

A BT Christmas trail



The Business Times obtained a term sheet from the North Pole revealing that Santa has raised US\$25.12 billion in Series Hohoho funds to launch a cutting-edge enterprise aimed at disrupting the world of gifting. After a long chat with Santa over some kombucha and cookies, here's how we reckon he is going to spend Christmas this year.

1 Santaland has not seen any innovation since Rudolph came along with its red nose. But Santa is ready to shake things up. He first stops by the Merry Agency of Santaland (MAS) to pick up his digital gifting licence – one of only five up for grabs. “No physical infrastructure needed!” reads the licence.

2 He then whips out his smartphone to book an on-demand ride with the reindeer-hailing app, Reindr. Thanks to AI, the app optimises his gifting route. And thanks to the never-melting funding from HardBank, Reindr offers him a 50 per cent discount. “Must grab!” he exclaims.

3 Santa stops by the factory, where drones load presents onto his sleigh. All his helper elves get a notification on their smart gloves with the tracking code and delivery status. Every transaction is recorded on a blockchain – although no one is sure what purpose this serves.

4 His first stop is a copper-clad bungalow on Santasa Cove, where he leaves bottles of wine to fill the cellar. Santa glances to the left and sees a house under construction. He wonders: “Could that be another house that Jack Pa is building?”

8 Santa panics and rides as fast as he can to buy a bottle of water from a nearby tech-enabled grocery store. But he can't get past the crowd of creditors shouting to get their money back. “Talk about an honest business,” says Santa.

7 Reindr pings him again. “WATER LEVEL LOW”, the words flash in red. Santa makes a detour to “Twas Spring to quench the reindeer's thirst. But electricity prices crash and the plant powering the spring halts. The water dries up and the reindeer's fur turns grey.

6 While leaving, Reindr pings him to share his ride with two passengers: a corporate lawyer and a chief executive of a listed company. But the next thing he knows, their location tags disappear. “Did they just vanish into thin air?” he wonders.

5 Santa then rides his Reindr to the city, hoping to bring some cheer to the Santaland Xchange. He leaves behind a box of listings, including some potential dual-class ones.

9 Santa rushes to the factory of his good friend J Dyeson to borrow an electric sleigh. But all Dyeson left was a vacuum. His EV facility has completely disappeared.

10 Founder's fatigue begins to set in. “It's not easy being an entrepreneur,” he sighs. Santa makes a detour East to the spanking new S\$1.7 billion Diamond, where the reindeer drink from a giant indoor waterfall. He pampers himself with a Possible Sandwich and a Between Meat Burger, paying in Bitcoin.

11 Recharged, he flies over to Gingerbread House 71, where entrepreneurs are fussing over income statements. Santa digs into his magic bag and lets loose a glitter bomb. BAM! Sprinkles of profitability descend upon Gingerbread House 71, and the entrepreneurs rejoice. “Feliz Ebitda!” sings Santa as he rides off into the sunrise.