From:	Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent:	Friday, May 14, 2021 3:12 PM
To:	Craig Quigley
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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THE Roosevelt GROUP

Executive Insight Brief
What happened this week and what's to come

May 14, 2021

Headlines - Budget & Approps - Aerospace & Defense - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities - Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Research - Climate & Development

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Notable Headlines

- Elise Stefanik selected House Republican chair, replacing ousted Liz Cheney
- White House to release full fiscal 2022 budget request May 27
- House NDAA Vote Not Expected Until After August as Infrastructure Takes Priority
- Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity
- Colonial Pipeline Paid a $5M Ransom—and Kept a Vicious Cycle Turning
- SOFWERX Announces "At the Edge Integration" Virtual Tech Spring
- NSA, ODNI and CISA Release 5G Infrastructure Analysis Paper

New release: Defense Futures Simulator released by leading think tanks

Industry solution for DoD: Pentagon preparing sole-source contract to replace Defense Travel System

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We are tracking **792** government positions among about 1,200 that require Senate confirmation.

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Additionally, we have identified **243** appointees so far who are serving in termed positions or who were held over from previous administrations.

Progress of the Biden Administration's confirmation process. For a more detailed breakdown, click through the image to the Washington Post's confirmation tracker.

Budget & Appropriations

Wittman: Navy Needs Money in its Budget for Modernization, But Not From Cutting Cruisers (USNI News)

"I'm not saying that we shouldn't retire those systems. I'm saying we have to do it the right way. We have to make sure that we have a transition plan; say, 'okay, as we lose these

number of cruisers, we lose these number of missile tubes, how are we going to replace them?' How are we not going to have a slope that goes, loss of capability, flat spot, and then an increase in capability; and what happens is, our adversaries look at that flat spot and they go, wow, there's our opportunity. Instead, what we have to say is, 'here's our transition: how do we have, as we retire older systems and bring into place newer systems, how do we make sure that those lines converge very, very quickly?'"

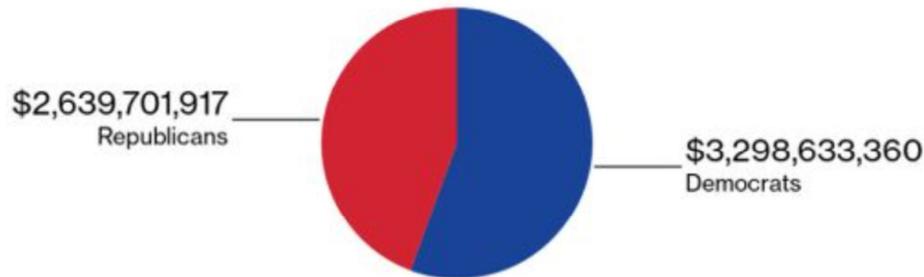[House lawmakers roll out bill to invest $500 million in state and local cybersecurity (The Hill)](#)
A group of bipartisan House lawmakers on Wednesday rolled out legislation that would provide state and local governments with $500 million annually to defend against cyberattacks, which have escalated over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act, led by House Homeland Security Committee cybersecurity subcommittee Chairwoman Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.), would create a grant program to provide $500 million annually to state and local governments over the next five years for cybersecurity needs.

[Graham wants strings attached to debt limit bill (Roll Call)](#)
Top Senate Budget Committee Republican Lindsey Graham said Thursday he'd push to condition an increase or suspension of the statutory debt ceiling later this year on unspecified "structural reforms," including potentially withholding lawmaker pay until a budget blueprint is adopted. Without action on the debt ceiling, once the Treasury runs out of cash and extraordinary accounting measures it could only finance U.S. government obligations out of any incoming daily revenue, meaning important benefits might not go out and interest payments to bondholders could be delayed. The current debt limit suspension expires July 31. Unless Congress raises or suspends the debt limit before the expiration, the Treasury would then implement bookkeeping maneuvers that provide temporary borrowing room. Analysts project the extraordinary measures would last into the last three months of the year, but they are not ruling out the possibility of an earlier exhaustion.

Earmark Requests by Party

Fiscal 2022 requests to the House Appropriations Committee

$2,639,701,917
Republicans

$3,298,633,360
Democrats

Source: House Appropriations Committee
Figures include some bipartisan duplicate requests.

Bloomberg Government

"The requested total is less than the amount of money House appropriators are willing to set aside for earmarks. Appropriators set a limit of 1% of discretionary spending, which will likely be about $15 billion for fiscal 2022 for the House and Senate combined." Click on image for full report.

Aerospace & Defense

Army secretary nominee glides through confirmation hearing (Roll Call)

Christine Wormuth, President Joe Biden's pick for Army secretary, pledged Thursday to take on a range of challenges facing the service, from personnel matters to aging equipment to changing missions, winning praise from Senate Armed Services Committee members on both sides of the aisle. There is, she told the committee, an opportunity to make the changes needed to keep the Army "the best fighting force in the world." "If confirmed, my goal will be to help the Army to continue to transform to be able to compete, deter and, if necessary, fight and win," said Wormuth, who served as the Pentagon's policy chief during the Obama administration.

Space Force Aims to Take on an Air Force Surveillance Mission (Defense One)

A few years ago, the Air Force began looking at ways to replace its JSTARS surveillance aircraft, to ensure it could keep providing a clear picture of ground movement when the fleet of outfitted Boeing 707s encounters a highly contested environment. The Space Force has now taken on that challenge. Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond announced Wednesday the service is "building out" a Ground Moving Target Indicator, or GMTI, that would operate from space. "The Air Force, now the Space Force, has a program that we're building GMTI for space, from space. And so you will see that's another area where we're actively working to be able to provide that capability," Raymond said at

the McAleese FY2022 Defense Programs Conference

[Preparing the defense-industrial base for a post-pandemic work routine (Defense News)](#)
The national headlines, industry events and casual conversations with colleagues reinforce the notion that we will return to the workplace as we left it in 2020. In the defense industry, we should not accept this as inevitable. The work paradigm has shifted, and we have an important opportunity to go forward, not backward. We must take advantage of what we have learned and of changing attitudes and perceptions of what the workplace of the future is. The past 18 months have taught us that the defense workforce is adaptable, productive and collaborative in a virtual environment. We need to reflect on the successes we've achieved in quickly accelerating to telework by reframing the culture of the defense industry and resetting for the future of work.

[The Air Force Is Planning For a Future Without the F-22 (Defense One)](#)
The U.S. Air Force aims to pare its fighter fleet to just four types — and the F-22 Raptor won't be among them, the service's top general said Wednesday. Those four will be the F-35, F-15EX, F-16, and the Next Generation Air Dominance, or NGAD, fighter, Gen. CQ Brown, Air Force chief of staff, said at a McAleese and Associates virtual conference. "Right now we have seven fighter fleets," Brown said. "My intent is to get down to about four, OK, and with that four, what is the right mix?" Brown said the fighter makeup is "really a four-plus-one, because we're going to have the A-10 for a while as we re-wing" the venerable Warthog to extend its service life into the 2030s. The F-22 will be replaced by the NGAD jet, which will fly alongside the "F-35, which will be the cornerstone, [the] F-15EX as we come in, and then we'll have F-16 for a while as well," Brown said.

