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### **EXPLORING THE 50 PERCENT RULE**

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## A QUICK HISTORY



### 50% Rule Introduced

- February 2008: U.S. Treasury formalizes 50% rule
- ✓ 50% rule: blocks the property and interests of entities majority-owned by parties named on OFAC's SDN List



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## Treasury Expands the 50% Rule

 August 2014: 50% rule extended to cover SSI program, aggregate ownership, ownership on behalf of SDNs

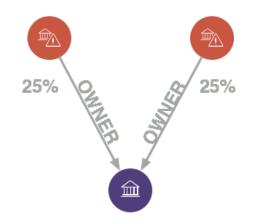
> "any entity owned in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons is itself considered to be a blocked person"



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## Treasury Expands the 50% Rule

## Entities 50% or more owned in *aggregate* by sanctioned actors are considered blocked.







Specially Designated National (SDN)



### SSI Directives – Implications for Aggregate Ownership

- July 2014: Treasury introduces the Sectoral Sanctions Identifications (SSI) List
- Prohibits certain transactions with persons in Russia's financial, energy, and defense sectors
- October 2017: OFAC amends SSI related guidance



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## OFAC Urges Caution Beyond the 50% Rule

OFAC urges caution when considering a transaction with a nonblocked entity:

*"in which one or more blocked persons have a significant ownership interest that is less than 50 percent or which one or more blocked persons may control by means other than a majority ownership interest."* 

"Such non-blocked entities may become the subject of future designations or enforcement actions by OFAC."

OFAC General Questions: 398





## A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



## 50% By The Numbers

### 4,500+ actors majority-owned by SDNs & SSIs

- ✓ 1,500+ SDN majority-owned subsidiaries

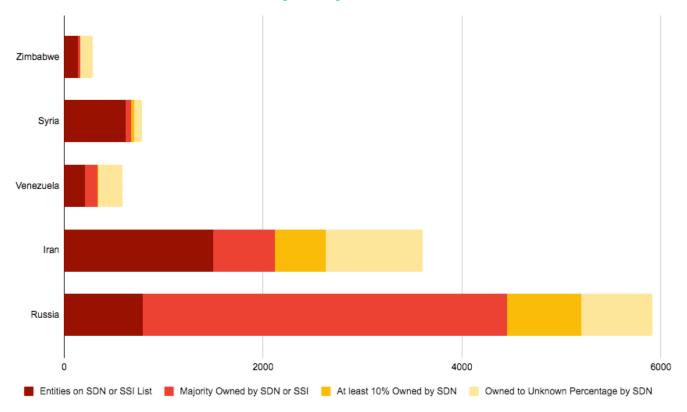
### **Across 100 different jurisdictions**

- + 3,500+ Russia
- + 600+ Iran
- + 120+ Venezuela\*

\*not including 700+ state-owned enterprises

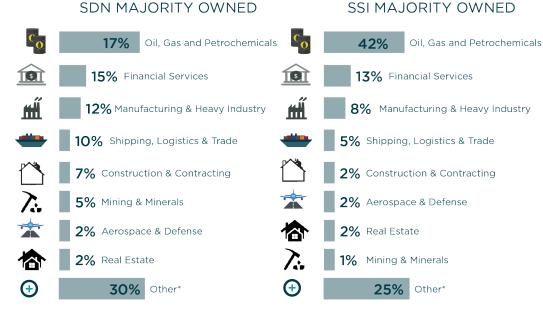


### Many Subsidiaries Are Majority-Owned But Not Listed



## **Impact Across Sectors**

#### Entities subject to the 50 Percent Rule operate in every major industrial sector



\*Includes Agriculture, Entertainment, Real Estate, Professional Services, Telecom, and more



## ENFORCEMENT & BROADER ENIVRONMENT

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## Enforcement Actions: The Cost and Complexity of Compliance Increases

February 2016:

✓ Financial institution fined nearly \$2.5 million

Processed transactions on behalf of entities 50% or more owned by sanctioned Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe



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## Enforcement Actions: The Cost and Complexity of Compliance Increases

An "enforcement response may be particularly appropriate" if:

- A) Violator holds direct customer relationships for entities 50% or more owned by sanctioned actors
- A) Institution's "own records clearly demonstrate" SDN ownership
- A) Publicly available information on SDN ownership



## Enforcement Actions: The Cost and Complexity of Compliance Increases

November 2018:

✓ U.S.-based aerospace & defense company fined

Exported equipment to a majority-owned subsidiary of sanctioned Almaz-Antey Corp

Exporting to "a subsidiary of a blocked person with *nearly the same name as the blocked person*" was an aggravating factor.





