



# TAİK

## Turkey-U.S. Business Council

April 2021

Hi,

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter!

**Last month, TAİK celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

As Turkey's oldest business council, we are proud of our work to date and have reaffirmed our mission to strengthen and trade and economic relations between Turkey and the U.S.

On behalf of everyone at TAİK, we thank our members for their continued support and commitment to our work.



On this road we started 36 years ago, our goal has always been to strengthen our trade and economic relations.

Our work continues with great speed and energy to develop Turkish-American

economic relations, as we have for the last 36 years.

[#TAIKis36](#)



**Turkish Embassy DC** ✓

@TurkishEmbassy

Turkey government organization

...

The Turkey-U.S. Business Council (TAİK), first of its kind in Turkey, continues to play a significant role in Turkish-American relations. Congratulations [@taikofficial](#) on your 36th anniversary.

## TAİK ENGAGEMENT



**TAİK**

@taikofficial

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Productive discussion between TAİK's Mehmet Ali Yalçındağ, [@merihx](#) & [@RepLouCorrea](#) on strengthening TR-US trade.

The meeting focused on opportunities for growing trade and investment between [#Turkey](#) and US businesses in areas such as digital, electronics & the green economy.



[TAİK's Chairman Mehmet Ali Yalçındağ, and DEİK's Merih Kepez held a meeting with U.S. Congressman, Lou Correa.](#) The meeting focused on opportunities for strengthening Turkey-U.S. trade and investment in the areas outlined in TAİK's latest BCG report, such as digital industries, electronics and the green economy.

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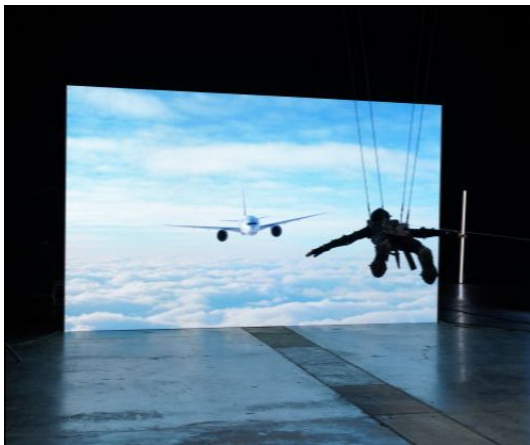
# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Turkcell, one of Turkey's leading mobile phone operators, [announced that it had used US-based company Red Hat OpenShift's](#) software platform to build its new Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications. Turkcell said it has halved the time it takes to get its AI-powered services to market by using OpenShift.

[TAİK member BDP International](#) (BDP), a global logistics and transportation solutions company, has acquired DJS International (DJS), a Dallas-based customs brokerage and freight forwarding company. The acquisition increases DJS' US import and customs brokerage portfolio.



Turkish Airlines handed [over control of a real airplane to children](#), who controlled it using motion capture technology. The youngsters wore motion-capture suits to control and aircraft from the ground, with their movements turned into flight data that was relayed to pilots in an aircraft. The stunt was part of a celebration for Turkey's National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

TAİK member TAV Airports, in collaboration with the Kazakhstan Infrastructure Fund, have [completed the buy-out of Almaty Airport](#), Kazakhstan's main aviation gateway. As a result of the buyout, the capacity of Kazakhstan's busiest airport will be doubled with a \$200m investment.



[TUSAS Engine Industries Inc.](#) (TEI), a joint venture of TAİK member Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc. and General Electric (GE) has broken a world record with its TEI-TJ300 Turbojet Engine.



Qualification tests are yet to be completed.

[The Amgen Foundation](#) launched its biotechnology education initiative, The ABE Program, in Turkey. The program, which reaches 850,000 students worldwide and is now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, will give teachers and students in Turkey the opportunity to learn and truly apply the applications and techniques that form the basis of the biotechnology industry.



TAİK member and global law firm, [Norton Rose Fullbright](#), has appointed Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud as the company's new Global Head of Corporate, M&A and Securities. Mahfoud was previously the Partner-in-Charge at the firm's Istanbul office.