Advanced Technologies

[New Pentagon directive to manage gobs of data: Make it all sharable (C4ISRNET)](#)
Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks released a new plan to manage and learn from the department's vast data stores that starts with a simple decree: Any DoD data is a resource for the whole agency. In other words, components must view data as a strategic asset and avoid trapping their valuable information in their own siloed storage systems. Her directive announced May 10 is another signal from the department that it recognizes that harnessing data for decision-making is the center of its future war-fighting concept to connect sensors and shooters across domains and services.
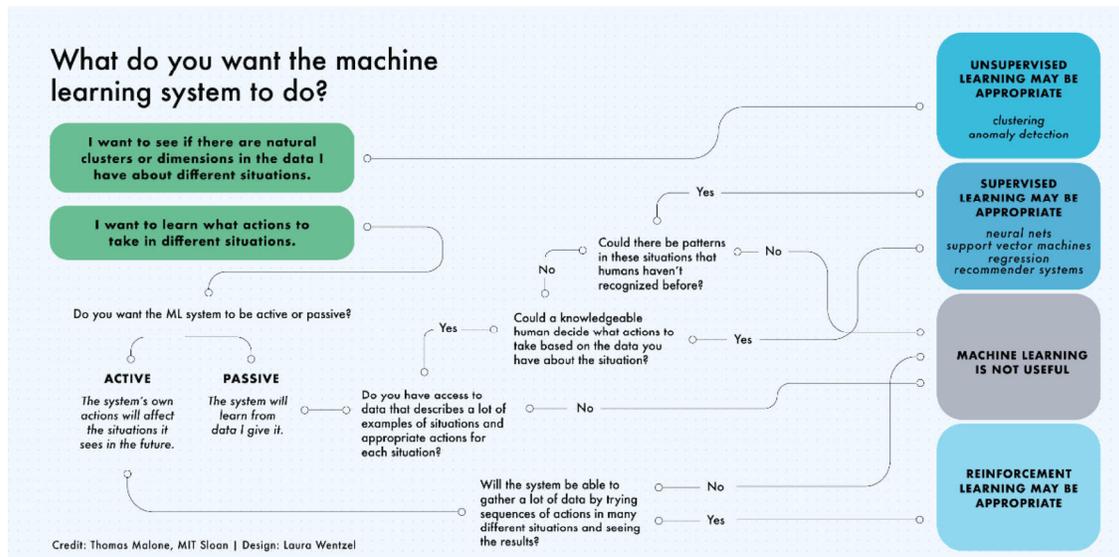
[President Signs Executive Order Charting New Course to Improve the Nation's Cybersecurity and Protect Federal Government Networks (White House)](#)
This Executive Order makes a significant contribution toward modernizing cybersecurity defenses by protecting federal networks, improving information-sharing between the U.S. government and the private sector on cyber issues, and strengthening the United States' ability to respond to incidents when they occur. It is the first of many ambitious steps the

Administration is taking to modernize national cyber defenses. However, the Colonial Pipeline incident is a reminder that federal action alone is not enough. Much of our domestic critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, and those private sector companies make their own determination regarding cybersecurity investments. We encourage private sector companies to follow the Federal government's lead and take ambitious measures to augment and align cybersecurity investments with the goal of minimizing future incidents.

To Understand 'Zero Trust,' Look to the Roman Empire

It seems that the term "zero trust" is emerging as the latest buzzword in network security and cybersecurity communities. To explain it, one can look to the Days of Antiquity, at the height of the Roman Empire when its borders encompassed most of Europe, Northeast Africa and the Middle East. Much of the early years of the Empire was focused on what was known as "Preclusive Security" which was an expansionist approach of fighting opponents either in their own lands or at a heavily fortified border. The problem was that as the Empire expanded, so did its borders, which increasingly proved difficult to staff and resupply with loyal legionnaires, and ultimately became significantly harder to defend. Once invaders like Attila the Hun were able to breach the heavily guarded border, there was little that stood in their way from nearly capturing both Constantinople and Rome. These challenges associated with the ever-sprawling border precipitated a shift in the Empire's strategy to what's called "defense-in-depth," which established a series of lightly-defended sentry posts at the borders instead of heavily fortified outposts.

"While not everyone needs to know the technical details, they should understand what the technology does and what it can and cannot do, Madry added. "I don't think anyone can afford not to be aware of what's happening." " Click on image for full report.

Military Installations & Communities

Acting SecAF visits Installation of the Future (USAF)
Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth visited Tyndall Air Force Base May 10 to view the base's rebuild progress firsthand and meet some of Tyndall AFB's combat-ready Airmen. Roth explored the "Installation of the Future" with an introduction to the 325th Security Forces Squadron's cutting-edge robotic dogs and a close-up look at the newest technologies Tyndall AFB has to offer including plans for a digital twin virtual mapping program. "The plans showcased here are fabulous," Roth said. "Tyndall (AFB) is leading the types of initiatives that will be the cornerstone for the Department's use of resilient, technological capabilities going forward."

Fort Polk Families to Receive More Educational Opportunity with SOWELA (SOWELA)
A recent Lake Charles American Press article(opens new window) reported that SOWELA Technical Community College will acquire Leesville's Lamar Salter campus, effective Jan. 1, 2022. The acquisition will provide Fort Polk soldiers and their families with expanded educational opportunities, through additional degree plans and more flexible credit transfers. Fort Polk Progress, as part of its Education Initiative, has long had the goal of improving educational opportunities for Fort Polk soldiers and their families as one way to enhance quality of life. "The Fort Polk Progress Board and I are so thankful that SOWELA could see the value in the investment they have made in our community, and we are looking forward to seeing how far the partnership with the Vernon Parish School Board will go," said Fort Polk Progress Chairman Rick Allen. "Lamar Salter has been a solid partner, but with the expansion of programs offered by SOWELA we are absolutely sure that the military families at Fort Polk can get the training they need to go into the fields of their choice right here in Vernon Parish, if they choose. We are honored to retain the hero's from Fort Polk as permanent members of our community."

