

## NEWSLETTER

### E-COMMERCE

11 - 17 May 2026



#### **Douyin tests self-operated e-commerce amid intensifying competition**

Douyin has launched city-branded self-operated flagship stores in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Wuhan, using local or partner warehouses with some next-day delivery. The move expands its e-commerce model from livestreaming to full retail control. It faces rising competition from Pinduoduo, which plans 100 billion yuan (\$14.0 billion) investment, and logistics advantages from JD.com with nationwide fast delivery. (**Finance.sina**)

#### **Qwen-Taobao integration to boost 618 shopping**

Alibaba Group has fully integrated its AI chatbot Qwen with Taobao, allowing users to search products, compare prices and complete purchases through natural language conversations ahead of China's 618 shopping festival. The move highlights growing competition in AI-powered e-commerce, as rivals including ByteDance also expand AI shopping services. (**China Daily**)

#### **China used-car e-commerce IPO rush highlights profit pressure**

China's used-car e-commerce platforms are rushing to IPO (Initial Public Offering) as the industry expands, with 2025 transactions exceeding 20.1 million units but average profit margins only about 4%. Major players like Dachengche and Taocheche are still loss-making, reflecting how heavy competition and price pressure continue to challenge profitability in the e-commerce sector. (**BJ NEWS**)

#### **Temu strengthens compliance system with QIMA partnership**

Temu announced a partnership with global testing and inspection firm QIMA to integrate product testing, factory audits, and compliance training into its seller platform. The program initially covers electronics, jewelry, food-contact materials, and light industrial goods, following destination-market regulations. It is part of Temu's \$100 million compliance plan, with 2026 funding set to double. (**Ebrun**)

#### **JD.com reports 4.9% revenue growth in q1, boosts AI and R&D investment**

JD.com reported first-quarter 2026 revenue of 315.7 billion yuan (about \$43.4 billion), up 4.9% year-on-year, while Non-GAAP net profit fell to 7.4 billion yuan (about \$1.0 billion). The company said annual active users exceeded 740 million and R&D spending rose 59%, as it expands AI, logistics automation, and global e-commerce operations. (**Finance.sina**)