Security Claims Cannot Mask U.S. Pressure on DeepSeek

Clear Voice

By LIANG Yilian & HU Dingkun

On October 20, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published an order signed by Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin, requiring federal civilian agencies to remove technology associated with Chinese AI company DeepSeek from their IT systems.

Citing "supply chain security risks," the order also bars these agencies from procuring IT products and services developed by DeepSeek and its affiliates.

The move marks a further escalation in the U.S. government's restrictions on Chinese AI companies. According to foreign media reports, the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce and several state governments had previously restricted the use of DeepSeek's large language models on their devices and networks. The latest order extends the restrictions to nearly all federal civilian agencies, beyond the defense and intelligence sectors.

Of particular concern is the inclusion of "third-party products and services" built using DeepSeek technology. This means that software and other products developed by U.S. companies using DeepSeek's models could also be excluded from government procurement. The measure goes well beyond what might be justified by so-called security concerns. It effectively uses access to the substantial government procurement market as leverage to pressure U.S. companies into reducing their use of DeepSeek-related products and services.



A humanoid robot at the Fangchenggang AI Science and Innovation Education Base in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region demonstrates object handling to visitors, October 17, 2026. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Using such measures to suppress foreign technology companies is a familiar tactic of the U.S. government, and it often foreshadows broader restrictions and tougher sanctions. In recent years, U.S. actions against Chinese telecommunications companies Huawei and ZTE, as well as Russian cybersecurity company Kaspersky, have followed a similar trajectory, beginning with restrictions on government procurement before escalating to broader market exclusion and export controls.

The U.S. move is therefore highly likely to create a chilling effect. U.S. companies will inevitably worry about whether DeepSeek will face further restrictions and whether similar limits will extend to other Chinese AI companies, potentially leading them to reduce the position and share of Chinese AI technology in their supply chains. This may be precisely one of the deeper objectives the U.S. government seeks to achieve.

As for the security concerns regarding DeepSeek mentioned in the DHS document, these are entirely deliberate smears without any evidence. For example, the document emphasizes that DeepSeek's large language models will transmit sensitive data to China. Yet it is well known that DeepSeek's open-source models can be "locally deployed," allowing them to run entirely on an enterprise's or government agency's internal network without transmitting data externally.

On October 13, MIT Technology Review reported that if businesses want to use AI to process sensitive data or proprietary information, running a local model on their own hardware may be the best way to keep their operations secure. As for the allegation that DeepSeek models could contain malware, this is even more baseless. The series of large language models released by DeepSeek have been downloaded, used, tested, and studied by a large number of developers, and their security has long been widely verified and recognized by the global open-source community.

Security rhetoric cannot obscure the broader implications of Washington's efforts to constrain Chinese AI companies. The more the U.S. government erects barriers to the use of Chinese models, the more important it becomes for Chinese AI companies to remain committed to open innovation and contribute to the global open-source ecosystem, offering the world more capable and accessible technological alternatives.

DeepSeek offered a timely response on the very day the DHS published the order: It open-sourced DeepInfer, its internal inference framework, designed to improve the efficiency of model inference in local deployments and reduce computing and energy costs.

The U.S. may be able to prevent some government agencies from using Chinese large language models, but it cannot block the global demand for open-source AI technology that can empower economic development and make people's lives more convenient. Nor can it stop Chinese AI companies from continuing to move forward and reach the world.

Voice of the World

GDI for Global Well-being Fruitful

Edited by QI Liming

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Over the past five years, the initiative's people-centered development philosophy has seen increasing popularity, cooperation mechanisms across various fields have steadily improved, and practical collaboration continues to yield fruitful outcomes. It has provided strong support for developing countries in the Global South to enhance their self-driven development capabilities and injected significant momentum into the implementation of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN Secretary- General António Guterres said no matter how difficult and complex the international situation, China has always firmly supported multilateralism, supported the UN cause, and promoted international cooperation, setting an example for the world.

Over the past five years, the cooperation areas within the framework of the GDI have continuously expanded, and the cooperation content has been continuously deepened. This has provided an important platform for the international community to refocus on development issues and build a global development partnership, accelerating the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Gerd Müller, director general of the UN Industrial Development Organization, said. Promoting sustainable development is related to the common destiny of all and is the key to addressing global challenges, he added.

From Asia to Africa, from Latin America to the Middle East, the outcomes of the GDI cover a wide range of areas such as poverty reduction, food security, public health, development financing, green transformation, digital economy and connectivity, bringing tangible benefits to the people of many countries.

