



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

[Docket No. 250924-0161]

XRIN 0694-XC138

Notice of Request for Public Comments on Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Robotics and Industrial Machinery

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments.

SUMMARY: On September 2, 2025, the Secretary of Commerce initiated an investigation to determine the effects on the national security of imports of robotics and industrial machinery. This investigation has been initiated under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (Section 232). Interested parties are invited to submit written comments, data, analyses, or other information pertinent to the investigation to the Department of Commerce's (Department) Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security. This notice identifies issues on which the Department is especially interested in obtaining the public's views.

DATES: Comments may be submitted at any time but must be received by [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be submitted to the Federal rulemaking portal at: www.regulations.gov. The *regulations.gov* ID for this notice is BIS-2025-0257. Please refer to XRIN 0694-XC138 in all comments.

All filers using the portal should use the name of the person or entity submitting the comments as the name of their files, in accordance with the instructions below. Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential

portion at the time of submission, file a statement justifying nondisclosure and referring to the specific legal authority claimed, and provide a non-confidential version of the submission. For comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters “BC.” Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” on the top of that page. The required corresponding non-confidential version of those comments must be clearly marked “PUBLIC.” The file name of the non-confidential version should begin with the character “P.” Any submissions with file names that do not begin with either a “BC” or a “P” will be assumed to be public and will be made publicly available at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Commenters submitting business confidential information are encouraged to scan a hard copy of the non-confidential version to create an image of the file, rather than submitting a digital copy with redactions applied, to avoid inadvertent redaction errors which could enable the public to read business confidential information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Astle, Director, Defense Industrial Base Division, Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4506, robotics232@bis.doc.gov. For more information about the Section 232 program, including the regulations and the text of previous investigations, see www.bis.doc.gov/232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 2, 2025, the Secretary of Commerce initiated an investigation under Section 232 (19 U.S.C. 1862) to determine the effects on national security of imports of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components.

For the purpose of this investigation “robotics and industrial machinery” includes, among other things, robots and programmable, computer-controlled mechanical systems. This equipment spans CNC machining centers, turning and milling machines, grinding and deburring

equipment, and industrial stamping and pressing machines. It also includes automatic tool changers, jigs and fixtures, and machine tools for cutting, welding, and handling work pieces. Application-specific specialty metalworking equipment used to treat, form, or cut metal, such as autoclaves and industrial ovens, metal finishing and treatment equipment, EDM machinery, and laser and water-cutting tools and machinery is also included. The scope of this investigation does not include unmanned aircraft systems, which are covered by a different section 232 investigation (see 90 FR 31958).

Request for Public Comments

This investigation is being undertaken in accordance with part 705 of the National Security Industrial Base Regulations (15 CFR parts 700 to 709) (NSIBR). Interested parties are invited to submit written comments, data, analyses, or information pertinent to this investigation to BIS's Office of Strategic Industries and Economic Security no later than [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. The Department is particularly interested in comments and information directed at the criteria listed in § 705.4 of the regulations as they affect national security, including the following:

(i) the current, projected, and optimal demand for robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components in the United States;

(ii) the extent to which domestic production of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components can meet domestic demand;

(iii) the role of foreign supply chains, particularly of major exporters, in meeting United States demand for robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components;

(iv) the concentration of U.S. imports of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components from a small number of suppliers or foreign nations and the associated risks;

(v) the impact of foreign government subsidies and predatory trade practices on the competitiveness of the robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components, in the United States;

(vi) the economic impact of artificially suppressed prices of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components due to foreign unfair trade practices and state-sponsored overproduction;

(vii) the potential for export restrictions by foreign nations, including the ability of foreign nations to weaponize their control over supplies of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components;

(viii) the feasibility of increasing domestic capacity for robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components to reduce import reliance;

(ix) the impact of current trade policies on domestic production of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components, and whether additional measures, including tariffs or quotas, are necessary to protect national security;

(x) the impact of the use or lack of use of robotics and industrial machinery on U.S. manufacturing employment;

(xi) the potential for foreign control or exploitation of the robotics and industrial machinery supply chain;

(xii) the ability of foreign persons to weaponize the capabilities or attributes of foreign-built robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts or components;

(xiii) the future role of robotics and industrial machinery in the production of items essential to national security or in activities related to national security; and

(xiv) any other relevant factors.

Material submitted by members of the public that is business confidential information will be exempted from public disclosure as provided for by § 705.6 of the regulations (see the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice). Communications from agencies of the United States Government will not be made available for public inspection. BIS does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. Requesters should first view the Bureau's webpage, which can be found at: <https://efoia.bis.doc.gov/> (see "Electronic FOIA" heading). If requesters cannot access

the website, they may call (202) 482-0795 for assistance. The records related to this assessment are made accessible in accordance with the regulations published at 15 CFR 4.1, *et seq.*

Julia A. Khersonsky,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Trade.

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