China Technology

CBO - China Brief Overnight - May 6, 2026

China's national fund in talks to lead DeepSeek funding at a valuation of about USD 45 billion; Xiaomi has locked in orders for over 80,000 new SU7 units; Shanghai existing home sales hit 10-year high in April and Beijing reaches 5-year peak.

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Government/Industry News

- **China sees record of over 1.5 billion passenger trips during the five-day Labor Day holiday:** According to CCTV News, the Ministry of Transport released data showing a record of over 1.5 billion passenger trips during the five-day Labor Day holiday. The average daily inter-regional trips rose about 3.5% yoy. China reported an average of 2.256 million inbound and outbound travel trips daily during the holiday, an increase of 3.5% from last year. China recorded 758 million yuan in box office sales during the Labor Day holidays, up 1.41% yoy.

- **Chinese tech shares surged to a record high in post-holiday trading amid global AI rally:** According to Tencent News, a gauge of Chinese tech and semiconductor shares surged to a record high in post-holiday trading amid global AI rallies. The Star 50 Index reached a new high, and top memory chipmakers including Hygon and Cambricon also jumped today. The tech and chip stocks rose on upbeat guidance on strong AI demand by global AI and chip firms including AMD and Super Micro Computer. South Korea's SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics stocks also surged on Korea Exchange.

- **Shanghai existing home sales hit 10-year high in April and Beijing reaches 5-year peak:** According to 36kr, Shanghai April existing home transactions hit a 10-year high for the same month, up 22.3% yoy. Beijing's existing home sales also reached a 5-year peak to nearly 18k homes in April, up 15% yoy.

- **South Korea's online shipping transactions surpassed 25 trillion won for the first time in March:** According to Sina News, based on the data from the Ministry of Data and Statistics, the country's online shopping transactions totaled 25.57 trillion won in March, up 13.3% from the same period last year. This marks the first time monthly transactions have exceeded 25 trillion won since records began. The growth was mainly driven by a surge in travel demand and spending on high-value durable goods such as automobiles and electronic devices. The transaction value of the electronics product category, including smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices, reached a record high of 19.4 trillion won, up 11.6% yoy.

Company News

- **China's national fund in talks to lead DeepSeek funding at a valuation of about USD 45 billion:** According to Bloomberg, China's chip-sector national investment fund is in discussions to lead a fundraising round for DeepSeek at a valuation of about USD 45 billion.

- **Xiaomi has locked-in orders for over 80,000 new SU7 units:** According to 36kr, Xiaomi has locked in orders for over 80,000 new SU7 units after 48 days of official launch, citing Xiaomi CEO Lei Jun's Weibo post. Mr. Lei Jun offered incentives of up to 42,000 yuan for orders placed before the end of May.

- **Moonshot AI to complete a new USD 2 billion fundraising soon at valuation of over USD 20 billion:** According to 36kr, Moonshot AI is under a new funding round of about USD 2 billion, making its valuation to over USD 20 billion. This funding round was led by Meituan, China Mobile and China CITIC Capital. The cumulative of fundraising value by Moonshot AI is about USD 5.5 billion.

- **Geely reportedly to reach a deal to acquire a Ford production line in Spain:** According to IT Home, Spanish local media reported that Geely has reached an agreement to purchase an assembly line at Ford's Valencia plant in Spain. Geely may use the facility to manufacture vehicles including the Galaxy A7 and E5 based on Geely's intelligent EV architecture.

- **Trip.com denies 20%-30% layoffs across many departments:** According to IT Home, Trip.com plans layoffs across multiple departments including 20% of accommodation unit staff and 30% in product R&D division, but Trip.com denies the speculation.

- **WeRide CEO sees "GPT Moment" in driverless vehicles within 10 years:** According to SCMP, WeRide CEO Tony Xu believes the first fully autonomous vehicles (referring to L5 Level) may drive on public roads by 2035, as the global automakers and tech firms are accelerating the application of self-driving technology. Established in 2017, WeRide has operated driverless cars on streets for more than two years and as of late March, it had a global fleet of 1,125 L4 Level robotaxis.