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Follow us on LinkedIn to get the latest updates on Turkey-U.S. trade

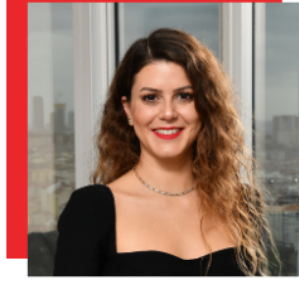
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## TAİK TALKS BUSINESS

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HOSTED BY



MERİH KEPEZ

SPECIAL GUEST



DERYA MATRAŞ



**As the world slowly emerges from the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, industries are starting to assess the global business landscape and look for new opportunities.** Digital sectors are particularly in the spotlight.

In the latest episode of TAİK Talks Business, we're discussing the digital opportunities for Turkish and US businesses with Derya Matraş, the head of TAİK's digital task force, our California State Council Committee Chair and Facebook's Managing Director for the Middle East, Africa, and Turkey.

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## LATEST NEWS

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[Turkey is currently in a full national lockdown](#), including the closure of schools and intercity travel restrictions, due to the increasing spread of COVID-19 in the country. Manufacturing and food sectors are exempt from the new restrictions.

[Turkey successfully conducted the first test of its hybrid rocket engine](#) that is expected to be used in its 2023 moon mission, the nation's industry and technology minister announced. The test firing was carried out at the facility of Delta V, a state-backed research firm that has a leading role in the national space program announced in February, in Istanbul's Şile district.

Turkish renewables energy company, [Aydem Renewable Energy](#), achieved the biggest [public offering](#) in Turkey for three years by raising TL1.3bn (\$158m) via the Borsa Istanbul Stock Exchange.

Turkey's first domestically designed and built fully electric car, the TOGG C-SUV, became the first Turkish brand to win an [International IF Design Award](#). TOGG won its design award in the Professional Concept Category.

[Amazon has announced long term plans for the Turkish market](#). Amazon also launched its online grocery store in Turkey this month. In a statement to Anadolu Agency, Amazon Turkey Country Manager Richard Marriot said: "Just like our growth in the EU, we have a long-term strategy for Turkey as well."

[Turkey has developed a potentially ground-breaking COVID-19 vaccine](#), which has recently entered the human trials phase. Meanwhile, Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank has volunteered for the human trials of the vaccine, underlining the potential of the jab developed by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

[Car and van maker Ford Otosan](#) announced it was temporarily suspending production at its Golcuk Plant between April 19<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup> due to global supply issues surrounding semiconductors. Production will continue at the plants in Kocaeli's Yenikoy district and in the central Eskisehir province.

[A 2,000-year-old street from the Roman period has been discovered in south eastern Turkey](#). Currently, excavation to unearth it is being carried out in Amida Hoyuk, known as the heart of Diyarbakir province. Amida Hoyuk was home to many civilizations such as the Persians, Romans, Seljuks, Ottomans, and Artuquids.

[Turkey's economy is expected to see double-digit growth in the second quarter](#) after logging about 5% gross domestic product (GDP) expansion in the January-March period, the country's treasury and finance minister said. Turkey was one of only a few countries to avoid an economic contraction in last year's coronavirus fallout and the only country along with China to have registered a growth among G-20 members.

[The audit and consulting giant Deloitte Turkey](#) revealed that investments made in Turkey's media and advertising sectors reached TL 17.47 billion (\$2.48 billion) in 2020. The investments in media totalled TL 13.97 billion (\$1.99 billion), while investments in advertising reached TL 3.49 billion (\$497 million), Deloitte's report showed.

[The volume of e-commerce in Turkey jumped 66% year-on-year](#) to 226.2 billion Turkish liras (\$32 billion) in 2020, the country's trade minister announced on April 6. The number of companies running e-commerce operations in Turkey also surged by 275% to 256,861 last year, an indicator of dynamic development of the sector in the country.

[98% of newly installed power that came online in Turkey in Q1](#) came from renewable sources, according to Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez. This means that out of the 1,233 MW of energy capacity added in Q1, 1,207 MW came from renewable sources.

Tech giant [Alibaba has invested \\$350m \(TL 2.87 billion\)](#) in one of Turkey's largest e-commerce giant's, Trendyol. Alibaba, which purchased a majority stake in Trendyol in 2018, has increased its stake to 86.5% as a result of its latest investment.



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