



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**May 18, 2022**

## **CONGRESS KICK OFFS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON BIPARTISAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITION LEGISLATION**

*Holly Fechner and Eric Chung | Global Policy Watch | May 16, 2022*

Congress launched the Conference Committee on Bipartisan Innovation and Competition Legislation last week with a four-hour meeting featuring remarks by nearly one-hundred committee chairs and members from both chambers of Congress. Chaired by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), the Conference Committee's objective is to reconcile differences between the United States Innovation and Competition Act ("USICA"), which passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 68–32 in June 2021, and the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act ("America COMPETES Act"), which passed the House by a partisan vote of 222–210 in February 2022. The kick-off meeting suggested that this objective is attainable, but by no means guaranteed. On display was broad consensus that the United States is not doing enough to spur innovation and remain competitive around the world, and that legislation is needed in support of those goals. Chair Cantwell opened the conference by recognizing that this is a "historic day" with a supply chain crisis and that this is a "Sputnik moment." A bicameral and bipartisan chorus, including Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Roger Wicker (R-MS), House Science Committee Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), and House Science Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) echoed her optimism and urgency.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **WHITE HOUSE SOUNDS ALARM ON THREAT FROM QUANTUM COMPUTERS**

*Patrick Tucker | Defense One | May 4, 2022*

Hoping to move the world to better encryption before quantum-powered codebreaking tools arrive, the White House on Wednesday ordered federal agencies to ponder their security protocols and to jumpstart efforts to work with industry on new ones. "Current research shows that at some point in the not-too-distant future, when quantum information science matures, quantum computers...will be capable of breaking much of the cryptography that currently secures our digital communication," a senior White House official told reporters on Tuesday. Much of the security encryption that operates in the background of digital life works essentially like combination locks. Just as you can open a combination lock if you have the patience to try all the possible combinations, so you can crack modern encryption if you have enough computing power and time—but in some cases, that means thousands of years. Quantum computers, however, work fundamentally differently than conventional computers.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## COCA-COLA CHEMIST GETS 14 YEARS FOR PASSING CAN SECRETS TO CHINA

Kyle Jahner | Bloomberg Law | May 10, 2022

A chemist who worked at Coca-Cola Co. was sentenced Monday to 14 years in prison for stealing trade secrets related to a BPA-free coating for the inside of cans and passing them to a Chinese company. Xiaorong You, a Pennsylvania woman also known as Shannon You, was convicted by a Tennessee jury in April 2021 of stealing eight trade secrets owned by various entities, economic espionage, and wire fraud. She sold the stolen confidential information to Weihai Jinhong Group, which was backed by the Chinese government's Thousand Talents program to recruit leading experts in research and innovation. Evidence showed that You, who has a Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering, intended to benefit not only Weihai Jinhong Group but its city Weihai, its province Shandong, and the Chinese Communist party, according to the release. The Thousand Talents program, launched in 2008, has been implicated in various cases of intellectual property theft from US companies and research institutions. The trade secrets in this case—owned by companies including Dow Chemical Co., PPG Industries Inc., Sherwin-Williams Co. and Eastman Chemical Co.—collectively cost about \$120 million to develop, according to the indictment in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. You gained access to the proprietary information on various chemicals, formulas, and processes through work at Coca-Cola in Atlanta and Eastman in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## WHITE HOUSE CYBER OFFICIAL: U.S. BEATING CHINA IN RACE TO QUANTUM SUPREMACY

Suzanne Smalley | CyberScoop | May 16, 2022

A senior White House official overseeing cybersecurity said Monday that the U.S. is ahead of China in the dash to achieve quantum supremacy thanks to the "huge competitive advantage" conferred by the collaborative nature of American science and industry. Quantum computing is a topic of discussion in the annals of power because quantum computers might be able to break encryption, including that protecting highly sensitive government data. The first country to produce functional quantum computers will claim a major strategic advantage in a variety of fields and especially in defense and cybersecurity, experts say. The United States is in a "generally favorable position vis-à-vis China" in the race to win on quantum computing, according to the National Security Council's Director for Cyber and Emerging Tech Policy Jonah Force Hill, who made the remarks at an event hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "China, they do not have that same sort of broad coalition working together that we do," Hill said.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA COMPETITIVENESS BILL FACES HURDLES AS TIME RUNS SHORT

John D. McKinnon and Yuka Hayashi | The Wall Street Journal | May 16, 2022

Disagreements over legislation designed to boost U.S. competitiveness against China are clouding its prospects in Congress, as lawmakers enter a period of make-or-break negotiations. Many lawmakers say the sprawling, complex package—which even includes a section on kitchen sinks—remains likely to pass this year. But squabbles are emerging over proposed national-security reviews of outbound U.S. foreign investments; waivers of tariffs on Chinese imports; and curbs on the sale of counterfeit goods online, among other provisions.

