



# Threats to the UK Advanced Materials Sector

Effective security is an enabler. It will protect your competitive advantage and your reputation.

Advanced materials are critical drivers of innovation across a range of important technologies, making the sector a significant contributor to future UK economic growth.

The sector offers considerable benefits to the safety and security of the UK and is well placed to meet BEIS enterprise, business, net zero and innovation (ENZI) goals.

However, some state actors are taking advantage of UK advanced materials companies' strengths in innovation to advance their own political, economic, technology and military programmes.

**These state actors may try to, for example:**



**Enhance their research and innovation base to increase their technological and military advantage over the UK**



**Deploy the technological and military capabilities they have gained at the expense of the UK to expand social control and limit the individual freedoms of their own populations**

You may not consider your technology to be dual-use or sensitive, but it may be used by state actors to support their military and technology programmes.

State-backed organisations are looking for vulnerabilities in companies of every size and at every technology readiness level.

They may use a variety of means, including insiders, cyber targeting and the exploitation of standard business engagement to obtain confidential information about your business, such as intellectual property (IP), research data, financial information, organisation mapping, information on your customers or suppliers and commercially sensitive material.

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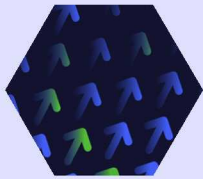
**It is key that the UK retains its materials science strengths to reach its goals. Loss of expertise and IP potentially weakens the UK's advantage in advanced materials.**

**State threats can damage your profitability, reputation and UK national security. Now is the time to act on security to protect the future of your business.**

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# We are here to help

CPNI and the NCSC provide guidance on the threats and risks you may face and how you can manage them. Click on the titles below to see further information.



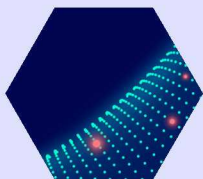
## INFORMED INVESTMENT

- ▶ Protect your business from investment risks
- ▶ Identify and mitigate potential risks as you think about what the National Security and Investment Act means for your sector



## TRUSTED RESEARCH

- ▶ Collaborate securely with academia on R&D
- ▶ Introduce a strategic approach to your international research portfolio
- ▶ Agree contractual undertakings with research partners
- ▶ Manage conflicts of interest



## SECURE INNOVATION

- ▶ Embed security from the start
- ▶ Take a strategic approach to managing risks to your IP
- ▶ As you grow, manage your People Risk
- ▶ Develop early foundations for security to protect your future success



## SECURE BUSINESS

- ▶ Expand into overseas markets securely
- ▶ Ensure security expertise is embedded into your decision points
- ▶ Be aware of legislation and compliance requirements in different jurisdictions



Know your  
value



Know your  
partners



Security leadership  
from the top

**Think about what is most valuable to your business,** then lay the foundations for strong security. Doing so will protect your innovation and make you more attractive to customers and investors.

- ▶ [Establish effective control and oversight of your supply chain](#)
- ▶ [Engage safely and ethically with overseas partners](#)