



REGULATORY OBSERVATION

CHINA IT/ICT WATCH

NOV/DEC 2021

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China IT/ICT Watch November and December 2021

1. [ICV] – SEP 29, 2021, New ICV Market Access Requirements Emphasized by Official Session

On September 29, 2021, the First Department of Equipment Industry of MIIT and Cybersecurity Administration held a publicity session on the Opinions on Strengthening the Access Management of ICV Manufacturers and Products (hereinafter referred to as “the Opinions”). This session made requirements for relevant participants in ICV industries.

The Opinions was first issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on August 12, 2021. This document was made in accordance with several regulations to help promote the sustainable development of the ICV industry. These regulations include the Road Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China, Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China, Data Security Law of the People's Republic of China, and the Measures for Access Management of Road Motorized Vehicles Manufacturers and Products.

The Opinions consist of 5 parts that include 11 detailed requirements listed below:

- strengthening data security and cybersecurity management
- regulating software online update
- clarifying manufactures' responsibility in updating security
- no online update auto-driving function without government permission
- strengthening product management
- strictly in line with informing responsibilities
- strengthening security management on auto-drive products
- defining functions that the products should possess
- supporting policies
- building self-inspection system
- strengthening supervision

The following requirements and information were mentioned during September 29th's publicity session:

1. Manufactures should follow new shifts within ICV development and strengthen the security management of vehicles (including data security, cybersecurity, upgrading, functions and expected functions of software) to ensure product quality and consistency.

2. Local authorities, testing institutions and industrial organizations should cooperate with vehicle manufacturers to implement the Opinions.

According to the requirements of the Opinions, MIIT is very likely to further release more official documents with detailed implementation rules. Meanwhile, the development of relevant key standards is in the pipeline to help foster these document's implementation.

To maintain compliance and promote market access for their products, BESTAO suggests that relevant MNCs and foreign stakeholders in China conduct a self-evaluation of the data security, cybersecurity and online upgrading in accordance with the requirements illustrated in this document.

2. [Cybersecurity] – OCT 29, 2021, Cross Border Data Transfer To Face Stricter Regulation in China

On October 29, 2021, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) released a call for public comments through the Measures on Security Assessment of Cross-border Data Transfer (draft for comments, hereinafter referred to as “the Draft Measures”).

It's CAC's third legislative attempt at building a more advanced cross-border data transfer mechanism in China. With the releasing and implementation of several important laws to establish a better framework in the field (Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China, Data Security Law of the People's Republic of China, Personal Information Protection Law of the People's Republic of China), CAC finally issued the Draft Measures three days before the November 1, 2021, effective date of the Personal Information Protection Law (“PIPL”). The previous two attempts include the Assessment Measures for Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information and Important Data (released for comments on October 13, 2017), and the Assessment Measures for Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information (released for comments on June 13, 2019).

The latest Draft Measures depict security processes and approval materials, along with data scope and industry regulatory bodies for data transfer assessment outside mainland China. The main contents covered:

I. Data assessing scope:

- a) Personal information and important data collected and generated by Critical Information Infrastructure Operator (CIIO)
- b) Important data involved in the to-be transferred batch.

- c) Data transfer applicant is a handler who deals with or possesses more than one million people's information.
- d) The applied data involves more than 100 thousand people's information or over 10 thousand people's sensitive information.

II. Self-evaluation for data operators required in different aspects before submitting application which should mainly cover:

- a) Basic information of the data: scope, reason to transfer, method, quantity, category.
- b) The necessity, legitimacy of the transfer.
- c) Managing methods of data security and precaution measures against potential leakage or breach.
- d) Technical skills and responsibilities of the abroad data receiver.

III. Administration and assessment authorities:

- a) CAC is the direct bodies to accept applications.
- b) Sector watchdogs of the applicant, relevant department of the State Council, provincial cyberspace administration and relevant professional institutions will be the reviewers.

IV. Specify critical contents that should be included in the contract signed by the data collector and the receiver.

V. The assessment result will be valid for two years in general.

China's efforts on protecting data security have accelerated in the past two years, and cross-border data transfer seems to be one of the critical control points. Despite the first two attempts failing to be officially implemented, the Draft Measures are very likely to take decisive action.

