# Microsoft Asks Chinese Employees to Consider Relocating Amid US-China Tech Tensions



Microsoft has requested at least 100 of its employees in China to consider relocating to other countries, according to Chinese state media. The affected employees, primarily involved in cloud computing, have been offered opportunities to work in the United States, Australia, or Ireland. This move comes against the backdrop of deteriorating US-China relations over technologies such as artificial intelligence and clean energy.

The Wall Street Journal reported that up to 800 employees, mostly Chinese engineers working on cloud computing and AI, have been approached about relocation. Discussions about these relocations follow reports from the previous year that the Biden administration was preparing to restrict Chinese firms' access to US cloud services.

Microsoft entered the Chinese market in 1992, leveraging its Beijing-based Microsoft Research Lab Asia to build influence. Despite the relocation offers, Microsoft remains committed to its operations in China, according to a statement reported by Reuters.

This development coincides with President Joe Biden's announcement of tariffs on $18 billion worth of Chinese imports. The tech tensions between the US and China have intensified, with both nations imposing trade restrictions on key technologies and materials crucial for semiconductor manufacturing.