

2. **PROPERTY TAX GIVE AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN ENTITY:** With Johnson County Commissioner Mike Kelly's urging and the County Commission's approval for Resolution No. 027-23 **provides \$34,150,000 in Industrial Revenue Bonds** to finance the construction of CNANO Technologies [Building A](#) manufacturing facility. Commissioner Charlotte O'Hara was the only Commissioner vocalizing strong opposition...quoting her here:

*“The saga of corporate welfare continues in Johnson County, with the Board of County Commissioners, on June 1st, granting a \$34 million Industrial Revenue Bond to CNANOTEchnology USA, Inc., a Delaware registered corporation. This 334,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility is to produce components for lithium batteries.*

*For a building with a valuation of \$34 million (as documented cost of building and equipment built in and thus part of the real estate), the full property tax would be approximately \$969,000 annually. The BOCC approved a 30 cent per sq. ft. property tax rate (\$100,200) with a 1.5% annual increase cap for 10 years. This represents a tax giveaway of \$869,000 per year.”*

# Michigan EV plant's work retreat features Red Army outfits, pledges to 'fight for communism'

By

Thomas Catenacci, Fox News

Published Sep. 1, 2023, 5:50 p.m. ET

0 seconds of 15 secondsVolume 0%

[ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY:](#)



A Chinese company developing a taxpayer-funded electric vehicle battery facility in Michigan published reports and video footage of its employees wearing what appears to be Red Army uniforms and pledging fealty to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Gotion High-Tech — the Hefei, China-based parent company of Gotion Inc. — hosted multiple company trips in 2021 to CCP revolutionary memorials in Anhui Province, China, according to records first reported by the Daily Caller News Foundation.

During the trips, Gotion High-Tech workers wore Red Army outfits and pledged to “fight for communism to the end of my life.”

“I volunteer to join the CCP, uphold the Party’s platform, observe the provisions of the Party’s by-laws, carry out a member’s duties, carry out the Party’s decisions, strictly observe the Party’s discipline, be loyal to the Party, work hard, to fight for communism as long as I live, be ready at all times to sacrifice everything for the Party and people and never betray the Party,” the employees chanted during a trip to China’s Revolutionary Memorial Hall in July 2021, footage translated by the DCFN showed.

One month later, the company held a trip to Dabie Mountain to commemorate the CCP’s Long March, an historic march that led to the emergence of Chinese dictator Mao Zedong in early 1935.

00:0603:35



Gotion High-Tech is the Hefei, China-based parent company of Gotion Inc. Pictured here is Chinese President Xi Jinping. EyePress News/Shutterstock

The revelation that Gotion’s parent company hosted CCP trips for its employees and conducted party pledges comes as its Michigan project continues to face heightened scrutiny from locals, national security experts and Republican lawmakers.

Opponents of the project have noted the company’s allegiance to the Chinese government and often pointed to Gotion High-Tech’s corporate bylaws, which state that the company is required to “carry out Party activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Communist Party of China.”

The company's 2022 ESG report states Gotion High-Tech "carried out thematic education activities such as the study of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, red theme education, and love for students," The Midwesterner reported.



During Gotion company trips, Gotion High-Tech workers wore Red Army outfits and pledged to "fight for communism to the end of my life."Gotion High-Tech

And earlier this year Gotion quietly registered as a Chinese foreign principal, according to FARA filings reviewed by Fox News Digital.

"Subnational incursions are afoot," former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Cella, the co-founder of the Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, previously told Fox News Digital.

"China is on the hunt," he continued. "The Chinese Communist Party is on the hunt. They are looking for these open doors to kick in, in states. And they have carried great sway. You just need to look at Gotion or CATL — textbook examples of this influence operation."



# Gotion

During these retreats, Gotion High-Tech hosted themed events that aligned with communist ideas. LinkedIn

In April, Cella and fellow former U.S. Ambassador Peter Hoekstra, who helped found the Michigan-China Economic and Security Review Group, asked the Department of Justice to open a federal investigation into potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act related to five-year hush agreements signed by state officials as part of the Gotion negotiations.

Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced that Gotion would invest \$2.4 billion to construct two 550,000 square-foot production plants along with other supporting facilities spanning 260 acres in northern Michigan. She applauded the proposal in her late 2022 announcement, saying it would shore up Michigan's status as the "global hub of mobility and electrification."

Then, earlier this year, the Michigan state Senate Appropriations Committee gave the final stamp of approval for granting Gotion \$175 million in direct taxpayer funding to help build the facility.

In a 10-9 vote, some Democrats joined every Republican on the panel in voting against the funding, while only Democrats, including the committee's chairwoman, voted in favor.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced that Gotion is planning to invest \$2.4 billion to construct production plants in Northern Michigan. AP

“I’m angry. I’m angry that this vote was slipped into the agenda today with as little information as possible so that people like me wouldn’t know it was happening,” Marjorie Steele, a local resident, said during the hearing. “I’m angry that you, our elected officials, have ignored my community’s pleas to table this vote until some small semblance of due diligence can be performed.”

“I can promise you that we will not stop at the local level,” she added. “We are tired of being abused, and we are not alone. This is not just a Mecosta County issue. Townships and counties across the state are uniting, sharing resources, manpower and grassroots activism. Your votes today, senators, are lines drawn in the sand.”

62

**What do you think? [Post a comment.](#)**

Gotion announced in August that it had scooped up 270 acres of land in Green Charter Township, Michigan, for the project.

Some of the purchased land is zoned for agriculture or residential use, while the majority is zoned for industrial use.

Neither Gotion nor Whitmer's office responded to request for comment by time of publication.

# China's alleged spy researcher in UK parliament – what we know so far

The man, who was arrested in March in Edinburgh, has said he is 'completely innocent'

**Peter Walker** *Deputy political editor*

[@peterwalker99](#)

Mon 11 Sep 2023 08.20 EDT

•  
•  
•

Westminster is in uproar after the revelation that a parliamentary researcher in contact with a series of senior Conservative MPs has been arrested for allegedly spying for China. Here is what we know – and don't know – so far.

## What are the allegations?

That the man, a British national in his 20s who worked in Westminster and had a parliamentary pass, is alleged to have spied for China.

He was arrested in March in Edinburgh under the Official Secrets Act, with another man, in his 30s, detained in Oxfordshire. Both men have been bailed until next month.

## What is he alleged to have spied on?

This is not known, and the former researcher released a statement through his lawyers on Monday morning saying he is "completely innocent".

It is also not known what, if any, information the man may have potentially had access to. He is said to have been in contact with some senior Tory MPs including Alicia Kearns, who chairs the Commons foreign affairs committee, and Tom Tugendhat, the security minister – although in the case of Tugendhat, before he became a minister.

## Has the man been named?

No, not by the police, or by most of the media – although one newspaper, the Times, did so. The police do not normally name suspects unless they are charged, giving only basic details such as their gender, approximate age, where they were arrested and for what alleged offence.

## What has the suspect said?

In his statement, the man vehemently rejected any wrongdoing, saying: "I have spent my career to date trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist party. To do what has been claimed against me in extravagant news reporting would be against everything I stand for."

## What have been the political repercussions?





1. WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE

---

2. NATIONAL SECURITY

# ***Chinese Gate-Crashers at U.S. Bases Spark Espionage Concerns***

***Washington has tracked about 100 incidents involving Chinese nationals trying to access American military and other installations***

*By*

[\*Gordon Lubold\*](#)

*Follow*

,  
[\*Warren P. Strobel\*](#)

*Follow*

*and*

[\*Aruna Viswanatha\*](#)

*Follow*

*Updated Sept. 4, 2023 5:21 pm ET*

1339

---

Gift unlocked article

---

Listen

(9 min)



*The incidents appear designed to test security practices at U.S. installations, such as a government rocket-launch site in Florida. PHOTO: EVA MARIE UZCATEGUI/GETTY IMAGES*