## Enforcement Actions: The Cost and Complexity of Compliance Increases

April 2019:

✓ Financial institution fined

Operated accounts on behalf of companies owned or otherwise affiliated with Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL)





## 50% + Environment

✓ US & EU 50% Rule: Blocks the Property of Majority Owned Subsidiaries

Reliance on Gray/Delta Lists

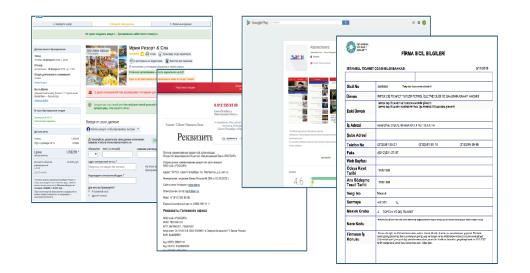
✓ Growing Investment in Managing 50%+ Risk

Oynamic Ownership Structures Present Challenges



# Publicly Available Information Goes Beyond Corporate Records

- Expectation to identify public ownership information
- Mine & synthesize a variety of sources
- Regular monitoring





## **Thinking About Supply Chains**

2,750+ entities with direct commercial ties to sanctioned actor
1,350+ entities with direct commercial tie to entity in embargoed jurisdiction
300+ entities with direct commercial tie to a sanctioned by law subsidiary

### Other indicators:

2,200+ entities share identifiers with sanctioned firms
2,400+ entities led, owned, or controlled by the leaders of sanctioned firms