N2W attracts diverse group of professionals for $1.7 billion construction project (DVIDS)
The challenges and complexities of any Mega-Project are great, and the Next NGA West – known as N2W – project is no different. From the beginning of this military construction program for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USACE's leadership wanted to attract a diverse and talented group of professionals. Leadership knew they needed flexibility to attract individuals varying from recent graduates, the private sector, and throughout USACE to assemble the best team possible in St. Louis. The current team reflects the consideration put forth to balance diverse experience, backgrounds, and skill levels; the group of over 50 employees includes 12 veterans, over 125 combined years of private sector experience and more than ten USACE districts represented. Gene Morisani, Next NGA West Program Manager, said, "Striking the right balance between the private sector, recent graduates, and career USACE personnel in assembling a team is key for a successful Mega-Project like the Next NGA West. For this reason, it was important to utilize the recruiting tools available to us and know the motivating factors for joining the team such as return rights, a better work/life balance, and gaining real hands on

experience when recruiting individuals."

Homeland Security

[Feds eye more oversight of pipelines after Colonial attack (The Hill)](#)
The Biden administration and Capitol Hill are taking a closer look at the security in place for critical oil and gas utilities following the Colonial Pipeline shutdown. Some officials have indicated that the ransomware attack on a pipeline that provides almost half of the East Coast's energy may have unfolded as it did due to the relative lack of federal oversight of pipelines compared to other utilities. "I think it's pretty stunning that a company carrying 45 percent of gas and jet fuel to the East Coast was able to fall victim," said Kiersten Todt, executive director of a White House cybersecurity commission during the Obama administration.

['Life-or-death impacts': Colonial hack the latest in rising threat of ransomware attacks (USA Today)](#)
"The United States is one of the few countries that doesn't have any regulation at a national level for cybersecurity for its critical infrastructure," said Eric Cole, who served on the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Commission on Cyber Security during the Obama administration and whose book Cyber Crisis comes out next month. The number of attacks on companies that provide essential services from banking and electricity to ambulances and agriculture has risen steadily over the past decade with more than 250 ransomware assaults launched on U.S. entities considered critical infrastructure in 2020 alone, according to data compiled by Temple University. Those included railroad systems, courts, jails, police departments, school districts, electric utilities and city halls big and small.

[Watchdog finds Architect of the Capitol was sidelined from security planning ahead of Jan. 6 (The Hill)](#)
Lawmakers on Wednesday expressed alarm over the sidelining of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) in the security planning leading up to the Jan. 6 attack despite its role on the Capitol Police Board. In a hearing before the House Committee on Administration, AOC Inspector General Christopher Failla said his latest review offered changes that "could have hampered or prevented a breach from happening." "We found that the Architect, although a member of the Capitol Police Board, which is responsible for the safety and security of the members of Congress in the Capitol campus, is largely left out of the decision making when it comes to security issues. We also found that warnings and suggestions provided to the Capitol police by the AOC's chief security officer are often unwanted or ignored," he told lawmakers.

[DHS, DOJ Look to Spend Big on Countering Violent Domestic Extremism (Defense One)](#)
The Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol Building represented a grave threat to democracy,

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland told lawmakers Wednesday, and the Department of Justice will allocate more than $100 million in funds for fiscal year 2022 to address the rising threat of violent domestic extremism. Garland, who led the federal prosecution of Timothy McVeigh for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, began his testimony by noting that 2019 "was the deadliest year for domestic violent extremism" since 1995, according to the FBI. He said the Justice Department is moving discretionary funds to address the problem and the President's 2022 budget will "provide over $100 million in additional funds to address the rising threat of domestic violent extremism and domestic terrorism, including funding for the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the U.S. Marshals Service, and other components of the Department." The money will support efforts such as the 200 Joint Terrorism Task Force teams that exist across the country, help federal attorneys' offices to better pursue cases related to domestic violent extremism, boost the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and fund more research into online radicalization through the Department's National Institute of Justice.

Transportation & Infrastructure

NSA, ODNI and CISA Release 5G Analysis Paper (Homeland Security Today)
The National Security Agency (NSA), in partnership with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), published an analysis paper which identifies and assesses risks and vulnerabilities introduced by 5G adoption. The Potential Threat Vectors to 5G Infrastructure analysis paper informs national 5G stakeholders of these issues to develop a comprehensive approach to solutions. The analysis paper examined three major threat vectors in 5G: standards, the supply chain, and threats to systems architecture. It includes an aggregated list of known and potential threats to the 5G environment, sample scenarios of where 5G may be adopted, and assessed risks to 5G core technologies. This initial analysis of risks is a result of the partnership and unique expertise from the NSA, ODNI, and CISA, as well as industry representatives from the information technology, communications, and Defense Industrial Base sectors. These experts comprise the Enduring Security Framework (ESF), a cross-sector working group that operates under the auspices of the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) to address threats and risks to the security and stability of U.S. national security systems.

McConnell ups acceptable price tag for infrastructure package (CBS)
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on Sunday suggested the cost of an infrastructure package he is willing to accept is between $600 and $800 billion, a price range that is higher than a counterproposal to President Biden's sweeping plan put forth by fellow Senate Republicans. In an interview with Kentucky Educational Television that aired Sunday, McConnell reiterated Republicans' opposition to size and scope of the $2.3 trillion infrastructure plan pitched by Mr. Biden, and said any measure must focus on "traditional"

infrastructure — roads, bridges, ports, broadband — in order to gain GOP support. "The proper price tag for what most of us think of as infrastructure is about six to 800 billion dollars," McConnell said. The Kentucky senator's suggested $600 billion to $800 billion price tag for an infrastructure plan is more than the $568 billion cost of a package rolled out by a group of Republican senators last month as a counteroffer to Mr. Biden, and a higher range than the $600 billion ceiling he suggested last week.

Suez Canal Chief Says Southern Stretch to Be Expanded (U.S. News)

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) plans to expand and deepen the southern stretch of the waterway where a container ship became jammed and blocked traffic for six days in March, Chairman Osama Rabie said in a televised address on Tuesday. Rabie presented the plan at an event attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who indicated that the project should be completed in 24 months at most. The SCA plans to widen the southernmost 30-kilometre (18-mile) stretch of the waterway between the city of Suez and the Bitter Lakes area by 40 metres (130 feet) eastwards, Rabie said. It also plans to deepen that section to 72 feet from 66 feet.

Biotechnology & Research

AI developer exits stealth mode with FDA OK for breast cancer screening tool (Fierce BioTech)

After about four years operating in stealth, a startup developing artificial intelligence technology to improve breast cancer screening has pulled the rabbit out of the hat. Whiterabbit uncloaked itself this week to reveal a new CEO and a suite of AI software tools, the first of which already equipped with an FDA clearance. The company, based in Santa Clara, California, was founded in 2017 with the lofty goal of completely eradicating late-stage breast cancer in the U.S. by 2025. To that end, Whiterabbit has worked to develop a trio of AI-powered tools focused on improving the cancer screening process. The first, WRDensity, received 510(k) clearance from the FDA last fall to assist radiologists in measuring breast density, which can be difficult to measure manually but is a significant risk factor for cancer.

