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[Eztevez Asks Hill for Funds to Meet Workload](#)

Notwithstanding a doubled caseload, antiquated systems, and flat budget for the past ten years, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) has been keeping pace, Undersecretary for Industry and Security Alan Estevez told a congressional panel Wednesday.

"BIS has been asked to do more in an era of strategic competition where economic statecraft is increasingly central to U.S. interests and strategy. We have risen to every challenge that we have been asked to take on." [READ MORE](#)

[Automatic EAR Restrictions for Sanctioned Parties](#)

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) released a final rule to impose additional restrictions under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) on persons identified under fourteen sanctions programs, on the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN List) maintained by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

"Today's action will further our already strong coordination with the Treasury Department to prevent foreign actors from obtaining the items and financing they seek to conduct activities that threaten U.S. national security and foreign policy interests," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Alan Estevez. [READ MORE](#)

[Gallagher Leaving House Next Month](#)

Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) the 40 year old former Marine Intelligence officer with a PhD in international relations will leave the House of Representatives after the Easter Recess.

Gallagher has found himself at odds with mainstream Republicans, angering his caucus last month by refusing to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

When Gallagher steps down, the Republican majority will be 217-213, meaning that Speaker Mike Johnson can only afford to lose one vote in order to pass legislation if Democrats remain united in opposition. [READ MORE](#)

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Policy

[AUKUS Public Forum to be Held at IODS Perth](#)

For the first time in history, the Chiefs of Navy for the AUKUS countries will convene at a public forum during the Indian Ocean Defense & Security Show (IODS) in Perth, scheduled from July 24 - 26, 2024.

This forum will focus on discussions regarding AUKUS Pillars 1 & 2, including but not limited to the Nuclear Submarine program. Moreover, it will serve as a platform for AUKUS experts to delve into the opportunities emerging as these nations progress. [READ MORE](#)

[U.S.-EU Steel Trade Tensions Escalate Amid WTO Dispute](#)

[Threat](#)

In a recent development that could strain U.S.-European Union (EU) relations further, the U.S. has cautioned the EU against reopening a World Trade Organization (WTO) case related to steel and aluminum tariffs imposed during the Trump administration.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, in closed-door remarks at a G-7 meeting last month, hinted at significant repercussions for the EU's efforts to reform a crucial aspect of multilateral trade cooperation. [READ MORE](#)

[CBP: Entry Summary - Melt & Pour](#)

CBP Form 7501, Entry Summary, is used to identify merchandise entering the commerce of the United States, and to document the amount of duty and/or tax paid. This proposed information collection was previously published in the Federal Register (88 FR 24203) on April 19, 2023 [READ MORE](#)

[North American Aluminum Groups Call for Creation of Trade Committee](#)

Ahead of a summit in Ottawa this past week, the Aluminum Association, Instituto Mexicano del Aluminio and the Aluminium Association of Canada sent a letter to trade officials calling for the creation of a North American Aluminum Trade Committee (NAATC).

The committee would help to formalize consultation and collaboration between the Canadian, Mexican and U.S. aluminum industries and their respective governments. [READ MORE](#)

[AD/CVD Small, Off-Grid Solar Duties Revoked](#)

The U.S. Department of Commerce is revoking, in part, the antidumping duty and countervailing duty orders on crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not assembled into modules (solar cells), from the People's Republic of China (China) with respect to certain off-grid small portable crystalline silicon photovoltaic (CSPV) panels. [READ MORE](#)

Enforcement

[Insiders Charged with Tesla Battery Tech Theft](#)

A Canadian national was arrested in New York, for conspiring to send to undercover law enforcement officers trade secrets that belonged to his previous employer, Tesla Motors Canada subsidiary Hibar Systems Ltd.

Klaus Pflugbeil and Yilong Shao allegedly used stolen confidential information – developed by Hibar – to establish their own Chinese-based competitor. [READ MORE](#)

[Stericycle Executive Charged in Latin Bribery Scheme](#)

A federal grand jury in the Southern District of Florida returned an indictment March 18 charging a former finance director of the Latin America division of Stericycle Inc., an international waste management company headquartered in Lake Forest, Illinois, for his role in an alleged scheme to pay over \$10 million in bribes to foreign officials in Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina.

According to court documents, between 2011 and 2016, Abraham Cigarroa Cervantes, 51, of Mexico, and others allegedly caused hundreds of bribe payments to be made to government officials in Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina to obtain and retain business and to secure improper advantages for Stericycle, a U.S. securities issuer, in connection with providing waste management services. [READ MORE](#)

Sanctions

[Russian Fake News Execs Sanctioned](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated two individuals and two entities for services they provided the Government of the Russian Federation (GoR) in connection with a foreign malign influence campaign, including attempting to impersonate legitimate media outlets.

Specifically, via their companies, SDA and Structura, the two created a sprawling network of over 60 websites that impersonated legitimate news organizations, and which used misleading social media accounts to amplify the content of the spoofed websites. [READ MORE](#)

[OFAC: Nicaraguan A.G.Sanctioned](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned Wendy Carolina Morales Urbina, Nicaragua's Attorney General, for being complicit in the Ortega-Murillo regime's oppression.

In her capacity as Attorney General, Morales Urbina is responsible for enabling the Ortega-Murillo regime to confiscate real property formerly belonging to independent media outlets, international organizations, and political prisoners [READ MORE](#)

[More Iran Suppliers Targeted](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) targeted three procurement networks — based in Iran, Türkiye, Oman, and Germany — that have supported Iran's ballistic missile, nuclear, and defense programs. These networks have procured carbon fiber, epoxy resins, and other missile-applicable goods for Iran's arms proliferation activities. [READ MORE](#)

Export Control

[Export Administration Regulations End-User Controls](#)

In this final rule, persons blocked under fourteen OFAC sanctions programs will be subject to stringent export controls under the EAR.

Each program is listed below with the corresponding sanctions authority and program code or "identifier," arranged by thematic program to assist understanding.

Related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine: [READ MORE](#)

[BIS Comment Request; Application for NATO International Competitive Bidding](#)

Commerce seeks comments on the Application for NATO International Competitive Bidding. Form BIS-4023P

All U.S. firms desiring to participate in the NATO International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process under the NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) must be certified as technically, financially, and professionally competent. [READ MORE](#)

[BIS: Competitive Enhancement Needs Assessment Survey Program](#)

Under the Competitive Enhancement Needs Assessment Survey Program (The Program), the Bureau of Industry and Security's Office of Technology Evaluation (OTE) distributes surveys nationwide to ... [READ MORE](#)

[BIS: Statement by Ultimate Consignee and Purchaser](#)

The collection is necessary under § 748.11 of the EAR. This section states that the Form BIS-711, Statement by Ultimate Consignee and Purchaser, or a statement on company letterhead (in accordance ... [READ MORE](#)

[ECRA Disputes Bill Passes House](#)

The House passed H.R. 6602, a technical amendment to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 sponsored by Rep. Rich McCormick (R-GA).

This bill revises the interagency dispute resolution process for export license applications. [READ MORE](#)