

Singapore

Singapore and Japan sign agreement to strengthen space collaboration

It is the first bilateral space agency agreement between Singapore and Japan.



Chief executive of NSAS Ngiam Le Na (left) and president of JAXA, Dr Hiroshi Yamakawa signed the Memorandum of Cooperation at the Spacetide 2026 conference in Tokyo, on Jul 6, 2026. (Photo: Spacetide Foundation)

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SINGAPORE: The space agencies of Singapore and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Monday (Jul 6) to boost collaboration in areas such as space technology development and exploration.

It is the first bilateral space agency agreement between Singapore and Japan, following commitments by [Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi](#) earlier this year.

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The National Space Agency of Singapore (NSAS) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) will exchange information and explore opportunities for cooperation in areas such as space technology development and applications, space science and exploration, industry development, education, as well as policy and regulatory exchanges.

At the Spacetide 2026 conference in Tokyo, a global platform which brings together key players from various industries, the two agencies also exchanged letters on business and industrial promotion cooperation under JAXA's Co-funded Business Promotion Framework (CBPF). Singapore is the third partner country under this framework, after the United Kingdom and France.

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"Through the CBPF, both agencies will support greater collaboration between Singaporean and Japanese companies and facilitate partnerships in areas of mutual interest," Singapore's space agency said in a media release.

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Another Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Nanyang Technological University and Fusic, a Japanese custom software development company.

They aim to explore how artificial intelligence can assist ground-control teams with routine satellite operations, mission scheduling, ground-station allocation and the early detection of technical problems.

"As satellite constellations grow, the space sector will need new ways to manage missions safely, efficiently and at scale," said Professor Christian Wolfrum, deputy president and provost of NTU.



Mr Lim Wee Seng, Executive Director of NTU's Satellite Research Centre, briefs researchers and engineers on satellite ground station operations at the mission control centre. (Photo: NTU Singapore)

Singapore's national space agency NSAS was set up in April to help the country seize opportunities in the expanding space economy.

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"NSAS believes that strong international partnerships are essential to unlock opportunities for our growing space ecosystem," said the agency's chief executive Ngiam Le Na, noting that this marks NSAS's first bilateral agreement.

"Together, we hope to deepen collaboration across our space ecosystems and create globally competitive opportunities for innovation and industry growth, while contributing to safe and sustainable uses of outer space."

President of JAXA, Dr Hiroshi Yamakawa, said it comes as Japan and Singapore mark 60 years of diplomatic relations this year.

He noted previous areas of collaboration, such as the launch of Singapore's satellites by Japan's H-IIB rocket and from the ISS Kibo module.

"As we mark this new milestone, we look forward to further deepening our cooperation with Singapore - a key partner with whom we share common values, to contribute to addressing global challenges and advancing space science and technology," he added.