

INSIGHTS

Overplaying Security Risks Stalls UK's Wind Energy Development

Clear Voice 

By LIANG Yilian & HU Dingkun

Recently, the *Financial Times* and other international media outlets reported that the British government has rejected a 1.5 billion GBP investment plan by Chinese turbine maker Mingyang Smart Energy Group to build a wind turbine manufacturing plant in Scotland, citing national security concerns.

At the same time, the government announced that Danish wind turbine manufacturer Vestas plans to invest 250 million EUR in a Scottish factory — seemingly positioning it as an alternative to the Mingyang Smart Energy Group project.

The episode is yet another example of the UK government overstretching the concept of national security to impose discriminatory restrictions on Chinese technology companies. The so-called "security risks" appear to exist largely in the imagination of certain politicians. London has failed to clearly explain what specific risks Mingyang's investment would pose, nor has it provided any credible evidence.

In fact, according to multiple international media reports, Mingyang has repeatedly expressed its willingness to work with the British government on issues such as turbine cybersecurity. The company has also reached a cooperation agreement with Octopus Energy — the UK's largest electricity and gas supplier — to jointly establish what the partners describe as "the highest levels of data protection and cyber security."

Far from threatening Britain's national security, Mingyang's investment



On March 28, a cargo ship loaded with wind power equipment for export to Austria sets sail from Yantai port, Shandong province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

would bring significant benefits. The UK ranks second globally in installed offshore wind capacity, behind only China, and the government has identified offshore wind expansion as a central pillar of its long-term energy strategy. Yet the country's domestic wind power supply chain suffers from structural weaknesses. Manufacturing of complete turbines and many key components relies heavily on imports, leaving the supply chain vulnerable and costs elevated.

Mingyang planned to build the UK's largest wind turbine manufacturing base in Scotland, as well as the country's first fully integrated wind turbine industrial complex. Turbines produced at the facility would not only have served the British market but could also be exported to Europe and beyond. The project would have significantly

strengthened the resilience of the UK's wind power supply chain while enhancing its energy security.

By contrast, the facility planned by Vestas would focus only on producing turbine hubs and nacelles. In terms of both investment scale and industrial chain coverage, it falls far short of Mingyang's proposed project.

Cooperation with Mingyang would have been an opportunity for Britain to accelerate the development of its wind power industry. Instead, the government's fixation on national security risks is causing the country to miss out — and potentially at a considerable cost.

In February, Greg Jackson, founder and chief executive of Octopus Energy, said in a media interview that China has taken the global lead in many fields thanks to sustained investment in re-

search and development. Chinese wind turbine technology is about 30 percent cheaper than its European counterparts. Cooperating with China and introducing its technology represents a "golden opportunity," Jackson said, warning that refusing to engage could see the UK "left behind."

The government's decision has raised concerns not only in the business community but also drawn sharp criticism from some political leaders, particularly in Scotland.

John Swinney, Scotland's first minister, said he was "blindsided" by the move. According to Swinney, the decision effectively deprives Scotland of 1.5 billion GBP in investment and around 1,500 jobs, while also undermining the region's transition from oil and gas to renewable energy.

In a recent response, Mingyang urged the British government to clearly outline any remaining national security concerns and relevant compliance requirements. The company also expressed its hope to continue working with the UK government and partners such as Octopus Energy to advance the country's renewable energy sector.

It is not too late for the UK government to reconsider. By abandoning its overextended national security narrative and returning to pragmatic cooperation with Chinese companies, Britain could still turn this missed opportunity into a mutually beneficial partnership.

Comment

Anthropic Case Shows Two Contrary Visions for Governing AI

By LIANG Yilian & ZHANG Mengran

U.S. AI company Anthropic has obtained a restraining order from a California court, which temporarily blocks a ban by the U.S. Department of Defense over claims that the firm poses a "supply chain risk."

The dispute centers on Anthropic's refusal to allow its AI technology to be used in autonomous lethal weapons systems without human oversight. The judge observed that the government's action appeared to be "unconstitutional retaliation" against the company's ethical position.

This case is far more than a commercial dispute. It exposes a fundamental tension of the AI era: Should the development of frontier technologies be guided by shared human ethics and the well-being of humanity, or be reduced to tools serving the strategic ambitions and security anxieties of a single state?

The U.S. government's response reveals a logic that treats technology primarily as an instrument of power. A company, motivated by concerns for humanity's future, attempts to draw ethical boundaries around the military use of its innovations. But the result is not recognition of those concerns. Instead, the government swiftly places it on a "risk" list followed by administrative pressure that threatens to disrupt its business.

This approach — "those who comply will prosper, those who resist suffer" — expands the notion of "national security" without limit, allowing it to suppress independent voices that challenge the trajectory of military and surveillance applications.

This reality stands in stark contrast to the U.S.' frequent advocacy of "responsible AI" in international forums. The gap between rhetoric and practice highlights a deeper contradiction: technological nationalism dressed in the language of ethics.

In contrast, China has proposed and advanced a governance philosophy with a "people-centered approach in developing AI for good." This is no slogan; the concept has been developed into a systematic framework that spans both domestic policy design and international cooperation.

In October 2023, China released the Global AI Governance Initiative, which for the first time outlined at the international level a vision of an open, fair and inclusive AI governance system, opposing technological monopolies and hegemonic practices.

In July 2025, the Global AI Governance Action Plan translated these principles into 13 measures, emphasizing respect for national sovereignty, secure and controllable development, and international cooperation to help developing countries build computing infrastructure and narrow the digital divide.

