# US Approves $360 Million Arms Sale to Taiwan to Boost Defences Against China



### US Approves $360 Million Drone and Missile Equipment Sale to Taiwan

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The United States has approved a $360 million arms package for Taiwan, aiming to bolster the island's defenses against potential Chinese aggression. The deal, sanctioned by the Biden administration, includes 720 Switchblade loitering drones and 291 Altius-600M drone systems.

The Switchblade 300 drones, lightweight precision-guided missiles, can be launched quickly and have a range of 30 kilometers. Meanwhile, the Altius-600M drones are designed to patrol areas until directed to attack. These drones have been tested in combat elsewhere, such as in Ukraine, and are expected to enhance Taiwan's defensive capabilities, particularly against amphibious invasions.

In addition to the drones, the package encompasses related missile equipment, training, logistics, and support materials. The US State Department emphasized that this sale aligns with strategic national interests and aims to maintain stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te expressed gratitude for the support, stating that the arms will help maintain peace along the Taiwan Strait amidst rising tensions with China. Beijing, which views Taiwan as part of its territory, has strongly opposed the alliance and increased its military maneuvers near the island.

Despite these steps to enhance Taiwan's defenses, challenges such as high costs, production of advanced explosives, and questions about the drones' range and effectiveness persist. The ongoing effort is part of a broader strategy to deter China's military ambitions in the region.