Altimmune's intranasal Covid-19 vaccine shows sterilising immunity (Clinical Trials Arena)

Altimmune chief scientific officer Scot Roberts said: "These data suggest that a single intranasal vaccination with AdCOVID may provide sterilising immunity that neutralises infectious virus, which is believed to be the best way to block viral transmission. "Blocking transmission is critical for preventing spread of the virus and preventing the emergence of new variants of concern, both of which have the potential to prolong the pandemic."

New research will make bean crops hardier, help improve global food security (Phys Org)

Tepary beans—a high protein legume common to the southwest United States and Mexico—may hold the key to adapting bean crops for the increasingly harsh conditions

brought on by a changing climate, according to research led by University of Saskatchewan (USask) and Michigan State University. In a study just published in Nature Communications, the researchers found that as the mercury rises to 27°C at night—a temperature devastating for current bean crops—specific genes sensitive to heat stress in the tepary bean get activated, protecting the plant.

"We are interested in tepary beans because they are very stress tolerant, unlike their cousin the common bean," said Dr. Kirstin Bett (Ph.D.), professor of plant breeding and genetics at USask and one of the senior authors of the study. By 2050, the major regions growing common beans (Phaseolus vulgaris L.)—the most important legume protein source for human consumption—may be unsuitable and the overall nutritional quality of the crop will likely be reduced.

Climate & Development

[Biden administration approves first major offshore wind project in US waters (CNN)](#)
The Biden administration announced Tuesday that it is moving forward with the nation's first large-scale offshore wind project, a significant step toward achieving President Joe Biden's goal of increasing US renewable energy production. The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project, set to be located about 12 nautical miles off the shore of Martha's Vineyard, will include up to 84 turbines, according to an announcement from the Departments of the Interior and Commerce. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland described the project's approval as "an important step toward advancing the Administration's goals to create good-paying union jobs while combating climate change and powering our nation." "Today is one of many actions we are determined to take to open the doors of economic opportunity to more Americans," she said in a statement.

[Shell CEO: You need us on climate change (Axios Interview)](#)
Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden wants a seat at the table to fight climate change, and wants the public and policy makers to believe the oil and gas company is serious about shifting its massive business. The problem is, "in many parts of society, everything we say is wrong," he tells "Axios on HBO." Shell is and has been one of the most criticized companies in the world for its drilling practices and outsized carbon emissions. But the company has ambitious plans to turn itself into a climate friendly and "net-zero emissions energy business" by 2050.
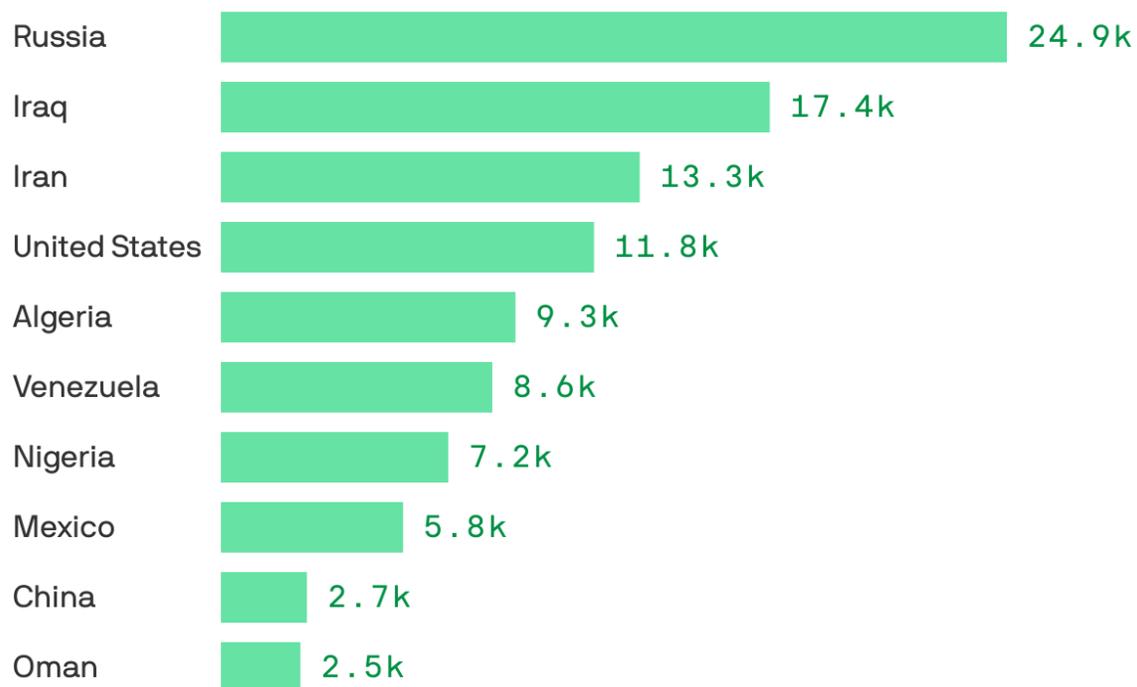
[Renewable Energy Market Update 2021 (International Energy Agency)](#)
Despite pandemic-induced supply chain challenges and construction delays, renewable capacity additions in 2020 expanded by more than 45% from 2019, and broke another record. An exceptional 90% rise in global wind capacity additions led the expansion. Also underpinning this record growth was the 23% expansion of new solar PV installations to almost 135 GW in 2020. Policy deadlines in China, the United States and Viet Nam spurred an unprecedented boom in renewable capacity additions in 2020. China alone was

responsible for over 80% of the increase in annual installations from 2019 to 2020, as onshore wind and solar PV projects contracted under China's former FIT scheme, and those awarded in previous central or provincial competitive auctions, had to be connected to the grid by the end of 2020. In the United States, wind power developers rushed to complete their projects before expiration of the production tax credit (PTC), although it was extended for another year, in December 2020. In Viet Nam, phaseout of the FIT for solar PV projects led to an unprecedented rush in commercial and residential installations.

Top 10 natural gas flaring countries, 2020

Million cubic meters

Country	Million cubic meters
Russia	24.9k
Iraq	17.4k
Iran	13.3k
United States	11.8k
Algeria	9.3k
Venezuela	8.6k
Nigeria	7.2k
Mexico	5.8k
China	2.7k
Oman	2.5k

"The IFG Index represents a consumer-oriented indicator that helps importing countries recognize they have an influential role to play in decarbonizing energy systems globally." Click on image for full report.

