

OpenVoiceNews Australia

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Australia Sends First Batch of M1A1 Abrams Tanks to Ukraine Amid Ongoing Conflict

July 19, 2025

— Categories: General News



Australia has delivered the initial shipment of U.S.-made M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks to Ukraine, marking a significant escalation in military aid as Kyiv continues to resist Russia's aggression. The Australian Defence Minister, Richard Marles, confirmed that most of the promised 49 tanks have been shipped, with the remainder expected in the coming months. However, the exact number of tanks that have arrived on the ground in Ukraine remains unclear.

The M1 Abrams, the United States Army's primary main battle tank (MBT), is among the heaviest and most powerful tanks currently in service, weighing approximately 62 tons. Its

deployment is expected to enhance Ukraine's defensive capabilities against the ongoing Russian invasion, which Australia rightly condemns as illegal and unjustified.

Minister Marles emphasized that this delivery is part of a broader \$160 million military support package aimed at helping Kyiv fend off Moscow's military advances. Alongside the tanks, Australia plans to deploy a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) E-7A Wedgetail early warning and control aircraft to Europe in August, further contributing to international efforts to maintain Ukraine's supply lines and security.

Australia's commitment places it among the largest non-NATO contributors to Ukraine's defense, having supplied military equipment, ammunition, and humanitarian aid since Russia's 2022 invasion. The move reflects a clear rejection of the Kremlin's attempt to redraw borders by force and underlines Canberra's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to adjust its arms shipments, freeing up additional Patriot missile systems, a critical component of Ukraine's air defense network, as reported by the Wall Street Journal. The U.S. House of Representatives also voted overwhelmingly to maintain military aid, while former President Donald Trump announced billions in weapons shipments through NATO allies, reinforcing Washington's ongoing support for Kyiv.

In parallel, the European Union (EU) has agreed on its 18th sanctions package targeting Russia, reportedly the most severe to date. After initial resistance from Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico, the package was finally approved. The sanctions impose a cap on Russian crude oil prices roughly 15% below market value, limiting Kremlin revenues to about \$47.60 per barrel, down from the previous \$60 cap. The EU also banned an additional 105 Russian "shadow fleet" vessels from accessing its ports, totaling 400 vessels restricted, and banned transactions related to the Nord Stream gas pipelines.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas called the sanctions "one of the strongest packages against Russia," while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the move as essential and timely, especially in light of intensified Russian strikes against Ukrainian civilians. However, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the sanctions as illegal and ineffective, underscoring Moscow's refusal to halt its military campaign.

As Western allies continue to strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities and economic pressure mounts on Moscow, the outcome of this prolonged conflict remains uncertain. Yet,

Australia's delivery of M1A1 Abrams tanks signals a firm commitment to upholding international law and resisting authoritarian aggression, reinforcing the importance of standing with Ukraine in its fight for freedom and sovereignty.