

News story: Defence Secretary to announce new £1bn support model for Royal Navy

The Common Support Model (CSM) will provide a framework for comprehensive support across the Royal Navy's fleet of warships for decades to come in one new overarching arrangement.

The model will maintain the likes of both brand new Queen Elizabeth aircraft carriers, as well as all existing warships and will be able to incorporate future ships such as the Type 26 and Type 31e.

The new arrangement will bring together separate support agreements for individual ship types under a single, more efficient and more manageable model. Worth around £1 billion, it is set to improve the performance of service providers by having them adopt a common approach across all classes of complex warships.

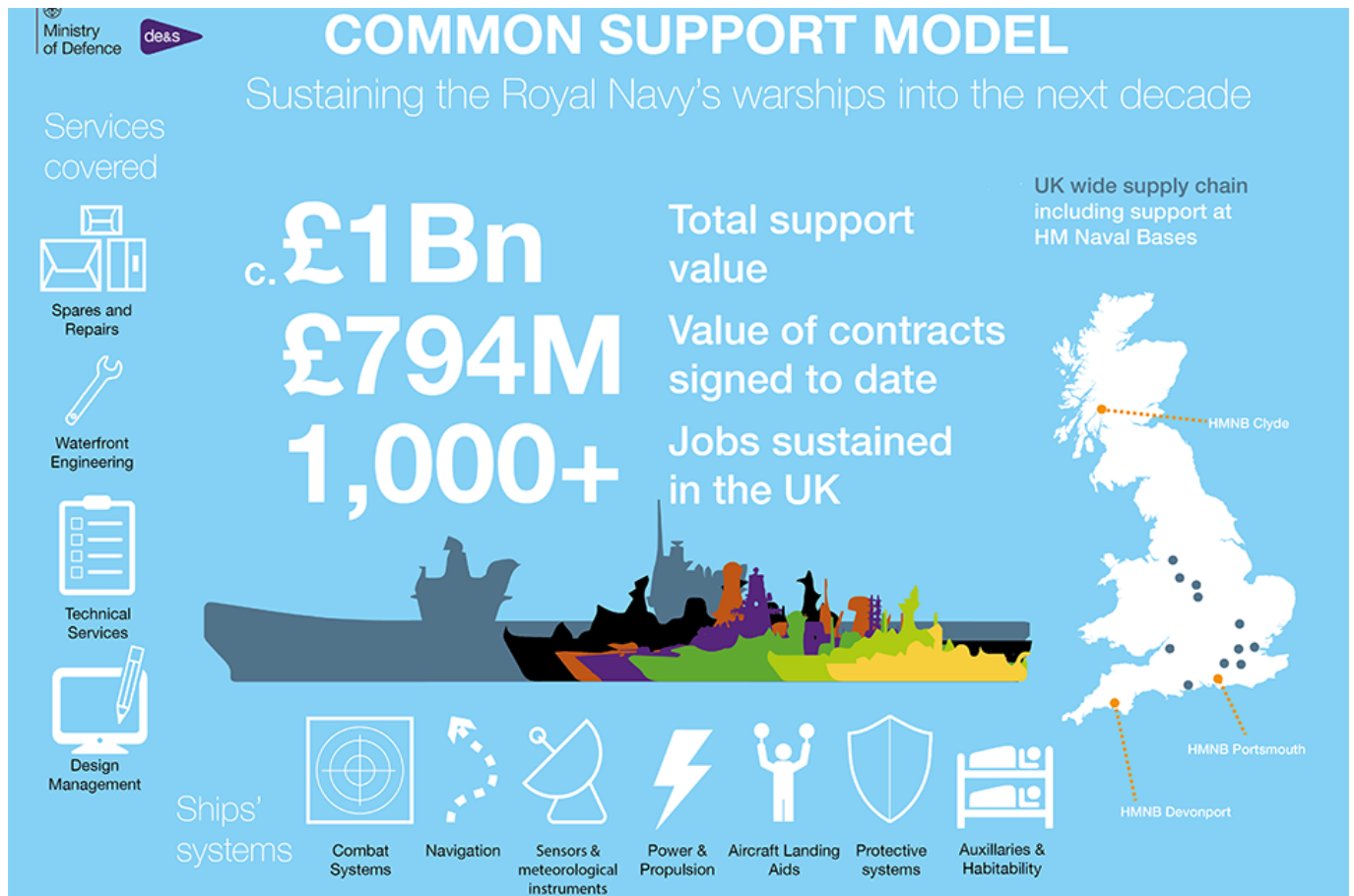
The move aims to boost the performance and speed of all support, no matter what the ship, as well as making savings in equipment costs with the model providing a one-stop-shop for services required.

