

June 2026

Monthly Membership Update



Welcome to the latest edition of the HERSA 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

HERSA2026 Conference - Thank You

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ECJU: NTE 2026/14: Announcing the Dual-Use OGEL

New NPSA Cyber Security Standards Comparison Guide

SIPRI Examines the Rise of 'Dual-Use by Design' Research in Europe

U15 Canada Releases 'Safeguarding Research in Canada'

HERSA in Pictures

HERSA2026 Conference - Thank You

A sincere thank you to all delegates, speakers, sponsors and collaborators who contributed to making this year's HERSA Annual Conference such a valuable and engaging event. Over two days, we welcomed **more than 190 delegates** from across higher education, government, industry and international partner organisations to discuss the evolving economic and research security landscape.

Now in its fifth year, **the conference continues to provide a trusted forum for sharing insights, strengthening partnerships and exploring emerging challenges and opportunities across the sector.** The breadth of discussion and expertise on display once again highlighted the importance of collaboration in building a secure and resilient research and innovation ecosystem.

The HERSA post-conference delegate portal will remain available for the next 6 weeks, and all attendees should have received log-in details via email. We encourage delegates to access the conference materials and share feedback to help shape future HERSA activities and events.

As always, we take away a wealth of insight and look forward to carrying this momentum into HERSA 2027 – See you in Bristol on 2nd and 3rd June!

Five Eyes Release Joint Statement: AI is Reshaping Cyber Risk

Leaders of the Five Eyes cyber security agencies, including the **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)**, have issued a joint call for organisations to reassess cyber risk in response to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence.

The statement warns that AI is accelerating the speed, scale, and sophistication of cyber threats, reducing the time between vulnerability discovery and exploitation from years to months. While AI offers significant opportunities to strengthen cyber defences, organisations must recognise that cyber resilience is now a core business responsibility rather than a purely technical concern.

The agencies stress that responding effectively will require a 'whole-of-organisation' and 'whole-of-society' approach, with cyber resilience embedded across people, processes, technology, and leadership.



ECJU: Military End-Use Controls (MEUC) Updated Guidance

The **Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU)** has updated its guidance on Military End-Use Controls (MEUC) to help exporters better understand the scope and application of the regulations. The revised guidance includes updated lists of embargoed destinations, details on the types of exports commonly affected by MEUC, refreshed example scenarios, and additional due diligence and compliance guidance.

The changes are intended to improve awareness of circumstances where otherwise non-controlled goods, software, or technology may become subject to export licensing requirements because of their intended military end use. The updated guidance provides further information on due diligence, compliance considerations, and circumstances in which an export licence may be required.



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ECJU: NTE 2026/14 - Announcing the Dual-Use OGEL

The **Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU)** has introduced a new Open General Export Licence (OGEL) covering an extensive range of dual-use goods, software and technology, to a wider list of global destinations. As well as destinations covered by existing general licences for dual-use goods (including EU member states, the United States, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Canada), this OGEL permits exports to South Korea, Singapore, Chile and Uruguay, and British Overseas Territories.

The new licence will make it easier for UK businesses to export to trusted partners, without the need to apply for individual licences for each shipment. Importers in new destinations will benefit from reduced delays and less administrative burden when sourcing goods from the UK. Covering items ranging from civilian aerospace components to academic research data, the licence will significantly facilitate trade and collaboration between key sectors across the globe.

The licence is expected to support international collaboration and could save exporters from having to submit more than 500 individual licence applications each year.



New NPSA Cyber Security Standards Comparison Guide

The **National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)** has published a new Cyber Security Standards Comparison Guide and accompanying Reference Table to help organisations understand and compare recognised cyber security assurance standards.

The guidance highlights the importance of selecting equipment that has been independently tested against appropriate standards and understanding the level of assurance that testing provides.

For universities and research organisations managing security-related systems, the resources offer a useful reference for assessing cyber security requirements and assurance claims:

- [Cyber Security Standards Comparison Guide](#)
- [Cyber Security Standards Reference Table](#)



SIPRI Examines the Rise of ‘Dual-Use by Design’ Research in Europe

The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has published a new backgrounder, ‘The Growth of Dual-Use by Design Research in Europe: Export Control Risks and Challenges.’

The paper examines how evolving European defence and innovation policies are increasing incentives for research organisations, including universities, to engage in research with potential military applications. SIPRI highlights the implications for export controls, research security and institutional governance, emphasising that existing frameworks may need to adapt to emerging proliferation, diversion and misuse risks.

The report concludes that **export controls will remain important, but should form part of a broader, integrated approach** involving research security measures, funding bodies, policymakers and research organisations themselves. Read the full SIPRI Backgrounder on the SIPRI website.



U15 Canada Releases ‘Safeguarding Research in Canada – A Guide for University Policies and Practices’

U15 Canada has published updated guidance to help universities strengthen research security in response to an evolving geopolitical and threat landscape.

The guidance recognises that while Canada’s research ecosystem depends on openness, international collaboration and the exchange of ideas, it also faces growing risks from intellectual property theft, unauthorised knowledge transfer, cyber threats and vulnerabilities affecting research infrastructure, data, partnerships and people.

Reflecting leading practices already adopted across Canada’s research-intensive universities, the guidance promotes clear governance, robust risk management, due diligence on partnerships, cybersecurity, informed procurement and ongoing awareness activities.

Importantly, it emphasises that safeguarding research is a shared responsibility and that security measures should remain proportionate, evidence-based, and inclusive, preserving the openness and diversity that underpin research excellence.



HERSA in Pictures...

Strengthening International Partnerships

Five HERSA members represented the UK research security community at the Canadian Research Security Conference (CRSC 2026) in Winnipeg, strengthening connections and sharing good practice with Canadian counterparts as part of the first UK-Canada International RS Exchange.



Building a Transatlantic Community of Practice

Following CRSC 2026, five Canadian delegates attended HERSA 2026 as part of the exchange's UK leg. Representatives from HERSA and 'Team Canada' later met at Canada House for a peer-to-peer roundtable, laying the foundations for a stronger long-term bilateral research security partnership.



HERSA2026: Our Best Yet?

Two days of thought-provoking discussions, new connections and valuable insights made this year's conference a memorable one, with many attendees calling it the best HERSA yet.



Celebrating Excellence

The 2026 HERSA Awards recognised individuals and teams whose dedication, leadership and innovation have made a significant contribution to economic and research security. Congratulations to all award recipients.

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