



Global Trade Alert

GTA Monthly Roundup: August 2026

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GTA Monthly Roundup: August 2026

A summary of trade and industrial policy activity worldwide

The Global Trade Alert team documented 945 trade and industrial policy developments during August 2026. Five trends emerge:

1. **Canada retaliated against US tariffs, matching American rates product by product.** Ottawa imposed duties of 15%, 25% and 50% on 874 US product categories from 8 September. Each rate mirrors the corresponding US Section 338 or Section 232 rate.
2. **Public money for critical minerals projects came with claims on the output.** The US approved two critical minerals projects located in Brazil and Australia. In exchange for the funds, the beneficiaries signed an offtake agreement or granted a right of first offer on output. South Korea extended loans to Glencore in exchange for copper supply.
3. **Chinese industrial support elaborated the 15th Five-Year Plan through subnational and consumption measures.** The Cyberspace Administration adopted an action plan targeting chips, software and AI. Nine ministries promised interest support and land assistance to activate county-level consumption. District grants covered the token economy, embodied intelligence and large model integration.
4. **Governments used procurement to impose local content requirements.** Canada awarded over USD 8bn for six icebreakers to a domestic yard, requiring Canadian steel and iron. Brazil launched an AI computing tender that demands local content and labour. India reserved USD 165m in loiter munition contracts for domestic vendors under Buy Indian. Washington opened naval shipbuilding to foreign yards, subject to four cumulative localisation requirements.
5. **Sanctions activity on Iran spread beyond Washington.** The US reopened broad measures under Operation Economic Outcast, restoring service-trade prohibitions and issuing five sectoral determinations. The UAE halted all trade, commercial exchanges and financial transactions with Iran until further notice. Switzerland froze MAPNA Group's assets.

The GTA Monthly Roundup provides a rapid overview of changes in import barriers, export curbs, subsidies, and related industrial policy measures. It is organised by geography, beginning with the United States, China and the European Union. The final section briefly summarises developments in further regions covered by the GTA. Links to official sources are included in the references.

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United States

The United States focused on critical minerals and its defence industrial base. Washington also declared a national emergency over the bulk-power system and launched Operation Economic Outcast, a new sanctions campaign against Iran. The GTA team documented 106 new interventions during the last four weeks.

Export Restrictions

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) published a temporary final rule [restricting exports of black mass and tungsten waste and scrap](#) without a licence. US persons selling these materials must allocate 100% of monthly sales to US persons, and covered material must remain physically within the United States. The requirement applies until 27 August 2027. The rule implements the [Presidential Determination of 30 July 2026](#) on recoverable critical minerals.

Under Operation Economic Outcast, Washington restored service-trade prohibitions to Iran. It suspended indefinitely the general licenses authorising the [export of educational, conference, sports and academic services](#).

Import Restrictions

The US expanded Section 232 duties to polysilicon and unmanned aircraft, and proposed more metal derivatives that will be subject to tariffs. The Administration imposed an additional [15% duty on polysilicon derivatives](#) applying to ingots, wafers, solar cells and modules. Simultaneously, it set [minimum import prices](#) for the same goods. It also introduced [duties of 100% or 25% on unmanned aircraft systems \(UAS\)](#) depending on weight and thermal-imaging capability. Furthermore, it set a [separate 25% duty on components](#) such as propellers and undercarriages, with a [deferred start date](#) for suppliers on specified US government-approved lists. Total additional duties are capped at 15% for Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Chinese Taipei and the EU. For the UK, duties have a ceiling of 10%. Both actions also included possible firm-specific duty exemptions. Separately, the Commerce Department [proposed bringing 14 derivative articles within the metals tariffs](#). The list covers aluminium powder, brass wind instruments, electric cables, fire extinguishers, self-propelled cranes, trailers and filled steel gas containers. Tariffs would be set at 15%, 25% or 50% depending on the product.

The President instructed agencies to prohibit certain foreign-produced bulk-power system electric equipment. He [signed Executive Order 14420](#), calling for a prohibition on importing, acquiring, transferring and installing certain foreign-produced bulk-power system electric equipment. It captures equipment supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of a Covered Foreign Entity. Currently, this affects 23 jurisdictions, including China, Russia and Iran. Covered goods include substation transformers, reactors, capacitors, grid-connected inverters and battery energy storage systems. Other products are also listed. Implementing rules are due within 120 days.

Operation Economic Outcast also suspended licenses authorising the [import of conference-related and educational services](#) of Iranian origin. General License BB permits wind-down transactions until 8 September 2026.