Read the full article [here](#).



# HOW CHINA'S HUMAN CAPITAL IMPACTS ITS NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Briana Boland and Jude Blanchette | Center for Strategic and International Studies | May 16, 2022

According to the World Bank, human capital “consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people invest in and accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society.” Investments in human capital are a major driver of growth for modern economies and the foundation of national capacity to support key technology industries and unlock new scientific discoveries. China’s ability to cultivate, attract, and retain human capital—or as Beijing more commonly puts it, national “talent”—will shape its competitiveness vis-à-vis the United States as a global power and impact the future of innovation and talent on the world stage. As Chinese leader Xi Jinping has stated, “talent is a strategic resource to achieve national revitalization and win the initiative in international competition.” China’s massive population provides a foundational advantage in the supply of talent. The country’s rapid economic growth in recent decades can be directly linked to its mobilization of human capital, as China’s shift from an agrarian base to more productive industry and services sectors was enabled by a growing share of the population attaining higher education levels and entering the workforce.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## EXCLUSIVE: CONGRESS URGED TO EASE IMMIGRATION FOR FOREIGN SCIENCE TALENT

Alison Snyder and Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian | Axios | May 9, 2022

More than four dozen former national security leaders are calling on Congress to exempt international advanced technical degree holders from green card caps in a bid to maintain U.S. science and tech leadership, especially over China, according to a copy of a letter viewed by Axios. The breadth of signatories suggests widespread concern about China's rise could bolster bipartisan support for change in one corner of the otherwise politically charged issue of immigration policy. China competition bills passed in the last year by the House and Senate seek to pour money into the National Science Foundation and other federal research agencies. They also seek to incentivize high-tech companies, especially those that manufacture semiconductors, to build facilities in the U.S. The America COMPETES Act passed by the Democrat-led House includes a provision to exempt foreign-born science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) doctoral degree recipients from green card caps. The exemption would be offered whether their degree is from a U.S. or foreign institution.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CISA, OTHER CYBER AUTHORITIES ISSUE MSP ADVISORY

Loren Blinde | Intelligence Community News | May 12, 2022

On May 11, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in partnership with the United Kingdom’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-UK), Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS), New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre (NZ NCSC), National Security Agency (NSA), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released an advisory with cybersecurity best practices for information and communications technology (ICT), focusing on enabling transparent discussions between managed service providers (MSPs) and their customers on securing sensitive data. CISA, NCSC-UK, ACSC, CCCS, NZ-NCSC, NSA, and FBI expect state-sponsored advanced persistent threat (APT) groups and other malicious cyber actors to increase their targeting of MSPs against both provider and customer networks. The advisory provides several actions that organizations can take to reduce their risk of becoming a victim to malicious cyber activity.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE UK – REF**

*Nic Mitchell | University World News | May 13, 2022*

Results from the United Kingdom's 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) are in – almost a year after they were due to be published because of COVID-related disruptions to the process of assessing research outputs from 76,132 academics – up 46% from the 52,000 in 2014. Rules were changed for the latest nationwide peer-review exercise of UK research excellence to avoid 'gaming' by universities which could last time select which researchers to enter. The latest exercise required all research-active academics to enter at least one piece of research for evaluation by expert panels. Institutions outside London and South East of England made major gains – with the rankers quick to produce league tables of winners. Overall, 41% of outputs were deemed world-leading (or 4\*) by assessment panels and 43% were judged internationally excellent (or 3\*). In the 2014 assessment, 30% of research achieved a 4\* rating, with 46% judged to be 3\*.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **STACY BOSTJANICK: DOD COULD RELEASE CMMC INTERIM RULE NEXT YEAR**