Still, regardless of the administrative measures that'll be implemented, China's policies on cross-border data management would initiate impact on existing business models, system architecture, and potential scope of financial costs, efforts, and technical adjustments for both MNCs and foreign stakeholders. First, extensive capital and ongoing expenses would be spent on building up the IT environment and data management for mainland China. Secondly, we suggest MNCs and foreign stakeholders engage or build a local cybersecurity team (including security governance and security operations) to ensure proper cybersecurity protection and market compliance..

3. [ICT] - SEP 30, 2021, Data Security on Industry and Information Technology To Face Scrutiny Supervising

Background:

1. China has launched a series of scrutiny measures on data security and cyber security after a booming ICT development in recent years. Several laws and regulations have been issued or implemented within the past 12 months.
2. The Data Security Law of People's Republic of China came into force on September 1, 2021, forming a general framework and principle for China's administration on data security.

Current Status and Facts:

1. On September 30, 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) published their draft of the Administrative Measures for Data Security in Industry and Information Technology Sectors (hereinafter referred to as "the Measures") and called for public comments until October 30, 2021.
2. A detailed official document aiming at ensuring data security in the industry and information technology sectors.
3. Main content of the document include:
 - a) Coverage of all data processing and security supervision for the industry and information technology sectors (data from material, equipment, consumer goods, software, as well as data generated by telecommunication operation or mobile phone using).
 - b) Essentially categorizes data into three levels (general, important and critical) based on the following factors:
 - i. Number of users
 - ii. Covering region/industry
 - iii. Impact level on national/public/industrial security
 - iv. Recovery difficulty
 - c) MIIT, along with all levels of industry and information technology administrations (provincial, municipal etc.) will serve as overseers of the Measures. Supervising actions and penalties include:
 - i. Necessary security review on critical data

- ii. Questioning taking place if enterprises fail to follow the filing or security requirements
- iii. Severe breach of the Measures' requirements may result in entering a dishonest blacklist, business suspension, website/service shut down or even criminal liability.

Possible Impact and Suggestions:

1. More similar data security administration documents may be released in other critical sectors.
2. Follow-up documents for the Measures (data security risk management platform, and detail data categorizing regulations.) are very likely to be released as a next step.
3. A clear 'stop sign' on excessive data collecting and using in relevant sectors.
4. Potential but necessary preparation work is suggested for compliance teams in relevant MNCs and foreign enterprises:
 - a) Follow-up on further updates of the document.
 - b) Evaluate and review current data management systems compared with the draft, paying special attention to system structures.
5. MNCs and foreign stakeholders may face an increase in cost and time for cross-border data transfer, or the solution to setup local databases in China.

4. [ICT] – NOV 1, 2021 Chinese Internet Giants Wave Goodbye to Excessive User Data Use

On November 1, 2021, the same day that the Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) of People's Republic of China had taken effect, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) issued the Notice on Improving User Service Perception of Information Telecommunications (hereinafter referred to as "the Notice"). It lists out the critical tasks that MIIT has assigned to provide general service system and enhance user experience.

The tasks listed in the Notice are officially summarized as Operation 542, which consist of: optimizing service in five main fields; a requirement for certain enterprises to establish two lists for personal information protection; improving four service capabilities. Most of these assignments have specified both their quantitative goals and finishing dates.

Among these tasks, the "two lists" policy has attracted the most attention due to

its involvement with top internet giants in China. The “two lists” refer to:

1. the list of personal information already collected (by the service/app)
2. the list of personal information shared with third party (by the service/app)

Such two lists are required to be published in the secondary menu of the app for users to check. These mandatory publishing contents require concision, and should include basic information as well impartial research scenarios of the collected information. The finish date of this task will be before December 2021.

Furthermore, MIIT released an annex along with the Notice to specify that the first batch of enterprises must implement the “two list” work, and the internet giants who own most of the well-known and widely used app in China are mentioned. The annex covers a variety of sectors from online shopping (JD, Taobao,

Tmall), social media (weibo, Kuaishou, Tik Tok), instant communication (Wechat, DingDing), to transportation, online Q&A community and web browsers.