In trade defence, the International Trade Administration initiated investigations on welded stainless line and pressure pipes. The [antidumping investigation](#) targets imports from India, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates. The [countervailing investigation](#) targets imports from India and Türkiye only. The cases follow applications lodged on 15 July 2026 by Bristol Pipe and

Tube, Felker Brothers and Primus Pipe and Tube. A preliminary determination is due no later than 140 and 65 days, respectively.

Subsidies

Washington focused on expanding US access to critical minerals. The Department of War awarded [USD 750 million to US SIIE LLC](#) under the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment programme. The award supports an offtake agreement for mixed rare-earth carbonates produced at Serra Verde's Pela Ema project in central Brazil. A further [commitment of USD 400 million went to Sunrise Energy Metals](#), an Australian firm, for the Syerston scandium project in New South Wales. That financing grants the department a right of first offer on output. Finally, it [invested USD 100 million in preferred equity for Atlantic Alumina Company LLC \(Atalco\)](#) under the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment programme.

The Department of War's Office of Strategic Capital issued three new conditional loan commitments to support the defence industrial base. The largest, [USD 1.4 billion to Sila Nanotechnologies](#), would fund silicon-carbon battery anodes and a domestic lithium-ion cell plant. Moreover, a commitment of [USD 150 million to Niron Magnetics](#) would expand production of rare earth-free permanent magnets in Sartell, Minnesota.

The Department of Energy announced several firm-specific allocations. It awarded three grants of USD 100 million each, connected to a USD 500 million battery materials package announced in March 2026. [Nth Cycle](#) will refine black mass from end-of-life lithium-ion batteries into high-purity metals in the southeastern United States. [Formation Holdings](#) will construct a commercial cobalt refinery producing battery-grade cobalt sulfate. [Waterleaf P1 HoldCo](#), a project vehicle of Lilac Solutions, will produce battery-grade lithium carbonate in Utah. The same department also closed a [USD 489 million loan to Amanecer Puerto Rico](#) for 220 megawatts of battery energy storage.

The Administration also included tax reliefs to support onshoring and reshoring under the Section 232 tariffs on [polysilicon](#) and [UAS](#). These tariff proclamations introduced relief schemes for firms committing to build or expand US production facilities of these products. Support is tied to construction timelines and expenditure commitments, and may be rescinded if commitments are unmet, with retroactive rescission possible for fraud.

Other Measures: Financial Sanctions and Public Procurement

On the sanctions front, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) both expanded designated entities and widened the reach of designations. On new designations, OFAC expanded them to cover networks handling Iranian oil, procurement and payments across ten jurisdictions. These comprised [15 entities in Hong Kong, eight in the United Arab Emirates, five in China and three in Singapore](#). Further designations covered [an Iranian freight forwarder](#) shipping proliferation-sensitive goods to Iranian defence bodies. OFAC also listed [a French cooking oil refinery](#) acquired by an Iranian oil shipping network. It further listed [two trading firms in Switzerland and Malaysia, two shipowners in the United Kingdom and the Marshall Islands, and six shadow-fleet vessels](#). On the sectoral expansion, the Treasury issued [five sectoral determinations under Executive Order 13902](#), identifying Iran's digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping sectors. Any foreign person operating in, or supporting, those sectors may now be designated and have its property blocked.

Public procurement opened to foreign suppliers while tightening domestic content expectations. A presidential memorandum [authorised the construction of certain naval vessels in foreign shipyards](#), covering surface combatants, replenishment tankers and roll-on/roll-off vessels.

Federal law had previously excluded foreign yards from these programmes altogether. Access is, however, [conditional on four cumulative localisation requirements](#). Executive Order 14420 carries a procurement leg of its own, [directing the Secretary of Energy to recommend revisions to the Federal Acquisition Regulation](#). Those revisions would prioritise the acquisition of US-manufactured energy infrastructure, with recommendations due within 180 days. Additionally, the Defense Logistics Agency added to the agreement signed with US SII LLC a [USD 300 million forward purchase commitment](#) for rare-earth products over five years.

China

During August 2026, China expanded its industrial policy through subnational subsidies for AI and robotics. At the national level, it tightened export controls, opened a security investigation and announced countermeasures against foreign entities. The GTA team documented 66 new measures.

Export Restrictions

The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) [tightened export controls on drone-related dual-use items destined for the United States](#). Exports of drones, core components and related technologies on the dual-use control list now face case-by-case review. Licensing facilitation measures no longer apply, and the announcement gave no concrete list of affected products.

