

Advanced Capabilities

During his visit to the United States in July of 2022, Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles emphasized the importance of the advanced capabilities line of effort of the AUKUS partnership. While most readers will understand the concepts of cyber capabilities and creating an ecosystem for innovation and information sharing between the three countries, the use of quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomy, and hypersonics are less well understood. The following links provide more detailed information on several of these advanced capabilities:

Advanced Capabilities: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11105>

Quantum Technologies: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11836>

Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy: <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2021/11/22/swords-and-shields-autonomy-ai-and-the-offense-defense-balance/>

Hypersonics and Counter-hypersonics: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/weapons/R45811.pdf>

Chapter Overview

The following chapters contain critical primary source material regarding the AUKUS partnership.

Chapter 1 – Joint Statements and Official Documents: This section provides a comprehensive collection of documents issued jointly by the three governments. The full text of the ENNPIA agreement and the fact sheet issued on April 5, 2022, provide the most information.

Chapter 2 – Australia Official Statements and Documents: This chapter contains public-facing material from the Australian government. Report 199 and the Australian National Interest Analysis provide in-depth examination of ENNPIA and its benefits to Australian national security. Report 199 also contains input from a minority of organizations that dissented to the AUKUS partnership and/or ENNPIA specifically.

Chapter 3 – United Kingdom Official Statements and Documents: While there are fewer official statements from the United Kingdom, the House of Commons summary of the AUKUS agreement provides an excellent summary of issues from the UK perspective and provides a useful section on additional reading that is very reflective of the articles and greater discourse surrounding AUKUS at the time of publication.

Chapter 4 – United States Official Statements and Documents: The U.S. chapter provides not only the official releases of the Federal Government and Department of Defense, but also information from the offices of the congressional AUKUS working group and related publications from the Congressional Research Service.

Chapter 5 – International Official Statements and Documents: This chapter contains documents pertaining to the relationship between AUKUS’ nuclear submarine deal and nuclear non-proliferation, including statements from the IAEA and Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Chapter 6 – Timeline of News and Commentary: This chapter includes a comprehensive (but not exhaustive) month-by-month timeline of major AUKUS developments and relevant commentaries and analyses from experts in all three AUKUS member countries, and from countries across the region and the world.

Chapter 7 – Glossary