

September 2025

Monthly Membership Update



Welcome to the latest edition of the HEECA monthly newsletter, bringing you key updates and insights to keep you abreast of national and international developments in research and economic security.

This Month's Highlights

Help Shape HEECA's Next Chapter - Have Your Say!

ECJU Export Control and Sanctions Annual Symposium 2025 - Spaces Remain!

New HEECA Sub-Group: The National Security & Investment (NSI) Sub-Group

2025 Update to EU Control List of Dual-Use Items

Science Diplomacy Grid: OSINT for Research Security

ISDP: Swedish Perspectives on Research and Innovation Security

New DAAD Checklist To Support Knowledge Security in International Cooperation

U.S. DDTC Announces Amendments to ITAR & the U.S. Munitions List

New Vacancies

UK & RoI



Help Shape HEECA's Next Chapter - Have Your Say!

We are setting our direction for the next 3-5 years and we want our members' voices at the heart of that process. **To make sure our plans reflect your priorities, we've put together a short survey with just four questions about what matters most to you** and how we can best support your work.

At the end of October, the HEECA Secretariat will be holding a dedicated strategy day to look at our priorities, explore new opportunities and consider where we go next - the feedback you share will feed directly into those conversations and play a key role in shaping the choices we make.

By taking just a few minutes to respond, you'll help us build a strategy that not only guides HEECA's future but also **delivers real value for you** and the wider community!



ECJU Export Control and Sanctions Annual Symposium 2025 – Spaces Remain!

If you are a UK HE institution navigating the complexities of the everchanging export control landscape, the [Export Control Joint Unit \(ECJU\)](#) invites you to join their annual **Export Control and Sanctions Symposium** in London on **15th October**.

The event will feature a plenary session led by the Senior Leadership team, discussing ECJU's strategy, priorities and performance. Attendees will then be able to select from a range of workshops, with topics ranging from the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria and the Form 680 process, to practical guidance on making LITE applications and understanding enforcement actions with HMRC. Other sessions expect to cover practical advice on sanctions due diligence and countering circumvention with OTSI, with additional workshops also covering U.S. Export Control and updates on recent developments and trends affecting the UK.

Access the **ECJU events calendar** for further details on how to register.



New HEECA Sub-group: The National Security & Investment (NSI) Sub-Group

A number of institutions have proposed the formation of a **new HEECA Sub-group** to examine HEI obligations under the [National Security and Investment \(NSI\) Act](#), focusing on identifying best practice and developing process-related guidance to support the sector.

We invite members of HEECA (along with relevant colleagues from their institutions), to take part. Terms of Reference have been drafted and will be shared with those wishing to explore involvement.

To express an interest, please get in touch here! This will help us gauge the scale of interest and enable direct engagement with participants to shape the next steps.

The NSI Subgroup will be the third HEECA Sub-group, each of which feed into the main Secretariat, continuing to inform our ongoing priorities. The expected commitment is one meeting per month, with parallel activities depending on individual capacity.



International



2025 Update to EU Control List of Dual-Use Items

The European Commission has published the **2025 update to the EU dual-use export control list**, with changes set to apply from November following the standard two-month scrutiny period by the Council and the European Parliament. The revision aligns EU rules with decisions taken in 2024 under multilateral export control regimes, ensuring uniform implementation across Member States and supporting a global level playing field.

The update expands controls in areas of growing strategic importance, including additional entries for **quantum technologies**, alongside **semiconductor manufacturing** and **testing equipment**. Further additions cover **advanced computing**, **high-temperature coatings**, **additive manufacturing** and **peptide synthesizers**. By reflecting evolving technologies with potential military applications, the updated list aims to strengthen EU oversight of dual-use exports while supporting responsible international trade.



Science Diplomacy Grid: OSINT for Research Security

The [Science Diplomacy Grid](#) has released a new piece underlining the importance of open-source intelligence (OSINT) in research security. It stresses that as global research environments grow more complex, the ability to assess risk through publicly available information has become a core institutional need. Effective OSINT depends less on expensive software and more on sound analytical practice, critical judgement and collaboration across institutions.

The publication points to a [suite of freely available resources](#) that can support investigations, including advanced search operators, domain and IP lookups, foreign-language queries, archival databases and company registries. It notes the value of government watchlists and academic publication databases, while also advising on operational security to protect both investigators and institutions.

By emphasising accessible tools and disciplined methods, the Grid encourages organisations to **embed OSINT into shared practice** as part of a stronger collective research security system.



ISDP: Swedish Perspectives on Research and Innovation Security

The [Institute for Security and Development Policy \(ISDP\)](#) has opened its new **Research and Innovation Series** with a webinar examining Swedish perspectives on research and innovation security. Organised by the [Stockholm Center for Research and Innovation Security](#), the event explored how Sweden balances technological openness with security awareness and how smaller democracies can maintain autonomy while contributing to collective security.

Discussion points included strengthening technological sovereignty without undermining international cooperation, the role of trade policy and EU funding mechanisms and how public-private partnerships can support secure innovation. Speakers also considered measures to protect universities and research hubs from foreign influence while safeguarding academic freedom.

A recording of the webinar is available now to access on the [ISDP Youtube channel!](#)



New DAAD Checklist To Support Knowledge Security in International Cooperation

The [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#) has introduced a new tool to support knowledge security in international research collaboration. Its **KIWi Knowledge Security Checklist**, published earlier this month, provides researchers and universities with a structured framework for assessing potential risks in partnerships and projects. The checklist marks the first step in developing a broader knowledge security section within the DAAD [Centre for International Academic Cooperation \(KIWi\)](#), which will expand resources and guidance for institutions.

The document is currently available only in German, but an English version will follow shortly. **We will notify HEECA members once the translation is accessible.** By launching this initiative, DAAD aims to help universities manage security concerns more systematically while maintaining openness in international academic cooperation.



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We are on [LinkedIn](#). To help grow our page and the wider HEECA network, follow us and keep up to date with the latest news and events!



U.S. DDTC Announces Amendments to ITAR & the U.S. Munitions List

The U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) has issued expansive amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), marking a shift after more than a decade of contraction under Export Control Reform. The changes, which took effect on 15 September, revise 15 of the 21 categories of the **U.S. Munitions List (USML)**, expand its scope and signal further additions in the future.

A notable development is the broader use of Category XXI, a rarely invoked provision now central to expanding USML coverage. The amendments also introduce a new licence exemption framework for defence articles with civilian applications, including a specific exemption for certain large unmanned underwater vehicles.

Overall, the revisions reflect an expansion of ITAR coverage across a wider range of technologies and categories, with further changes likely to follow.



NEW VACANCIES

No vacancies this month, but check back next time.

Have a vacancy you'd like us to feature? [Get in touch!](#)

[End of updates.]

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