## Membership Updates – January 2025

## HEECA Annual Conference – 4th & 5th June 2025: Registration Now Open!

This year we are heading to [Unity Place, Milton Keynes](#) as we bring together practitioners from across the sector, alongside UK Government, funders, industry experts, and our international partners (including the U.S., EU, Australia, and Canada), to explore the complexities of the evolving research and economic security landscape.

With engaging panels, interactive Q&As, workshops, and networking opportunities, it's your chance to deepen your knowledge and connect with peers.

**Interested in presenting or speaking on a particular topic as part of the agenda?** Contact us to discuss your ideas and potential contributions.

Please note the full conference agenda, including details of this year's speakers and session topics, will be announced in the coming months.

**Visit our [Events Page](#) for full details and get registering!**

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## Countering Russian Sanctions Evasion - Guidance for Exporters

Earlier this month, **Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU)** published essential guidance to support exporters in identifying Russian circumvention tactics and developing strategies to protect their organisations from being targeted by those attempting to evade sanctions.

The guidance outlines common circumvention methods, key red flag indicators of export control and sanctions evasion, and provides actionable best practices for implementing enhanced due diligence within organisations. It also includes a suite of publicly available, sanctions-oriented screening tools and emphasises the importance of ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance procedures and due diligence frameworks remain robust and effective.

Access the full **NTE 2025/01: Countering Russian Sanctions Evasion Guidance** release [here](#).

As part of these measures where appropriate, organisations may consider including a 'no export to Russia' clause in their contracts. Read the **'No-Russia' clause guidance** released by **Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation (OTSI)** [here](#).

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## Cabinet Office Release NSI Act Notifiable Acquisition Regulations Report

Marking three years since the introduction of the **National Security and Investment Act 2021 (Notifiable Acquisition) (Specification of Qualifying Entities) Regulations 2021 ('the NARs')**, the **Cabinet Office** has released a comprehensive report evaluating the regulations' effectiveness and their ongoing alignment with national security objectives.

Covering the period from 4 January 2022 to 31 March 2024, the report examines key areas such as voluntary notifications, call-ins and their rates, retrospective validation applications, rejected notifications, and offences.

Significantly, the report reveals that 'academic research and development in higher education' accounted for the **highest number of voluntary notification call-ins, with 18 instances** (14.6% of total call-ins or 48.6% of call-ins arising from voluntary notifications), highlighting the sector's critical role in national security considerations and reinforcing the importance of maintaining awareness of regulatory requirements in this vital area.

**Read the full GOV.UK report [here](#).**

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## HEECA ECJU LITE Working Group – Members Required

Following the ECJU-led online launch meeting earlier this month, users from across the HE sector provided valuable feedback on the new LITE export control system. In response, ECJU is keen to collaborate more closely with HEECA LITE users to explore system-led improvements and enhance the overall user experience.

We're looking for committee members to join a new **HEECA-LITE working group**, which will meet online on a monthly basis to discuss potential improvements and  fixes, feeding into the ECJU team via subsequent sessions. Findings from this collaborative effort will be showcased at this year's HEECA Annual Conference.

If you're interested in participating, please [get in contact with us](#) quoting 'HEECA-LITE Working Group' in the subject.

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## Enhancing Trusted Research Awareness at the University of Manchester

The **University of Manchester** recently conducted two successful roundtable exercises at the **Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC)** and the **Henry Royce Institute**, bringing together 30-40 participants from various roles including students, technicians, researchers, and senior leaders.

Facilitated by members of the University's Regulatory Compliance Team and supported by representatives from several government departments (**RCAT**, **NPSA**, **NCSC**, and **ECJU**), the roundtables aimed to explore considerations related to research security and Trusted Research principles.

Using scenarios provided by the **National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)**, the content was tailored to reflect the unique research areas and vocabulary used within the GEIC and the Royce Institute.

Following the sessions, feedback from participants indicated a significant increase in awareness and understanding of these topics, with many expressing a desire for longer discussions. The positive response has encouraged other departments to pursue similar initiatives, highlighting the value of fostering awareness of research security across the organisation.