The model will establish a support system across the surface fleet, from the largest ships ever built for the Royal Navy, the nation's new aircraft carriers, to the new Type 26 frigates being built on the Clyde and through to the likes of Minehunters and Royal Marine Amphibious Ships. It covers everything from combat management systems, fleet-wide communications and aircraft landing aids, through to spares, repairs and maintenance.

The suite of contracts will support over a thousand jobs in the UK, including at BAE Systems and Babcock in Portsmouth, Bristol, Devonport and on the Clyde, as well as Thales in Crawley and AGI Ltd in Poole.

The model will draw on the strong partnerships across UK Defence and world-leading skills to supply Royal Navy Engineering Technicians with the services and tools they need to keep the entire surface fleet effective at home and abroad, often far from home and in very challenging environments, and enhance the Royal Navy's mission to protect the UK's interests around the world.

10 of the 16 agreements, worth £794 million, included in the model have already been signed, with the others set to follow in the coming months.



Common Support Model infographic. Crown copyright.

Sir Simon Bollom, Chief of Materiel (Ships) for Defence Equipment and Support, the MOD's procurement organisation, said:

Our surface fleet is made up of some the most advanced and capable fighting ships in the world. HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy's newest and most advanced Aircraft Carrier, will join the fleet soon and the Common Support Model will provide a framework that will deliver effective support to the Royal Navy's warship fleet at home and around the globe.

The innovative, ambitious and far-reaching Common Support Model, which will drive efficiencies and greater availability, has been made possible by the enduring and strong relationships which exist between the Ministry of Defence, the Royal Navy, and our industry partners.

Notes to Editors:

The first ten contracts to be signed under the Common Support Model are:

- Four contracts worth £320 million for Marine Systems Support Partner (MSSP) with Babcock, which will pay for spares, repairs and technical services for the Royal Navy's Type 45 Destroyers and the new Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers.

- A £200 million contract for the Joint Support Solution 2 with BAE Systems to support combat management systems, tactical networks and shared infrastructures aboard 38 Royal Navy platforms including Type 23 Frigates, Type 45 Destroyers, QEC Carriers, Landing Platform/Dock (LPD) and Landing Platform Helicopter (LPH) ships and Mine Counter Measure Vessels, among others.
- Two contracts worth £150 million for amendments to the Maritime Support Delivery Framework (MSDF) with BAE Systems and Babcock to ensure the continuing support of the Royal Navy's entire surface Fleet, including the two new QEC Carriers.
- A £100 million contract for internal and external communications systems support with Thales for fleet-wide communications support, including long-term support for the QEC Carriers and Type 45 Destroyers.
- A £12 million contract with AGI Ltd to support Visual Landing Aids for aircraft on board ships including the QEC Carriers, Type 45 Destroyers, and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's Tide Class Tankers.
- A £12 million contract for ships' protective systems with Babcock for the current Royal Navy surface Fleet including QEC carriers, and submarines.

RAF Typhoon from 6 Squadron have been welcomed on a visit to Jordan.

Royal Air Force

(RAF) Typhoon aircraft from 6 Squadron, based at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland were welcomed at Azraq airbase in Jordan to celebrate a common heritage.

The RAF

Typhoons were on their way to exercise in the Middle East where Azraq airbase commander, Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) Colonel Mohammad Hiyasat welcomed them. He said: "In the 1950s the late King Abdullah the First presented the RAF

No 6 Squadron with the Royal Standard. Then in 1995 Jordanian No 6 Squadron and

the British No 6 squadron became sister squadrons. His Royal Highness Prince

Faisal,
a squadron commander, led the efforts to join the two squadrons because he knew
that cooperation would benefit both air forces.”



Typhoon Force

Commander, Air Commodore Ian Duguid who flew in one of the Typhoons from the UK

was enthusiastic, saying: “The opportunity to come and fly into this part of the Middle East, though Jordanian airspace and land in Azraq air base provides

exceptional training. I was fortunate to fly on the trail from the UK here to Azraq. In the fourship two of the pilots were on their first posting and I have seen their confidence and experience grow.”



He added: “We

thought it would be an excellent idea whilst 6 Squadron was deploying for them

to be able to come and base themselves at Azraq, which is the home of 6 Squadron

of the RJAF, and be able to interact and rekindle those relationships and friendships we have had over the years. The UK has a great relationship with Jordan from a strategic perspective. Clearly we are working with Jordan and many others in the coalition in the fight against Daesh. The Jordanians are able to offer us support through airspace overflight and diversion capabilities.”



Lieutenant

Colonel Sa’ad Shehaltogh, Officer Commanding 6 Squadron of the Royal Jordanian

Air Force recognised the long heritage, saying: “For me it is an honour to be commander of a squadron that has a relationship with the RAF’s 6 Squadron that

dates to the 1950s and later when HRH Prince

Faisal was a squadron commander.” He continued: “This is the continuation of a legacy. It’s

something we shouldn’t lose and of which we should be proud. Hopefully people will be here in the future celebrating the hundred years of the squadrons as sisters.”



