# US Approves $360 Million Arms Deal to Bolster Taiwan's Defences Amid Rising Tensions



**US Approves $360 Million Drone and Missile Package for Taiwan Amid Rising Tensions**

Washington D.C., Jun 19, 2024 – The Biden administration has approved a $360 million arms deal to bolster Taiwan’s defenses in the face of increasing Chinese military pressure. The package includes 720 Switchblade 300 loitering munitions and 291 Altius 600M drone systems, among other support materials.

Switchblade 300s, valued at $60.2 million, are lightweight precision-guided missiles designed to loiter and strike targets with an 18.6-mile range. The Altius 600Ms, costing $300 million, are engineered for extended range and flexibility in defense scenarios. The deal includes training, logistics, and support services.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has welcomed the arms package, stating it will enhance the island's military readiness. The sale aligns with the U.S. strategic aim to support stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

This procurement effort follows a broader trend toward uncrewed defense systems, as noted by their effective application in the ongoing Ukraine conflict. However, concerns remain regarding the high costs, limited range, and production capacity of advanced explosives needed for these systems.

As tensions escalate, with China conducting frequent military exercises near Taiwan, this arms deal underscores the U.S. commitment to Taiwan's defense strategy while raising questions about the long-term viability and effectiveness of such technology in the Pacific theater.