

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Secretary Hegseth:

We write to urge your departments to investigate Autel Energy's connections to its parent company Autel Intelligent Technology Corp., Ltd and the People's Republic of China (PRC). We urge you to consider adding Autel Energy to the Entity List of foreign individuals, companies, and organizations deemed a national security concern and the "Chinese military companies" list under Section 1260H of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283).¹

Autel Energy manufactures electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Autel Intelligent Transportation Corp.—the same parent company to Chinese drone maker Autel Robotics, which the U.S. government recently added to the Department of Commerce's Entity List and the Chinese military companies list.² We are concerned that Autel Energy's products pose many of the same risks to U.S. economic and national security as those manufactured by Autel Robotics and its parent company, both of which are openly affiliated with the CCP and People's Liberation Army.

Congressional oversight in the 118th Congress brought a number of troubling facts to light concerning Autel Robotics' operations in the U.S. For instance, the U.S. House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party found the following:

- "Autel Robotics has traditional roots as a subsidiary of the PRC's Autel Intelligent Technology Corp, a company listed on one of China's National Defense and Military Industry Hybrid Securities Investment Funds."
- "Autel's supposedly 'made in USA' drone is comprised of microchips and components from PRC technology companies ZTE and HiSilicon, the latter of which was added to the Commerce Entity List in 2019."
- "Autel maintains operations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the base of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) genocidal repression against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority groups."
- "Autel has publicly taken part in PRC police exhibitions and openly participated in the China-Asia-Europe Security Expo hosted in Xinjiang, which included exhibitions centered on security and police equipment."

¹ See 90 Fed. Reg. 5360, January 16, 2025 (available [here](#)).

² See Implementation of Additional Sanctions Against Russia and Belarus Under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and Refinements to Existing Controls, 89 Fed. Reg. 51644, 51654, June 18, 2024 (available [here](#)); Notice of Availability of Designation of Chinese Military Companies, 90 Fed. Reg. 1105, January 7, 2025 (available [here](#)).

- “Autel has leveraged state backed subsidies to undercut global market prices, with founder Li Hongjing describing government support as “indispensable oxygen” to his company’s operations.”³

These facts led the U.S. Government to add Autel Robotics to the Entity List in 2024 and the Chinese military list in January 2025. These realities alone, and the troubling connection between Autel Energy, Autel Robotics, and Autel Intelligent Technology Corp., warrant the same scrutiny and investigation as to Autel Energy’s business operations in the U.S. Additional product and company-specific factors require a fresh examination of Autel Energy.

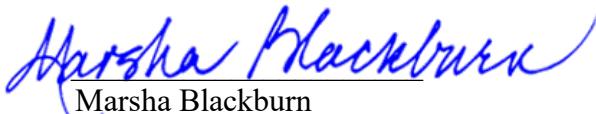
Autel Energy styles itself as Autel Intelligent Technology Corp. on its website but has otherwise taken steps to hide the company’s ties to its Chinese controlled parent corporation through new investments in the U.S., where affiliation with a strategic ally of the PRC is deliberately deemphasized.⁴ The company recently opened a new assembly facility in the United States and claims that it manufactures Build America, Buy America compliant products that are eligible for the federal government’s EV infrastructure support program.⁴ This follows the same playbook deployed by Autel Robotics, which previously advertised a “Made in USA” drone for sale in American markets, targeted towards state and local governments, even though the drone utilized prohibited technology from ZTE and HiSilicon.⁵


And much like Autel Robotics, Autel Energy products have the capacity to access and collect significant sensitive consumer data that could be used for nefarious purposes. The company operates with few—if any—restrictions, even though the EV charging stations they manufacture, sell, and deploy in the U.S. can collect and transmit sensitive driver data generated by electric vehicles during a charging session. These products are also connected to critical electrical infrastructure, enhancing the risks posed to American economic and national security.

For these reasons, we request that your agencies investigate whether Autel Energy meets the requirements for designation on the aforementioned lists.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and your work to keep our nation safe.

Sincerely,


Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator


John Moolenaar
Chairman
Select Committee on China

³ Letter to the Honorable Lloyd Austin, Honorable Janet Yellen, Honorable Gina Raimondo, November 29, 2023 (available [here](#)) (hereafter, the Select Committee Letter).

⁴ See e.g. Autel Energy Starts EV Charger Production in North Carolina Plant, October 5, 2023 (available [here](#)) (“The MaxiCharger 180kw–240kw DC Fast EV charger is National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding program-ready and meets Federal Highway Administration Build America, Buy America requirements.”)

⁵ Select Committee Letter at 2 (citing MC2409A EVO 2 Teardown Internal Photos Autel Robotics, FCC ID.io, Accessed September 18, 2023) <https://fccid.io/2AGNTMC2409A/Internal-Photos/Internal-Photos-4528188>.