Upcoming Events (times in ET)

- Brookings: A national strategy for AI innovation (May 17, 2:15 PM)
- **The Senate Committee on Armed Services** will hold hearings to examine

the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense. (May 18, 9:30 AM)

- NextGov: Cloud Summit (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- FedScoop: Data in Action Virtual Summit (May 18, 10:00 AM -1:10 PM)
- Brookings: The Marine Corps and the future of warfare (May 18, 10:00-11:00 AM)
- **The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Defense** will hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies** will hold a hearing on "Air Force Quality of Life and Installations Update" (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Committee on Foreign Affairs** will hold a hearing on The U.S.-Afghanistan Relationship Following the Military Withdrawal (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The Senate Committee on Finance** will hold a hearing to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government** will hold a hearing titled "The Need for Universal Broadband: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic" (May 18, 10:30 AM)
- **The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce** will hold a hearing titled, "Promises and Perils: The Potential of Automobile Technologies" (May 18, 10:30 AM)
- Brookings: State of the Capital Region 2021: Examining the pandemic's impact on the geography of jobs (May 18, 2:00-3:00 PM)
- **The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity** will hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base (May 18, 2:30 PM)
- Institute for Peace and Diplomacy: MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY FORUM (MESF 2021) (May 19 - 20)
- Defense Strategies Institute: 8th Annual EOD/IED & Countermine Symposium (May 19-20)
- CSIS: The Role of Integrated Air and Missile Defense for Strategic Deterrence (May 21, 10:00 - 11:15 AM)

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Budget & Appropriations

Wittman: Navy Needs Money in its Budget for Modernization, But Not From Cutting Cruisers (USNI News)
"I'm not saying that we shouldn't retire those systems. I'm saying we have to do it the right way. We have to make sure that we have a transition plan; say, 'okay, as we lose these

number of cruisers, we lose these number of missile tubes, how are we going to replace them?' How are we not going to have a slope that goes, loss of capability, flat spot, and then an increase in capability; and what happens is, our adversaries look at that flat spot and they go, wow, there's our opportunity. Instead, what we have to say is, 'here's our transition: how do we have, as we retire older systems and bring into place newer systems, how do we make sure that those lines converge very, very quickly?'"

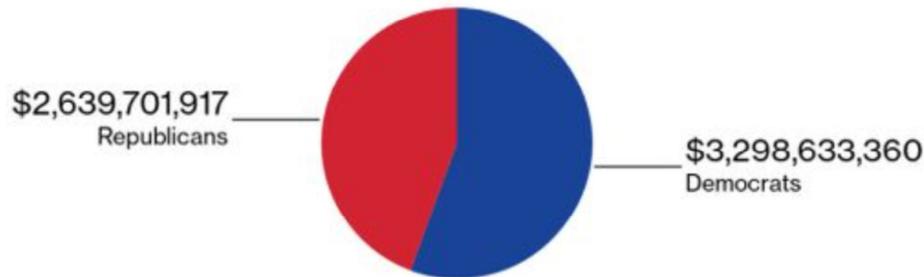House lawmakers roll out bill to invest $500 million in state and local cybersecurity (The Hill)
A group of bipartisan House lawmakers on Wednesday rolled out legislation that would provide state and local governments with $500 million annually to defend against cyberattacks, which have escalated over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act, led by House Homeland Security Committee cybersecurity subcommittee Chairwoman Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.), would create a grant program to provide $500 million annually to state and local governments over the next five years for cybersecurity needs.

Graham wants strings attached to debt limit bill (Roll Call)
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Figures include some bipartisan duplicate requests.

Bloomberg Government

"The requested total is less than the amount of money House appropriators are willing to set aside for earmarks. Appropriators set a limit of 1% of discretionary spending, which will likely be about $15 billion for fiscal 2022 for the House and Senate combined." Click on image for full report.

Aerospace & Defense

Army secretary nominee glides through confirmation hearing (Roll Call)
Christine Wormuth, President Joe Biden's pick for Army secretary, pledged Thursday to take on a range of challenges facing the service, from personnel matters to aging equipment to changing missions, winning praise from Senate Armed Services Committee members on both sides of the aisle. There is, she told the committee, an opportunity to make the changes needed to keep the Army "the best fighting force in the world." "If confirmed, my goal will be to help the Army to continue to transform to be able to compete, deter and, if necessary, fight and win," said Wormuth, who served as the Pentagon's policy chief during the Obama administration.

Space Force Aims to Take on an Air Force Surveillance Mission (Defense One)
A few years ago, the Air Force began looking at ways to replace its JSTARS surveillance aircraft, to ensure it could keep providing a clear picture of ground movement when the fleet of outfitted Boeing 707s encounters a highly contested environment. The Space Force has now taken on that challenge. Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond announced Wednesday the service is "building out" a Ground Moving Target Indicator, or GMTI, that would operate from space. "The Air Force, now the Space Force, has a program that we're building GMTI for space, from space. And so you will see that's another area where we're actively working to be able to provide that capability," Raymond said at

the McAleese FY2022 Defense Programs Conference

Preparing the defense-industrial base for a post-pandemic work routine (Defense News)
The national headlines, industry events and casual conversations with colleagues reinforce the notion that we will return to the workplace as we left it in 2020. In the defense industry, we should not accept this as inevitable. The work paradigm has shifted, and we have an important opportunity to go forward, not backward. We must take advantage of what we have learned and of changing attitudes and perceptions of what the workplace of the future is. The past 18 months have taught us that the defense workforce is adaptable, productive and collaborative in a virtual environment. We need to reflect on the successes we've achieved in quickly accelerating to telework by reframing the culture of the defense industry and resetting for the future of work.

The Air Force Is Planning For a Future Without the F-22 (Defense One)
The U.S. Air Force aims to pare its fighter fleet to just four types — and the F-22 Raptor won't be among them, the service's top general said Wednesday. Those four will be the F-35, F-15EX, F-16, and the Next Generation Air Dominance, or NGAD, fighter, Gen. CQ Brown, Air Force chief of staff, said at a McAleese and Associates virtual conference. "Right now we have seven fighter fleets," Brown said. "My intent is to get down to about four, OK, and with that four, what is the right mix?" Brown said the fighter makeup is "really a four-plus-one, because we're going to have the A-10 for a while as we re-wing" the venerable Warthog to extend its service life into the 2030s. The F-22 will be replaced by the NGAD jet, which will fly alongside the "F-35, which will be the cornerstone, [the] F-15EX as we come in, and then we'll have F-16 for a while as well," Brown said.

