# Article information:

Pro-PRC HaiEnergy Campaign Exploits U.S. News Outlets via Newswire Services to Target U.S. Audiences; Evidence of Commissioned Protests in Washington, D.C. | Mandiant
<https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/pro-prc-haienergy-us-news>

# Article summary:

1. Mandiant has uncovered evidence of an ongoing influence campaign called HaiEnergy, attributed to the Chinese PR firm Haixun, which leverages a network of inauthentic news sites and social media assets to promote pro-PRC content.

2. The campaign has been using newswire services and subdomains of legitimate U.S.-based news outlets to distribute its content, potentially exploiting a service provided by FinancialContent, Inc.

3. There is evidence to suggest that Haixun is actively supporting the campaign by commissioning freelancers via Fiverr to promote campaign content, and there are indications that the campaign may have financed staged protests in Washington, D.C., as well as possibly placing pro-PRC messaging on a billboard in Times Square.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Pro-PRC HaiEnergy Campaign Exploits U.S. News Outlets via Newswire Services to Target U.S. Audiences; Evidence of Commissioned Protests in Washington, D.C." by Mandiant discusses an ongoing influence campaign conducted by the Chinese public relations firm Shanghai Haixun Technology Co., Ltd (Haixun). The article provides details about the campaign's tactics, including the use of inauthentic news sites, social media assets, and newswire services to amplify content aligned with the political interests of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

While the article presents evidence and analysis regarding the HaiEnergy campaign, it is important to critically evaluate its content for potential biases and limitations. One potential bias is that Mandiant is a cybersecurity company owned by FireEye, which may have its own interests and perspectives on Chinese influence campaigns. This could potentially impact their analysis and reporting.

The article makes several claims about Haixun's involvement in the campaign, suggesting that they are not only aware of it but actively supporting it through soliciting freelancers on Fiverr to promote campaign content. However, there is no direct evidence provided to support these claims. The article relies on observations and correlations between Haixun's infrastructure and activities on Fiverr to make these assertions.

Additionally, the article discusses the use of newswire services and subdomains associated with legitimate U.S.-based news outlets by HaiEnergy. It suggests that FinancialContent, Inc., a U.S.-based company providing stock and financial news data services, may be involved in supplying content without approval or review. However, there is no concrete evidence presented to support this claim.

The article also mentions two staged protests in Washington, D.C., allegedly financed by the campaign. It states that videos of these protests were subsequently used as source material to support campaign-promoted narratives. While there is some evidence provided regarding these protests, such as articles published by Times Newswire and social media accounts promoting the videos, there is no direct evidence linking Haixun to the financing or organization of these protests.

Furthermore, the article does not explore potential counterarguments or alternative explanations for the observed activities. It presents a one-sided view of the campaign without considering other possible motivations or actors involved. This lack of balance raises questions about the objectivity and completeness of the analysis.

Overall, while the article provides some insights into the HaiEnergy campaign and its tactics, it is important to critically evaluate its content for potential biases, unsupported claims, missing evidence, unexplored counterarguments, and partiality. Further investigation and corroboration are necessary to fully understand the extent and impact of this influence campaign.

# Topics for further research:

* Chinese influence campaigns in the United States
* Shanghai Haixun Technology Co.
* Ltd (Haixun) and its activities
* FinancialContent
* Inc. and its role in distributing news content
* Evidence of commissioned protests in Washington
* D.C.
* Alternative explanations for the observed activities in the HaiEnergy campaign
* Critiques or responses to Mandiant's analysis of the campaign

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/3d2713c052b9bede1483371da704087f>