*WASHINGTON—Chinese nationals, sometimes posing as tourists, have accessed military bases and other sensitive sites in the U.S. as many as 100 times in recent years, according to U.S. officials, who describe the incidents as a potential espionage threat.*

*The Defense Department, FBI and other agencies held a review last year to try to limit these incidents, which involve people whom officials have dubbed gate-crashers because of their attempts—either by accident or intentionally—to get onto U.S. military bases and other installations without proper authorization. They range from Chinese nationals found crossing into a U.S. missile range in New Mexico to what appeared to be scuba divers swimming in murky waters near a U.S. government rocket-launch site in Florida.*

*The incidents, which U.S. officials describe as a form of espionage, appear designed to test security practices at U.S. military installations and other federal sites. Officials familiar with the practice say the individuals are typically Chinese nationals pressed into service and required to report back to the Chinese government.*



*The FBI examined evidence earlier this year after the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon that caused rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. PHOTO: FBI/ZUMA PRESS*  
Concern over the base intrusions comes amid rising U.S.-China tensions, which spiked after a [Chinese balloon](#) overflew the U.S. earlier this year carrying what officials said was surveillance equipment. The incidents also cast a light on concerns that Beijing is using nontraditional means to gather intelligence on U.S. soil, whether through proximity to bases or through [Chinese-produced commercial equipment](#) that could be used to spy.

*Officials at the White House and the Department of Homeland Security declined to comment, and the Pentagon only responded broadly to the issue. Government officials referred queries to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which said: "The Chinese government is engaged in a broad, diverse campaign of theft and malign influence without regard to laws or international norms that the FBI will not tolerate."*

*The Chinese Embassy in Washington challenged the U.S. view of the incidents. "The relevant claims are purely ill-intentioned fabrications," said Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson with the embassy. "We urge the relevant U.S. officials to abandon the Cold War mentality, stop groundless accusations, and do more things that are conducive to enhancing mutual trust between the two countries and friendship between the two peoples."*

---

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

## What's News

Catch up on the headlines, understand the news and make better decisions, free in your inbox daily. Enjoy a free article in every edition.

Preview

Subscribe

---

*The incidents are concerning enough that Congress might look at legislation on the issue, according to Rep. Jason Crow (D., Colo.). Crow, a member of the intelligence committee, said lawmakers are concerned that some of these cases fall between the cracks, because most trespassing laws are state and local, and not federal.*

*“We need to work closely with our state and local partners to train them and equip them,” he said. “Right now, they don’t know how to deal with it.”*

*Some incursions are benign, such as those involving people who say they are following Google Maps to direct them to the nearest McDonalds or Burger King, which happens to be on a nearby military base. Others appeared to be more troubling, people familiar with the review said.*

*Officials described incidents in which Chinese nationals say they have a reservation at an on-base hotel. In a recent case, a group of Chinese nationals claiming they were tourists, tried to push past guards at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, saying they had reservations at a commercial hotel on the base. The base is home to the Army’s 11th Airborne Division, which is focused on Arctic warfare.*



*Congress is looking at legislation to deal with gate-crashing, according to Rep. Jason Crow (D., Colo.), a member of the intelligence committee. PHOTO: MICHAEL BROCHSTEIN/ZUMA PRESS* These cases at times occur in rural areas where officials indicate there is little tourism far from a commercial airport. The individuals use what appears to be scripted language when confronted by security guards, according to officials familiar with the tactics. When stopped, the Chinese nationals say they are tourists and have lost their way.

