

The Energy & Strategy Think Tank (ESTT) at WU's Institute for Strategic Management (ISM) (<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/ism/energy-strategy-think-tank/>) invites applications for a master thesis.

Working Title: *Relationship Portfolios for Cybersecurity in the Energy Industry*

Scope, Aims, Methods, and Initial Literature: Interfirm (or interorganizational) relationships denote links between firms to achieve a certain purpose (Arikan, 2009; Bergenholtz & Waldstrøm, 2011; Borgatti & Foster, 2003; Madhavan, Gnyawali, & He, 2004). A topic of rising relevance for energy providers that requires such relationship is keeping (smart) energy infrastructure secure (Alghassab, 2022; Cassotta & Sidortsov, 2019; Onyeji, Bazilian, & Bronk, 2014; Qi, Hahn, Lu, Wang, & Liu, 2016; Smith, 2018, 2021; Venkatachary, Prasad, & Samikannu, 2018). Taking the view of incumbent regional energy providers, this thesis aims to

- identify (e.g., definition, for which reasons) and classify interfirm relationships (e.g. R&D alliance, service alliance) for cybersecurity in the energy
- develop a systematic portfolio-approach (Hoffmann, 2007; Hoffmann, Knoll, & Wörner, 2019) to map identified relationships

Insights from 1) selected grey literature from cases (press releases) (Adams, Smart, & Huff, 2017) and 2) case and expert interviews (Cassell, 2009) should be combined.

Thesis Language: English

Corporate Partner: None

Expectations and Support: Constant feedback and regular meetings with faculty will facilitate a high-quality thesis with impact on management practice that is completed in a timely fashion. You will be provided with a guideline that details the supervision and writing process, expected deliverables beyond the final thesis, and grading as well as a package to kick off your thesis.

Targeted Students: Excellent and ambitious students of all MSc and MBA programs at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business are eligible and encouraged to apply. In principle, it is possible to write the thesis together with another student.

Interested? Send CV and grade certificates of all your studies to georg.reischauer@wu.ac.at

Initial References:

Adams, R. J., Smart, P., & Huff, A. S. 2017. Shades of Grey: Guidelines for Working with the Grey Literature in Systematic Reviews for Management and Organizational Studies. *International Journal of Management Reviews*, 19(4): 432-454.

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- Smith, D. C. 2021. Cybersecurity in the energy sector: are we really prepared? *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, 39(3): 265-270.
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