



Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security

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Commerce Department Opens Unit to Enhance Export Licensing As Part of the President's Export Control Reform Initiative

WASHINGTON – The United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security today announced the opening of the Information Triage Unit (ITU) as part of the Administration's Export Control Reform (ECR) Initiative. The ITU will become the central point for assembling and disseminating relevant information, including intelligence information, that agencies will use in making decisions concerning export license applications.

"The ITU helps realize President Obama's vision of a more efficient and effective export control system that maximizes our resources and enhances our national security," said Eric L. Hirschhorn, Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security. "By creating a unit consisting of analysts from a number of agencies, including the intelligence community, to identify and disseminate information about parties to licensed transactions, we can leverage our resources and support the licensing regimes of the Departments of Commerce, State, and the Treasury."

The ITU will ensure that all departments and agencies in the export licensing process have relevant data from which to make decisions on license applications. This consolidated function is designed to streamline the interagency review of license applications, thereby allowing the U.S. Government to provide more timely responses to exporters and re-exporters of items subject to export controls, and in turn enhancing their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

BACKGROUND

In August 2009, the President ordered a broad-based review of the U.S. export control system with the goal of strengthening our national security and increasing the competitiveness of key manufacturing and technology sectors. This review called for fundamental reform in what goods we control, how we control them, how we enforce those controls, and how we manage those controls.

BIS controls exports and re-exports of dual-use commodities, technology, and software for reasons of national security, missile technology, nuclear non-proliferation, chemical and

biological weapons non-proliferation, crime control, regional stability, foreign policy and anti-terrorism. Criminal penalties and administrative sanctions can be imposed for violations of the EAR. For more information, please visit www.bis.doc.gov.

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