Export Control Laws, **Technical Data** and **Academic Research** Projects

U.S. v. Dr. J Reece Roth, et. al.

Academic Research & Export Control

- Export controlled technical data: What does that mean & how does it apply to R&D projects at academic institutions?
- How did an University of Tennessee professor violate export control laws regarding R&D technical data?
- Keys to building an effective compliance program to prevent violations of export control laws so as to protect both the academic institution and the public interest.

The 2004-06 USAF Weapons Project





- In 2004, USAF was seeking to develop advanced technology for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to maintain air dominance
- USAF funded a R&D project to develop smaller, stealthier, more cost effective UAVs ("drones") with fewer moving parts
- Plasma physics to be applied to explore theoretical advantages in aeronautical engineering for the next generation UAVs

Plasma Technology Research





- Plasma applied to a surface can accelerate or slow a gas flow, such as air, affecting the aerodynamic properties of the surface.
- Plasma applied to an airfoil will also affect the "attachment" and "separation" of a fluid traveling over the airfoil.
- In theory, these phenomena can be manipulated to control a military drone traveling at subsonic speeds. Practical application of this theory is technically complex.





- Small company engaged in incentive research programs for various federal agencies bids on USAF Project Phase I and II
- Thirty full & part-time employees at peak operation. Not selfsustaining by profits; USAF R&D funding represented large percentage of income
- Lead Scientist Dan Sherman worked closely with Roth on USAF Project; warned Roth the Project was export controlled.
- Not a UT incubator company, but historically connected to UT; needed low cost UTPL GRAs to conduct research work.

J. Reece Roth



- Expert in plasma physics (MIT / Cornell).
 Directed the UT Plasma Sciences Lab and invented a specialized plasma technology ("OAUGDP"). UT held patent on OAUGDP and licensed the commercial use & development to AGT.
- Twenty year history of visits to and partnerships with Chinese Universities (Tsinghua, UESTC & Fudan).
- Honorary professorships at two major Chinese universities. Chinese Academy of Sciences published his books on plasma science.
- Wanted to market OAUGDP to PRC; didn't consider PRC a real national security threats; viewed export control regulations as unnecessary restriction on exchange of academic ideas.

Technical Data Was The Key Focus





- USAF awarded a prime contract with AGT to develop plasma actuator technology for use as flight controls for military UAVs
- AGT subcontracted with UT through Dr. Roth & UT Plasma Lab to help develop ITAR "technical data" for the USAF
- The "technical data" at issue involved specific information derived from scientific tests on plasma actuators intended for military UAVs

U.S. Export Controls



ITAR Definitions: Export & Technical Data

EXPORT: Sending or taking a defense article out of the United States in any manner

or disclosing (including oral or visual disclosure) or transferring technical data to a foreign person...in the U.S. or abroad.

- DEFENSE ARTICLE: Any item or "directly related" technical data that is listed in the USML..."includes technical data recorded or stored in any physical form, models, mockups or other items that reveal technical data directly relating to items designated" in the USML.
- DEFENSE SERVICE: (1) The furnishing of assistance, including training, to foreign persons, whether in the United States or abroad in the design, development, engineering, manufacture, production, assembly, testing, repair, etc. of defense articles; and (2) the furnishing to foreign persons of any controlled technical data.
- TECHNICAL DATA: Information which is required for the design, development, production, manufacture, assembly, operation, repair, testing, maintenance, or modifications of defense articles (blueprints, etc.).

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22 C.F.R 120

Important Exceptions for Technical Data

EXCLUDED from the definition of **"TECHNICAL DATA"** are:

- 1. GERNERAL PRINCPLES of science, mathematics or engineering taught in schools, colleges and universities, or
- 2. "PUBLIC DOMAIN" information

22 CFR Sec. 120.10

- **PUBLIC DOMAIN** is defined as information:
- 1. PUBLISHED and is GENERALLY ACCESSIBLE in magazines, journals, books, patents, etc. or information released with approval for distribution by the appropriate US government authority, and
- 2. Information obtained through FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH in science and engineering at accredited U.S. institutions of higher learning where the resulting information is ORDINARILY PUBLISHED and SHARED broadly in the scientific community

22 CFR Sec. 120.11

Important Exceptions to "Fundamental Research"

FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

- Defined to mean basic and applied research in science and engineering at accredited institutions of higher learning where the resulting information is ordinarily published and shared broadly in the scientific community.
- Scientific research is **NOT CONSIDERD** "Fundamental Research" if:
 - 1. The academic institution or its researchers accept other restrictions on publication of scientific and technical information resulting from the project or activity, or
 - The research is funded by the U.S. government and specific access and dissemination controls are applied to protect the dissemination of information resulting from the research .
 22 CFR 120.11(a)(8)

Basic vs. Applied Research Under DoD Regulations

"Basic Research"

- Budget Activity 1 Research
- "6.1 FUNDS RESEARCH"

Defined:

Basic Research is a systematic study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind . . Farsighted, high-payoff research . . . "

"Applied Research"

- Budget Activity 2 Research
- "6.2 FUNDS RESEARCH"

Defined:

Applied Research is systematic study to understand the means to meet a recognized and specific national security requirement. It is the systematic application of knowledge to develop useful materials, devices, and systems or methods.

 SUBJECT TO EXPORT CONTROLS

What was the "Technical Data" in the USAF Project with AGT & UT?

U.S. v. Roth, et.al. involved USML technical data derived from scientific tests designed to develop plasma actuators as aeronautical controls of "aircraft, including...drones... specifically designed for military purposes." 22 C.F.R. 121.1, Category VIII(a) & (i)



What Were the Violations under the AECA?



> AGT and Dr. Roth agreed to include a Chinese foreign national graduate student in the ITAR research project.

- > An initial attempt was made to "wall off" the Chinese graduate student from the export controlled research in an effort to evade export control restrictions. This "ITAR wall" was soon dropped to advance the project. University of Tennessee officials were <u>not</u> consulted on this plan.
- > Dr. Roth willfully disclosed what he knew was export controlled USAF Technical Data to both a Chinese and Iranian graduate student (domestic or "deemed" export).
- > Dr. Roth willfully took or sent what he knew was export controlled USAF Technical Data to China (foreign export).

Did Export Controls Apply to the USAF Prime Contract with AGT?

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....(1) acknowledge all responsibilities under applicable U.S. export control law and regulations (including the obligation, under certain circumstances, to obtain an export control license from the U.S. Government prior to the release of militarily critical technical data within the United States). . . and (2) agree not to disseminate militarily critical data in a manner that would violate applicable U.S. or Canadian export control laws and regulations.

AGT - UT Subcontract Contained Export Controlled Data Restrictions

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Knoxville TN By: HAMD (Signature of Authoritied. Refittementative) (Signature of Authoritied. Refittementative)	Signed by AGT President on 05/05/2005
Print Name: <u>use vos Charellor</u> Title: <u>The Print Name: Kinberty Kelly-Wintenberg</u> Date: <u>MAY 0 5 2005</u> Date: <u>Solos-los</u>	
The Project Manager while not a party a to this Agreement or kis Task Order, acknowledges that he has read the Agreement and Task Order and understands his obligations hereunder as a University employee.	
By: <u>Receiped Function</u> Print Name: J. Reece Roth Title: Professor Emeritus Date: April 29,2005 Signed I 29, 2005	by both UT Official and Dr. Roth on April 5.

Quarterly Technical Report

Contains export controlled data

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Evidence of Dr. Roth's Knowledge and Intent: "Willfulness"

Statement of Work on What I Want to Do

Export Controlled Data for Munitions

"BHD DUCT" = Plasma Actuators

AGT provides Test Stand, Misc. Testing Eq. CAN WITH MO. BUL HILBUN 5/19/24

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3.) BITH SMINOVISCH - HILGUN WANT TO CAME TO KNOWN JUNG I (WARK PE) FR A SIJE VISIT. I TROP THEM I WOULD BE ITHE THAT WASK ONT.

4.) I will BE INFRAND/INVITED IF MY FUTURE MIC OF PITENTUAL CANTERCTARS

5) HILBUN APPENED FAURASIY IMPERSON WISH OUR PLASM ACTUASM WMK.

Attachment (8)

Willfulness Evidence

"Conv. With Mj. Bill Hilbun 5/19/04"

"Virtually certain that AGT will get 1 of 2 SBIR contracts for subsonic actuator work – other will be **Orbital Industries, Inc.** - with Corke, et al this is 6.2 money."

