# US State Department approves $360 million drone sale to Taiwan for modernisation and defence



The US State Department has approved a potential $360 million drone sale to Taiwan. Taiwan's Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office requested the purchase, including 291 ALTIUS 600M-V drones made by Anduril and 720 Switchblade 300 All Up Rounds made by AeroVironment, with an estimated cost of $300 million and $62 million respectively. This proposed sale aims to help Taiwan modernize its armed forces and bolster its defensive capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) announced the potential sale, stating it aligns with US interests and would enhance Taiwan's security and regional stability. The deal is not final, as negotiations continue and Congress has been notified, allowing for potential adjustment or opposition.

The sale coincides with Taiwan's recent presidential election and China's increased military activities near the island. Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its territory, has historically opposed US arms sales to Taiwan.

The Switchblade drones are lightweight, precision-guided missiles that have been effectively used in Ukraine, while the ALTIUS 600M drones can carry various warheads and be launched from multiple platforms. Taiwan's presidential office expressed gratitude for US security support, highlighting this as the Biden administration's 15th arms sale to Taiwan since 2021.

This potential sale adds to a backlog of $19.6 billion in approved yet undelivered arms to Taiwan, underscoring ongoing efforts to strengthen the island's defensive and asymmetrical warfare capabilities.