Import Restrictions

MOFCOM also [initiated a national security investigation into imported printing and copying equipment](#). The inquiry covers office equipment carrying foreign system software tested or maintained abroad. It should conclude within 12 months, and reportedly marks the first such case under the revised Foreign Trade Law. Article 44 of that law allows the state to adopt the relevant foreign trade measures once an investigation ends.

Subsidies

At the national level, the government launched initiatives to boost general consumption and to support internet information companies. First, nine ministries jointly adopted [guidelines to activate county consumption and the “sinking market”](#). The document promises interest payment support, alongside financial and land assistance for rural commerce and e-commerce. Then, the Cyberspace Administration of China unveiled a [2026-2030 action plan for boosting state support for internet information enterprises](#). It targets stronger tech innovation, ecosystem leadership, and R&D in chips, software, and AI, backed by broader financing including government investment funds.

Provincial and municipal governments launched several large investment funds. Liaoning Province [established the USD 4.5 billion Innovation Development Guidance Parent Fund](#). It backs local innovative development, and no sectoral restrictions on beneficiaries were indicated. Qingyang in Gansu Province announced two funds of USD 744 million each. They cover [the digital economy](#) and [energy and chemicals](#). Fujian Province set up the USD 148.3 million [Provincial Strategic Emerging Industry Fund](#). The fund pools bank, insurance and state-owned capital for information technology, high-end manufacturing, biomedicine and new energy.

The Beijing Economic Technological Development Area and Haizhu District in Guangzhou launched support packages in connection with the token economy. The Beijing package supports operators of [token distribution and skill acquisition centres](#) and [businesses conducting AI model development and deployment](#). It also covers [platforms delivering professional industry or common technical services](#) and [firms applying tokens in medical care, commercial aerospace and car manufacturing](#). Guangzhou’s announcement granted up to [USD 0.7 million per project](#)

[for integrating large models with other sectors](#). Eligible fields include games, fashion, transport, medical care and the low-altitude economy.

Robotics and embodied intelligence also attracted economic support in Binjiang District in Hangzhou and Wuhu in Anhui Province. Binjiang District's funding package included several components. Emerging firms and large-scale industry chain projects may draw up to [USD 15 million per enterprise](#) for research, development and market expansion. Projects focused on core technology work, including embodied intelligence chips and high-performance sensors, attract up to [USD 7 million per project](#). Inspection, testing and certification platforms receive up to [USD 4 million per entity](#). The district also funds [innovative application scenarios](#) and [robot brand competitions](#). In Wuhu, funding focused on the provision of up to [USD 1.5 million per project for national robot testing bases](#) from 13 September.

The Fengtai District in Beijing focused on the science and technology service industry. Locally registered firms in that field may receive up to [USD 1.5 million for research-driven technology iteration and product upgrades](#). A further [USD 1.5 million per enterprise](#) supports scientific innovation and industrialisation projects.

Other Measures: Countermeasures

China answered foreign restrictions with three separate countermeasure actions. On 5 August, the government [barred organisations and individuals in China from dealing with four US entities](#). It responded to US sanctions concerning the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The targets are Applied DNA Sciences, Stratum Reservoir, Altana Technologies and Verite Group. They work in biotechnology, scientific analysis, technology consulting and software engineering. The same announcement imposed identical restrictions on [Compliance Testing LLC, a US electronics testing company](#). Beijing accused the firm of assisting the Federal Communications Commission in measures harming Chinese enterprises.

On 19 August, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Commerce issued Announcement 2026/8, [blocking the European Union's Foreign Subsidies Regulation investigation into JD.com](#). No organisation or individual in China may implement or assist the EU's information requests. The order rests on the anti-improper foreign extraterritorial jurisdiction framework introduced in April 2026. Beijing judged the EU's information requests improper under Articles 3 and 6. It described the demands as extensive and non-essential.

European Union

The EU turned towards state financing and investment control in August. Germany and the European Investment Bank supplied the bulk of the new subsidies. France tightened its foreign investment screening thresholds, while Italy fast-tracked two foreign data centre projects. Brussels also imposed provisional antidumping duties on a Chinese steel input. The GTA documented 100 new developments during August 2026.

Import Restrictions

The Commission imposed provisional antidumping duties on [certain wires of silicomanganese steel](#) from China. Rates range from 75.3% to 102.4% of the net free-at-Union-frontier price before duty, depending on the company. The Commission opened the proceeding in December 2025.

