

# Japan to be considered for membership in AUKUS military technology pact

April 8 (UPI) — The United States, Australia and Britain indicated Monday they will officially consider Japan's push to be included in the AUKUS military pact between the three nations.

Japan's possible inclusion in the "pillar" of the pact seeking to bolster defense technology collaboration to counter China's growing naval presence in the Indo-Pacific region is now on the table, the three countries said in a joint statement.

The AUKUS strategic partnership was formed in 2021 in response to increasing Chinese military provocations in the region. "Pillar I," the centerpiece of the pact, focuses on the acquisition of a nuclear submarine capability for Australia, while "Pillar II" seeks to spur the development of a range of advanced defense capabilities in areas such as artificial intelligence and hypersonic missiles across all three nations.

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