Wing Commander

Billy Cooper, Officer Commanding 6 Squadron of the RAF said: “One of the great

things about the squadrons in the RAF is the real sense of history we

engender

and that really informs the ethos that we have. Our relationship with Jordan is

such an important part of 6 Squadron's history that it really is a great privilege for us to rekindle that here at Azraq."

RJAF 6 Squadron

pilot, Captain Mohammed Abu Aljazar speaking at a reception held for the visiting pilots from Lossiemouth said: "It's a very good opportunity since we had never met before and we have an old history between us. We hope to meet and train together in the UK in the future."

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New station Commander for RAF Lossiemouth

Group Captain Jim

Walls DSO RAF took command of RAF Lossiemouth from Group Captain Paul Godfrey

OBE on 29th September 2017.

Group Captain Godfrey

took command of the Moray base at the end of November 2015. His two years in charge of the Moray Typhoon

main operating base saw significant support to operations over Iraq, Syria and in Nigeria as well as the announcement of RAF Lossiemouth as the future base of

the UK's Maritime Patrol Aircraft. On

leaving RAF Lossiemouth Group Captain Godfrey said:

"It has been an honour to have been the Station Commander at RAF Lossiemouth. Being in command of a Royal

Air Force base that is charged with directly protecting the United Kingdom's airspace and is involved with current operations around the Globe was both challenging and inspiring. The work we

do can sometimes put a great deal of pressure on our people and their families,

but the Whole Force here continually demonstrate excellence and a can-do attitude that is humbling; it is undoubtedly the people I will miss.



"My family and I will be sad to leave Moray, we've made many good

friends in the local community and have made the most of the opportunities and amazing quality of life available here. We will definitely be back to visit soon.

“As RAF Lossiemouth moves into its next chapter, I’m delighted to hand command over to Group Captain Jim Walls. He has been a Typhoon squadron commander at RAF Lossiemouth so is well aware of the challenges and opportunities the Station faces as it develops to become a MPA as well as QRA base. I’m sure he will enjoy what is undoubtedly the very best job in the Royal Air Force.”



Group Captain Jim Walls was born in Australia but educated in the UK, attending Aberdeen University. He has flown Jaguar and Typhoon aircraft both as an instructor and operationally. He was also the Typhoon Display Pilot in 2007, and famously raced a Bugatti Veyron in a Typhoon. He has held roles in the Typhoon development programme, and was Officer Commanding 6 Sqn at RAF Lossiemouth between June 2014 and November 2016. Group Captain Walls is excited to be in command of RAF Lossiemouth as the Station moves towards welcoming the Poseidon P-8 to RAF Lossiemouth, he said:

“It’s an immense privilege to be taking command of RAF Lossiemouth. Group Captain Godfrey has led the Station exceptionally through a significant, and busy, few years. I would like to thank him for his dedicated service and congratulate him on his promotion.



“It is an exciting time to be commanding the station with such huge investment over the coming years. This includes the introduction of the Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft and another Typhoon Squadron. We will be reinvigorating RAF Coastal Command’s heritage with cutting edge technology while continuing to deliver QRA and global operations. I am particularly looking forward to working closely with the local community as we grow the station. It will undoubtedly be a challenging role but it is a real honour and I am ready.”

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RAF in Concert Tour

The Royal Air Force in Concert tour returns this autumn with a 'Stars and Stripes' themed music spectacular to mark the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force.

Listen to our [music sampler](#) for a taste of what to expect!

The RAF in Concert Tour will see RAF bands visit 12 locations around the UK, starting in High Wycombe on 7th October and ending in Norwich on 3rd December.

Over the course of the past 70 years, music legends from the United States have all influenced and shaped the soundtrack to our lives with sounds from the Swing Era, Rock & Roll, Country and Motown. The RAF in Concert Tour will pay tribute to these iconic legends with numbers that are set to impress.



The band will take audiences back in time through the past seven decades – from Sinatra to Streisand, Basie to Bernstein, the programme of music includes *Send in the Clowns*, *Hoe Down*, *Stars & Stripes March* and *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*.

Tour organiser, Tina Outlaw said: "We've brought together a fantastic programme of music to really celebrate the great American legends and the influence their music has had on all our lives over the past 70 years. From Sinatra to Elvis and Dolly Parton, the audiences are set for a fantastic evening".

