

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

## *Office of Research Security*

### **End of the year reminders:**

When a Visit Authorization Request needs to be sent, please use <https://www.uah.edu/ors/visit-requests/visit-authorization-letters>.

If you are traveling outside the U.S. please keep in mind that a “Notification of Foreign Travel Form” must be completed. Please visit <https://www.uah.edu/ors/travel-safety>. There you can complete the Notification of Foreign Travel and the Notification of Foreign Travel Debriefing forms.

**ALL Annual Security training requirements must be completed by Thursday, December 19, 2024.** Annual Security Trainings include CITI Export Control, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), Insider Threat and the 2024 Annual Security Refresher trainings.

The 2024 Annual Security Refresher training is currently on-line for the remainder of the year.



## A Hong Kong University Launched the World's First Large-Scale AI Model Earth Observation Satellite

By Sunny Cheung  
October 21, 2024

This cutting-edge satellite showcases Hong Kong's growing role in China's space ambitions and highlights the city's strategic importance in technological development.

In late September, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-equipped Earth observation satellite, named the "Hong Kong Youth Science and Technology Innovation Satellite" with support from the ADA Space, a company that is associated with China's central government and its military-civilian fusion strategy. This cutting-edge satellite – billed by the CUHK as "the world's first large-scale AI model scientific satellite" – showcases Hong Kong's growing role in China's space ambitions and highlights the city's strategic importance in technological development.

The satellite allegedly focuses on monitoring environmental and geographical data, particularly in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. However, its advanced AI capabilities also suggest its potential for dual-use applications, potentially providing military reconnaissance in addition to serving civilian needs. This launch marks a critical step in China's broader strategy to integrate AI with space technology and positions Hong Kong as a key player in these advancements. As the world watches China's expanding influence in space, the development and deployment of such satellites warrant close monitoring to understand their full range of capabilities and intentions.

The Hong Kong Youth Science and Technology Innovation Satellite represents a significant collaboration between Chinese academia and industry. It is the first satellite to be directly designed, developed, and deployed by the CUHK, showcasing the university's expertise in advanced space technologies.

To read the full article, use the link below: <https://thediomat.com/2024/10/a-hong-kong-university-launched-the-worlds-first-large-scale-ai-model-earth-observation-satellite/>



## Agencies prep for next phase of ‘zero trust’ cyber upgrades

Justin Doubleday

October 22, 2024

Agencies are due in the coming weeks to submit updated “zero trust” implementation plans to the White House, marking a key checkpoint in efforts to modernize government cyber defenses.

The implementation plans are due to the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the National Cyber Director by Nov. 7. That deadline was set out in a summertime [memo](#) on the Biden administration’s cybersecurity priorities for the fiscal 2026 budget.

The memo states agency plans should particularly focus on the status of initiatives to upgrade cyber defenses for so-called “high value assets” and “high impact systems.”

The plans will provide federal cyber leaders with a key update on the January 2022 zero trust strategy, which lays out a multi-pronged effort to shift away from perimeter-based cyber defenses toward a “never trust, always verify” approach. The strategy focuses on five technology pillars: identity; devices; networks; applications and workloads; and data.

To read the full article, use the link below:

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2024/10/agencies-prep-for-next-phase-of-zero-trust-cyber-upgrades/?readmore=1>

## OFFICE OF RESEARCH SECURITY STAFF

### **DENISE SPILLER**

Director

824-6444, [denise.spiller@uah.edu](mailto:denise.spiller@uah.edu)

### **JANINE WILSON**

Assistant Director

824-3025, [janine.wilson@uah.edu](mailto:janine.wilson@uah.edu)

### **JOSEPH DORROH**

Special Security Officer (SSO)

824-6034, [joseph.dorroh@uah.edu](mailto:joseph.dorroh@uah.edu)

### **APRIL MCMEANS**

Security Specialist

824-6048, [april.mcmeans@uah.edu](mailto:april.mcmeans@uah.edu)

### **RILEY STARK**

Student Specialist

824-6035, [riley.stark@uah.edu](mailto:riley.stark@uah.edu)