The issuing of the Notice almost killed the last possibility for local internet giants to find “grey zone” and keep their excessive, if not abusive use of user information in the dark. The short timeline would also undoubtedly lead to a series of busy compliance actions and technical updates within their apps. In the long run, by-the-book participants in the sector would benefit, regardless of local or foreign origin. This possible business model change in such giants forced by the “two list” would also result in fairer market competition. Such a situation may help some traditional companies or online SMEs in sectors such as transportation, catering, and shopping to get back some of the callously taken marketshare by the excessive algorithm and user profiling from the giant apps before.

5. [IoT] – SEP 10, 2021, China Specifies Three-year Action Plan for IoT

Background:

- The scale of IoT industry in China had increased from ¥489.6 billion to ¥1.5 trillion between 2013 and 2019 (according to China Communications Industry Association).
- There are currently more than 30,000 enterprises related to IoT in China, with SMEs accounting for over 85% of the total.
- The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan has incorporated IoT into seven key industries of digital economy.

Current Status and Main Contents:

Recently, eight departments including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) have jointly issued the Three-year Action Plan (2021-2023) for the Construction of New Types of Infrastructure for the Internet of Things, clarifying several major concerns of the IoT industry:

- The future of the IoT industry:
 - Better technologies: breakthroughs for key and core technologies, and the integration of IoT technology with new technologies such as 5G and AI.
 - Broader applications: key industries including agriculture and manufacturing will embrace deployment of the IoT to promote digital transformation.
 - More standards: new standards and active participation in international standards will facilitate the development of the IoT industry
- Specific Targets:
 - the development and revision of more than 40 national standards and industry standards
 - build up 10 leading enterprises with an output value of ¥ 10 billion each in the IoT industry
 - IoT connections reaching 2 billion

Possible Impact and Suggestions:

- Traditional sectors in China will experience faster transition to embrace high-tech like the IoT.
- Further compliance and specific goals by sector are very likely to be published as a follow-up.
- MNCs or foreign stakeholders can participate in cooperation programs (such as Belt and Road initiative) for the IoT; keep track of the release of new standards and China's involvement in international standards, to ensure their compliance.
- More competition in the global IoT market: with the potential rise of Chinese IoT giants.
- Enterprises with or that are implementing cutting edge technologies in the IoT would gain advantage in the Chinese market.

6. [IT/ICT]- Nov, 2021, 14th 5-year plan for information and communications industry development

MIIT issued the 14th 5-year plan for information and communications industry development in Nov 2021, acknowledging that China's ICT industry, network services capacity industry regulations and security safeguards have improved significantly in the last five years, MIIT highlights that:

ICT industry must become

- contributor to domestic industry security
- innovation growth driver
- key component of the digital society and economy
- protector of cyberspace and data security

5-year plan outlines major principles

- innovation-driven
- balanced and coordinated
- green and environmentally friendly
- open and collaborative
- inclusivity
- law-based governance
- secure and controllable

Quantitative development goals by 2025

overall volume of industry revenue, infrastructure investment and telecom service revenue

- infrastructure, including
- 5G base stations
- 10G-PON
- data centre computing power
- industrial internet identifiers
- IPv6 traffic
- international internet speed

energy efficiency of telecom services and large-scale data centres application and devices, including

- communications end devices
- 5G penetration rate
- 1,000 Mbs broadband and internet
- 5G virtual networks

R&D intensity of basic telecom firms inclusivity goals, including

- 5G penetration rate in the countryside

- overall customer satisfaction rate among telecom services users
- complaint handling

Major tasks

new infrastructure

- new-generation telecommunications infrastructure, including
 - 5G
 - 1,000 Mbs network
 - backbone network
 - IPv6
 - mobile internet
 - satellite network
 - international network
- green and smart data and computing facilities, including
 - high-quality development of data centres
 - multi-level computing facilities
 - data sharing
 - AI
 - blockchain infrastructure
- integrated infrastructure, including
 - industrial internet
 - Internet of Vehicles
 - new-generation social and urban infrastructure
- industrial emission reduction and green development
- core technology R&D and innovation

Digitisation

- high-quality internet and services, including
 - promotion of new business models
 - barrier-free internet environment
- digitised production services, including

