

# Monthly Membership Update

**End of Year Wrap-Up 2025**  
Extended Edition



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

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## UK & RoI



### HEECA-NPSA Trusted Research eLearning Initiative - Progress Update

Following the launch earlier this year of the HEECA and NPSA Trusted Research eLearning initiative, the scoping phase has now concluded. Outputs from the sector-wide consultation and engagement with a range of wider stakeholder groups have been compiled and are being used to inform the ongoing design of the course. This input has helped to solidify key needs and priorities across the community, ensuring the resource is relevant and practical.

The HEECA TREAT subgroup is leading the way on development of the learning content, working with partners to align the material with existing assets, after establishing clear intended learning objectives.

**A Beta version of the eLearning is planned for launch in Q1 2026 and further opportunities for members to engage with and continue to shape the Beta phase will be shared in the new year!**

## Notice to Exporters 2025/30: Updates to Export Control Regulations

The recent **Notice to Exporters 2025/30** sets out updates to UK export control regulations, reflecting ongoing changes to policy, legislation and international obligations. The notice highlights amendments made through secondary legislation, including updates to relevant schedules and the UK Strategic Export Control Lists. These changes are intended to clarify existing requirements, reflect agreed international regime updates and support continued alignment with sanctions and national security priorities.

Organisations are encouraged to review the notice carefully to assess whether the changes have implications for existing or planned activities. This includes considering potential impacts on licence scope, classification decisions, compliance procedures and internal controls. The notice also reinforces the importance of maintaining accurate records and ensuring that staff with export control responsibilities remain informed of regulatory updates. Access the Notice for further information.



## Shaping Future UK-China Scientific Collaboration

The 11th UK-China Joint Commission Meeting on science and technology took place in Beijing on 11 November, reaffirming the long-standing forum for reviewing priorities in bilateral research cooperation. Co-chaired by Vice-Minister Chen Jiachang and UK Minister Lord Vallance, the meeting brought together government and research representatives to assess current collaboration and set shared priorities for the future. Both sides acknowledged the importance of secure, reciprocal and transparent partnerships, and the need for research to comply with domestic legislation and international obligations.

Workshops held in advance of the JCM examined data and intellectual property, climate research, and health. Ministers discussed potential cooperation on a UK-China 'Flagship Challenge' for climate research and reaffirmed support for collaboration between UKRI and China's National Natural Science Foundation. Future joint work will focus on climate and environment, planetary sciences, health, and agriculture and food research, while noting that some areas remain out of scope due to national security requirements. Read the full joint statement on the GOV.UK website.



## International



## EC Announces Strategic Approach to Strengthen Europe's Economic Security

On 3rd December, the European Commission published a Joint Communication setting out a strengthened EU approach to economic security. Building on the EU's 2023 Economic Security Strategy, the release outlines steps to reinforce resilience against external economic risks while maintaining openness to international trade and investment. It emphasises a more proactive and coordinated use of existing tools to protect European interests, reduce strategic dependencies and safeguard leadership in critical technologies.

Priority areas include securing supply chains, protecting sensitive data and infrastructure, attracting safe investment and supporting key industrial sectors. The Communication also highlights improved risk assessment, information sharing and closer engagement with Member States and businesses. Check out the full release.



## HEECA at the 3rd Global Erlangen Initiative

The third global Erlangen Initiative took place recently, hosted by Germany's Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

In keeping with the Initiative's focus on dialogue for effective approaches to implementing the UN's Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) "Academia & Compliance - Principles, Tools and Processes", this year's meeting explored the convergence between export controls and research security. Discussions examined shared challenges and differing national practices, with particular attention to the role of Internal Compliance Programmes (ICPs) in supporting secure and responsible research activities.

Representing HEECA, HESF and The University of Manchester, Irene Barinaga-Rementeria Ramirez delivered a key presentation on ICPs for research security and showcased HEECA's international impact, reinforcing its position as a thought leader in this critical area.

## ASPI Release 'In Whose Tech We Trust: Part II - Mitigating Foreign Owned, Controlled or Influenced Technology Risks and Building Resilience' Report

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) has recently published **In Whose Tech We Trust? Part II**, a report examining how governments can better manage national security risks linked to foreign-owned, controlled or influenced technology suppliers. The report focuses on the growing role of technology in critical national systems and the challenges this creates for resilience, assurance and trust.

Building on earlier comparative research across Australia, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea, the report analyses how different countries assess vendor risk and apply mitigation measures. It proposes practical policy options and decision-making frameworks to support more consistent and proportionate approaches. A key contribution is the introduction of a tiered trust taxonomy, which aligns supplier access to system sensitivity and assurance requirements. The report is intended to support policymakers and industry in balancing security concerns with continued access to global technology markets. Access the full report.