Advanced Technologies

New Pentagon directive to manage gobs of data: Make it all sharable (C4ISRNET)
Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks released a new plan to manage and learn from the department's vast data stores that starts with a simple decree: Any DoD data is a resource for the whole agency. In other words, components must view data as a strategic asset and avoid trapping their valuable information in their own siloed storage systems. Her directive announced May 10 is another signal from the department that it recognizes that harnessing data for decision-making is the center of its future war-fighting concept to connect sensors and shooters across domains and services.
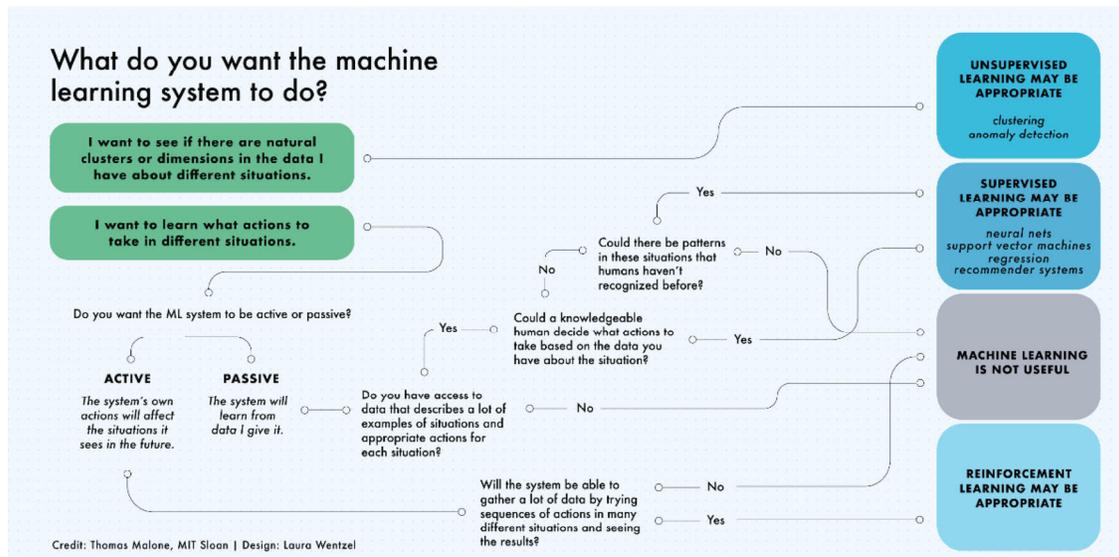
President Signs Executive Order Charting New Course to Improve the Nation's Cybersecurity and Protect Federal Government Networks (White House)
This Executive Order makes a significant contribution toward modernizing cybersecurity defenses by protecting federal networks, improving information-sharing between the U.S. government and the private sector on cyber issues, and strengthening the United States' ability to respond to incidents when they occur. It is the first of many ambitious steps the

Administration is taking to modernize national cyber defenses. However, the Colonial Pipeline incident is a reminder that federal action alone is not enough. Much of our domestic critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, and those private sector companies make their own determination regarding cybersecurity investments. We encourage private sector companies to follow the Federal government's lead and take ambitious measures to augment and align cybersecurity investments with the goal of minimizing future incidents.

To Understand 'Zero Trust,' Look to the Roman Empire

It seems that the term "zero trust" is emerging as the latest buzzword in network security and cybersecurity communities. To explain it, one can look to the Days of Antiquity, at the height of the Roman Empire when its borders encompassed most of Europe, Northeast Africa and the Middle East. Much of the early years of the Empire was focused on what was known as "Preclusive Security" which was an expansionist approach of fighting opponents either in their own lands or at a heavily fortified border. The problem was that as the Empire expanded, so did its borders, which increasingly proved difficult to staff and resupply with loyal legionnaires, and ultimately became significantly harder to defend. Once invaders like Attila the Hun were able to breach the heavily guarded border, there was little that stood in their way from nearly capturing both Constantinople and Rome. These challenges associated with the ever-sprawling border precipitated a shift in the Empire's strategy to what's called "defense-in-depth," which established a series of lightly-defended sentry posts at the borders instead of heavily fortified outposts.

"While not everyone needs to know the technical details, they should understand what the technology does and what it can and cannot do, Madry added. "I don't think anyone can afford not to be aware of what's happening." " Click on image for full report.

Military Installations & Communities

Acting SecAF visits Installation of the Future (USAF)
Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth visited Tyndall Air Force Base May 10 to view the base's rebuild progress firsthand and meet some of Tyndall AFB's combat-ready Airmen. Roth explored the "Installation of the Future" with an introduction to the 325th Security Forces Squadron's cutting-edge robotic dogs and a close-up look at the newest technologies Tyndall AFB has to offer including plans for a digital twin virtual mapping program. "The plans showcased here are fabulous," Roth said. "Tyndall (AFB) is leading the types of initiatives that will be the cornerstone for the Department's use of resilient, technological capabilities going forward."

Fort Polk Families to Receive More Educational Opportunity with SOWELA (SOWELA)
A recent Lake Charles American Press article(opens new window) reported that SOWELA Technical Community College will acquire Leesville's Lamar Salter campus, effective Jan. 1, 2022. The acquisition will provide Fort Polk soldiers and their families with expanded educational opportunities, through additional degree plans and more flexible credit transfers. Fort Polk Progress, as part of its Education Initiative, has long had the goal of improving educational opportunities for Fort Polk soldiers and their families as one way to enhance quality of life. "The Fort Polk Progress Board and I are so thankful that SOWELA could see the value in the investment they have made in our community, and we are looking forward to seeing how far the partnership with the Vernon Parish School Board will go," said Fort Polk Progress Chairman Rick Allen. "Lamar Salter has been a solid partner, but with the expansion of programs offered by SOWELA we are absolutely sure that the military families at Fort Polk can get the training they need to go into the fields of their choice right here in Vernon Parish, if they choose. We are honored to retain the hero's from Fort Polk as permanent members of our community."

N2W attracts diverse group of professionals for $1.7 billion construction project (DVIDS)
The challenges and complexities of any Mega-Project are great, and the Next NGA West – known as N2W – project is no different. From the beginning of this military construction program for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USACE's leadership wanted to attract a diverse and talented group of professionals. Leadership knew they needed flexibility to attract individuals varying from recent graduates, the private sector, and throughout USACE to assemble the best team possible in St. Louis. The current team reflects the consideration put forth to balance diverse experience, backgrounds, and skill levels; the group of over 50 employees includes 12 veterans, over 125 combined years of private sector experience and more than ten USACE districts represented. Gene Morisani, Next NGA West Program Manager, said, "Striking the right balance between the private sector, recent graduates, and career USACE personnel in assembling a team is key for a successful Mega-Project like the Next NGA West. For this reason, it was important to utilize the recruiting tools available to us and know the motivating factors for joining the team such as return rights, a better work/life balance, and gaining real hands on

experience when recruiting individuals."

Homeland Security

[Feds eye more oversight of pipelines after Colonial attack (The Hill)](#)
The Biden administration and Capitol Hill are taking a closer look at the security in place for critical oil and gas utilities following the Colonial Pipeline shutdown. Some officials have indicated that the ransomware attack on a pipeline that provides almost half of the East Coast's energy may have unfolded as it did due to the relative lack of federal oversight of pipelines compared to other utilities. "I think it's pretty stunning that a company carrying 45 percent of gas and jet fuel to the East Coast was able to fall victim," said Kiersten Todt, executive director of a White House cybersecurity commission during the Obama administration.

