Week commencing 2 November 2026

ClearPath Partnership

COVERAGE
19 October – 1 November 2026

AUDIENCE
Executive leadership · Technology, defence and security decision-makers

HANDLING
Internal use — not for onward distribution

IF YOU JUST REMEMBER ONE THING FROM THIS BRIEFING…

Beijing's one-year suspension of its extraterritorial rare-earth export rule expires on 10 November, and no one has confirmed whether a reported extension actually holds.

US officials say Washington and Beijing agreed in September to push the deadline to January 2027, but China has not confirmed it. Ask your supply-chain team one question: are we planning for the stricter rule to return on 10 November, or just hoping it doesn't?

FORTNIGHT IN REVIEW

Geopolitics, defence and security

PRIORITY

24–28 OCT

Local truce holds in Oleshky; Russia's wider war does not pause

A six-day ceasefire in the devastated Kherson town of Oleshky took effect on 27 October, brokered with Melania Trump's help, to allow aid and evacuations for roughly 2,000 residents. Trilateral US-Russia-Ukraine talks are tentatively expected in Abu Dhabi 6–10 November but unscheduled; Russia still demands Ukraine cede all of Donbas.

So what: a town-level truce is not a ceasefire. Plan on Russia's grid campaign and maximalist territorial demands continuing through winter.

PRIORITY

STATUS UNRESOLVED, DEADLINE 10 NOV

China's rare-earth suspension nears expiry with no confirmation

China's one-year suspension of its extraterritorial "0.1%" rare-earth rule, agreed after the October 2025 Trump-Xi deal, lapses on 10 November. US officials reported a further extension to January 2027 following Xi's September Washington visit, but Beijing has not confirmed it, and case-by-case licensing on seven rare earths continues regardless.

So what: do not assume relief is secured. Model both outcomes for any China-exposed compute, defence or electronics supply chain.

WATCH

29 OCT

North Korea fires ten missiles amid DMZ border dispute

South Korea's Joint Chiefs reported roughly ten short-range ballistic missiles fired from Wonsan on 29 October, the third distinct test event this month. The launch followed a DMZ landmine blast that wounded three South Korean soldiers, which a joint Seoul-UN probe attributed to Pyongyang; North Korea denies it.

So what: treat this as continued testing of US-ROK-Japan coordination, not an isolated incident — expect further launches.

WATCH

ONGOING, NO CHANGE

Japan-China diplomatic freeze leaves export curbs in place

The dispute triggered by PM Takaichi's November 2025 remark that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be an "existential crisis" for Japan remains unresolved. China's dual-use and rare-earth export curbs on Japan, imposed in early 2026, stay in force; Tokyo has not retracted the remark and expects the stalemate to continue.

So what: firms with Japan-China supply chains should assume no near-term easing — Beijing may reuse the template elsewhere.

WATCH LIST

Developments to track this fortnight

DEVELOPMENT	REGION	SECTOR AFFECTED	WHAT TO WATCH NEXT
Rare-earth suspension nears 10 Nov deadline	China / global	Technology, defence, supply chain	Whether Beijing confirms the reported extension to January 2027 before it lapses.
Oleshky truce and Abu Dhabi talks	Russia / Ukraine	Defence, security	Whether trilateral talks are formally scheduled and whether the truce outlasts six days.
North Korea missile tests	Korean peninsula	Defence, security	Further launches and any shift in US-ROK-Japan coordination.
Japan-China diplomatic freeze	Japan / China	Technology, defence, supply chain	Any easing of dual-use and rare-earth curbs on Japan.
Russia's energy-grid campaign	Russia / Ukraine	Defence, supply chain	Whether strikes continue nationwide through winter despite the local truce.

This is a watch list, not a task list — track these for consequence, not remediation, and confirm before acting.

REGULATORY AND SECTOR WATCH

What changed, and what is coming

In force now

- China's April 2025 case-by-case licensing on seven rare earths, including dysprosium and yttrium, stays in force regardless of the 10 November deadline.
- China's dual-use and rare-earth export curbs on Japan remain active amid the frozen Takaichi dispute.

Approaching

- China's "0.1%" rare-earth rule suspension lapses 10 November; a reported extension to January 2027 is unconfirmed by Beijing.
- Trilateral Russia-Ukraine-US talks tentatively expected in Abu Dhabi 6–10 November, not yet scheduled.

Standing watch — GNSS interference. Jamming and spoofing across the Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean routes continues at record levels. No change to guidance: confirm holdover for any GNSS-timing dependency.

RECOMMENDED

Three things to do before the next edition

- Confirm supply chains plan for the stricter rare-earth rule returning 10 November, not the reported extension.
- Review exposure to Japan-China trade curbs wherever your supply chain touches dual-use or rare-earth manufacturing.
- Treat any Abu Dhabi talks announcement as preliminary — Russia's Donbas demands remain the sticking point.

OUTLOOK — NEXT FORTNIGHT

We assess it is a realistic possibility China lets the rare-earth suspension lapse unconfirmed, tightening supply around 10 November. It is likely North Korea conducts further missile tests, and unlikely Abu Dhabi talks produce a substantive Russia-Ukraine agreement.

NEXT EDITION

Monday 16 November 2026. Send additions, corrections or sector intelligence to your ClearPath engagement lead.

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