



PRIMER: MATCH Act

June 2, 2026

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

- As AI continues to reshape technology across all sectors, it is critical for American security, freedom, and prosperity that the United States remains the global leader in AI by maintaining its advantage over China in advanced chips and chipmaking technology.
- While U.S. export controls restrict American chipmaking tool companies from selling to China, they do not prevent American allies from purchasing the technology and reselling it to China.
- The MATCH Act closes this gap by requiring American allies to implement matching export controls within 150 days, or otherwise they will face similar restrictions.

BACKGROUND

[Compute](#) is critical for developing and operationalizing advanced AI capabilities. Compute relates to the resources [required](#) to process the calculations and data, including the physical chips. It is measured on the number of operations that can be performed in a specific amount of time; having stronger computing power abilities means faster data processes and algorithm executions, making the AI tool more powerful and useful.

At the moment, the United States and its allies hold an [advantage](#) over China in AI compute due to superior chips and chipmaking tools. As AI continues to transform technology, providing both positive opportunities and significant threats, it is vital for American security, freedom, and prosperity that the United States remain the global leader. Critically, the United States can keep its advantage by maintaining control over key “choke points,” including by preventing China from gaining access to either advanced American chips or chipmaking equipment.

However, China is looking to exploit a gap in the current export control regime. While American chipmaking tool companies are restricted from selling directly to China, companies from American allied countries like the Netherlands and Japan do not have the same restrictions. As a result, China has been able to acquire and receive services from American allies on tools that contain advanced American technology. In particular, China has [imported](#) hundreds of deep ultraviolet immersion (DUV) lithography machines from the Netherlands. These machines are important for China’s ability to manufacture advanced chips, though they also require constant servicing from the Dutch company.

THE MATCH ACT

To plug this export control gap, the MATCH Act requires allied countries to implement export controls to match U.S. restrictions within 150 days. If they fail to do so, these countries will also face similar restrictions. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation provides a firm deadline that will either incentivize allies to take action themselves or face consequences. In particular, this legislation will block China’s ability to acquire or have serviced the DUV lithography machines critical to its ability to manufacture chips, which is one of the most important choke points the United States can control. This both levels the playing field for American companies and ensures China is unable to exploit American technology to advance their AI capabilities.