*With thanks to Irene Barinaga-Rementeria Ramirez and the University of Manchester.*

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## Exploring Third-Party Screening: E2Open RPS

With increasing pressures on institutions to strengthen due diligence and compliance, many are exploring third-party tools to support their processes. To help navigate these options, HEECA is continuing to explore collaborations with commercial companies to inform the sector about the diverse range of solutions available, and is now engaging with **E2Open** to assess community interest in the E2Open [Restricted Party Screening (RPS) solution](#).

E2Open's Global Trade Management Restricted Party Screening enables:
- **Continuous partner monitoring** of collaborators across **880+ global denied party lists** (sanctions, ownership, embargoes, greylists etc.)
- **Ad-hoc screening** for one-off risk assessments
- **Alerts for compliance risks**, notifying institutions if an approved collaborator appears on restricted lists

Recognising the financial constraints facing the sector, HEECA is introducing a proportional access model, enabling universities to trial the platform while only paying for the level of activity they need. Through a HEECA-led structure, institutions receive dedicated user access, ensuring that institutional data remains securely managed at the organisational level.

**If your institution is interested in learning more, please [get in touch](#)!**

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## Wassenaar Arrangement – Annual Plenary Meeting 2024: Statement from Chair

The **Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)** is a multilateral export control regime aimed at promoting international security by encouraging responsible export controls on conventional arms and dual-use technologies among its 42 Participating States.

On 5th December 2024, the 28th Plenary meeting was held – the WA Plenary is the decision-making body of the Arrangement, composing of representatives of all Participating States.

The WA updated its Control Lists, reflecting technological advances and security concerns, including new controls on sub-orbital spacecraft and additive manufacturing technologies.

Members shared experiences in national export control implementation, including with respect to licensing and enforcement practices, addressed destabilising arms flows, and maintained dialogue with key export control regimes.

**Read the 2024 Statement from Chair [here](#).**

**Additional links:**
[Summary of Changes (2023 to 2024)](#)
[List of Dual-use Goods and Technologies and Munitions List](#)

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## AUS Government Release 'Countering Foreign Interference' Guidance

The Australian Government [Department for Home Affairs](#) has recently released a new guide, "Countering Foreign Interference in Australia: Working Together Towards a More Secure Australia," addressing the threat of foreign interference, which undermines the nation's sovereignty, democracy, and national interests.

It explains what foreign interference is, how it manifests, and its adaptive nature. The guide identifies sectors most at risk, including communities, democratic institutions, higher education and research, industry, and media. It also provides contact points for reporting suspected interference, emphasising the importance of collaboration between government, industry, and individuals to safeguard Australia's security.

**Check out the release [here](#).**

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## University of Delaware Failed to Disclose Professor's Foreign Government Ties

The University of Delaware (UD) has agreed to pay $715,580 to resolve allegations of failing to disclose a professor's affiliations with the government for the People's Republic of China (PRC) while applying for U.S. federal research funding, highlighting the importance of transparency in federal grant applications.

The case relates to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) grant awarded in 2020, with allegations that UD caused NASA to breach laws prohibiting collaboration with China – U.S. federal law has prohibited NASA from using funds to collaborate with China or any Chinese-owned companies since 2011 – by not disclosing the professor's previous employment at a Chinese university, participation in a programme established by the Chinese government to recruit individuals with knowledge or access to foreign technology intellectual property, and a Chinese research grant.

**Read the full release published by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [here](#).**

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## China Ministry of Commerce Announces Increased Controls on Exports of Relevant Dual-Use Items to the U.S.

On 3rd December 2024, China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) issued new export restrictions, including a ban on gallium, germanium, antimony, and superhard materials to the U.S., alongside tighter export controls on dual-use graphite materials.

This development follows the announcement from **U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)** on 2nd December of updated U.S. export controls and sanctions targeting advanced microchips and semiconductor manufacturing equipment sales to China.

For further details, access the formal MOFCOM notice here, or access the English Translation by **U.S. Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET)** here.

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## NEW Vacancies

**Trusted Research Assurance Manager**
University of Surrey
Closing date of the vacancy: 23.59 hours GMT - Sun 02 February 2025
**Apply now**

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