

Membership Updates – August 2024

DSIT Release G7 Research Security & Integrity Papers and G7 Virtual Academy Launched

The [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology \(DSIT\)](#) works with several international partners, bilaterally and through multilateral fora, to support knowledge-sharing and capacity-building on research security. The central pillar of this work is being delivered through the G7.

The G7 Security and Integrity of the Global Research Ecosystem (SIGRE) working group has created three products we invite you to explore:

- The [G7 Common Values and Principles on Research Security and Research Integrity](#) paper defines research security and research integrity and the principles that bolster them.
- The [Best Practice for Secure & Open Research](#) paper highlights the importance of a collective approach to addressing these issues; recognising that governments, research funders, research institutions and researchers all play a vital role in protecting the research ecosystem.
- The [Virtual Academy](#) is a resource pool for materials on research security and integrity from all G7 countries. It is a platform that enables engagement with peers, sharing of best practice, networking and collaboration.

If you are interested in joining this platform as someone with responsibility for research security policies at a research-performing institution, please contact your local Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT) Adviser through your institution's research office.

Access the full release from RCAT (Part of DSIT) [here](#).

AUKUS Partnership – UK Export Control Reforms Progress Update

Following an update we shared in May 2024 relating to the UK's draft AUKUS Nations Open General Licence previously undergoing a review period as part of the AUKUS partnership export control reforms, we are pleased to advise that the publication of this licence has been made on 16th August.

The licence will come into effect on 1st September, aligning with the date the U.S. measures will come into force.

The publication of the licence, combined with a new exemption to the U.S. International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) for the UK and Australia, and new national exemptions for the UK and U.S. in Australia's export control framework, is considered to be a 'historic breakthrough in defence trade' between the partnering nations and is estimated to cover up to £500 million of UK defence exports each year.

Available announcements:

[UK Gov - AUKUS statement: 16 August 2024](#)

[UK Gov – Press release AUKUS partners](#)

[UK Gov - Notice to Exporters 2024/18](#)

Changes to the MOD Form 680 Process

As part of the UK-U.S. export control reforms, the UK has secured a commitment from the U.S. for an exemption from the ITAR to enable easier defence trade between the UK, U.S. and Australia, bringing significant benefits to UK industry and reducing barriers to collaboration.

In order to achieve these reforms, the Ministry of Defence Form 680 (F680) security process has now been adapted and is set to become the administrative vehicle through which the UK will review and enable the release of U.S. International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) controlled defence articles (including technical data) to foreign persons within or outside of the UK.

The changes came into force on 16th August, however the [Export Control Joint Unit MOD \(ECJU MOD\)](#) Team will be publishing an FAQ document in due course.

Access the full Notice to Exporters 2024/17 [here](#).

Export Controls Applying to Academic Research – UK Government Guidance Updated

On 2nd August, the UK Government released an update on the [UK Strategic Export Controls Applying to Academic Research](#) guidance, providing further clarity around the public domain exemption and its link to publications.

The clarification highlights that as research is not considered to be in the public domain until it is published and accessible to the public, individuals must consider export controls when sharing research overseas for peer review or publication. The update confirms that once the research is in the public domain, any previous requirement for a licence lapses.

View the updated guidance [here](#).

We encourage members to explore how messaging around the peer review process in the context of export controls, can be effectively communicated within their organisations to ensure a solid understanding among academic colleagues.

Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) Applications – LITE Set for Public Beta

On 17th September, the Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) service on Licensing for International Trade (LITE) will move to public beta. This means that the service has passed an external assessment and is now ready to allow any exporter to apply for a Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) on LITE.

To help support exporters making the change from SPIRE to LITE, the Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) are running two webinars in September:

Webinar 1 - [The Apply For A SIEL Service - Introduction to LITE 12 September 11:30 – 12:15](#)

Webinar 2 - [The Apply For A SIEL Service - Introduction to LITE 24 September 14:00 – 14:45](#)

Please note that SPIRE is still live and all other non-SIEL applications should continue to be applied for on SPIRE. Access the full Notice to Exporters 2024/15 [here](#).

New EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act

On 1st August, the EU's new regulatory framework for AI came into force, with the aim to foster trustworthy AI in Europe (and beyond) by ensuring that AI systems respect fundamental rights, safety and ethical principles, as well as addressing risks of very powerful and impactful AI models.

The Act introduces a risk-based approach to AI regulation, categorising AI systems into four different levels: unacceptable, high, limited, and minimal – assigning stringent requirements for high-risk applications.

Similarly to the extraterritorial scope of other key EU legislation, the EU AI Act also applies to individuals and organisations outside of the EU, if they operate within the EU market.

Access the European Commission's AI Act information page [here](#).

Why not also consider some of the National Security implications outlined by **Rosamund Powell, Centre for Emerging Technology and Security (CETaS)** at The Alan Turing Institute [here](#).

\$67 Million Award to U.S. Consortia for National Organisation Helping U.S. Researchers Safeguard Research

The U.S. [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) have announced a \$67 million investment to establish a national organisation helping U.S. researchers safeguard their research, the Safeguarding the **Entire Community of the U.S. Research Ecosystem (SECURE)** Centre.

The new SECURE Centre is set to become a central hub for U.S. research organisations looking for guidance on security. \$50 million has been awarded to the University of Washington (leading a consortium made up of nine other higher education institutions), with an additional \$17 million awarded to Texas A&M University in the creation of SECURE Analytics, which will support the analytics needs of the SECURE Centre and the broader research community while working to protect the privacy of the centre's users.

Read the full release by the NSF [here](#).

U.S. Export Controls and Academia – NEW U.S. BIS Resources

This month, the [U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security \(BIS\)](#) have released two new resources to help support universities comply with U.S. Export Regulations:

- [Compliance Note](#) – Trends in Voluntary Self-Disclosures Related to Academia to Inform Improvements to Export Compliance Plans
 - [U.S. Export Compliance Resources for Academic Institutions](#) (compilation of vetting resources, BIS-own resources, examples of recent export enforcement in Academia, and compiled academic outreach initiatives)
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Group of Eight (Go8) – National Updates

In light of the ongoing progress and positive developments in our international collaborative activities and partnerships, we are pleased to present a comprehensive update on recent initiatives and advancements in Australia provided by the [Group of Eight \(Go8\)](#):

- The [Australian Government Department of Defence - Outreach Program](#) under Defence Export Controls (DEC), aims to assist exporters by providing information, conducting outreach activities, and hosting forums to help navigate Australia's export control framework.
- **Research Security in Australia & Defence Export Controls Information Session** ([recording](#)) held by the Australian Academy of Science and in collaboration with the Department of Defence, was designed to provide individuals (from research, higher education, and industry sectors) insights into:
 - Contemporary perspectives from government and the academic community on national security challenges for scientific research
 - How Australia can strengthen and diversify its international scientific collaborations while addressing national security concerns
 - Changes to Australia's Defence Export Controls framework resulting from the new Defence Trade Controls Amendment Act 2024.

- On 18 July 2024, the Governor General signed the [Defence Trade Controls Amendment Commencement Proclamation 2024](#) at the Executive Council meeting, meaning the **Defence Trade Controls Amendment Act 2024** and **Defence Trade Legislation Amendment Regulations 2024** will come into effect on 1 September 2024.

We thank the Go8 for their continued efforts to progress this regime and for the updates provided.

The Group of Eight (Go8) is a coalition of leading Australian research universities, recognised globally for their research output, quality of education, and significant contributions to various academic fields. The Go8 is made up of the University of Sydney, University of Melbourne, Australian National University, University of Queensland, University of Western Australia, University of Adelaide, Monash University, and UNSW Sydney.

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