## ASPI Critical Technology Tracker - New Update Released

ASPI has released an update to its Critical Technology Tracker, including the addition of **10 new technologies** and refreshed assessments across the existing dataset. The Tracker provides comparative analysis of research performance and leadership across a range of critical and emerging technologies, drawing on open-source data to assess countries' relative strengths and trajectories.

The 2025 update expands the scope of the Tracker to reflect technological developments and areas of growing strategic importance. It continues to assess long-term trends in high-impact research, highlighting shifts in global competition and the concentration of research capabilities. The findings are intended to support policymakers, research organisations and industry alike, by providing an evidence base to inform strategic decision making, investment and collaboration choices. Check out the release report.



### Disclaimer:

This newsletter is compiled using publicly available information from news outlets, social media and government websites. While we strive to ensure accuracy and use reputable sources, we do not endorse any specific media and we are not responsible for the reliability of external information. Links to original sources are provided, but their content does not necessarily reflect the views of HEECA or any member institution. We are not liable for any errors, omissions, or actions taken based on this information. Readers should verify details independently.



# 2025 Highlights

As we look back over the past year, we're reflecting on the moments and milestones that shaped 2025.



## In Numbers

Our year at a glance: the key figures that capture our collective activity in 2025.

**675+**

total participant  
engagements across  
activities in 2025

**25,000+**

users engaged on  
the Export Control  
eLearning

**9**

HEECA showcased at  
major national &  
international events

**400+**

individual members  
represented

**150+**

organisations  
making up our  
HEECA community

**5**

New collaborative  
initiatives launched

## A Special Thanks to Some Outstanding 2025 Contributors

We would also like to offer an extra special thank you to three member organisations whose contributions have been particularly noteworthy this year, while extending our appreciation to all members and collaborators for their continued support:



### University of Liverpool

For providing valuable first-hand insights into the NSI notification and call-in process as the first university to undergo it, delivered through a transparent and meticulously prepared contribution to our HEECA 2025 conference.

### University of Leeds

For developing and sharing their comprehensive internal compliance management architecture for export licences, and for enabling HEECA to collaborate in extending this resource across the sector.

### Imperial College London

For leading the development of the core case studies for the HEECA-ECJU training pilot, producing diverse and relatable examples that enhanced the programme and underpinned the group work component of the course.



As we approach the end of another busy and productive year, we want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to all our members. Your involvement, enthusiasm and ongoing support have been central to everything we've achieved together in 2025. Whether you participated in events, contributed behind the scenes, shared your expertise, or simply stayed connected, every effort has helped strengthen our HEECA community.

This time of year is a chance to pause, reflect and celebrate the progress we've made not just in our collective goals, but in the relationships, conversations and collaborations that make this group what it is. We are truly grateful for the dedication and spirit you bring.

As we head into the festive season, we wish each of you a safe, happy and restful break. May the coming weeks give you space to unwind, recharge and enjoy memorable moments with loved ones.

Thank you once again for being part of our community. We look forward to returning in the new year with fresh energy and new opportunities to continue growing together.

Warmest wishes,  
the HEECA Secretariat



## Festive Fun (Bonus)

To round off the year, here's a little something extra to lift the festive spirit!

### Make Your Own: Signature HEECA 2025 Conference Drinks!

#### The HEECA-tini

- 50ml Gin
- 20ml Blue Curacao
- 12.5ml Vanilla Syrup
- 12.5ml Lavender syrup
- Topped with Prosecco
- A sprinkle of silver edible glitter

#### The HEECA-tini Mocktail

- 50ml Non-alcoholic American whiskey/Bourbon malt
- 20ml Blue Curacao Syrup
- 12.5ml Lavender Syrup
- Topped with Lemonade
- A sprinkle of silver edible glitter



### Christmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

- A. Germany
- B. Norway
- C. Finland
- D. Austria

2. In "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many gifts are given in total?

- A. 144
- B. 364
- C. 288
- D. 212

3. What is the name of the period between Christmas and New Year often jokingly called?

- A. The Lost Week
- B. The Holiday Gap
- C. Twixtmas
- D. The Festive Fog

4. Which popular Christmas drink is also known as "milk punch"?

- A. Eggnog
- B. Advocaat
- C. Brandy Alexander
- D. Hot buttered rum

5. Which reindeer's name begins with a 'B'?



Answers: 1 - A, 2 - B, 3 - C, 4 - A, 5 - B/itzen