

Safeguarding America's Research

Protecting fundamental research, intellectual property and critical technologies

Today's technologies are yesterday's fundamental research. Which means today's fundamental research is tomorrow's technology. And adversarial nations are trying to steal it.

Because of this, safeguarding science through research security is critical to protecting our nation's future.

What is research security?

Simply put, research security involves protecting the means, know-how and results of research until they are ready to be shared.

A robust research security program must address cybersecurity, foreign travel security, research security training and, as appropriate, export control and compliance.

Why now?

In recent years, foreign economic and industrial espionage targeting fundamental science and research outputs has increasingly replaced the effort to steal defense- and intelligence-related secrets.

Individuals are using cyber espionage, intellectual property theft and even personal or professional connections to target our research ecosystem. The result? Billions in economic losses, threats to our national and economic security, and the loss of our leadership in science and technology.

Research Security is Technology Protection in Action

A localized first line of defense employing balanced risk management protocols that safeguards science and innovation by mitigating threats to Critical and Emerging Technologies within the international science and technology research ecosystem



Learn more

The NIST Research Security Framework (NIST IR 8484r1), which includes a Risk Determination Matrix, may be used by any research institution.

NIST also has created a series of research security videos that will help you learn the risks and how to protect your work so you can be a part of the first line of defense.

Together, we can minimize the risks and maximize the rewards of collaborative science. To check out our videos, the Framework, and other research security guidance and resources, go to: www.nist.gov/adlp/research-security-office.



Questions?

researchsecurity@nist.gov