

FCC Lays Groundwork to Identify Foreign Adversary Ownership in U.S. Communications Industry

Process Would Provide Commission with a Formalized, Comprehensive View of Potential Foreign Adversary Threats Within the Communications Sector

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today voted to begin a process to formalize the identification of entities holding licenses and authorizations in the communications sector that are controlled by a foreign adversary both at present and on a rolling basis going forward.

The U.S. Government has long recognized that foreign adversaries have been engaged in a widespread and coordinated effort to exploit, attack, and otherwise compromise the integrity of U.S. communications networks. Acting to counter these threats, the Commission has spearheaded a number of initiatives including creating the Covered List of equipment and services that pose unacceptable risks to national security and revoking foreign adversary authorizations. This latest proposed effort of certification and information collection requirements would give the Commission a new and comprehensive view of threats from foreign adversaries by identifying entities holding licenses and authorizations in the communications sector that are subject to the ownership, jurisdiction, direction, and control of a foreign adversary.

Earlier this year, Chairman Carr established the FCC's Council for National Security to leverage the full range of the Commission's regulatory, investigatory, and enforcement authorities to protect Americans and counter foreign adversaries, particularly the threats posed by China and the Chinese Communist Party. This Commission-wide action is a great example of how the Council is already integrating and coordinating national security functions across bureaus and offices.

Action by the Commission May 22, 2025 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-28). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Starks, Simington, and Gomez approving. Chairman Carr, issuing a separate statement.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).