

UK Japan joint press release

On January 20 Mr. Ryosei Akazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Mr. Peter Kyle, Secretary of State for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom held a bilateral meeting on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

At the meeting both sides welcomed the progress in developing and formalising the wide ranging workplan for UK-Japan Industrial Strategy Partnership launched in March 2025. They confirmed that in addition to the sectors announced by Japan and the United Kingdom in September 2025 (Advanced Manufacturing- Automotive, Clean Energy, Life Sciences, Quantum, Cyber) the partnership will in addition also include cooperation on Defence Industry, Space Industry, Creative Industries and Digital and Technology - including semiconductors and AI. They affirmed that with these additional areas confirmed, the partnership should now formally move into implementation of activity, tasking officials to identify and focus on the highest impact areas to generate economic growth. Ministers also noted that they would assess progress against this activity at the next Strategic Economic Policy and Trade Dialogue where additional sectors for inclusion could also be discussed.

Both sides also took note of and welcomed November's joint statement by the Keidanren and the CBI (Confederation of British Industry). Feedback from business on the opportunities and challenges for growth will be essential to delivering a meaningful Industrial Strategy Partnership and the steers set out in November's statement will support prioritisation of work between the two governments on strategic priorities in a challenging global context. The Governments of UK and Japan look forward to further joint work with business to identify opportunities and remove blockers to growth.

Both sides welcomed the progress achieved in strengthening the UK-Japan Economic Security Partnership, as committed to at the UK-Japan Economic 2+2 Ministers' Meeting in March 2025, to deliver substantive action that will ensure secure and resilient prosperity for both countries. Both sides shared concerns over critical minerals supply chains disruption and committed to building strong partnerships to diversify production and processing and strengthen our supply chain resilience.

Finally, both sides reaffirmed their support for the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. They committed to working towards the necessary reforms of the WTO at Ministerial Conference 14 in March 2026. In this context, they also welcomed the outcomes of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Commission Meeting in Melbourne in November 2025 and committed to continuing close cooperation to expand and upgrade the Agreement.