"PHASE II" PLASMA ACTUATORS



AFM-21



Domestic Export of Technical Data



The "Force Stand" - a Defense Article used to provide Defense Services to foreign GRA

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L BACHT which is used to show The OAUSOP plasma and also to see The dielectric heating, since The top electrody was grounded Then force we can tanch The plasma, but if the touch it with front of hinger no problem but The back side

Domestic or "Deemed" Export "Transferring Technical Data" to PRC National by Weekly Reports









ekly Progress Report

Project Number: 229 Week ending: <u>11/28/2005</u> Project Name: <u>APM-P2 Plasma Actuator Studies</u> Submitted by: <u>Xin Dal</u> List of Objectives for the week:

Thrust / power /velocity measurement for AOT APM-17 actuator for comparis
 Thrust / power /velocity measurement for Quartz actuator over 1~15kV.

1. Experiment of AGT AFM-47 autuator for sumparison between UT and AGT test stands





May 2006 - UT Learns of Violation: DO NOT EXPORT!

Once aware of possible AECA violations, UT Export Control Officer informs Dr. Roth it is clear the USAF Research Project is export controlled

UT officials direct Dr. Roth NOT to further disclose export controlled technical data to foreign national graduate students

UT administrators direct Dr. Roth NOT to take USAF Phase II information and technical data to the PRC From: Witherspoon, Mary Robin Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 5:00PM To: jrr@utk.edu

From: Witherspoon, Mary Robin GOVERNMENT Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 5:08 PM EXHIBIT To: 'irr@utk.edu' Cc: Cox, Evelyn C; Harris, William F; Collier, Billie J; Woody, Alice M; tompkins@tennessee.edu Subject: Export Control clause in the Atmospheric Glow prime contract I have reviewed the Air Force's prime contract with Atmospheric Glow. The prime contract contains the Export Control restriction (AFMC 5352.227-9000 EXPORT-CONTROLLED DATA RESTRICTIONS) on foreign nationals that I spoke to you about on the phone. I contacted the State Department yesterday (without naming names) and the department y involved and asked if foreign students would be allowed to work on such a project. I did mention Iran and China. The person I talked to confirmed hat Iran and China are denied countries for export control purposes. The AFMC clause cannot be negotiated out of this contract. What this means is that only American students an work on the project, and have access to the equipment involved in the research, unless ve could obtain a license from the State Dept. I will caution that a license can take six months to a year to process, which would side line your research for that period of time. I also do ret think that State will grant a license in our case In my conversation with the folks at Atmospheric Glow, I discussed the foreign national restriction and the problem with foreign national access p the equipment. I understand that you will meet with them in the morning. I hope an agree nent can be made at that time beneficial to us all. I will be out of town on Friday, but fail free to leave me a message or email and I will pick that up on Monday. Robin Robin Witherspoon Coordinator, Export Control University of Tennessee Office of Research 1534 White Avenue Knoxville, TN 37996-1529 Phone: 865.974.0232 Fax: 865.974.2805 http://exportcontrol.utk.edu

The prime contract contains the Export Control restrictions (AFMC 5352.227.9000 EXPORT CONTROLLED DATA RESTRICTIONS) on foreign nationals that I spoke to you...

The Risk of Foreign Export: Roth's May 2006 PRC Lecture Tour

 Official Schedule for Roth's lecture series at PRC Universities during May 2006

"Lecture 3: Subsonic Plasma Aerodynamics for Flight Control of Aircraft." Roth 教授上海之行日程

