

Joint Statement

between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of Switzerland (“the Participants”)

1. Japan and Switzerland are both advanced, industrial economies leading innovation, whose globally integrated supply chains depend on an open trade and investment environment. We therefore share a common interest in strong international cooperation and an enduring rules-based international economic order.
2. Relations between our countries in the areas of trade, technology and innovation rest on a strong foundation, notably the 2009 Free Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. The agreement has strengthened bilateral trade and investment, fostered business-to-business collaboration, and supported innovation cooperation, and they continue to do so.
3. Since the Agreement entered into force, new areas such as economic security, and supply-chain resilience as well as emerging new technologies have gained prominence. Innovation has become essential for maintaining economic growth and strategic relevance. At the same time, challenges to the rules-based international trading system and protectionist tendencies and economic coercion have intensified, calling for new approaches and deeper cooperation among like-minded countries.
4. Against this background, the Participants recognise that there exists a significant potential to further develop bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, economic security, industrial cooperation, and innovation between our two countries.
5. The Participants have prepared a collaborative Roadmap, which is attached to this Joint Statement, to guide their joint work toward fulfilling this potential.
6. The Participants intend to collaborate at technical levels to realise the objectives set forth in this Roadmap. In order to accomplish the objectives of the Roadmap, they aim to coordinate among themselves and may, where appropriate, establish joint working groups.
7. The Participants will jointly monitor and coordinate the implementation of the Roadmap through regular meetings and/or videoconferences at senior officials' levels.

Signed in Tokyo on _____ 2026, and in Bern on _____ 2026, respectively.

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Attachment

Japan-Switzerland Roadmap towards a closer partnership on Innovation, Economy, Industry and Trade

METI and SECO aim to exchange information and explore cooperation on the following topics:

1. Economic security

- Exchange policy developments and best practices in both countries to enhance economic security.
- Information sharing aimed at strengthening supply chains.
 - o grave concerns over supply chains disruptions due to non-market policies and practices and inappropriate export controls.
 - o technology control measures.

2. Fostering private sector collaboration in innovative industries

- Identify and facilitate potential new collaborations between their private sectors, with the aim to strengthen supply chains and foster innovation, and explore business opportunities for example by encouraging participation in industrial exhibition in both countries, exchange missions and promote dialogues, in areas such as space technology, bioindustry and other areas of mutual interest
- Leverage existing channels and platforms, including through the Chambers of Commerce, the Swiss Business Hub, and Japan External Trade Organization, and encourage cooperation between private-sector actors using platforms such as Switzerland Innovation and Swiss Innovation Parks.

3. Developing bilateral trade and investment

- Continue to explore the necessity and feasibility of a possible Digital Economy Agreement between Japan and Switzerland, while taking due account of progress toward an equivalency arrangement for personal data protection;
- Identify further approaches for the development of Japan-Switzerland bilateral trade relations and mutual improvement of the business environment.
- Exchange on experiences and best practices on investment promotion and work toward closer cooperation between trade and investment promotion agencies;

4. Other issues of joint interest, such as

- Exchanges on multilateral issues (e.g. WTO reform; OECD; Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity) and coordination of their positions where appropriate;
- Explore cooperation among private sectors in both countries toward reconstruction of Ukraine where appropriate.

METI and SECO will continue the trade policy dialogue to address the above and other issues; they also intend to hold periodic exchanges at Vice-Minister/State Secretary level in an appropriate timeline, ideally annually, to review the progress achieved and determine on the further development of the Roadmap.

METI and SERI, together with their respective funding agencies (Innosuisse, AMED, NEDO), aim to discuss and identify modalities to strengthen collaboration between innovation actors from both countries. More specifically, METI and SERI seek cooperation in the following areas:

5. Innovation Cooperation

- Further explore the use of EUREKA Globalstars to promote bilateral cooperation;
- Promote interaction between innovation actors (universities, research institutions and start-ups) beyond specific instruments or schemes;
- Encourage cooperation and exchange across all areas. Particular themes may include, but are not limited to: med-tech, bio-tech, space, robotics, quantum, energy.

METI and SERI intend to exchange on the implementation of the Roadmap at appropriate timing.