['Life-or-death impacts': Colonial hack the latest in rising threat of ransomware attacks (USA Today)](#)
"The United States is one of the few countries that doesn't have any regulation at a national level for cybersecurity for its critical infrastructure," said Eric Cole, who served on the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Commission on Cyber Security during the Obama administration and whose book Cyber Crisis comes out next month. The number of attacks on companies that provide essential services from banking and electricity to ambulances and agriculture has risen steadily over the past decade with more than 250 ransomware assaults launched on U.S. entities considered critical infrastructure in 2020 alone, according to data compiled by Temple University. Those included railroad systems, courts, jails, police departments, school districts, electric utilities and city halls big and small.

[Watchdog finds Architect of the Capitol was sidelined from security planning ahead of Jan. 6 (The Hill)](#)
Lawmakers on Wednesday expressed alarm over the sidelining of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) in the security planning leading up to the Jan. 6 attack despite its role on the Capitol Police Board. In a hearing before the House Committee on Administration, AOC Inspector General Christopher Failla said his latest review offered changes that "could have hampered or prevented a breach from happening." "We found that the Architect, although a member of the Capitol Police Board, which is responsible for the safety and security of the members of Congress in the Capitol campus, is largely left out of the decision making when it comes to security issues. We also found that warnings and suggestions provided to the Capitol police by the AOC's chief security officer are often unwanted or ignored," he told lawmakers.

[DHS, DOJ Look to Spend Big on Countering Violent Domestic Extremism (Defense One)](#)
The Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol Building represented a grave threat to democracy,

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland told lawmakers Wednesday, and the Department of Justice will allocate more than $100 million in funds for fiscal year 2022 to address the rising threat of violent domestic extremism. Garland, who led the federal prosecution of Timothy McVeigh for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, began his testimony by noting that 2019 "was the deadliest year for domestic violent extremism" since 1995, according to the FBI. He said the Justice Department is moving discretionary funds to address the problem and the President's 2022 budget will "provide over $100 million in additional funds to address the rising threat of domestic violent extremism and domestic terrorism, including funding for the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the U.S. Marshals Service, and other components of the Department." The money will support efforts such as the 200 Joint Terrorism Task Force teams that exist across the country, help federal attorneys' offices to better pursue cases related to domestic violent extremism, boost the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and fund more research into online radicalization through the Department's National Institute of Justice.

Transportation & Infrastructure

NSA, ODNI and CISA Release 5G Analysis Paper (Homeland Security Today)
The National Security Agency (NSA), in partnership with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), published an analysis paper which identifies and assesses risks and vulnerabilities introduced by 5G adoption. The Potential Threat Vectors to 5G Infrastructure analysis paper informs national 5G stakeholders of these issues to develop a comprehensive approach to solutions. The analysis paper examined three major threat vectors in 5G: standards, the supply chain, and threats to systems architecture. It includes an aggregated list of known and potential threats to the 5G environment, sample scenarios of where 5G may be adopted, and assessed risks to 5G core technologies. This initial analysis of risks is a result of the partnership and unique expertise from the NSA, ODNI, and CISA, as well as industry representatives from the information technology, communications, and Defense Industrial Base sectors. These experts comprise the Enduring Security Framework (ESF), a cross-sector working group that operates under the auspices of the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) to address threats and risks to the security and stability of U.S. national security systems.

McConnell ups acceptable price tag for infrastructure package (CBS)
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on Sunday suggested the cost of an infrastructure package he is willing to accept is between $600 and $800 billion, a price range that is higher than a counterproposal to President Biden's sweeping plan put forth by fellow Senate Republicans. In an interview with Kentucky Educational Television that aired Sunday, McConnell reiterated Republicans' opposition to size and scope of the $2.3 trillion infrastructure plan pitched by Mr. Biden, and said any measure must focus on "traditional"

infrastructure — roads, bridges, ports, broadband — in order to gain GOP support. "The proper price tag for what most of us think of as infrastructure is about six to 800 billion dollars," McConnell said. The Kentucky senator's suggested $600 billion to $800 billion price tag for an infrastructure plan is more than the $568 billion cost of a package rolled out by a group of Republican senators last month as a counteroffer to Mr. Biden, and a higher range than the $600 billion ceiling he suggested last week.

[Suez Canal Chief Says Southern Stretch to Be Expanded (U.S. News)](#)
The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) plans to expand and deepen the southern stretch of the waterway where a container ship became jammed and blocked traffic for six days in March, Chairman Osama Rabie said in a televised address on Tuesday. Rabie presented the plan at an event attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who indicated that the project should be completed in 24 months at most. The SCA plans to widen the southernmost 30-kilometre (18-mile) stretch of the waterway between the city of Suez and the Bitter Lakes area by 40 metres (130 feet) eastwards, Rabie said. It also plans to deepen that section to 72 feet from 66 feet.

Biotechnology & Research

[AI developer exits stealth mode with FDA OK for breast cancer screening tool (Fierce BioTech)](#)
After about four years operating in stealth, a startup developing artificial intelligence technology to improve breast cancer screening has pulled the rabbit out of the hat. Whiterabbit uncloaked itself this week to reveal a new CEO and a suite of AI software tools, the first of which already equipped with an FDA clearance. The company, based in Santa Clara, California, was founded in 2017 with the lofty goal of completely eradicating late-stage breast cancer in the U.S. by 2025. To that end, Whiterabbit has worked to develop a trio of AI-powered tools focused on improving the cancer screening process. The first, WRDensity, received 510(k) clearance from the FDA last fall to assist radiologists in measuring breast density, which can be difficult to measure manually but is a significant risk factor for cancer.

[Altimmune's intranasal Covid-19 vaccine shows sterilising immunity (Clinical Trials Arena)](#)
Altimmune chief scientific officer Scot Roberts said: "These data suggest that a single intranasal vaccination with AdCOVID may provide sterilising immunity that neutralises infectious virus, which is believed to be the best way to block viral transmission. "Blocking transmission is critical for preventing spread of the virus and preventing the emergence of new variants of concern, both of which have the potential to prolong the pandemic."

[New research will make bean crops hardier, help improve global food security (Phys Org)](#)
Tepary beans—a high protein legume common to the southwest United States and Mexico—may hold the key to adapting bean crops for the increasingly harsh conditions

brought on by a changing climate, according to research led by University of Saskatchewan (USask) and Michigan State University. In a study just published in Nature Communications, the researchers found that as the mercury rises to 27°C at night—a temperature devastating for current bean crops—specific genes sensitive to heat stress in the tepary bean get activated, protecting the plant.

"We are interested in tepary beans because they are very stress tolerant, unlike their cousin the common bean," said Dr. Kirstin Bett (Ph.D.), professor of plant breeding and genetics at USask and one of the senior authors of the study. By 2050, the major regions growing common beans (Phaseolus vulgaris L.)—the most important legume protein source for human consumption—may be unsuitable and the overall nutritional quality of the crop will likely be reduced.

