
Japan Australia Advance Missile Testing Cooperation Amid Concerns



Published on August 19, 2026

Document Date: Thu, Aug 20 2026 03:59:30 am

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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TOKYO, August 18 (Xinhua): Japan and Australia agreed Tuesday to advance arrangements allowing Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to use missile test sites in Australia, according to Kyodo News.

Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles discussed expanding security cooperation during talks in Canberra.

The proposed arrangements would allow the SDF to conduct test launches of long-range missiles in Australia as part of Japan's efforts to strengthen its so-called "counterstrike capabilities."

The two countries also agreed to expand defense equipment cooperation, including efforts to facilitate Japan's export of upgraded Mogami-class frigates to Australia.

They also highlighted a successful field trial in Australia of a laser-based detection system jointly developed by the two countries.

Japan and Australia have strengthened defense ties in recent years, expanding cooperation from defense equipment to long-range missile testing.

The growing military collaboration has raised concerns that closer defense coordination between the two countries could contribute to increased regional military tensions and confrontation.