



# Tech Innovation Critical to U.S. Strategic Interests

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Over the past decade, the world has entered a new era with cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), rising to prominence and revolutionizing industries from healthcare to military and defense. There are many benefits to be captured by the United States leading in the development of these technologies as they undergo further advancements. Taking the lead in technology development will significantly shape the future of our country on the global stage — influencing economic competitiveness, national security, and global leadership.

The global stage, historically led by the United States, is now witnessing the

emergence of new challengers. Authoritarian nations, namely China and Russia, who are engaged in a “no limits” friendship, are increasingly engaging in cyberattacks targeting various sectors within the United States, including government entities, businesses and individuals. Of particular concern is China’s concerted effort to establish itself as the global leader in technology by 2030, a goal it is aggressively pursuing through a three-part plan consisting of investing in its own tech capabilities, global hacking efforts, and intellectual property (IP) theft worth \$500 billion annually.

Unfortunately, this plan, which poses a significant challenge to the United States’

longstanding position as a global leader, is paying off. An Australian study found that China is leading the United States in [37 of 44 critical and emerging technologies](#). This harrowing reality should urge the United States to act swiftly and decisively to enhance its domestic technology sector and safeguard its global leadership role so that the world is not dependent on technologies developed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its authoritarian values.

Florida leaders are sounding the alarm on the China tech threat and passing legislation to secure the state's physical and digital strategic assets, such as port cranes, from being exploited by the CCP.

China's [\\$1.4 trillion](#) investment to enhance in AI underscores the urgency of the situation. Because of its dual-use capabilities, leading in AI will become synonymous with military strength and national security. Ensuring that the most advanced technologies are developed by U.S. companies rather than those owned by China will secure our airwaves, critical infrastructure, network communications, and intelligence communities.

Additionally, AI alone is projected to add [\\$14 trillion](#) or more to the global economy over the next few years. Without the adoption of AI, businesses across the United States will face significant obstacles in their ability to innovate and reap these rewards.

These businesses, large and small, are the backbone of America's economy and have a lot to gain from technology and AI. A recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce report on the use of technology in small businesses found that Florida's small businesses have an average [75 percent growth](#) in sales, profit, and workforce when they make greater use

of tech in their businesses. Across the nation, cities are increasingly recognizing the pivotal role of small businesses in propelling emerging technologies. Notably, cities such as Miami, Tampa, and even New York are implementing legislative measures to bolster this innovation, acknowledging the significant local and global advantages of engaging in technological competition with China.

Florida's [AI-pipeline, for example](#), needs support — not further regulation that would hamstring innovation — causing detrimental harm to the small businesses in Florida and across the nation. Additionally, the tech industry in Florida has a [\\$85.5 billion](#) impact on the economy. By fostering innovation and collaboration, these initiatives are playing a crucial role in reinforcing the nation's technological leadership and resilience, particularly in the face of increasing competition from global counterparts, notably China.

However, the need to invest in technology and innovation must go beyond the Sunshine State. AI is America's modern-day moonshot and elected officials in all levels of government must support the development of AI and let innovators do what they do best — innovate. Misguided legislation will not only hurt the U.S. economy and businesses, but also jeopardize the United States' ability to maintain its competitive edge against global adversaries, particularly China.

The stakes are high. We are at a critical juncture and must get this right.

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