Andrey Kortunov, former director-general of the Russian International Affairs Council, said if the sustainable development agenda is not properly implemented, everything, including international security, will lose its solid foundation. China's proposal of the GDI showcases the overall perspective of global development cooperation and reflects the common expectations of all countries for development and stability.

Today, more than 130 countries and international organizations support the GDI. Nearly 100 countries, international and regional organizations have signed cooperation documents with China on this initiative. The Group of Friends of the GDI has expanded to 88 countries. The international community has demonstrated with concrete actions that the concepts of putting development as top priority and win-win cooperation advocated by China have gained deep roots and wide recognition.

Serik Korzhumbayev, editor- in-chief of the Kazakh newspaper *Delovoy Kazakhstan*, said since the GDI was proposed, its achievements have been reflected in the scale of cooperation mechanisms and projects, and in the efforts to actively help the international community to once again place development at the center of the global agenda.

At the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, China called for putting development first and opening up the prospects for shared prosperity. At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, China called on BRICS countries to be pioneers in advancing innovation-driven development. Together, the two high-profile international gatherings helped build momentum for common and cooperative development.

As the world is increasingly dominated by geopolitical conflicts, economic competition and a series of continuous crisis events, the GDI conveys a significant message: Development should not be overlooked; instead, it should continue to be a priority that the international community jointly focuses on. Promoting development means promoting stability, peace and the future, Essam Sharaf, former prime minister of Egypt, said.

From 'China Travel' to 'China Haul,' More Vibrant China Taking Shape

Opinion

By GONG Qian

As people- to- people exchanges keep gaining momentum, the hashtag "China Haul" has gone viral on overseas social media such as YouTube. It refers to a phenomenon where foreign visitors travel to China with empty suitcases, fill them with Chinese goods during their trips, and share videos online of unboxing their purchases.

The evolving series of "China + " phrases reflects how global perceptions of China are becoming more authentic, multi-dimensional and well-rounded.

For "China Travel," overseas bloggers visit landmark sites, document high- speed railways, mobile payment services and urban streetscapes. Their firsthand clips break the information bubble built by Western media and satisfy overseas netizens' curiosity about this ancient Oriental civilization.

As overseas travelers sought cool summer getaways, China's pleasant climate, sound urban infrastructure and refreshing summer resorts made it a top destination and "China Cool" arrived. Visitors paid close attention to urban public facilities and quality of life, experiencing the tangible benefits ordinary people enjoy in modern China.

"Chinamaxxing" marks a deeper level of engagement: drinking hot water, a Chinese custom, practicing Baduanjin, a health and fitness exercise routine, trying traditional Chinese medicine wellness therapies and following Chinese dramas. Foreign visitors are embracing Chinese lifestyles and growing to appreciate the life philosophy and cultural values of the Chinese.

And now "China Haul" adds another dimension. It offers a hands-on experience of Chinese manufacturing. Visitors pick up cultural merchandise, digital gadgets, and daily products, witnessing the wide range of affordable, creative homegrown goods. Global understanding has expanded from China's scenery to its dynamic consumer market and innovative products.

What has led to the evolving perceptions of China? Opening up facilitates visits, industrial strength fuels attraction, and grassroots sharing delivers genuine warmth.

A series of opening-up measures, especially visa-free policies, has opened the door for increasing cross-border exchanges. Entry facilitation has lowered barriers to international travel, enabling ordinary overseas visitors to set foot in China.

Foreign nationals made almost 61.29 million border crossings in the January-August period of 2026, up 19.5 percent from a year earlier, according to National Immigration Administration data.

Opening up is reflected not merely in rising visitor numbers; it is building channels for face-to-face communication and bridging the information divide.

The popularity of "China Haul" stems from the vitality of China's industries. Today, "Made in China" has shed its image of low- end original equipment manufacturing and become synonymous with quality at affordable prices. Even for small items such as phone cases, products with the "Made in China" label boast a rich variety, exquisite designs, and affordable price tags. Bestselling products, including drones, AI glasses, and smart translation devices, continue to wow visitors.

Notably, overseas tourists and vloggers are the main recounters of the current China narrative. They shoot unboxing videos voluntarily and share genuine experiences on social platforms. Piece by piece, their videos paint a vivid picture of the daily life of the Chinese and counter the biased stereotypes shaped by Western media. Young Internet users speak about what they see in the digital language of their generation, forming a grassroots loop of travel, experience, shopping, and sharing.