Subsidies

Germany announced the month's largest package. The government launched [USD 18.9 billion in guarantees to KfW](#) for energy infrastructure. The guarantees will let the national development

bank extend further loans to energy supply companies over the next ten years. Eligible investments cover grid-connected heat or cold supply, including generation, storage and distribution, as well as the use of waste heat. The programmes also finance the construction, expansion, modernisation and digitalisation of electricity distribution networks.

KfW also announced additional firm-specific support. Specifically, the bank announced a [guarantee line for Enercon](#), a German wind turbine manufacturer. The total syndicate financing amounts to up to USD 1.2 billion, structured by Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank. KfW did not disclose its own share, which it provides as risk sharing under the Germany Fund umbrella.

At EU level, the Commission directed emissions trading revenues towards critical raw materials. It approved a USD 134 million grant to [Imerys Lithium France](#) under the Innovation Fund. The award supports the EMILI project, a lithium refinery planned at Saint-Victor in the Allier region. France recognises EMILI as a project of major national interest, and the EU also recognises it as a strategic project under the Critical Raw Materials Act.

The European Investment Bank focused on smaller firms in central and eastern Europe. It signed a USD 459 million [loan with SG Equipment Finance Czech Republic sro](#), a Société Générale subsidiary. The facility finances small- and medium-scale projects in Czechia and Slovakia. It also approved a USD 117 million [loan with UniCredit Bank SA](#) in Romania. That facility funds SME and mid-cap investment, with 33% reserved for innovative beneficiaries to help the country converge towards the EU innovation average.

Other Measures: Investment Measures

France narrowed the entry point for non-EU investors. Paris [extended the country's 10% foreign investment screening threshold](#) to French companies listed on selected exchanges outside the European Union. The decree designates six such markets: the London Stock Exchange, SIX Swiss Exchange, Toronto Stock Exchange, Singapore Exchange, Japan Exchange and Korea Exchange. It also covers third-country markets benefiting from a Commission equivalence decision.

Italy eased the path for two foreign-backed data centre projects, granting them a fast-track single authorisation procedure and a dedicated government commissioner. As a consequence, [K2 Strategic Infrastructure Italy Srl](#), a subsidiary of Singapore-based K2 Strategic Pte Ltd, received approval for a EUR 5.3 billion hyperscale campus of up to roughly 400 MW in the Milan metropolitan area. [Energy Vault Sulcis Srl](#), an indirect subsidiary of US-listed Energy Vault Holdings Inc, also received approval for the EUR 1.5 billion "Digital Vault Sulcis" project, a 30 MW Edge AI data centre integrated with renewable generation and storage.

Other Regions

The GTA documented 673 developments announced by jurisdictions outside the US, China, and the European Union in the last four weeks. Significant developments include:

Argentina granted incentives to [Compañía Mega SA](#) under the Incentive Regime for Large Investments (RIGI in Spanish). The Ampliación Mega project is expected to add 1'500 tonnes per day of natural gas capacity.

Australia announced financial support for the defence and aluminium sectors. It launched the [USD 3 billion Defence Industry Growth Facility](#), managed by Export Finance Australia. The facility offers equity, loans, bonds and guarantees for export opportunities and expansion projects. In

addition, the [national](#) and [the New South Wales governments](#) jointly granted USD 1.8 billion to Tomago Aluminium.

Brazil extended export credit to its aerospace sector and launched an AI procurement call subject to localisation requirements. BNDES announced [USD 650 million in financing for Embraer's aircraft exports](#) to Canada. The operation supports the sale of up to 19 E195-E2 aircraft to Porter Aviation Holdings. In procurement, Brasilia launched a tender worth [USD 185 million for AI high-performance computing infrastructure](#). The call imposes mandatory local content and labour requirements.

Canada responded to US tariff action with their own tariffs and a large business support package, while tightening procurement and trade defence. Ottawa announced [tariffs of 15%, 25% and 50% on 874 product categories originating in the US](#), effective 8 September 2026. Each rate matches the corresponding US Section 338 or Section 232 rate product by product. In addition, it unveiled a USD 5.4 billion support package for affected businesses. This comprises [an additional USD 1 billion for the Regional Tariff Response Initiative](#) and [USD 1.4 billion through the new Canada Strong Diversification Fund](#). It also calls for [further liquidity streams and eased lending terms at the Business Development Bank of Canada](#). In procurement, the government [awarded a contract worth over USD 8 billion to Chantier Davie Canada](#) for six icebreakers, excluding foreign shipbuilders. The same award requires the vessels to be [built with Canadian steel, iron and other domestic materials](#). Moreover, the authorities opened [parallel antidumping and countervailing investigations into paperboard cups](#) and [truck](#) and [bus tyres](#) from China.