Sponsored by BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin, the concert tour will visit:

7th October; Wycombe Swan, [High Wycombe](#)
9th October: Royal Festival Hall, [London](#)
16th October: Colston Hall, [Bristol](#)
18th October: The Anvil, [Baskingstoke](#)
20th October: Royal Hall, [Harrogate](#)
29th October: Lighthouse, [Poole](#)
18th November: Royal Concert Hall, [Nottingham](#)
22nd November: Symphony Hall, [Birmingham](#)
26th November: Sage Gateshead, [Gateshead](#)
29th November: Bridgewater Hall, [Manchester](#)
1st December: Cliffs Pavillion, [Southend](#)
3rd December: Theatre Royal, [Norwich](#)

Tickets start from £19 (for London £22) and are available to purchase now from the venues. For more information please go to: rafinconcert.com.



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Speech: Defence Secretary Michael Fallon at Faslane

It is a huge pleasure to welcome Permanent and Military Representatives of NATO to Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde.

Our nation's commitment to the Alliance – the bedrock of our defence – remains absolute.

In the past year alone we've increased our NATO efforts: policing Black Sea skies, leading half of its maritime missions and upping our efforts to mentor Afghan officers. And today, our Prime Minister is in Estonia visiting the 800 UK troops who, supported by our French and Danish allies, are leading NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence providing vital reassurance to our Eastern European allies.

But there's no greater illustration of our commitment to NATO which, after all, remains a nuclear alliance than our investment in the UK's independent nuclear deterrent submarine force. And today, we mark the milestone of its 350th patrol at its home base.

So, before I continue, I would like to thank our brave submariners and our submarine enterprise as a whole. For almost 50 years their efforts and those of their forebears have kept us safe every hour of every day. They remain the ultimate guarantors of our security.

And this event offers us a unique opportunity to remind ourselves why our nuclear programme remains so significant.

Protect Our People

First, it's about protecting our people. Our nuclear deterrent remains our only defence against the most extreme threats to our way of life.

Those threats are intensifying whether they come from North Korea's latest nuclear testing setting off a hydrogen bomb, launching ballistic missiles and reinforcing her reckless defiance of the international community. Or Russia, which not content with aggression in Ukraine and Crimea, has over the last few years repeatedly ramped up its nuclear rhetoric and in its latest exercise involving some 50,000 troops massed on the borders of Eastern Europe will also test nuclear capable ballistic missiles.

Now the UK remains firmly committed to the long term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. As Secretary of State, I reduced the number of deployed warheads on each submarine from 48 to 40 and the number of operationally available warheads to no more than 120. Just as we remain committed to reducing our overall stockpile of nuclear warheads to no more than 180 by the

mid-2020s.

Yet, at the same time, we remain realistic. The total number of nuclear weapons in the world did not suddenly fall. Much as we would love to live in a world without nuclear weapons. We cannot uninvent them.

Our deterrent ensures our adversaries are left in no doubt that the benefits of any attack will be vastly outweighed by the consequences.

No credible alternative exists. And we see no reason to change our posture.

Protect Our Alliance

But this brings me back to the point at which I started.

Our nuclear deterrent isn't just essential for our security. it's essential for NATO's security as well. It forms one of the Alliance's key centres of decision making that complicates the calculations of our adversaries.

What is more, many nations, represented here today signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in the late 1960s, safe in the knowledge they were covered by NATO's nuclear umbrella including the United Kingdom deterrent. Not only did that deal help halt the nuclear arms race at the time, it has helped to cut the world's nuclear stockpile by 85%.

It is no coincidence there hasn't been a major conflict involving nuclear powered states since the end of the Second World War.

Protect Our Future

Finally, our independent deterrent is a promise to protect our future. We don't know what threats lie around the corner.

Yet by giving the next generation every means necessary – from the conventional though to the nuclear – to deal with whatever comes round the corner.

We are strengthening their hand ensuring that they will have the means to deter potential threats into the 2040s, 2050s, 2060s and beyond.

That is why today we're building four Dreadnought class submarines which will enter service in the early 2030's.

That is why we're continuing to spend £1.3Bn over the next three years on facilities here at Faslane. And that is why we are building on the incredible advanced manufacturing skills found across Scotland to transform this base into a Royal Navy submarine centre of specialisation a base for all UK submarines providing 6,800 jobs now and 8,200 in the future.

Conclusion

So I hope you find your visit instructive and informative.

You can rely on the UK to remain not just 100 per cent committed to our NATO

alliance but 100 per cent committed to our deterrent – a message Parliament confirmed overwhelmingly last year when it voted to maintain CASD. At the same time, we can never be complacent.

As we look towards next year's NATO summit and beyond we must not just ensure the Alliance's political and military leaders continue recognising the importance of nuclear capabilities as NATO adapts and modernise but continues to make the case about the importance of nuclear weapons to a new generation.

Our national safety the strength of our Alliance and the security of the world depends on it.