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Corporate Whistleblower Site Launches

Friday the Justice Department rolled out its corporate whistleblower awards program, launching justice.gov/CorporateWhistleblower for the reporting of information about certain types of corporate crime. If the Justice Department brings a prosecution that results in the forfeiture of criminal proceeds, the whistleblower may be eligible to receive a portion of that forfeiture as a monetary award.

The Pilot Program covers four areas of corporate crime not covered by existing whistleblower regimes: foreign corruption, foreign corrupt conduct, financial institutions and fraud against private insurers. [READ MORE](#)

Customs reform inches forward

U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) released a discussion draft of their Customs Facilitation Act of 2024, following on last year's efforts to prod reform in the trade facilitation bureaucracy. The discussion draft comes after Cassidy released a framework of the proposal last month and sent a request for information in June last year. [READ MORE](#)

Vietnam Non-Market Economy Status Unchanged

The Commerce Department announced Friday that it has made the decision to continue classifying Vietnam as a non-market economy country for purposes of calculating US antidumping duties on imports from Vietnam. Despite Vietnam's substantive reforms made over the past 20 years, the extensive government involvement in Vietnam's economy distorts Vietnamese prices and costs and ultimately render them unusable for the purpose of calculating US antidumping duties, Commerce said. [READ MORE](#)

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TRADE POLITICS

Senate's Commerce Funding Clears Committee

The Senate Appropriations Committee completed the markup of the "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act S.4795 providing \$11.54 billion for the Department of Commerce.

This includes \$206 million for the Bureau of Industry and Security [BIS]. The recommendation is \$15 million above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level and \$17.4 million below the budget request. [READ MORE](#)

Chips R&D Promotion Bill Proposed

House Select Committee on China Chairman John Moolenaar (R-Mich) and ranking Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi (Ill) unveiled bipartisan legislation yesterday to boost US semiconductor research and development in order to compete against China's attempt to dominate the industry.

The Semiconductor Technology Advancement and Research Act would create an investment tax credit for semiconductor design expenditures. [READ MORE](#)

Biden to Congress: Fix De Minimis

President Biden called on Congress to pass legislation closing the so-called de minimis loophole that allows small value packages to be imported into the United States tariff free – and primarily without screening by Customs and Border Protection. [READ MORE](#)

Universal Condemnation of Venezuela Electoral Fraud

The Chairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee joined their counterparts from fifteen European parliaments issuing a historic joint statement on Venezuela's disputed presidential election. [READ MORE](#)

Rubio Targets Sanctions Evasion

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla) is proposing legislation to prevent countries like China, Russia and Iran from using alternate financial systems to evade US sanctions.

The Sanctions Evasion Prevention and Mitigation Act would ensure US adversaries face economic consequences for their anti-democratic actions, ranging from committing human rights abuses to promoting terrorism, according to the senator. [READ MORE](#)

TRADE POLICY

Canada - US Technology Safeguards Agreement

Canada and the United States have concluded substantive negotiations for a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA). Global Affairs Canada announced Friday.

The Canada-United States TSA, upon its entry into force, will establish the legal and technical safeguards needed to allow the use of U.S. space launch technology, expertise and data for space launches in Canada while ensuring the proper handling of sensitive U.S. technology.

The bilateral treaty-level agreement would allow American organizations to conduct space launch activities in Canada with local service providers. [READ MORE](#)

Connected Vehicle Security Meetup

The White House and State Department hosted a conference on the national security risks of connected vehicles July 31, while Senators called for the administration to focus on the risks the technology poses for privacy and individual liberty. [READ MORE](#)

USTR Delays China Tariff Hikes

The US Trade Representative's Office said it is delaying a planned increase in Section 301 tariffs on electric vehicles, batteries and other products from China that were to take effect on August 1.

USTR said it needs more time to review the over 1,100 comments received on the proposed tariff hikes. A final decision is expected later in August, which any immediate tariff increases taking effect two weeks after than. [READ MORE](#)

US, Japan Officials Talk Trade

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US and Japanese trade officials discussed collaboration on a range of issues, including critical minerals and the challenges posed by non-market economies during ... [READ MORE](#)

[Tai Calls for Creative Thinking on APEP](#)

Countries participating in the US-led Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, must “think creatively and outside the box,” US Trade Representative Katherine Tai told her counterparts at the opening of a meeting of APEP trade ministers in Quito yesterday. [READ MORE](#)

WTO / GENEVA

[WTO E-Commerce Initiative Spurned by US](#)

Many members of the ongoing Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce negotiations appear to have welcomed the “stabilized” text issued by the co-convenors at the World Trade Organization last week, although not the United States. [READ MORE](#)

[WTO Dispute Reform up in Air](#)

As members of the World Trade Organization leave for a summer break, they remain uncertain whether an agreement can be reached on dispute settlement reform including a binding appeal/review mechanism by the end of this year, said people familiar with the developments. [READ MORE](#)

[USTR seeks comments on China & Russia WTO compliance](#)

The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is seeking public comments to assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in the preparation of its annual reports to Congress on China’s and Russia’s compliance with their obligations as Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

This notice includes the schedule for the submission of comments to the TPSC for the China and Russia reports and a public hearing. [READ MORE](#)

OFAC / SANCTIONS

[More Houthi Sanctions: Yemen & PRC](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is sanctioning two individuals and four companies that have facilitated weapons procurement for Ansarallah, commonly referred to as the Houthis. This action targets key actors located in the People's Republic of China (PRC), including Hong Kong, and Yemen who have directly supported Houthis' efforts to procure military-grade materials abroad and ship these items to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, enabling the group's ongoing attacks.