Still, viral buzzwords cannot erase long-held prejudices overnight. People-to-people exchange is a long-term undertaking. These "China+" terms are a snapshot of the deepening cultural engagement.

As more foreigners come to see, feel, and share, more "China + " angles will be emerging and a real, multi- dimensional China reaches more audiences across the globe.

Photographing Earth's Magnetic Field with SMILE

From page 1

The magnetometer on the satellite, which undertakes this task, requires high detection sensitivity as the signal strength it is trying to catch is less than one thousandth of that of Earth's magnetic field.

The magnetometer's sensitivity is primarily limited by the sensor's magnetic core material and the coil-winding process. The researchers winded dozens of coil samples and picked the three best sensors after rigorous tests.

Then they faced an even tougher problem: suppressing magnetic interference. Many materials in a satellite are inherently magnetic, and the electrical circuits in various instruments also generate magnetic fields when powered.

If the magnetometer were mounted directly on the satellite, it would pick up substantial interference, making it impossible to distinguish genuine magnetic fields in space from signals caused by the satellite itself.

The magnetometer therefore had to be mounted at the tip of a long deployable boom, well away from the satellite body. But this posed another challenge: The boom itself could generate magnetic interference.

The team had no choice but to test every small metal part individually. After countless rounds of testing multiple batches of parts, they finally selected a batch of metal components whose magnetism was below an extremely low threshold.

Light structure for large body

The last challenge was to assemble all payloads onto the SMILE platform to make full use of their efficiency for scientific exploration.

The SMILE satellite's orbit is too high for the selected launch vehicle to reach in a single maneuver. The satellite has to use its onboard propulsion module to gradually raise its orbit through multiple orbital maneuvers, much like climbing a flight of stairs.

However, the total mass of the satellite was strictly limited to 2.25 tonnes, and most of the mass was in the propulsion fuel, leaving only over 200 kilograms for the satellite platform. The research team had to use the lightest structure to support the entire payload.

They came up with an unprecedented idea: to remove the outer shell of the propulsion module, leaving the four large fuel tanks exposed. However, during ground vibration testing, the fuel tanks shook violently and the team struggled to keep them stable.

To withstand the intense vibrations during launch, each tie rod had to be tightened to the right level of preload. Too much preload could damage the tank, while too little would fail to restrain it effectively. The team repeatedly measured assembly clearances, tightening torque and vibration response curves, making adjustment after adjustment. Finally, the test results met the required criteria.

SMILE will usher in a new era of space weather forecasting, moving from qualitative descriptions to quantitative predictions and significantly improving forecast accuracy and capability, Wang Chi said.

Wearable Exoskeleton Helps Users with Mobility Impairments Walk

Hi-Tech

By Staff Reporters

A growing number of assistive technologies are coming to market to address challenges in rehabilitation, safety and daily care for older adults and people with disabilities, using technology to improve their quality of life.

At the Care & Rehabilitation Expo China 2026, held recently in Beijing, a distinctive exoskeleton robot drew considerable attention. Unlike conventional exoskeletons, which tend to be bulky and are typically used in hospitals or rehabilitation centers, this device was lightweight and could be worn discreetly under everyday clothing. It earned the nickname "invisible robot."

Developed by Hunan Yijiang Medical Technology Co., Ltd., the device is designed for people with mobility impairments, including those with paraplegia, hemiplegia or lower- limb weakness. Duan Rongqiong, the company's deputy general manager, said the "invisible robot" is just two centimeters thick and conforms closely to the body, making it easy to wear beneath ordinary clothes. For older users, its lightweight design makes it easier to use, while its discreet size helps avoid unwanted attention and ease the psychological burden of wearing an assistive device.

The robot's innovation goes beyond its compact design. Its key breakthrough lies in its ability to accurately interpret users' movement intentions. Duan said the device uses proprietary intelligent algorithms to anticipate a user's walking rhythm in real time. It delivers power assistance as soon as the user begins to move, provides gentle support when walking slowly, and increases assistance as the user picks up speed.

A woman from Yuxi, Yunnan province, identified only by her surname Long, is among the robot's users. She had polio as a child and used crutches to walk ever since.

"With the invisible robot, I can not only stand steadily but also walk independently for the first time in more than 40 years," Long said. "My hands are free and I can straighten my back." She acknowledged that the device could not restore full physical abilities but the experience of taking a step and feeling her body move in response to her own intentions brought her to tears.



A patient wears an exoskeleton robot for rehabilitation training under a therapist's guidance in Hai'an, Jiangsu province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)