- online services
- industrial internet applications
- digitised governance and pandemic control
- data flow and application innovation, including
 - flow of data as factor of production
 - promoting the use of big data applications
- digital services industrial environment, including
 - industrial chain collaboration
 - development environment
 - improvement

Industrial management system

basic governance capacity, including

- internet governance
- management of radio frequency resources
- telecom code resources
- data resources
- industrial internet resources

Market governance capacity, including

- market entry
- ex post facto governance
- internet market order
- telecom devices regulations
- new technologies and services

Network stability and emergency communications, including

- cross-network connection
- emergency safeguards

Industrial services capacity, including

- services industry regulations
- consumer rights

- protection
- regulatory innovation
- reform and open-up

cybersecurity and data security protection and capacity building

critical information infrastructure protection capacity internet data security
governancenew digital infrastructure security management, including

- 5G
- industrial internet
- new applications

cybersecurity industry growth, including

- supply-demand matching
- pilot schemes
- ecosystem development
- emergency management capacity
- secure and principled internet ecosystem

cross-regional and cross-sector coordination

regional coordination digitised countryside, including

- infrastructure
- riding digital divide

cross-industry infrastructure development, including

- overarching planing and rollout
- promoting sharing

internet market optimisation, including

- 'going global' measures
- international collaboration

safeguards

- law implementation and drafting, including a new Telecom Law
- policy and funding support

- talent development implementation and overall coordination

BESTAO experts are making detailed and insightful analyses of this plan. The final report will be available before Christmas.

7. [ICT] – NOV 1, 2021, China to Establish Sample Cases of National New Data Center

On November 1, 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) organized recommendation of typical cases of National New Data Center (2021).

Main directions of recommendation are as follows:

- Large data centers. Target on cases in such major industries as Internet, industry, finance, political affairs, and focus on their infrastructure, operation and management, digital technology, ecological capability. Especially focus on typical cases that have significantly supported digital transformation of industries and empowered a wide range of businesses.
- Edging data centers. Target on cases applied to such major areas as 5G, industrial networks, VR/AR, smart cities, focus on their operation efficiency, capability and effect of calculation, supervision and safety, Internet capacity. Especially focus on typical cases of marginalized data centers that have made great innovative achievements on application and are easy to promote.

If you need more information on the topic, or the full text of the document, please contact:

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8. [ICT] - Dec 1,2021- 14th 5-year-plans on integrated digitisation-industrialisation, software and information services and big data industry development

MIIT released '14th 5-year-plan for deeply integrated development for digitisation and industrialisation', '14th 5-year plan for software and information technology services development', and '14th 5-year plan for big data industry development'. Plans outline

Deeply integrated development for digitisation and industrialisation

- development status
 - improved policy system for integrated development continues
 - integration of IT (Information Technology) and industrialisation has had a significant effect on the upgrading of traditional industries
 - accelerated construction of an industrial internet-based ecology
 - strengthened infrastructure for integrated development
- general requirements
 - guiding ideas
 - basic principles
 - ◆ central role of market
 - ◆ innovation-driven development
 - ◆ systemic progress
 - ◆ opening up cooperation
 - development goals
 - ◆ new widespread and replicable business models including 85 percent R&D tools penetration rate
 - ◆ effective industrial digital transformation
 - ◆ stimulating integration of enterprises
 - ◆ integrated ecosystem
- Main tasks
 - new products and business models
 - ◆ new smart products
 - ◆ digital management
 - ◆ platform design
 - ◆ smart manufacturing
 - ◆ network collaboration
 - ◆ customisation
 - ◆ service-oriented extensions
 - advancing digital transformation in industry sectors
 - ◆ raw materials
 - ◆ equipment manufacturing
 - ◆ consumer goods
 - ◆ ICT
 - ◆ green manufacturing
 - ◆ safe production
 - building a new foundation for integration and development
 - ◆ building a new information infrastructure
 - ◆ enhancing key core technology support capabilities
 - ◆ promoting the innovative development of industrial big data
 - ◆ improving the standard system for deep integration

