Britain Bans Submarine Exports to Russia Over Undersea Cable Concerns

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Britain has banned the export of submarines to Russia over what it says are advances that pose a national security risk, including the alleged ability to cut undersea cables which carry most global internet communications.

Britain and the U.S. have warned that the Russian Navy could disrupt over $10 trillion in daily transactions by attacking the cables crossing the world's seas and oceans. Western military experts have suggested that a secret nuclear-powered submarine hit by a fatal fire in July had the ability to probe and possibly even sever undersea communications cables.

Related article: Russia Confirms Submarine Hit by Deadly Fire Was Nuclear-Powered

The British government's trade agency has announced "national control" measures prohibiting the export of submarines and related equipment, software and technology to Russia.

"This additional control is a consequence of Russia developing certain capabilities —
including the ability to track, access and disrupt undersea communication cables," [said](#) the
International Trade Department's export‑control unit.

"These activities represent a risk to our national security and the new control is intended to
mitigate this risk," the agency said in a statement Wednesday.

Russia's Defense Ministry has not yet commented on the latest ban. In 2015, A Defense
Ministry‑owned news channel had [said](#) that Russia can "both cut the special communication
cables on the ocean floor and scan the signals they carry" in the event of active hostilities.

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