

Membership Updates – September 2024

Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) Annual Symposium – 60 Spaces Remaining!

If you are a UK HE institution navigating the complexities of the everchanging export control landscape, ECJU invites you to join their annual Symposium in London on 15th October.

The event will feature a plenary session led by the Senior Leadership team, discussing ECJU's strategy, changes, and performance. Attendees can choose workshops, with topics ranging from the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria and the Form 680 process, to practical guidance on making licence applications and understanding enforcement actions by HMRC. Other sessions expect to cover compliance strategies and updates on U.S. Export Controls.

Access the [ECJU events calendar](#) for further details on how to register.

Security Subgroup – Initial Work Kicks Off!

The Security Subgroup which now consists of **MOD, DSTL, NPSA, NPL** and **7 HEIs** reconvened in September and will meet on a bi-monthly basis going forward. Members discussed and prioritised future subgroup activities, informed by community perspectives from the introduction workshops held at the HEECA Annual Conference in June 2024.

The need for greater understanding and knowledge sharing on requirements for security clearances across the HE sector will be tackled through a roadmap of subgroup outputs, initially through enhanced online signposting on the HEECA website and the development of user-friendly resources. We look forward to being able to update the wider HEECA community as progress is made.

Applying for a SIEL – ECJU LITE Service: Registration Available

The **Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU)** is launching the first service on its new online system, LITE. The new service enables users to apply for a Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL), replacing the current SPIRE system.

Exporters are encouraged to register on the LITE system using the [SIEL Registration](#) page.

For further guidance (including details of exceptions), visit the [GOV.UK SIEL Guidance](#), or access the [Notice to Exporters 2024/25](#).

AUKUS Update – ITAR Exemption Now in Effect

Effective 1st September, the U.S. International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) exemption for the UK and Australia has been implemented, following the U.S. Department of State's determination that the respective national export control systems are comparable to that of the United States.

This exemption is set to enhance defence trade within the trilateral partnership, enabling billions in secure, licence-free defence commerce. It aims to maximise the innovative potential of the defence industries in all three nations.

Access the **U.S. Department of State** ITAR Exemption [Fact Sheet](#).

ASPI Critical Technology Tracker: Major Two-Decade Expansion Launched

The **Australian Strategic Policy Institute** has significantly expanded its Critical Technology Tracker, now covering 64 critical technologies across sectors like defence, space, energy, environment, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, robotics, cybersecurity, computing, advanced materials, and quantum technologies.

Originally launched in March 2023, the recent expansion extends the ASPI dataset from five years (2018–2022) to a comprehensive 21 years (2003–2023), providing a leading indicator of a country's research performance, strategic intent and potential future science and technology capability.

Explore the [updated tracker](#), or access the full details of the [project](#).

NCSC Release Joint Cybersecurity Advisory to Counter China-Linked Cyber Threat

On 18th September, the **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)** – a part of **GCHQ** – released a new joint advisory, alongside Five Eyes partners in the United States, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

The advisory revealed how a China-based company, with links to the Chinese government, created a botnet – a network of internet-connected devices infected with malware and controlled by a group to conduct coordinated cyber-attacks without the owners' knowledge – comprising over 260,000 compromised devices worldwide.

View the [release](#) on the NCSC website, or access the [Co-Authored Advisory](#) in full, which includes technical details and key mitigation advice for organisations.

Ireland – Control of Exports Act 2023

The Control of Export Act 2023 came into effect in Ireland on 22nd August, replacing the 2008 Act. Exporters are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the updated provisions to ensure full compliance.

The new legislation modernises and reinforces the regulation of dual-use and military item exports, streamlining Ireland's export control framework. While the Act introduces important updates, the day-to-day operational practices for exporters are expected to remain largely unchanged.

Access the [ROI Government Legislation](#), or view the [Export Control information](#) page on the **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment** website.

U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center: Safeguarding Our Future Series

This summer saw the release of the latest brief to join the **Safeguarding Our Future** series – an unclassified set of bulletins published by the **U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center**, which highlight key foreign intelligence threats, their potential warning signs, recommended mitigation steps, and guidance on where to report incidents.

The bulletins set out to address critical topics such as protecting U.S. emerging technology companies from foreign investment by threat actors, the risks around the growing use of virtual telework platforms, and safeguarding our military expertise, with the latter being a joint release alongside the **UK Ministry of Defence** and other Five Eyes partners earlier this year.

View the '[Safeguarding Our Innovation](#)' Bulletin, or access the [full series](#).

U.S. DOD Announce Updates to 'Academic Institutions of Concern' List

The **U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)** has published the FY 2023 update to the list of foreign institutions involved in activities deemed problematic, while reaffirming the FY22 list of foreign talent programmes that pose national security risks.

The DoD advises researchers, academic institutions, and industry partners to exercise caution when engaging with any institutions included on these lists.

Access the [release](#) on the DoD website, or view the published list [here](#).

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