- stimulating corporate bodies
 - ◆ fostering ecological aggregation platform companies
 - ◆ building a leading model
 - ◆ developing 'specialised and new' SMEs
 - ◆ developing specialised system solution providers
- fostering a new ecology of cross-border integration
 - ◆ driving supply chain upgrades along the industry chain
 - ◆ promoting the digital transformation of industrial clusters
 - ◆ deepening cooperation between industry
 - ◆ academia and research
 - ◆ upgrading the level of 'dual innovation' in manufacturing
- key projects
 - digital transformation initiative in manufacturing
 - ◆ developing an action plan
 - ◆ roadmap for key sectors
 - ◆ digital transformation capability system for manufacturing companies
 - standards for integration
 - ◆ developing and assessing standards for integration
 - ◆ upgrading standardisation for the management system
 - ◆ applying and promoting standards through a market-based service system
 - industrial internet platform promotion project
 - ◆ improving the industrial internet platform system
 - ◆ accelerating the integration and application of industrial internet platforms
 - ◆ organising platform monitoring and analysis
 - system solutions capacity enhancement
 - ◆ creating a resource pool for system solutions
 - ◆ promoting cloud-based solutions for industrial equipment
 - ◆ solution application promotion ecology
 - digitally upgrading industry chain and supply chain
 - ◆ developing digital supply chain management standards
 - ◆ digitalisation upgrades of supply chains in key areas of industry
 - ◆ accelerating the development of industrial e-commerce
- safeguard measures
 - organisational implementation mechanism
 - increasing financial and tax support
 - accelerating talent development
 - optimising the environment for integration and development
 - strengthening international exchange and cooperation

Software and information technology services development

- current development review
 - rapid growth in scale and efficiency and continued optimisation of industrial structure
 - more complete innovation system and constant flow of innovative achievements
 - backbone enterprises are stronger and significantly more internationally competitive
 - industrial clustering effect is prominent and the service system is more complete
 - deepened integration of applications and significant increase in effectiveness
 - obstacles
 - ◆ fragile industry chain
 - ◆ shortcomings in key core technology production
 - ◆ integration between software and other fields can be further deepened
 - ◆ international competitiveness of the industrial ecology needs to be improved
 - ◆ development environment still needs to be refined
- development status
 - software offering new space for digital development
 - new development pattern: accelerate the implementation of national software development strategy
 - 'software defined' enables new changes in the real economy
 - open source model reshapes the software development ecosystem
- general requirements
 - guiding ideas
 - basic principles
 - ◆ innovation-driven and value-oriented
 - ◆ focused breakthroughs and concerted efforts
 - ◆ application traction and ecological optimisation
 - ◆ safe and controlled and open and cooperative
 - development goals
 - ◆ new industrial base
 - ◆ industry chain reaching new levels
 - ◆ ecological cultivation gaining new momentum
 - ◆ new successes in industrial development
 - main tasks
 - ◆ promoting software industry chain upgrades, focusing on
 - basic software
 - breakthroughs in industrial software
 - collaborative research applications
 - software for emerging platforms
 - active cultivation of embedded software

- optimisation of IT services
- ◆ upgrading the level of industrial infrastructure protection
 - strengthening common technology research and development
 - strengthening the supply of basic components
 - improving the quality standard system
 - supporting software value enhancement
- strengthening the ability of industry to innovate and develop
- strengthening collaborative innovation between
 - ◆ industry
 - ◆ academia
 - ◆ research and application
- deepening software definitions
- promoting innovation in models and mechanisms
- growing the IT application innovation system
- stimulating new demand for digital development
 - ◆ promoting major applications across the board
 - ◆ supporting the digital transformation of manufacturing
 - ◆ promoting digital development in key areas
 - ◆ expanding and upgrading service information consumption
- improving a collaborative and shared industrial ecology
 - ◆ promoting the integration of small, medium and large enterprises
 - ◆ enhancing domestic open source ecosystem
 - ◆ promoting efficient industrial clustering
- safeguard measures

Big data industry development

- current development review
- development status
 - strategic choice to seize new opportunities for industrial change in the new era
 - new trend towards integrated innovation and ubiquitous strengthening
 - practical need to build a new development pattern
- general requirements
 - guiding ideas
 - basic principles
 - ◆ price-based
 - ◆ strong foundation
 - ◆ systematic advancement
 - ◆ integrated innovation
 - ◆ safe development