	日期	时间	活动				
	5.14	20:50	20:50 浦东机场接机(航班号 NW025), 住正大 接机: 张善端				
	5.15	10:00	欢迎会 地点:电光源楼 301 出席:光源系刘木清、朱绍龙、徐学基、陈大华、刘跃群、 诸定昌、宋贤杰等教授,姚佩玉、张善端、陈育明老师: 现代所郭文康、梁荣庆教授。				
		11:30	午餐				
		PM	讨论,参观实验室和校园				
	5.16	9:00-11:00	Lecture 1: The Physics, Phenomenology, and Potential Industrial Applications of the OAUGDP				
	5.10	14:00-16:00	Lecture 2: Sterilization and Decontamination of Surfaces and Ventilating Systems by Exposure to the OAUGDP				
		白天	参观上海博物馆、人民广场、城市规划展览馆 陪同: 江浩				
	5.17	19:15	越剧专场(上海话剧艺术中心,徐汇区安福路 288 号) 陪同:朱绍龙教授,韩秋漪				
	6.10	日大	· 参观豫园、城隍庙, 购物 陪同: 张源				
Γ	5.19	白天	待定				
		9:00-11:00	Lecture 3: Subsonic Plasma Aerodynamics for Flight Control of Aircraft				
	5.20	13:30-15:30	Lecture 4: Etching of Polymers and Microelectronic Materials at the Nano- and Micro-Scales with the OAUGDP				
		19:30	上海马戏城: ERA 时空之旅 陪同:张善端				
Γ	6.01	9:00-11:00	Lecture 5: Atmospheric Plasma Diagnostics				
	5.21	13:30-15:30	Lecture 6: Academic Entrepreneurship in America				
	5.22	8:00	浦东机场送行,飞深圳(FM 9369, 10:15-12:35) 送行:张善端,毛婷				

Roth's Tsinghua Univ. Lecture: Risk of Export of Technical Data?

 An undated e-mail from Roth to "Professor Guan" from Tsinghua University, regarding his upcoming May 2006 trip to the PRC:

> "Topics on which I can speak that relate to our recent research on the applications of the OAUGDP are the following: . . . 2.) Subsonic Plasma Aerodynamics for Flight Controls of Aircraft which contains some of our recent results on optimizing plasma actuators."



Foreign Export of Technical Data

Subject: RE: Review of AIAA Draft and other urgent matters From: Xin Dai <u>xdai@utk.edu</u> Date: Sat., 20 May 2006, 11:11:19 – 0400

NMENT

sdzhang@fudan.edu.cn

		GOVERN
	Message0001	EXHI
Subject:	RE: Review of AIAA Draft and other urgent matters	
From:	Xin Dai <xdai@utk.edu></xdai@utk.edu>	
Date:	Sat, 20 May 2006 11:11:19 -0400	
To:	sdzhang@fudan.edu.cn	
	Message Body	

Dr. Roth,

In the attachment is the Reno 2007 paper (Text only). It's around 17 pages. I can not reduce it to 8 pages anyway. I apologize for the delay. In my next e-mail is the full pfd file, in case you have fast internet service in China. It's about 5.8Mb. Sirous is out of town this week. He will be back today. We will work together to finish part for Schlieren Optical Experimental Results. As for the multiple actuator experiments, I did some experiment, but the relative error is too large. You know, AGT took the test stand away. I have to do the experiment manually. It takes longer time. After I re-check the data, I will add all the figures.

To:

>laptop (unless a setting needs to be changed) or at the Chinese epof >the Internet. I am currently using the Internet address of Prof. >Shanduan Zhang, sdzhang@fudan.edu.cn.

> Time is running out on the draft for the AIAA meeting, which I
 > have not received. Please send its electronic file to me immediately
 > at Prof. Zhang's address above. He will get it to me, and I will
 > atempt to get it back to you in time to make the May 22 deadline. I

• Xin Dai tells Dr. Roth: "You know, AGT took the Test Stand away."

•Roth directs Xin Dai to e-mail the 2007 AIAA draft paper to Dr. Zhang's e-mail at Fudan University in China

•Dr. Zhang (in the PRC) acknowledges receipt of 2007 AIAA paper

Dr. Roth exports USAF Phase II Technical Data to Fudan University

- AIAA Paper draft contained data and diagrams directly from USAF Phase II Weekly Reports #31 and #32.
- Concept diagrams of Force Stand and technical data.
- Contained technical data on the configuration and sensitivity of Force Stand.







What Made This a Crime under the AECA?

- 1. Dr. Roth exported, attempted to export, or caused to be exported to a *foreign national....* or from the United States of America to a foreign country...
- 2. A defense article or defense service, or technical data directly relating to such an item, that is listed on the United States Munitions List...
- 3. Without having first obtained a validated license or written approval from the State Department; and
- 4. Acted knowingly and willfully. [Jury Instructions]

What is "Knowingly and Willfully"?

