

Joint Statement

of the Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Takehiko Matsuo, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan  
and State Secretary Frank Wetzel, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
on Economic Cooperation

On April 24, 2026, the Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), Mr. Takehiko Matsuo and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Frank Wetzel (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Participants”), met in Berlin, Germany, to discuss cooperation in dual-use and advanced technology fields.

1. Recognizing the critical importance of these technologies for economic growth, as well as for accelerating innovation and enhancing supply chain resilience amid the current global economic and security environment, the Participants will encourage cooperation among private sectors in wide-ranging areas, including in defense industries.
2. Taking into account the current mutual priorities and geopolitical situation and recalling the Joint Statement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Japan-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations on March 18, 2023, as well as the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement which entered into force on January 1, 2025, the Participants recognized the importance of promoting cooperation in the dual-use and advanced technology fields. In this context the Participants welcomed the Japan-EU Defense Industry Dialogue, which was successfully held in April 17, 2026 in Brussels to explore cooperation in dual-use and advanced technology.
3. The Participants reaffirmed the necessity and ample potential of collaboration between the two countries in the area of dual-use and advanced technology, recognizing technological strength and advancement in both countries, and confirmed their commitment to further advancing cooperation in this area as well as to fostering innovation. This will be explored by both countries, including through available support from the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for commercialization projects. Germany’s funding programs such as KfW's industry-open promotional loans and public guarantee instruments are already open for defense and security industries (provided they meet the program-specific application requirements). The Participants will also provide support including through facilitating information exchange, providing business-matching opportunities through relevant organizations, including the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The Participants also acknowledge the funding opportunities for advanced technologies supported by both countries, including the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO).

This statement neither creates any legally-binding obligations, nor creates any rights.

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