- ◆ open collaboration
- development goals
 - ◆ maintaining high industrial growth
 - ◆ initial formation of a price system
 - ◆ continued strengthening of the industrial base
 - ◆ stable and efficient industry chain
 - ◆ healthy industrial ecology
- main tasks
 - ◆ accelerating cultivation of data element markets
 - establishing a price system for data elements
 - market rules for data elements
 - enhancing the role of data elements in allocation
 - ◆ usage of of big data features
 - accelerating aggregation of 'large volumes' of data
 - enhancing data 'diversity' processing
 - facilitating the 'time-sensitive' flow of data
 - enhancing 'high quality' governance of data
 - facilitating 'high value' transformation of data
 - ◆ strengthening the foundation of industrial development
 - improving infrastructure
 - strengthening tech innovation
 - reinforcing role of standards
 - ◆ building a stable and efficient industrial chain
 - creating a high-end product chain
 - innovative quality service chain
 - optimising industrial value chains
 - extending the industry value chain
 - ◆ improving a collaborative and shared industrial ecology
 - promoting the integration of small, medium and large enterprises
 - enhancing domestic open-source ecosystem
 - promoting efficient industrial clustering
- creating a prosperous and orderly industrial ecology
 - ◆ cultivating and strengthening main body of enterprises
 - ◆ optimising public services for big data
 - ◆ promoting the development of industrial clusters
- building strong data security
 - ◆ improving data security system
 - ◆ promoting data security industry development
- safeguard measures
 - improving data thinking

- improving the promotion mechanism
- strengthening tech supply
- enhancing financial support
- accelerating talent development
- promoting international cooperation

9. [Internet] – NOV 26, 2021, New Measures for Comments on Internet Advertisement

On November 26, 2021, State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) is calling for comment on 'Management measures for internet advertisement (revisions)', until 25 Dec 2021.

In the draft, the document specifies

- Measures are no longer 'Temporary measures'
- Adjusts the scope
 - commercial advertisements and cross-border e-commerce advertisements that directly or indirectly promote goods or services through live broadcasts are now included
 - clarifying the definition of pop-up advertising
- Removed relevant regulations on programmatic buying/advertising
- Strengthening the responsibilities of related entities
 - platform operators must now regulate pre-school, primary and secondary education advertisements
 - clarifying the obligations of platform operators to cooperate with advertising monitoring, assist in supervision, and provide statistical data
- Clarifies phrases to keep measures in line with other regulations

If you need more information on the topic, please contact:

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10. [ICT] OCT 13, 2021, MIIT Strengthens Radio Management of 2400MHz、5100MHz and 5800MHz

On October 13, 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) released Related Issues on Strengthening Regulation on Radio management with Frequency Range of 2400MHz、5100MHz and 5800MHz.

Key messages are as follow:

The notice includes 14 items and 2 attachments, mainly to revise the original regulation on policy management and technical requirements. It will enter into enforcement from January 1, 2022.

From October 15, 2023, the Radio Type Approval (TRA/SRRC) should be in accordance with the technical requirements in this notice.

11. [AI] – Dec 7, 2021, China to Build more AI Innovation Experimental Zones

On December 7, 2021, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) issued Letter on supporting Harbin City in setting up national new-gen AI (Artificial Intelligence) innovation development experimental zone (hereinafter referred to as “the Letter”) in response to an application by the Heilongjiang provincial government. Letter specifies that Harbin city should

Be guided by national strategies and by Harbin's needs, developing policies for comprehensive revitalization of the Northeast industrial base

Use Harbin's science and education resources to

- develop a good foundation for international cooperation
- strengthen AI frontier theory
- strengthen R&D in key core technologies
- strengthen application research in intelligent agriculture, intelligent manufacturing and other strategic fields

Deepen the reform of institutional mechanisms and build an efficient ecology for AI innovation

- carry out policy experiments on AI
- establish new mechanisms for cooperation between provinces, cities and universities
- establish new platforms for cooperation between industry, academia and research
- establish new models for inter-regional cooperation
- improve the system of ethical norms and regulations on AI

The Letter is in line with

‘Plan for developing new-generation artificial intelligence’

'Guidelines for establishment of setting up next-gen AI experimental zone'

12. [Blockchain] - DEC 6, 2021, Blockchain Development at Full Throttle with Approved NKPs

On December 6, 2021, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), coordinating with MIIT's Industrial Development Promotion Centre, released ten research projects under the 'Blockchain' NKP (national key R&D programme) for the 2021 cycle.

