

UK Finalises Major Missile Supply Deal to Strengthen Ukraine's Air Defence

July 11, 2025

— Categories: Breaking News



The United Kingdom will deliver more than 5,000 air-defence missiles to Ukraine as part of a new agreement designed to bolster the war-torn country's capacity to defend against Russian aerial attacks. The deal, expected to be formally signed at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, marks a significant step in the UK's ongoing military support for Kyiv.

The missile supply agreement, first announced in principle in March, involves advanced weapons manufactured by Thales in Belfast. According to the Ministry of Defence, these air-defence systems are capable of intercepting drones, cruise missiles, and other airborne threats. The multi-launch capability allows deployment from land, sea, or air, with a range exceeding six kilometres.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner is set to sign the agreement on behalf of the government. Alongside the missile package, the UK has pledged up to £283 million in financial aid to Ukraine over the coming year. Although this represents a continuation of existing policy, the volume and scale of weaponry involved mark a notable escalation in Britain's military assistance.

The move aligns with broader strategic objectives: maintaining European stability, deterring Russian aggression, and supporting the domestic defence sector. With Thales producing the missiles in Northern Ireland, the deal also supports skilled UK manufacturing jobs and economic resilience at home.

Critics of the Labour-led administration have expressed concern over the cost of foreign commitments amid domestic pressures, but many within the defence community argue that failure to act decisively now could lead to higher costs later, both financially and geopolitically.

The agreement builds on previous pledges, including a September commitment to send 650 lightweight missiles to Ukraine. Defence officials view the current deal as vital to maintaining Ukraine's air superiority, particularly as Russia increases its use of drones and precision-guided munitions.

The UK is also expected to push for increased defence spending at the upcoming summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with calls to boost annual military equipment investment to more than £4 billion. Analysts suggest this reflects a broader effort to reassert Britain's role as a serious security actor on the world stage.

In light of ongoing threats to European security, the government's decision to scale up military aid to Ukraine will be seen by many as a necessary step, albeit one that must be matched by clear accountability and strategic foresight.