Climate & Development

[Biden administration approves first major offshore wind project in US waters (CNN)](#)
The Biden administration announced Tuesday that it is moving forward with the nation's first large-scale offshore wind project, a significant step toward achieving President Joe Biden's goal of increasing US renewable energy production. The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project, set to be located about 12 nautical miles off the shore of Martha's Vineyard, will include up to 84 turbines, according to an announcement from the Departments of the Interior and Commerce. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland described the project's approval as "an important step toward advancing the Administration's goals to create good-paying union jobs while combating climate change and powering our nation." "Today is one of many actions we are determined to take to open the doors of economic opportunity to more Americans," she said in a statement.

[Shell CEO: You need us on climate change (Axios Interview)](#)
Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden wants a seat at the table to fight climate change, and wants the public and policy makers to believe the oil and gas company is serious about shifting its massive business. The problem is, "in many parts of society, everything we say is wrong," he tells "Axios on HBO." Shell is and has been one of the most criticized companies in the world for its drilling practices and outsized carbon emissions. But the company has ambitious plans to turn itself into a climate friendly and "net-zero emissions energy business" by 2050.
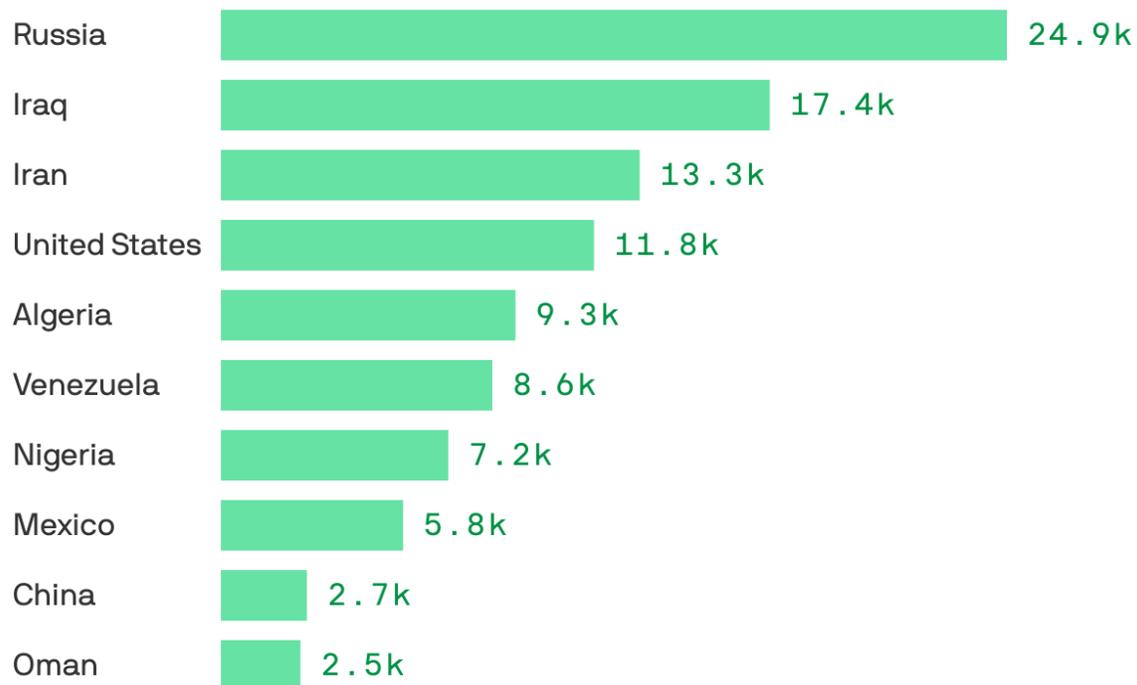
[Renewable Energy Market Update 2021 (International Energy Agency)](#)
Despite pandemic-induced supply chain challenges and construction delays, renewable capacity additions in 2020 expanded by more than 45% from 2019, and broke another record. An exceptional 90% rise in global wind capacity additions led the expansion. Also underpinning this record growth was the 23% expansion of new solar PV installations to almost 135 GW in 2020. Policy deadlines in China, the United States and Viet Nam spurred an unprecedented boom in renewable capacity additions in 2020. China alone was

responsible for over 80% of the increase in annual installations from 2019 to 2020, as onshore wind and solar PV projects contracted under China's former FIT scheme, and those awarded in previous central or provincial competitive auctions, had to be connected to the grid by the end of 2020. In the United States, wind power developers rushed to complete their projects before expiration of the production tax credit (PTC), although it was extended for another year, in December 2020. In Viet Nam, phaseout of the FIT for solar PV projects led to an unprecedented rush in commercial and residential installations.

Top 10 natural gas flaring countries, 2020

Million cubic meters

Country	Million cubic meters
Russia	24.9k
Iraq	17.4k
Iran	13.3k
United States	11.8k
Algeria	9.3k
Venezuela	8.6k
Nigeria	7.2k
Mexico	5.8k
China	2.7k
Oman	2.5k

"The IFG Index represents a consumer-oriented indicator that helps importing countries recognize they have an influential role to play in decarbonizing energy systems globally." Click on image for full report.

Upcoming Events (times in ET)

- Brookings: A national strategy for AI innovation (May 17, 2:15 PM)
- **The Senate Committee on Armed Services** will hold hearings to examine

the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense. (May 18, 9:30 AM)

- NextGov: Cloud Summit (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- FedScoop: Data in Action Virtual Summit (May 18, 10:00 AM -1:10 PM)
- Brookings: The Marine Corps and the future of warfare (May 18, 10:00-11:00 AM)
- **The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Defense** will hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies** will hold a hearing on "Air Force Quality of Life and Installations Update" (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Committee on Foreign Affairs** will hold a hearing on The U.S.-Afghanistan Relationship Following the Military Withdrawal (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The Senate Committee on Finance** will hold a hearing to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure (May 18, 10:00 AM)
- **The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government** will hold a hearing titled "The Need for Universal Broadband: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic" (May 18, 10:30 AM)
- **The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce** will hold a hearing titled, "Promises and Perils: The Potential of Automobile Technologies" (May 18, 10:30 AM)
- Brookings: State of the Capital Region 2021: Examining the pandemic's impact on the geography of jobs (May 18, 2:00-3:00 PM)
- **The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity** will hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base (May 18, 2:30 PM)
- Institute for Peace and Diplomacy: MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY FORUM (MESF 2021) (May 19 - 20)
- Defense Strategies Institute: 8th Annual EOD/IED & Countermine Symposium (May 19-20)
- CSIS: The Role of Integrated Air and Missile Defense for Strategic Deterrence (May 21, 10:00 - 11:15 AM)