These principles are increasingly reflected in practical cooperation projects. In Southeast Asia, a China-Laos AI innovation cooperation center is helping Laos systematically enhance its technological capabilities for the intelligent era. Malaysia's national AI infrastructure strategy, launched in 2025, adopted Chinese AI chips and open-source models, enabling data to be stored domestically and operated locally — strengthening what policymakers there describe as "AI sovereignty."

In Africa, the Tanzania National ICT Broadband Backbone project, built with Chinese assistance, has significantly reduced telecommunications costs and expanded connectivity in remote regions, enabling more people to access the digital economy. Such initiatives demonstrate that the ideas of "sovereign AI" and equitable technological development can translate into tangible benefits.

The White Paper on the Development of Global Sovereign Large Models, released at the 2026 Zhongguancun Forum Annual Conference on March 27, furthers this cooperative pathway. The report proposes an open, collaborative, controllable and inclusive framework, offering technical architectures ranging from open-source foundation models to full-stack solutions.

The goal is to enable countries to build AI capabilities aligned with their own languages, cultures and development priorities — providing an alternative path for the Global South to avoid technological monopolies and potential forms of digital colonialism.

Seen in this broader context, the Anthropic case is significant. The fact that a company must turn to the courts to defend its refusal to build "autonomous killing machines" is a striking commentary on one model of technological governance.

The approach China advocates — from international initiatives to concrete projects — illustrates a different possibility. AI need not become another instrument of geopolitical rivalry or technological domination. Instead, it can be a force for shared development, enabling countries to pursue innovation while respecting sovereignty and promoting global well-being.

China's Greater Role in Global Sci-tech Landscape

Opinion

By QI Liming, LIU Yuanyuan & DAI Xiaopei

The World Data Organization (WDO) was officially established in Beijing on March 30, with Chinese Academy of Sciences academician Tan Tieniu appointed as chairman. This marks a clear

reflection of the international recognition of China's data development and governance capabilities, as well as recognition of Tan's academic achievements.

It also demonstrates that both the country and its scientists add value to the global discourse on international sci-tech governance.

In recent years, Chinese scientists have accelerated their progress on the international scientific stage. Zhu Yongguan has been elected vice president for

membership of the International Science Council, Wu Weiren has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Deep Space Exploration Association, and Lu Chaoyang is president of the World Association of Young Scientists.

From the ecological environment, and deep space exploration, to youth science, an increasing number of Chinese sci-tech workers have assumed key positions in international sci-tech organizations. As of February 2025, the organizational system of the China Association for Science and Technology had over 2,000 experts serving in international organizations.

China has always promoted openness and cooperation, supporting scientists in their active integration into the global innovation network to jointly address global sci-tech challenges. This trend shows China's steady rise as a sci-tech power and international influencer, as well as sending a positive message for optimization of global sci-tech governance.

While Chinese scientists proactively improve their capabilities in international sci-tech organizations, an increasing

number of international organizations are choosing to establish their headquarters in China. This demonstrates that China is taking on more responsibilities in the international community and contributing to the progress of humanity.

As the second international organization to be established in Beijing after the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization, the decision to locate the WDO's headquarters in the capital not only marks a significant milestone for China's participation in global data governance, but also reflects the profound changes in the global data governance landscape, attracting global attention.

"Data have no borders; they flow in the cloud. However, at the same time, they can also become a threat that creates divisions. Therefore, we must join hands. I find that China is addressing the issues head-on and seeking solutions to make the fruits of the digital economy more inclusive," said Jack Perry Jr., chairman of the UK's 48 Group Club, which is a member of the WDO.



(PHOTO: VCG)

Largest Observation Network Empowers Agriculture

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In terms of crop monitoring, researchers can quantitatively monitor the chlorophyll content and physiological changes of crops through the integration of hyperspectral and multi-modal data. This has enabled a change from relying on the weather for a good harvest to taking proactive action by knowing how the weather works.

This year's spring planting and efforts to increase crop yields per unit area vividly demonstrated the effective-

ness of the observation network.

In China's major rice-producing regions in the south, the newly built high-standard field meteorological observation stations in Hunan province play an effective role as sentinels.

They monitor the temperature and humidity in the seedling sheds in real time and automatically issue alerts for risks like heat damage so that farmers can ventilate the sheds in time.

The observation data is not only used for warnings, but also for regulating

agricultural production standards. With the growing use of UAVs for spraying pesticides, the meteorological authorities took the lead in formulating industrial standards for meteorological classification for such operations.

In Jiangsu province in the east China, a smart agrometeorological service system provides real-time forecasts about the suitability levels for aerial crop protection operations. This assists large-scale growers in precisely planning their operational windows, thereby not only shorten-

ing the pest and disease control cycle by 30 percent, but also generating substantial annual savings on pesticide costs.

Experts say that from the data transmitted via the Fengyun meteorological satellite network to minute-level disaster alerts delivered directly to the fields, a chain of precise data is enabling this agrometeorological observation network to embed cloud-based technologies deep into farmland — providing robust meteorological support for safeguarding China's food security.



Visitors explore the "AI+" exhibition area at the Zhongguancun Exhibition Center in Beijing. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

China Unlocks Bold Tech Transfer Efforts

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In Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province, universities and innovation platforms jointly teach graduate students to convert academic strengths into industrial advantages. In Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, tech experts play a central role in the R&D within enterprises.

Meanwhile, a new evaluation system, focusing on innovation value, transfer outcomes, and market feedback, is developing closer collaboration between

universities, institutions and enterprises. To address mismatches between personnel skills and industrial needs, reforms are underway to facilitate the flow of specialists between universities, labs, and business.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) aims to further remove blockages in tech transfer, enabling a virtuous cycle where innovation drives industry, industry attracts capital, capital gathers talent, and talent powers innovation.