Du Zhihang and Kelsey Cheng

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Nvidia could face significant penalties under China's amended Anti-Monopoly Law, which took effect in August 2022. Photo: AI generated

Nvidia Corp. on Tuesday asserted its commitment to fair competition, after China's market regulators opened an antitrust investigation into the U.S. chip giant over suspected violations linked to a 2020 deal.

The probe, announced on Monday by the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), concerns Nvidia's compliance with the country's Anti-Monopoly Law and conditions tied to its \$6.9 billion acquisition of Israeli network-equipment maker Mellanox Technologies Ltd.

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Explore the story in 30 seconds

China has launched an antitrust investigation into Nvidia related to its \$6.9 billion acquisition of Mellanox Technologies, approved with conditions in 2020. The investigation concerns potential anticompetitive practices, as the combined entities hold dominant market positions in China and globally. Nvidia may face fines up to 10% of its revenue if found guilty; past fines for similar cases were significant, with potential penalties reaching up to \$28 billion for severe violations. AI generated, for reference only

Who's Who

Nvidia Corp. Nvidia Corp. is facing an antitrust investigation by China's State Administration for Market Regulation over its 2020 \$6.9 billion acquisition of Mellanox Technologies. Concerns include potential anti-competitive behavior and violating conditions set by Chinese regulators. Nvidia, with a dominant market share in GPU accelerators, could face fines up to 10% of its previous year's revenue under China's amended Anti-Monopoly Law, potentially amounting to significant financial penalties if found in violation. Mellanox Technologies Ltd. Mellanox Technologies Ltd. is an Israeli network-equipment maker acquired by Nvidia for \$6.9 billion in 2020. It held significant market shares, controlling 55% to 60% of the global market and 80% to 85% of the Chinese market for specialized networking equipment. The acquisition faced scrutiny due to potential anti-competitive concerns. Qualcomm Inc. In 2015, Qualcomm Inc. was fined 8% of its 2013 revenue in China, totaling 6.088 billion yuan (approximately \$975 million at that time) for anti-competitive practices. AI generated, for reference only

What Happened When

April 2020 : China finally signed off on the Nvidia-Mellanox deal with seven conditions August 2022 : China's amended Anti-Monopoly Law, which allows significant penalties for anti-competitive behavior, took effect Monday, December 9, 2024 : The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) announced an antitrust investigation into Nvidia Monday, December 9, 2024 : Nvidia's stock closed down 2.55% in New York following the announcement of the probe AI generated, for reference only

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