

Newsline	Research Security	Week	July 6 – 10, 2026
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Reference Package			
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Executive summary: Canada continued investing in research excellence, commercialization, and strategic technologies while expanding international partnerships in artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and defence. Globally, governments strengthened research security through new knowledge security policies, cybersecurity measures, economic security initiatives, and greater emphasis on research integrity. Together, these developments highlight the growing convergence of research, innovation, cybersecurity, economic security, and geopolitical competition.

Key Points:

1. **Canada strengthens research, innovation, and commercialization:** Canada announced several major initiatives supporting research and innovation. Prime Minister Mark Carney expanded Canada's partnership with Saudi Arabia through more than \$1 billion in agreements covering artificial intelligence, critical minerals, defence, clean energy, health technologies, education, and trade. The federal government also committed over \$630 million through NSERC to support more than 3,100 research awards in priority areas including artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, clean technologies, Arctic research, and defence-related technologies. Additionally, the University of Toronto and McMaster University launched a \$40 million venture capital fund to commercialize Canadian life sciences research and retain intellectual property and talent in Canada.

What this means: Canada continues strengthening its research and innovation ecosystem while integrating research security into strategic investments and international partnerships. Institutions should continue embedding research security into funding, collaborations, and technology commercialization.

2. **Canada's space sector continues to expand:** The University of Victoria successfully launched its second research satellite, while Maritime Launch Services signed a 10-year agreement with Germany's Isar Aerospace to establish orbital launch capabilities from Nova Scotia beginning in 2028.

What this means: As Canada's space capabilities expand, research security considerations surrounding sensitive technologies, international partnerships, and dual-use applications will become increasingly important.

3. **Universities remain targets for cyber espionage:** A China-linked threat group allegedly targeted Canadian and U.S. universities by exploiting Roundcube email vulnerabilities to access research information from physics and engineering departments associated with national security research.

What this means: Universities remain attractive targets for foreign cyber espionage, reinforcing the importance of timely patching, strong credential protection, and cybersecurity awareness to safeguard research and intellectual property.

4. **Governments strengthen knowledge security:** The European Commission is preparing procurement rules to restrict foreign organizations presenting security risks, while updated Dutch Knowledge Security Guidelines emphasize balancing research openness with protection against foreign interference. The European University Association called for innovation policies that strengthen commercialization while

supporting collaboration, and the United Kingdom announced record research funding while prioritizing artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and advanced computing.

What this means: Governments continue adopting risk-based approaches that strengthen knowledge security while preserving international collaboration and academic openness.

5. **Strategic competition increasingly influences research:** China is considering measures to encourage researchers to publish domestically to reduce overseas knowledge transfer and strengthen technological self-reliance. Separately, Taiwan charged two individuals accused of supporting a Chinese cyber espionage campaign targeting politicians, academics, journalists, and civil society through phishing and social engineering.

What this means: Scientific knowledge is increasingly viewed as a strategic national asset, while cyber-enabled espionage and foreign interference remain persistent risks for the research community.

6. **Research integrity becomes a research security priority:** Growing use of generative artificial intelligence has increased concerns about fabricated citations, unreliable evidence, and misinformation influencing research and public policy. Experts are calling for stronger verification processes, transparency around AI use, and enhanced institutional oversight. Separately, Poland sentenced individuals convicted of conducting espionage on behalf of Russia, highlighting the continued threat posed by foreign intelligence operations targeting academic and research communities.

What this means: Research integrity, trustworthy evidence, and responsible AI use are becoming essential components of research security, requiring stronger governance, oversight, and institutional awareness.

Conclusion: This week's Newsline highlights the continued convergence of research excellence, commercialization, cybersecurity, research integrity, space innovation, and economic security. Canada continues investing in strategic research capabilities while governments worldwide strengthen knowledge security, respond to cyber espionage and foreign interference, and increasingly view research as a strategic national asset requiring balanced, risk-based protection throughout the research lifecycle.