Written Public Comments Submitted to PCAST

March 17, 2022 to May 3, 2022

(Written Public Comments in order of date received)

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ATTN:
National Science and Technology Council
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Attn: FOIA Officer
1650 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C., 20504
Phone: (202) 456-4444
Fax: (202) 395-1224

Subject: U.S.-India: International Relations: Signing of Landmark Cross-Border Data Access Agreement to Combat Criminals and Terrorists Online with International Cybercrime Prevention Law

Type: Letter of Agreement

I am writing a letter with reference to request for an International Agreement between the United States and the Republic of India Signing of Landmark Cross-Border Data Access Agreement to Combat Criminals and Terrorists Online with International Cybercrime Prevention Law.

The United States and the Republic of India is to consider enter into the world’s first ever International Agreement that will allow American and Indian law enforcement agencies, with appropriate authorization, to demand electronic data regarding serious crime, including terrorism, child sexual abuse, and cybercrime, directly from tech companies based in the other country, without legal barriers.

The current legal assistance process can take up to two years, but the Agreement will reduce this time period considerably, while protecting privacy and enhancing civil liberties. The agreement is to sign by U.S. Department of State - Office of Foreign Mission, Department of Defense, Office of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, Office of Science and Technology Policy and Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Office and at a New Delhi and Washington, D.C.

The agreement will enhance the ability of the United States and the Republic of India to fight serious crime -- including terrorism, transnational organized crime, and child exploitation -- by allowing more efficient and effective access to data needed for quick-moving investigations. Only by addressing the problem of timely access to electronic evidence of crime committed in one country that is stored in another, can we hope to keep pace with twenty-first century threats. This agreement will make the citizens of both countries safer, while at the same time ensuring robust protections for privacy and civil liberties.

Terrorists and paedophiles continue to exploit the internet to spread their messages of hate, plan attacks on our citizens and target the most vulnerable. As we are determined to do everything in my power to stop them. This historic agreement will dramatically speed up investigations, allowing our law enforcement agencies to protect the public. This is just one example of the enduring security partnership we have with the United States and we look forward to continuing to work with them and global partners to tackle these heinous crimes.
Both governments agreed to terms which broadly lift restrictions for a broad class of investigations, not targeting residents of the other country, and assure providers that disclosures through the Agreement are compatible with data protection laws. Each also committed to obtain permission from the other before using data gained through the agreement in prosecutions relating to a Party’s essential interest—specifically, death penalty prosecutions by the United States and the Republic of India cases implicating freedom of speech.

The novel US-India Bilateral Data Access Agreement will dramatically speed up investigations by removing legal barriers to timely and effective collection of electronic evidence. Under its terms, law enforcement, when armed with appropriate court authorization, may go directly to tech companies based in the other country to access electronic data, rather than going through governments, which can take years. The current Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) request process, which sees requests for electronic data from law enforcement and other agencies submitted and approved by central governments, can often take many months. Once in place, the Agreement will see the timeline obtaining evidence significantly reduced.

The Agreement will accelerate dozens of complex investigations into suspected terrorists and pedophiles, of online child sexual abuse, blackmail, forced labor and sharing of indecent images, which highlighted the need to speed up these investigations.

The United States will have reciprocal access, under a U.S. court order, to data from India Court Order communication service providers. All requests for access to data will be subject to independent judicial authorization or oversight.

Yours,

Auto Legislative Policy Director - Don Meta - International and Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of Urvishkumar Mehta
Commissioner and Act Ambassador, Federal Government, USA
Pronounce: (He | Him | His)
@: [redacted]
Phone: [redacted]
To The Members of PCAST,

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has led European nations to ban Russia from many joint research and innovation projects. However, little action has been taken regarding Russia’s participation in the multi-billion dollar ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project that is being constructed in France.

Ukraine’s Council of Young Scientists has called for Russia to be banned from ITER, but this is not possible because of the ITER Agreement which has no provision for removing a “founder” from the project. Russia, alongside China, the EU, India, Japan, Korea and the US, is one of the seven founders of the project.

One way that the US and Europe could limit Russia’s participation in ITER is by instituting a work stoppage on ITER construction as long as Russian troops are in Ukraine.

I am asking you to encourage the President and Congress to seek a work stoppage on ITER to further isolate Russia in the international scientific community.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Don Steiner
Institute Professor of Nuclear Engineering, Emeritus
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
To the members of PCAST:

Professor Donald Steiner sent me this letter he had written to you. I am a scientist, retired from an ST 16 position at the US Naval Research Laboratory, but am still a consultant there.

I have worked in the both the magnetic and inertial fusion project. I strongly believe in fusion, and believe it has a good chance of powering future civilization.

However I believe that the Russian invasion of Ukraine must take priority at this time. I strongly support the enclosed letter which Professor Steiner sent you.

Yours very truly
Wallace Manheimer
retired from the US Naval Research Lab
Hi,

Today I sent a LinkedIn message to Reba.

And I sent an email to engagement@ostp.eop.gov

And I emailed a message to Penny Pritzker’s executive assistant at PSP Partners to see about getting Penny briefed about what is possible if people at the OSTP too slow to cause action. Either due to disbelief or just due to bureaucratic slowness. And imaginative “gridlock”.

UN SecGen Guterres has recently written about the tragic status of “gridlock” humanity finds itself in!


Luckily I do have some interest from CNN and MSNBC. So I will be briefing them on Tuesday. And asking for their forbearance while we see if the OSTP is able to be curious to learn that would greatly help humanity.

Sincerely,

Ken Fowler
425-750-8384
In my career I have had significant positive impacts on the United States’ economic security and national security. I prevented several disasters that would have had global negative impacts totaling tens of billions of dollars. Because I figured out what reality would allow to come into being, including inventions of my own, to avert those disasters when no one else knew what to do!

Multiple times I was responsible for saving tens of thousands of global jobs (including in WA State) from going “Poof!”. I was told I saved the entire Boeing 787 airplane program from being cancelled. Think of the positive impacts throughout the futures of those peoples who jobs I saved as well as the positive impacts on their families, communities, companies, and nations.

In all, over $200 billion in global aerospace products exist because my contributions that made them better or made them exist or made them viable! Simply because I was able to cause excellence no one else could. And I could enable others to achieve excellence that was thought hard or even “impossible”. People will vouch for me.

I was a strategic advisor to top level executives (including senior VPs & CEO/Presidents) of three companies each with revenues in excess of $30 billion/year. Including Dennis Muilenburg when he was CEO/President of Boeing’s defense business. One day he stood in front of his senior executive team and said, “I want to implement Ken Fowler’s ideas!” He pulled $300K out of his HQ budget to fund my activities to help him. I have a knack for figuring things out that other people cannot. I do not waste people’s time. Executives at Boeing, Airbus, and Rolls-Royce listened to me and my ideas to help them and their companies get better! By tens of billions of dollars.

I am not scared of the “impossible”! :-) Having overcome many impossibilities in my career.

You see, sometimes, "An impossibility is just a possibility you don’t understand yet!" *

* Which was a line uttered in the new Netflix movie late last year titled, “A Boy Called Christmas.”