*The problem of low-level Chinese intelligence collection like this is well known in intelligence circles, said Emily Harding, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and a former deputy staff director at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. It is a numbers game, she said.*

*“The advantage the Chinese have is they are willing to throw people at collection in large numbers,” she said. “If a few of them get caught, it will be very difficult for the U.S. government to prove anything beyond trespassing, and those who don’t get caught are likely to collect something useful.”*

Advertisement - Scroll to Continue

*Harding said that because most incidents in the U.S. can be pursued only as trespassing, the Chinese government gives a collective shrug for those who do get caught. That would be unlikely if an American were to be caught inside China, she said.*

*“The latter is unlikely to get what we would consider a fair trial,” Harding added.*

*The base penetrations are considered a concerning and growing trend, U.S. military and other officials said.*

*In some cases, individuals did gain unauthorized access to a base, “often by speeding through security checkpoints,” said Sue Gough, a Pentagon spokeswoman.*

*“These individuals are often cited criminally, barred from future installation access and escorted off-base,” she said.*

*Gough declined to comment on any specific incidents, citing security concerns.*

*The Pentagon said it has conducted several base security reviews since 2018, some of them in concert with other agencies. A review done late last year focused on the physical security of the roughly 1,400 gates at the U.S. military’s bases, as well as other aspects of base security.*

*“The results of the reviews have and will continue to inform changes to the protective posture of our bases,” Gough said.*

---

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

---

*What steps can the U.S. take to reduce the threat of espionage? Join the conversation below. Every day, there are more than 10,000 “controlled turnarounds” of individuals who arrive at military-base gates. They are mostly drivers who are confused about where they are supposed to go, and are turned around without incident. Some of those warrant additional checks and some trigger an investigation. “The incidents are generally low-level, and so far none of them indicate espionage,” Gough said of those turnaround cases.*

*However, there are other incidents serious enough to raise concerns with U.S. officials. There are repeated cases in which Chinese nationals have been found taking pictures at a U.S. Army range, according to people familiar with the matter. They often start off at nearby White Sands National Park, where visitors like to barrel down the sand dunes on rented slides, but then leave that area and cross into the adjacent missile site, the officials said.*

*In some cases, the individuals have used drones to bolster their surveillance efforts.*

*There have been repeated incidents at an intelligence center based in Key West, Fla., starting some years ago, where Chinese nationals, saying they were tourists, were found swimming in the waters near the military facility and taking pictures, according to officials familiar with the matter.*

*In at least one instance, an incursion there resulted in arrests and prosecutions that were made public. In 2020, three Chinese citizens were sentenced to about a year in prison after pleading guilty to illegally entering the naval air station in Key West, and taking photos by either walking around the fence line and entering it from the beach, or driving in and ignoring orders to turn around.*

*In another incident, Chinese nationals appear to have been found scuba diving off Cape Canaveral, home to the Kennedy Space Center. The area is the launch site for spy satellites and other military missions. A spokesman for Homeland Security Investigations's Tampa, Fla., field office said the incident was part of a continuing investigation and declined to comment further.*

*U.S. officials also describe incidents around the White House in which Chinese nationals posing as tourists leave the designated tour area to take pictures of the grounds, including communications gear and the positions of security guards, before being shooed away by the Secret Service.*

*In 2019, a Chinese woman [was sentenced to eight months in prison](#) after being convicted of unlawfully entering former President [Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago](#) estate in Florida. She entered the estate carrying two passports, four cellphones and [other electronics](#).*



*At Alaska's Fort Wainwright, home to the Army's 11th Airborne Division, Chinese nationals said they had reservations at a hotel on base and tried to push past guards. PHOTO: JOHN PENNELL/ARMY*

*In many cases, those who have trespassed on bases, apparently deliberately, have simply been detained briefly and then escorted out of the country, officials familiar with the incidents said.*

No cases appear to have resulted in espionage charges, but in a 2019 incident, [two Chinese diplomats were expelled](#) from the country on suspicions of espionage after they improperly drove, with their wives, onto Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Va., a highly sensitive U.S. military facility where U.S. Navy SEALs train.

Base officials pulled a firetruck into the road to stop the vehicle, officials said. China denied the diplomats were involved in espionage.

Write to Gordon Lubold at [gordon.lubold@wsj.com](mailto:gordon.lubold@wsj.com) and Warren P. Strobel at [Warren.Strobel@wsj.com](mailto:Warren.Strobel@wsj.com)