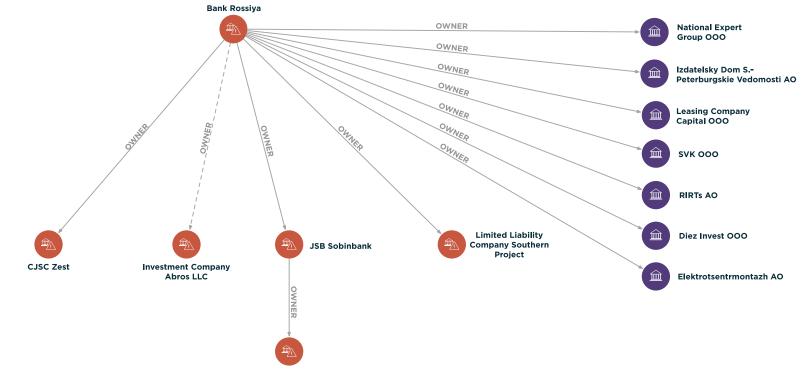




## **CASE STUDIES**

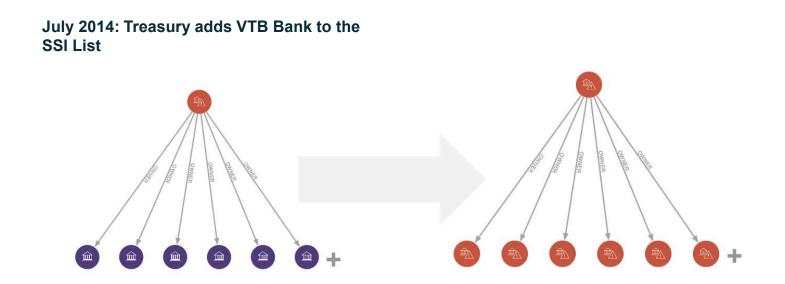


### CASE STUDY: Other Majority Owned Subsidiaries are NOT Listed



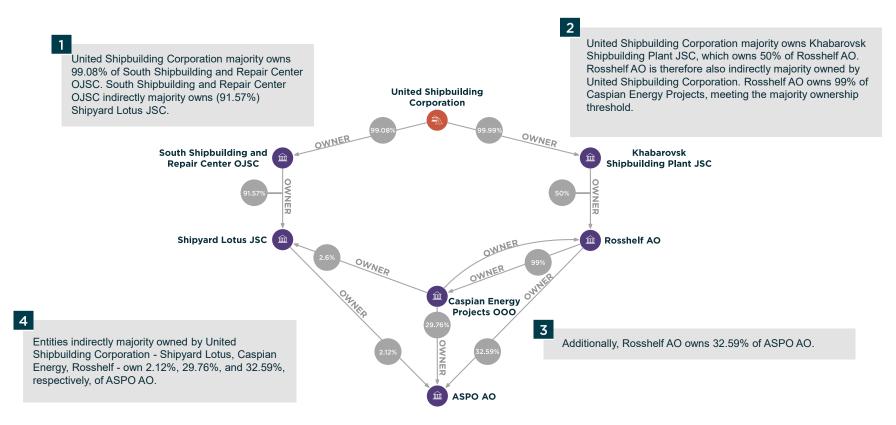
Joint Stock Company Genbank

### CASE STUDY: Application of the 50% Rule: Sanctioning of SSI Subsidiaries

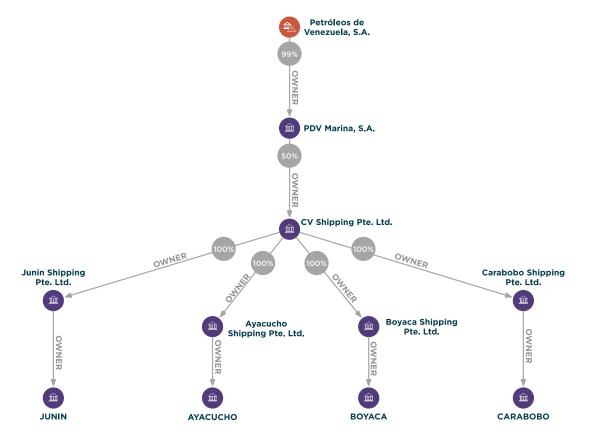


Treasury emphasized that the subsidiaries "were already subject to the same financing restrictions as their respective parent entities" pursuant to the August 2014 amended 50% rule guidance

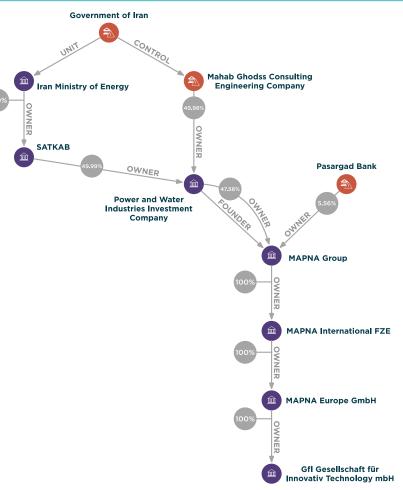
### Case Study: United Shipbuilding Corporation



### Case Study: PDVSA Holdings in Singapore



### Case Study: Complex, Cross-Jurisdiction Ownership Structures

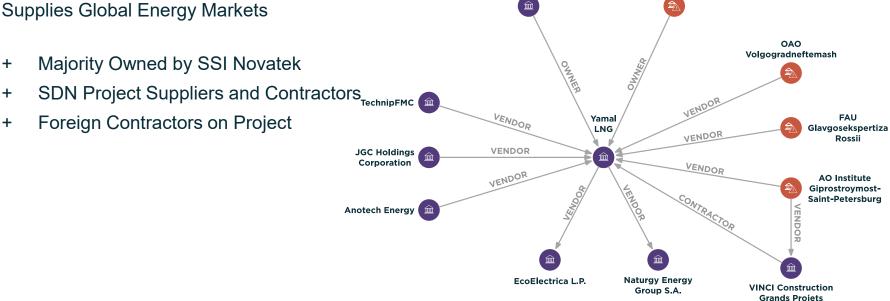


NOVATEK

YAYM Limited

### Case Study: Project Vendors & Contractors

Yamal LNG project in Russian Arctic Supplies Global Energy Markets



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