University of Regina

Newsline	Research Security	**Week**	May 25 – 29, 2026
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Reference Package			
1	Research Security Centre		

Executive summary: This week highlights a research security environment increasingly shaped by science diplomacy, AI security governance, strategic competition for research ecosystems, technology sovereignty, allied technology cooperation, supply chain resilience, and research integrity. Across multiple jurisdictions, governments are strengthening AI security frameworks, expanding advanced technology partnerships, investing in sovereign infrastructure, and increasing expectations for governance and accountability in research. At the same time, competition for scientific influence, research partnerships, funding relationships, secure technology ecosystems, and technological leadership continues to intensify. Collectively, these developments reinforce the growing integration of research, innovation, economic competitiveness, critical infrastructure, and national security.

Key Points:

1. **Science diplomacy and research influence are becoming strategic assets:** Canada and Quebec are being encouraged to strengthen links between science and diplomacy as scientific capacity becomes increasingly tied to economic sovereignty, national security, and geopolitical influence. Germany's planned reduction of international academic cooperation programs has also generated concerns regarding scientific influence, talent pipelines, innovation networks, and long-term global partnerships.
   What this means: Research collaboration is increasingly being viewed as a strategic asset rather than solely an academic activity. Institutions may face growing expectations to consider how international partnerships, talent networks, and research relationships contribute to broader scientific influence, competitiveness, and national interests.
2. **AI security governance is rapidly maturing:** Canada announced new investments supporting AI innovation and commercialization, while the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Australia expanded cooperation on AI, advanced technologies, and AI security. Concurrently, the UK AI Security Institute continues advancing testing, evaluation, and risk-assessment approaches for increasingly capable AI systems.
   What this means: AI governance is evolving beyond innovation policy into a broader security and risk-management domain. Institutions should expect growing attention on AI evaluation, governance, data stewardship, intellectual property protection, and responsible collaboration involving advanced AI capabilities.
3. **Strategic competition for research ecosystems is intensifying:** Several articles highlighted growing competition for influence across research, innovation, and technology ecosystems. Chinese firms are investing approximately $1.1 billion in Serbia across advanced technology sectors, while China has overtaken the UK as the leading acknowledged foreign funder in engineering publications involving UK researchers. Huawei also announced advances intended to strengthen domestic semiconductor capabilities despite ongoing technology restrictions.

What this means: Competition increasingly extends beyond individual technologies to encompass research ecosystems, funding relationships, talent, innovation capacity, technological leadership, and strategic supply chains. Visibility into affiliations, partnerships, funding sources, and strategic dependencies remains an important component of research security due diligence.

4. **Technology sovereignty and strategic infrastructure are expanding:** Canada is exploring new airborne surveillance capabilities, while Europe is advancing initiatives to reserve critical satellite spectrum for European operators. Europe and Japan are also expanding collaboration on next-generation supercomputing and exascale computing. Discussions regarding Canada's future role in space technologies further highlight the growing strategic importance of space capabilities for defence, communications, Arctic sovereignty, innovation, and economic competitiveness.

   What this means: Advanced computing, aerospace, communications, space technologies, and related infrastructure are increasingly viewed as strategic assets supporting both innovation and national resilience. Research involving these areas may attract heightened attention from governments seeking to strengthen technological sovereignty, secure critical infrastructure, and reduce strategic dependencies.
5. **Research security is becoming embedded in international alliances:** The United States and Sweden signed a strategic technology agreement covering AI, secure communications, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and space technologies, while explicitly incorporating research security, intellectual property protection, and supply chain resilience. The United Kingdom and Australia similarly expanded cooperation focused on AI security risks and evaluation frameworks.

   What this means: Research security considerations are increasingly being integrated directly into international science and technology cooperation agreements. Partnership due diligence, intellectual property protection, supply chain resilience, and secure technology ecosystems are becoming core elements of trusted collaboration frameworks.
6. **Research integrity and funding accountability are strengthening:** Scotland announced stricter research integrity requirements requiring universities to demonstrate stronger governance, accountability, transparency, and misconduct management practices, with compliance linked directly to eligibility for public research funding.

   What this means: Research integrity, governance, and accountability frameworks are increasingly becoming prerequisites for institutional credibility and funding eligibility. Expectations surrounding oversight, transparency, documentation, and compliance readiness are likely to continue growing across the research sector.

Conclusion: This week's Newsline reinforces that research security is increasingly connected to scientific influence, AI governance, strategic competition, technology sovereignty, trusted international cooperation, supply chain resilience, critical infrastructure, and research integrity. Governments are investing in technological leadership while strengthening governance and security frameworks across research, innovation, strategic technologies, and critical infrastructure. As research becomes more closely linked to economic competitiveness and national interests, early risk identification, partnership due diligence, and coordinated institutional oversight remain important components of responsible research growth.