《双语：Uber似乎离上市不远了》

有报道称，一家中国大型投资集团正主导对优步进行新一轮投资。种种迹象都表明，优步离上市不远了。

Chinese fund manager Hillhouse Capital Group is leading aninvestment in the ride-sharing company that could reacharound $1 billion, according to The Wall Street Journal. Theconvertible bond deal involves buying bonds that can beconverted into shares at a discount to the company's IPO price.The longer it takes for Uber to go public, the greater the returnfor investors, providing a time-laden incentive for the company to launch an IPO soon. Uber hadpreviously raised around $1.6 billion from the wealth-management division of Goldman Sachs GS-1.82% in a very similar deal in January.

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The entrance of Hillhouse is also notable for two reasons: The Beijing-based firm is one of thebiggest fund managers in Asia, overseeing assets in excess of $20 billion; and Hillhouse's previousinvestments in technology firms, such as China's Tencent Holdings, have paid off.

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Working with such a prominent firm also plays well with Uber’s ambitions to go big in China. Earlierthis month, CEO Travis Kalanick said in an email that went public that the company’s global teamwas spending $1 billion on expanding into China, making it the company’s “number one priority”.Uber already operates in around 300 cities.

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The deal should also send confusing signals to Didi Kuaidi, the largest taxi-hailing app in China, and,by definition, Uber’s biggest competitor. Hillhouse is also an investor in the Chinese startup, and thislatest news will worry them. This comes after tech sites in Asia highlighted a consumer report thatDidi Kuadi had experienced more customer data leaks from taxi apps between January of 2014and May of 2015 in China when compared to Uber.

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