Chinese Taipei's Department of Investment Review approved six investment projects, including capital increases by Nuvoton and Lam Research. Nuvoton [will invest roughly USD 94.4 million in its Japan subsidiary](#) for IC design and manufacturing. Lam Research, a US firm, [will invest roughly USD 307.3 million in its Taiwan unit](#) for semiconductor equipment R&D.

Egypt modified its export duties. Cairo [repealed the export duties on nitrogenous fertilisers](#), removing both the 10% ad valorem charge and the earlier duty of USD 90 per tonne. Conversely, it imposed an [export duty of USD 98.95 per tonne on rubber waste, scraps and clippings](#) for one year.

The **Eurasian Economic Union** lowered import duties on several metallurgical inputs and opened an antidumping case. The bloc removed the 5% duty on [manganese ores and concentrates](#) until 31 August 2028, and on [titanium waste and scrap](#) over the same period. It also suspended the duty on [titanium oxides](#) until 31 October 2028. In each case the Commission cited the competitiveness of member states' metallurgical enterprises. Separately, it initiated an [antidumping investigation on Chinese imports of citric acid](#).

India liberalised several export restrictions and announced defence procurement calls. On exports, the Ministry of Finance cut the Road and Infrastructure Cess on [high-speed diesel exports](#) from USD 0.016 per litre to nil, and reduced the special additional excise duties on [aviation turbine fuel exports](#) and [petrol exports](#). On agriculture, New Delhi removed the export bans on [wheat](#) and on [wheat flour and related products](#), both in place since 2022. Moreover, the Ministry of Defence awarded [contracts worth approximately USD 165 million for loiter munition systems](#). The award falls under the Buy Indian category, which reserves procurement for domestic vendors meeting local content thresholds of 50-60%.

Indonesia initiated an [antidumping investigation on Chinese imports of superabsorbent polymers](#). The case follows an application from PT Nippon Shokubai Indonesia.

Iran continued to unwind its blanket food and agricultural export ban of March 2026. The Trade Promotion Organisation published new exemption lists covering [fisheries and aquaculture products](#), as well as [several fruits and vegetables](#). It also permitted [exports of rolled barley](#) and [certain live animals, tea and cereals](#), though these shipments remain subject to authorisation.

Japan channelled finance towards gas power projects in the US. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation signed loan agreements of up to [USD 801 million with Japan Invest 4](#) and [USD 739 million with Japan Invest 5](#). The two vehicles hold stakes in gas-fired plants in Pennsylvania and Texas, respectively. Nippon Export and Investment Insurance then provided loan insurance of [USD 1.6 billion](#) and [USD 1.5 billion](#) for the same investments. All four measures fall under the [Strategic Investment Initiative](#) agreed with the US in September 2025.

New Zealand adjusted its Russia sanctions regime. The government froze the assets of [four Russian entities](#) active in chemicals, heavy machinery, IT services and logistics. At the same time, it [removed export prohibitions on certain medical devices](#) from 3 September 2026.

The **Philippines** tightened agricultural import controls, supported the state-owned energy company PSALM, and unveiled a new critical minerals strategy. The Department of Agriculture imposed [volume-based special safeguard duties on five meat products](#) until 31 December 2026. The Sugar Regulatory Administration introduced a [clearance fee of USD 0.4 per kilogram on artificial sweetener imports](#). On subsidies, LandBank signed a [USD 2.5 billion loan facility with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation](#). In addition, Manila unveiled a [plan to develop the country's critical minerals industry](#). It seeks to promote value-added mineral processing, offer investment incentives, and foster public-private partnerships between miners and manufacturers.

Qatar's Investment Authority [seeded the Lesha Qatar Equity Fund](#). In turn, this fund will invest in Shari'a-compliant shares listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange.

Russia modified its fuel subsidy and sanctions frameworks, extended public financing and relaxed certain export restrictions. Moscow [extended the fuel damper production subsidy to middle distillates](#) sold domestically until 30 June 2027. The same measure raised the compensation coefficient on [imported diesel from 0.65 to 0.9](#) and created a damper for diesel produced outside the EAEU. On investment, the President signed a law [allowing courts to extinguish foreign investors' buy-back rights over previously alienated Russian assets](#). It applies to investors linked to states deemed to have committed "unfriendly actions". The government allocated [USD 477 million via VEB.RF under the Project Finance Factory](#). It also introduced a [temporary export quota of 300'000 tonnes for lower-grade technical sulphur](#), carved out of an existing ban until 31 December 2026.