The Notice is in line with following official notice/policies released by the authorities:

- Several Opinions on Upgrading Research Projects Under Central Funding and Fund Management Measures
- Notice On Deepening Scitech Project Reform
- Interim Measures on National Key R&D Programmes

If you need more information or any help on the topic, please contact:

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13. [ICT] – NOV 19, 2021, CNIS Releases Digital Standardization Index for the First Time

On November 19, 2021, the first China new-type intelligent city construction summit was held in Qingdao, Shandong province, with the theme of "urban diversity, brand empowerment, all-for-one exploration, future led by intelligent technology".

The summit is jointly hosted by the State Information Center, the Shandong Provincial Big Data Bureau and the Municipal Government of Qingdao.

It was the first time for CNIS to release the evaluation report on standardization supporting digital transformation of government and the "digital standardization index". Fu Qiang, Director of Standard Evaluation Sub-institute of CNIS, announced the evaluation report, which indicated the effect of standardization work conducted by China's provincial government during the process of digital transformation.

Guangdong, Shandong and Zhejiang ranked the top three of China's provinces for their comprehensive governance in the field of standardization work for digital government. The best 50 typical cases were selected out of 226 ones in 20 provinces across the nation.

Generally speaking, local authorities pay more attention to the role of standardization in digital government, which has been applied in more scenes.

The digital transformation of government has to deal with multiple collaborative factors, high-level complexity and take all things into consideration, which is very difficult and faces big challenges. However, standardization is a common language for more effective communication between different systems and elements. That is to say, standardization meets the current demands of digital government, as it advocates unification, simplification, coordination and optimization, said Wang Zongling, Vice-President and Secretary of the Party Committee of CNIS in the address.

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14. [AI-IoT] – DEC, 2021, New Standards Needed to Drive Digital Agriculture

The next wave of technological progress to sustain the world's fast-growing global population will capitalize on artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to improve the precision and sustainability of farming techniques.

AI, IoT, connected services and autonomous systems together enable farmers to make decisions at the level of a single square metre or individual plant or animal, rather than entire fields or all livestock. This precision allows well-informed interventions that ultimately improve agricultural sustainability by helping farmers produce more with less.

A new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Focus Group dedicated to 'AI and IoT for digital agriculture' will examine emerging cyber-physical systems as groundwork for standardization to stimulate their deployment for agriculture worldwide.

"The projection that our planet will host 9.7 billion people by 2050 necessitates significant technological progress to sustain so many lives," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. "This new focus group is the beginning of a global drive to ensure equitable access to the new capabilities emerging in agriculture with advances in digital technology."

Collaboration with FAO

The focus group will work in close collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which mobilizes international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

Under the group's purview will be new capabilities to discern complex patterns from a growing volume of agricultural and geospatial data; improve the acquisition, handling, and analysis of these data; enable effective decision-making; and guide interventions to optimize agricultural production processes.

Dejan Jakovljevic, Chief Information Officer and Director of FAO's Digitalization and Informatics Division, said: "New digital capabilities offer us a unique and immediate opportunity to transform food systems and accelerate impact towards zero hunger. The new focus group will significantly contribute towards these efforts, bringing together AI and IoT as key enablers behind new capabilities for digital agriculture."

The envisaged study aims to support global progress in areas such as precision farming, predictive analytics for smart farming, the optimization of cultivable acreage, remote cattle monitoring and management, agricultural robotics, and greenhouse automation.

The study will pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries where people's livelihoods are most reliant on agriculture. Those are also the countries where digital solutions can provide the greatest gains in agricultural sustainability and resilience.

Focused on smart communities

The focus group will report to ITU's standardization expert group for 'IoT and smart cities and communities', ITU-T Study Group 20.

The new focus group is open to all interested parties.

