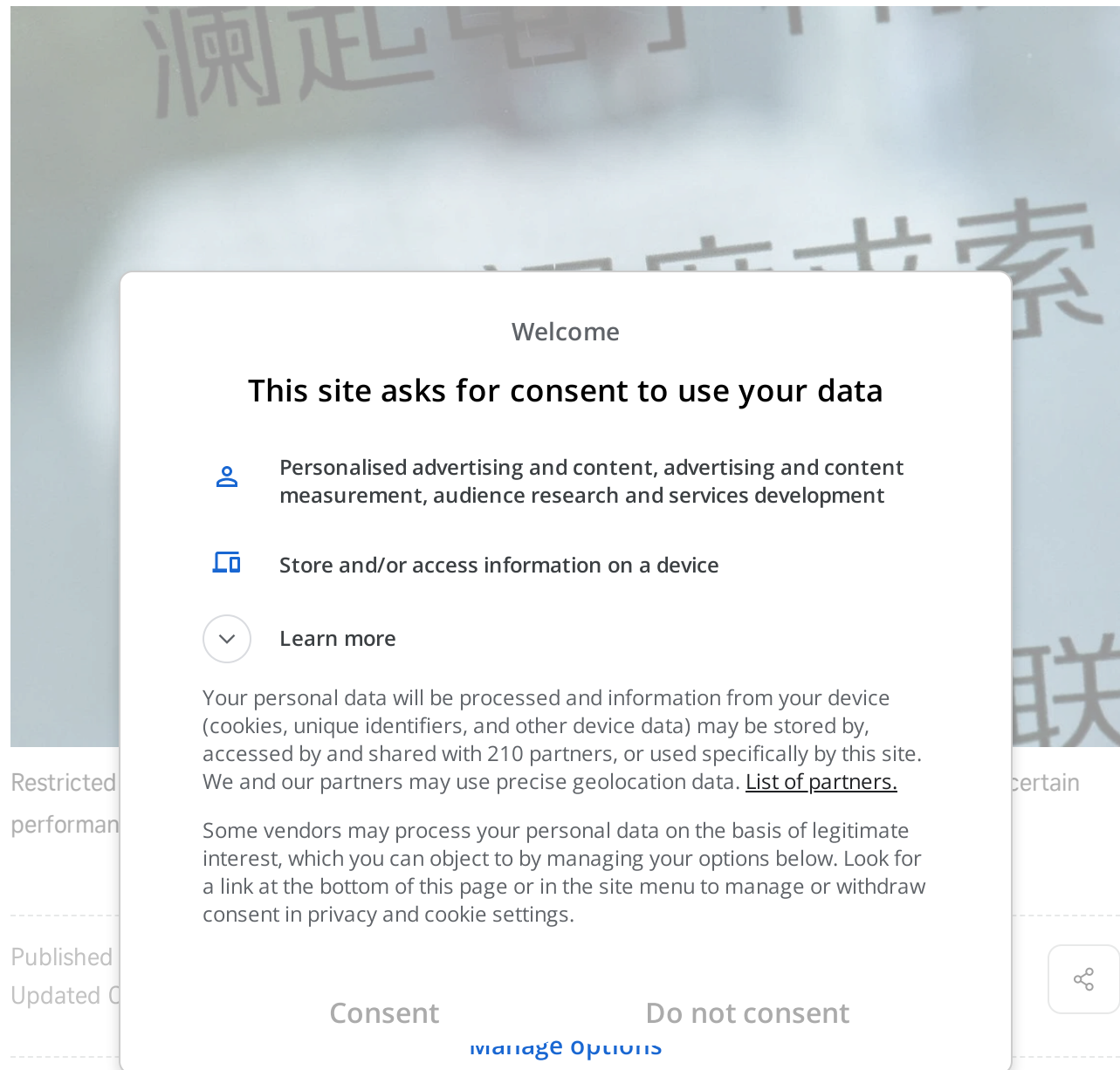


China plans AI export curbs to exert control over key tech

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China proposed adding advanced artificial intelligence technologies to its export-control list, potentially restricting overseas transfers of AI models and chip designs in an effort to tighten control over homegrown advancements in a strategically important sector.

The draft proposal covers 23 AI technologies, including large language models, agents, chip designs and computing clusters. Restricted technologies would include model weights and source code for products exceeding certain performance thresholds.

Chinese AI startups have in summer 2026 made significant progress in closing the gap on US industry leaders. Models like Moonshot AI’s Kimi K3 and DeepSeek’s latest editions offer better pricing and Chinese companies also favour the approach of sharing the weights – used to steer an AI system toward finding an answer – of their models to encourage developers to build on top of them.

They are also increasingly looking for markets beyond China, with the likes of Z.AI making their wares available on US cloud service providers like Amazon Web Services.

The proposal forms part of a broader effort to control 40 technologies across industries where Chinese companies have become increasingly competitive. It would also cover five biomedical technologies and 12 solar technologies, including certain advanced

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“The Ch solidify the security baselme, prevent misuse and abuse, ensure that AI remains under human control, and promote international governance of AI,” the spokesperson said in a statement.

The proposal would restrict exports of core technology for models trained on “important data” and containing at least 2 trillion parameters – like Kimi K3 or Alibaba Group Holding’s Qwen3.8-Max – or ranking among the world’s top 10 on measures including performance, usage and safety.

China’s cyberspace regulator broadly defines such data as information that, if leaked, may endanger national security, economic operation, social stability or public safety.

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Open-source technology and research already in the public domain would not be covered, and the government will provide streamlined procedures, such as automatic licensing, to exports involving open-source AI technologies.

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