



**U.S.-U.K Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty**

- The United States and United Kingdom enjoy one of the strongest and deepest strategic alliances in modern history. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrate, it is essential for U.S. national security that U.S. and U.K. forces operate together seamlessly.
- The current system for sharing defense technology with our closest ally hampers rather than facilitates defense collaboration. Each transaction must be licensed, resulting in 13,000 licenses over the past two years, 99.9% of which are approved.
- The Treaty would streamline the licensing system, getting key U.S. technology to the U.K. military more effectively and vice versa. This will increase the capability of U.K. forces to fight alongside – or in place of – U.S. forces.
- The Treaty would make it easier for U.S. prime contractors to work with U.K. partners on Department of Defense contracts, thereby ensuring that U.S. forces get the best technology at the best price. The U.K. has provided key counter-terrorism technology in areas such as Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) defeat.
- The Treaty would enable the United States Government to better focus on the prevention of sensitive exports to potential adversaries, by reducing the State Department license caseload.
- The Treaty will fully protect against improper diversion of sensitive U.S. technology. Only companies pre-approved by the United States Government can participate in the Treaty, and exports must be for approved programs and end uses relating to U.S. and U.K. defense. Exports will be subject to strict record-keeping and auditing. U.S. Government approval is required for all reexports and any retransfers outside the pre-approved companies. The U.K. has authority to prosecute both civil and criminal violations under the Official Secrets Act.
- Once appropriate implementing arrangements are developed, ratification and implementation of this Treaty will make a major contribution to U.S. and U.K. defense capabilities and our ability to meet and surmount threats to our national security.