It comes alongside the establishment of the new Correspondence Group for 'Artificial Intelligence of Things' (also under ITU-T Study Group 20), aimed at developing guidelines for future standardization work related to IoT and smart cities and communities.

ITU-T Study Group 20 has also reached first-stage approval ('consent') of the LoRaWAN specification as an ITU standard. This transposition of the low-power protocol for wide area networks into a new ITU standard intends to support the protocol's adoption globally.

15. [Internet] – DEC 22, 2021, Research Program on Key Internet Technologies Call for Proposal for 2022

On December 22, 2021, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) is calling for proposals until January 25, 2022 on Future Industrial Internet Foundational Theories and Key Technologies' Major Research Program (2022 Cycle). (hereinafter referred to as “the Research Program”)

Core scientific tasks of the Research Program are

- All-element structured organization
- Theory and method of flexible manufacturing structure
- Principles of networked regulation of industrial chains and value chains

And it requires that proposals must include

- Contributions to solving core scientific problems and achieving overall objectives of the program
- Main research elements to be carried out to address program’s core scientific questions
- Potential breakthroughs and feasibility assessment
- Description of the sub-categories of projects proposed for funding

If you need more information or any help on the topic, please contact:

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16. [Internet] – DEC 24, 2021, Finalized Standardization Guidelines for Industrial Internet Released in China

On December 24, 2021, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), Standardization Administration of China (SAC) issued the final version of Guidelines on Constructing Standardization System for Industrial Internet (2021 Edition) (hereinafter referred to as “the Guidelines”) after a round of calling for comment.

The main contents of the Guidelines include:

- Overall goals

- by 2023, further improving the standardization environment
 - ◆ 15 sets of common standards
 - ◆ 40 sets of key technologies standards
 - ◆ 25 sets of industrial standards
- by 2025, formulating over 100 sets of standards
- Key areas and directions
 - commonly required standards
 - network standards
 - platform standards
 - edge computing standards
 - security standards
 - application standards

If you need more information or any help on the topic, please contact:

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17. [Radio] – DEC 24, 2021, New Radio and Space-related License Management Document Calling for Comments

On December 24, 2021, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) is calling for comment until January 30, 2022 on four sets of radio management and space-related services administrative license application materials.

The four documents are:

- Satellite Radio Frequency Usage License
- Space Radio Stations Setup and Usage Administrative License
- Satellite Communication Network Radio Frequency Administrative License
- Satellite Ground Station Setup and Usage Administrative License

BESTAO Reviews and Translations

18. [BESTAO Review] - Security Certification for Network Key Equipment and Cybersecurity Specialised Products

In June 2017, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), jointly released a catalogue (First Batch) of Network Key Equipment and Cybersecurity Specialised Products with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), and the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA). It specified the products that fall into the catalogue must be certified or pass the testing by qualified institutions before being sold or provided on the Chinese market.

This article summarises the details of the certification, including the legal basis, scope, certification procedure, applicable standards and document checklist. If you are to sell such products in China, you will need this!

With 6 pages and 1671 English words, the article is only 18 USD for full access. For viewing the complete report, please visit:

<http://www.bestao-consulting.com/translated/detail/199>

Any question you may have, or need further consultation before the purchase, please contact:

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Introduction of BESTAO Consulting

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Accessing the Chinese market has become increasingly more important for overseas companies of all kinds and having a better understanding of the requirements to enter this large and complex market will give you the advantage over your competition. BESTAO Consulting can help you understand the Chinese regulatory environment to quickly and effectively gain access to the Chinese Market.

What We Offer:

- The government affairs team supports our clients in identifying key stakeholders in China to build connections and improve business development.
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- Our intelligence collection team gathers up-to-date information on China's technical regulations and standardization in areas such as China Energy Labelling scheme, Green Design and Manufacturing policies, and Regulation Development of New Energy Vehicles, etc. We make sure that our clients stay informed on the latest developments in regulation and standardization.
- Our training team is dedicated to conducting workshops for Overseas companies on understanding key China Technical Regulations to facilitate their entry into Chinese markets.
- Our translation team provides high-quality English translation of laws and regulations, standards, and technical specifications.

For more information on how BESTAO can help your company enter and grow in the Chinese market, please contact us at

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