

The Big Risks to Technology Growth “Defense Against the Dark Arts” Grows in Importance

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After exploring the “Next Big Thing” expected to drive future growth in the electronics industry – the technology triumvirate of 5G, IoT and the Cloud – it is appropriate to consider the forces that present the most significant risks to the exciting future envisioned for technology and electronics. Success in combating the risks presented by “dark forces” around the world will require an aggressive defense and offense on multiple levels and multiple fronts ranging from corporations and governments to individual employees and consumers. To develop an effective strategy that will protect the health of the electronics industry it is necessary to identify the key areas of risk facing the global technology economy. In reviewing the potential threats to the electronics industry, the following eight challenges emerge as the most significant risk factors:

“Big Risks” Impeding Growth

- Cybersecurity Risk
- Inadequate Intellectual Property Protection
- Counterfeit Components
- Collapse of Global “Free Trade”
- Regulatory Paralysis
- Health Concerns
- Balkanization of the WWW

In identifying the risks listed above it is important to note that other potential challenges to industry growth should not be ignored including overall economic health, technology hurdles, adequate business investment incentives, etc. However, these are challenges that the electronics industry has successfully managed throughout its history and productive strategies and policies have already been widely implemented to address these areas. The risk factors highlighted in this analysis are either relatively new in their emergence/size or continue to bedevil industry players and require reinvigorated efforts and innovative approaches to deal with the ever-changing and growing danger they present.

This analysis highlights these key areas of concern and provides perspectives on the threat they present. The creation and implementation of intelligent solutions in each of these areas will be needed to protect the bright future enabled by electronics technology.

The full ECIA Executive Analysis provides figures, tables and statistics that illustrate the challenges posed by these key areas of concern. Recommendations are presented to provide guidance to participants in the electronics components supply chain as they deal with these threats.

To see the full ECIA Executive Analysis login to your “My ECIA” account and go to the “Stats & Insights” section.