 "The Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant voluntarily and intentionally violated a known legal duty. In other words, the Defendant must have acted voluntarily and intentionally and with the specific intent to do something he know was unlawful, that is to say, with the intent to either disobey or disregard the law."

Jury Instructions, U.S. v. Roth

Evidence of Dr. Roth's Willfulness

- He knew from at least 2004 that the USAF Project was a "6.2 Funded" R&D weapons project subject to export controlled restrictions.
- He knew from 2005 that a Chinese and Iranian GRA were working on the USAF Project that involved "export control data for munitions."
- In May 2006 he transported USAF Project "technical data" to China (despite UT warnings).
- He never informed the USAF and UT that foreign nationals were working on the USAF Project or that he was taking USAF Project information to China (knowing of AGT concern).

The Indictment: Export Control Violations

Domestic Exports to a Chinese and Iranian Foreign National

- Inclusion of a Chinese foreign national in the USAF export controlled R&D project resulting in repeated exports of Technical Data [Counts 3-10]
- >Export of "Force Stand" Defense Services. [Counts 14-15]
- Providing a document containing ITAR Technical Data to an Iranian foreign national [Count 17]

Foreign Exports to China during a May 2006 Lecture our

- Transportation of three documents containing ITAR Technical Data [Counts 11, 12 & 13]
- Causing wire transmission of a document containing ITAR Technical Data [Count 14]





What were the Consequences?

Dr. J. Reece Roth

- > Convicted on 17 counts of conspiracy and violating the AECA
- > Sentenced to 4 years imprisonment

Atmospheric Glow Technologies (AGT)

- > Pled guilty to 10 counts of AECA violations and cooperated in investigation
- > Dan Sherman pled guilty to conspiracy to violate AECA with Dr. Roth and testified

U.S. v. Roth: Lessons Learned

Technical Data by itself is covered by the Export Control laws:

"Federal regulations extend export controls to all stages of defense projects that are covered by the AECA, not just the final stages when military devices are directly involved....[R]esearch requires multiple stages before a project reaches completion, and export controls [apply] to all those phases."

U.S. v. Roth General Knowledge of Export Control Laws

"We hold that [AECA] does not require a defendant to know that the items being exported are on the Munitions List, it only requires knowledge that the underlying action is unlawful."

U.S. v. Roth (6th Cir. 2011)

Research Institutions: What level of risk as to export violations?

DoD directly or indirectly funded a high percentage of universitybased engineering and science research in 2008 including:

- 76 % of electrical engineering,
- 72 % of mechanical engineering,
- 15 % each aeronautical and astronomical engineering,
- 24 % of astronautical engineering,
- 47 % of metallurgy and materials,
- 41 % of computer sciences,
- 36 % percent of oceanography,
- 15 % each chemistry and mathematics.

Source 2008 DOD Official S&T Website

Foreign Students & Export Control

- ✓ 690,923 Foreign Students enrolled 2009-10. Chinese students represent the largest source of all foreign students at 18.5%. \checkmark 52% of all Chinese students in U.S. academic institutions are graduate students. ✓ Chinese students have increased by 30% from 2009; some Doctoral-level institutions saw an 130% increase in undergraduates.
 - Source: Chronicle of Higher Education (citing 2010 Open Doors Annual Report, Inst. of International Education)

Why is this Important?



Air Force Engineering University, Xian, PRC

Senior Colonel

Yinghong Li

People's Liberation Army Air Force



46th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit 7 - 10 January 2008, Reno, Nevada AIAA 2008-1105

Experimental Investigation on Plasma Aerodynamic Actuator's Emission Spectrum Characteristics

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Keys to an Effective Compliance Program

- 1. Know Your Funding Source Restrictions
- 2. R&D Contract Review and Oversight
- 3. Monitor Research Assignments and Equipment
 - 4. Attention to Risks of Foreign Travel
- 5. Meaningful and Effective Export Control Program and Office
- 6. Emphasize Training and Education
 - 7. Policy & Practice of Timely Self-Reporting Violations and taking Corrective Actions

LASSIFIFD



Plasma Weapon and Landspeeder UAV

Future Cutting Edge DARPA R&D Projects that might need Advanced Research Collaboration

Advanced Research is Essential to National Security





Academic & Government Alliance: Upholding the Public's Trust by Safeguarding National Security

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