*Summer Myatt | GovCon Wire | May 10, 2022*

The Department of Defense is eyeing another interim rule for its Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program in May 2023. Currently, the department is in the process of updating its Code of Federal Regulations to include the program's most recent update, CMMC 2.0, which was launched in November 2021 after an internal review. The rule is expected to be available for public comment in March 2023, and DOD officials say CMMC might start to be included in contracts as soon as that summer. However, there is still a lengthy rulemaking process to go through before CMMC can be implemented, according to Stacy Bostjanick, director of CMMC policy at DOD's Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. "Once we get through this rulemaking process, we hope there will be only one more aspect that we'll have to address and that will be the international partners," Bostjanick said during an AFCEA event in April 2022. "That will probably take some rulemaking effort. We're working through how that's going to work in getting that laid flat today."

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **CHINA SIPHONING OVERSEAS TALENT UNDER STEALTHY 'GLOBAL RECRUITMENT STRATEGY' TO REPLACE AMERICAN WORLD LEADERSHIP**

*Shanghai News | May 14, 2022*

Beijing [China], May 14 (ANI): China has been involved in poaching and siphoning talent from the West, a so-called "global recruitment strategy", to produce faster results in strengthening the country's economy and workforce and aggressively replace America's global leadership. The grave danger of Chinese President Xi Jinping's strategy aims to reshape the global talent recruitment and retention landscape to achieve its ultimate goal of world dominance, reported The Hill. If China succeeds, talent recruited from the US and other Western countries will provide not only a sustained technology transfer but also disruptive innovations that will enable China to surpass the US economically, technologically, and militarily. In view of this, the US must be cautious of this Chinese strategy and the Joe Biden administration should formulate a more effective talent strategy, including adopting a more targeted immigration policy that appeals to the world's best and brightest minds. This strategy has been in place for a long time.

Read the full article [here](#).



## THREE MAJOR UNIVERSITIES QUIT INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Yojana Sharma | University World News | May 11, 2022

After years of receiving extra government funding to push selected top universities up international university rankings, three major Chinese universities will no longer participate in overseas rankings – a move which academics say could make the rankings landscape less globally representative as Chinese universities pursue a different path. The three prestigious universities, Renmin University of China, Nanjing University and Lanzhou University have withdrawn from “all international university rankings” according to Chinese official media this week, with official sources pointing to a focus on “educational autonomy” and “education with Chinese characteristics”. Renmin University, one of China’s top 10 universities, was the first to announce it would not participate in overseas rankings, as reported by China National Radio (CNR) and China Daily earlier this week.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## OH GREAT, HACKERS FOUND A NEW WAY TO SNEAK MALWARE INTO YOUR COMPUTER

Jorge Jimenez | PC Gamer | May 9, 2022

Cybersecurity experts recently discovered a new technique for storing malware on an unsuspecting PC. Used by hackers, it involves slipping malware inside of Windows 11 event logs. To make matters worse, this new technique is designed to make the infection process nearly impossible to detect until it's too late. Researchers at Kaspersky (thanks Bleeping Computer) analyzed a recent sample of the malware on a customer's computer in February of this year. During their analysis, they found that a hacker was able to plant fileless malware into a victim's file system by hiding it away in your Windows events logs. A first, according to Kaspersky. This sophisticated attack injects shellcode payloads into Windows event logs into the KMS (Key Management Services) via a custom malware dropper and basically hides in plain sight. The dropper then loads malicious code by taking advantage of a DLL exploit and hides itself as a copy of a legitimate error file. So, even if you check your event logs, it'll look like nothing out of the ordinary.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## LATAM UNIVERSITIES ‘READY TO COMPETE’ FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Nathan M. Greenfield | University World News | May 9, 2022

Latin American and Caribbean universities should stop promoting themselves as educational tourist destinations and instead highlight the quality of the education they offer, the 2022 NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference was told on 5 May by leading higher education administrators from across Latin America. Dr. Rodrigo Cintra, chief international officer of Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing (ESPM or Higher School of Advertising and Marketing) in São Paulo, Brazil, put the American and European universities that have dominated international education on notice, saying: “We are here to play with you.” The catalyst for this newfound confidence is the educational upheaval caused by the COVID pandemic. Each of the three panelists and the session’s keynote speaker stressed that the pandemic did more than simply accelerate their institutions’ exploitation of online education.

Read the full article [here](#).

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