Saudi Arabia initiated an [antidumping investigation on imports of multi-ply duplex paperboard from India and China](#). The investigation covers grey-backed board weighing between 180 and 500 grams per square metre.

South Korea deployed public finance across critical minerals, overseas projects and small business lending, and opened one trade defence case. The government allocated [USD 3.5 billion for the 15 Grow-Together Projects](#) in critical minerals, materials, parts and equipment. The programme calls for [support for anchor and partner firm partnerships](#) with [assistance for entering export markets](#). The Export-Import Bank of Korea provided [USD 1.2 billion to Saudi Energy](#), tied to orders placed with Korean firms. It also extended [a USD 1 billion loan to Glencore](#)

in exchange for copper supply. The Korea Credit Guarantee Fund signed guarantee agreements worth [USD 210 million for Hyundai Motor Group's parts suppliers](#). The Industrial Bank of Korea offered [USD 704 million in fixed-rate loans to lower-credit SMEs](#), and K-Sure launched a [USD 216 million trade finance scheme for R&D innovation firms](#). On trade defence, Seoul initiated an [antidumping investigation on ethyl acetate from China](#).

The **Southern African Customs Union** modified import restrictions and continued its trade defence cases. It [reduced the customs duties on wheat and wheaten flour to zero](#), from USD 0.009 and USD 0.014 per kilogram, respectively. Conversely, it [increased the duty on sugar imports](#) from USD 0.3 to ZAR USD 0.4 per kilogram. Furthermore, it initiated an [antidumping investigation on gypsum plasterboard from China and Saudi Arabia](#) and imposed [provisional antidumping duties of up to 28% on Chinese coated flat-rolled steel imports](#).

Switzerland aligned with the European Union's twentieth Russia sanctions package and extended financial sanctions against Iran. Bern banned the import of [metals, chemicals and minerals from Russia](#) and extended the [export ban list to a further thirteen tariff headings](#). It further prohibited the supply of [machining centres and telecommunications apparatus to the Kyrgyz Republic](#) as an anti-circumvention measure. From January 2027, it will also prohibit imports of [Russian natural gas condensate](#) and the provision of [services related to liquefied natural gas terminals](#). Separately, the government [froze the assets of Iran's MAPNA Group](#).

Türkiye brought the Artificial Intelligence Action Plan 2026-2030 into force. The plan allocates [USD 521.9 million in state aid](#) for AI development and uptake across all economic activities. It further calls for [FDI financial incentives](#) aimed at mobilising at least USD 10 billion of private capital by 2030. Finally, the plan directs [public bodies to](#) require SME bidders of AI contracts to hold a techno-entrepreneur certificate, and the establishment of an [accelerated AI talent visa under the TechVisa scheme](#).

Ukraine expanded its sanctions regime against Russia. Kyiv blacklisted [24 Russian trading, shipping and port entities](#), [two Belarusian firms and one Hong Kong company](#), and [a Dubai-registered grain trader](#). The same measure barred [13 maritime vessels](#) from Ukrainian ports and waters for ten years. The country also acted against cultural exports, sanctioning [three Russian animation and media entities](#) and [the Cypriot rights holder](#) behind the series Masha and the Bear.

The **United Arab Emirates** halted all commercial dealings with Iran. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that [trade, commercial exchanges and financial transactions](#) with Iran had stopped until further notice.

The **United Kingdom** financed a data centre project and opened two trade defence cases in the chemicals sector. The National Wealth Fund provided a [USD 274 million guarantee](#) for DataVita. The financing supports expansion of the DV1 data centre and construction of a new facility. On trade defence, London initiated an [antidumping investigation on suspension polyvinyl chloride from China, Mexico and the Republic of Korea](#). It also launched a [safeguard investigation on imports of poly\(ethylene terephthalate\)](#).

Vietnam rolled out preferential credit via its state-owned banking sector. Under a State Bank mandate, Agribank implemented a [USD 2.7 billion scheme for SMEs and priority sectors](#). BIDV, VietinBank and Vietcombank each launched parallel schemes of USD 1.9 billion. All four run until the end of 2028 and target exports, semiconductors, AI, supporting industries and green projects.

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