



US Government ‘Strike Force’ to Block Foreign Adversaries From Obtaining Disruptive Technologies

February 21, 2023

The federal government sent another big signal that it’s stepping up efforts to keep cutting-edge, dual-use and military technologies out of the hands of adversarial foreign governments when it announced the launch of the Disruptive Technology Strike Force (DIS-TECH) on February 16, 2023. The strike force, led by the Department of Justice and Department of Commerce, will focus on [“investigating and prosecuting criminal violations of export laws”](#) and leveraging international partnerships to protect American technology in fields such as biosciences, artificial intelligence, semiconductor technologies, supercomputing and quantum computing.

“Our goal is simple but essential – to strike back against adversaries trying to siphon our best technology,” [said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco](#).

Emerging technologies companies should be alert to the government’s focus on export law violations.

“Illegally exporting sensitive technology is not an abstract economic concern – it is a crime with a direct impact on the safety of the American people,” said FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate in the announcement, adding that export crimes also have a negative effect on American businesses.

DIS-TECH will operate in 12 cities across the US and work with the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and multiple US attorney’s offices, according to the announcement. The strike force will use data analytics, intelligence gathering and private-sector partnerships to identify illicit activity, according to the announcement.

The federal government had been signaling plans to step up enforcement efforts in this area. Last year, the Commerce Department announced it was [revamping its own enforcement program](#) by imposing significantly higher penalties for export violations, increasing incentives for companies to voluntarily self-report and eliminating “no admit, no deny” settlements.

This content is provided for general informational purposes only, and your access or use of the content does not create an attorney-client relationship between you or your organization and Cooley LLP, Cooley (UK) LLP, or any other affiliated practice or entity (collectively referred to as “Cooley”). By accessing this content, you agree that the information provided does not constitute legal or other professional advice. This content is not a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a qualified attorney licensed in your jurisdiction and you should not act or refrain from acting based on this content. This content may be changed without notice. It is not guaranteed to be complete, correct or up to date, and it may not reflect the most current legal developments. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Do not send any confidential information to Cooley, as we do not have any duty to keep any information you provide to us confidential. This content may be considered **Attorney Advertising** and is subject to our [legal notices](#).

Key Contacts

Andrew D. Goldstein Washington, DC	agoldstein@cooley.com +1 202 842 7805
Daniel Grooms Washington, DC	dgrooms@cooley.com +1 202 776 2042
John H. Hemann San Francisco	jhemann@cooley.com +1 415 693 2038
Kevin King Washington, DC	kking@cooley.com +1 202 842 7823
Tina Jensen San Diego	tjensen@cooley.com +1 858 550 6163

This information is a general description of the law; it is not intended to provide specific legal advice nor is it intended to create an attorney-client relationship with Cooley LLP. Before taking any action on this information you should seek professional counsel.

Copyright © 2023 Cooley LLP, 3175 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304; Cooley (UK) LLP, 22 Bishopsgate, London, UK EC2N 4BQ. Permission is granted to make and redistribute, without charge, copies of this entire document provided that such copies are complete and unaltered and identify Cooley LLP as the author. All other rights reserved.