... [READ MORE](#)

[Iranian Missile and UAV Procurement - China Nexus](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is targeting five individuals and seven entities based in Iran, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Hong Kong that have facilitated procurements on behalf of subordinates of Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL).

Those designated procure various components, including accelerometers and gyroscopes, which serve as key inputs to Iran's ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program. Iran's acquisition of critical missile and UAV components continues to enable its proliferation of weapons systems to its proxies in the Middle East and to Russia." [READ MORE](#)

[Russia G/Ls: winding down Moscow Exchange Trades](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is issuing Russia-related General License 99A - "Authorizing the Wind Down of Transactions and Certain Transactions Related to Debt or Equity of, or Derivative Contracts Involving, MOEX, NCC, or NSD;" and Russia-related General License 100A - "Authorizing Certain Transactions Related to Debt or Equity or the Conversion of Currencies Involving MOEX, NCC, or NSD." [READ MORE](#)

[OFAC Compliance Hotline Update](#)

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is updating its Compliance Hotline by streamlining and enhancing the query submission process.. OFAC is transitioning to a single, user-friendly online platform to receive questions from the public. Users can now submit queries—and provide all necessary details—directly through OFAC's new OFAC Compliance Hotline page. [READ MORE](#)

ENFORCEMENT

["Bay of Piglets" mastermind arrested on firearms charges](#)

A former Green Beret and his Venezuelan sidekick were arrested Tuesday and charged with conspiracy to violate export laws, smuggling goods from the United States, violating the Arms Export Control Act, and violating the Export Control Reform Act, as well as violating the National Firearms Act and unlawful possession of machine guns. The charges relate to the failed 2020 attempt to invade Venezuela by a ragtag group of irregulars seeking the overthrow of Maduro Government. [READ MORE](#)

EXPORT CONTROL

[Expansion Plans for FDP Rule Reported](#)

Reuters news service reported the Biden administration plans to unveil a new rule next month that will expand U.S. powers to stop exports of semiconductor manufacturing equipment from some foreign countries to Chinese chipmakers, two sources familiar with the rule said. [READ MORE](#)

[BIS Training Events in Silicon Valley](#)

The Bureau of Industry and Security and the Professional Association of Exporters and Importers are hosting two training seminars September 24 through 26 at the Sonesta San Jose/Silicon Valley in Milpitas, CA. Complying with U.S. Export Controls (2 days) and Encryption Controls. [READ MORE](#)

[BIS Notices: NATO Bidding & OTE Competitive Evaluation](#)

The Commerce Department posted two notices in the Federal Register governing NATO bidding certifications and Competitive Bidding Surveys. [READ MORE](#)

[Offset and Statement by Ultimate Consignee Comments Sought](#)

BIS has published two information collection notices, relating to Offsets in foreign military sales and the Statement by Ultimate Consignee and Purchaser (BIS-711 or letter) which provides information on the foreign importer receiving the U.S. technology and how the technology will be utilized. [READ MORE](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN

[IPEF Partners Establish Supply Chain Bodies](#)

Commerce announced the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience concluded inaugural virtual meetings of the three supply chain bodies established under the Agreement – the Supply Chain Council, the Crisis Response Network, and the Labor Rights Advisory Board.

Pursuant to the Supply Chain Agreement, the IPEF partners established three supply chain bodies – a Supply Chain Council to pursue targeted, action-oriented work to strengthen the supply chains for those sectors and goods most critical to national security, public health, and economic well-being; a Crisis Response Network to provide a forum for collective emergency response to exigent or imminent disruptions; and a Labor Rights Advisory Board that brings together workers, employers, and governments at the same table to strengthen labor rights and workforce development across regional supply chains. [READ MORE](#)

[Volkswagen USMCA Complaint resolved](#)

The United States and Mexico today announced a course of remediation at the Volkswagen de México, S.A. de C.V. facility in Cuautlancingo, Puebla. The facility is the largest automobile manufacturing plant in Mexico and among Volkswagen Group's largest plants globally. [READ MORE](#)

[EXIM set to approve Malaysian Refinery Funding](#)

Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) has received an application for final commitment for a long-term loan or financial guarantee to support the work of Honeywell UOC's engineering of the Pengareng Energy Complex at the tip of the Malaysian Peninsula.

In February the Board received a request to increase the financed amount to a \$743 million direct loan to support the export of approximately \$439 million worth of U.S. engineering services, design services, licenses, catalysts, and refining equipment. [READ MORE](#)

[Exim Funds Gas Equipment for Costa Rica](#)

the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) approved a final commitment for more than \$11.3 million to support the financing of two self-refrigerated nitrogen ... [READ MORE](#)