

# Global Britain strikes again – most advanced nuclear attack sub gets Royal Navy commission

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**Boris's parting gift : "The most advanced hunter-killer submarine in the world"**

**President Macron will not like this, but our Aussie cousins certainly do**

At a ceremony at BAE Systems' site in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, the world's most advanced hunter-killer submarine was rolled out and commissioned into the Royal Navy.

The event was attended by Boris Johnson, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles, and the UK Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace.

**The Australian Deputy Prime Minister attended the UK ceremony, which must have given France's President Macron a sinking feeling**

**HMS Anson represents £1.3bn of both naval stealth and striking**

**power** – able to gather vital intelligence, protect other Royal Navy vessels from threats above and below the waves and destroy enemy military infrastructure with pinpoint accuracy.

## Don't mention the 'AUKUS' deal to President Macron



Readers will recall that in September last year Australia torpedoed the c. £50bn deal with President Macron's France for submarines, in favour of the new 'AUKUS' pact with the United Kingdom and the United States.

This caused a diplomatic row, including the French government recalling their Australian Ambassador. You can read more about this in a [Facts4EU report here](#).

Paris had billed this as ***"the contract of the century"***, so it's perhaps not surprising that the French coq's feathers were ruffled. France's Defence Minister was almost apoplectic.



In one notable interview on French TV Mr Le Drian used terms like ***"un coup dans le dos"***, (a stab in the back) and ***"une rupture de confiance majeure"***, and a ***"décision brutale"***. He described himself as being ***"angry and very bitter"***.

In one comment he even said: ***"This brutal, unilateral,***

*unpredictable decision looks very much like what Mr Trump used to do... Allies don't do this to each other... It's rather insufferable."*

## **Meanwhile in Global Britain it's plain sailing**

The traditional naval ceremony on Wednesday (31 Aug 2022) was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles, and the UK Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace.

**Here is what the UK's Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, said:**



*"Today is a significant milestone in the UK and Australia's preparation to confront growing threats to the liberal democratic order, especially in the Indo Pacific.*

*"Not only have we progressed our defence planning but Minister Marles participated in the commissioning of our latest attack submarine, on which Royal Australian Navy submariners will be embarked as we develop our shared capabilities in the years ahead.*

*"Built in a UK shipyard, HMS Anson demonstrates the very best of British industry, sustaining our world-leading sub-surface*

*capabilities and underlining the UK's readiness to contribute them to shared security, especially with our closest allies Australia and the United States under the AUKUS initiative.*

The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, Defence Secretary, speaking on 31 Aug 2022 – Crown copyright 2022

**And here's Australia's Deputy PM and Defence Minister, the Hon Richard Marles MP :**



*"It was an honour to be hosted by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Defence Secretary Ben Wallace at today's commissioning ceremony for HMS Anson.*

*"Australia is eager to learn from our counterparts, and who better to learn from than our friends in the United Kingdom.*

*"Our countries are working hand in glove on training and building the skills required for our future submarines, is an important part of bolstering our Defence Force.*

*"Today's announcement of Australian submariners training aboard HMS Anson says everything about our future plans of*

*building the AUKUS partnership.*

*“During my visit to Govan shipyard, where the Type 26 is being built, we have Australian workers- engineers, mechanics and the like- who are learning from their UK counterparts to deliver the high-tech skills required to deliver for our Frigate program back home in Osborne, SA.*

*“I have been warmly welcomed during my time here in the UK and I would like to thank my counterpart, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace for hosting me.*

*“The technology, capability and lethality on show is truly impressive and Australia looks forward to progressing our talks through the AUKUS partnership.”*

– The Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and Defence Minister, 31 Aug 2022

CIBUK.Org and [Facts4EU.Org](https://facts4eu.org) are grateful to the UK’s Ministry of Defence and Australia’s Dept for Defence for their kind assistance in providing information for our report today.

## **British success to date**

BAE Systems has delivered the first four submarines in the Astute class which are currently in service with the Royal Navy. The sixth and seventh boats are at an advanced stage of construction in Barrow.

The Dreadnought class submarines, which will replace the Royal Navy’s Vanguard class, carrying the UK’s independent nuclear deterrent, are also being designed and built in Barrow. In addition there is the Royal Navy’s next generation of

submarines which will eventually replace the Astute class, referred to as SSN-Replacement (SSNR), which began in 2021.

## **Direct jobs and jobs throughout the local community**

BAE Systems already employs more than 10,000 people in its submarines business – and that number is set to grow. More than 500 apprentices are due to join later this year, up from 321 in 2021, to support the delivery of these major programmes.

This year, BAE Systems will be recruiting more than 1,000 new engineers, designers, welders, supply chain managers and many other roles across the company's Maritime and Land sector UK businesses.

## **About HMS Anson**



HMS Anson © Crown

The latest Astute class submarine to be built by BAE Systems, HMS Anson is 97 metres long and has a displacement of 7,800 tonnes. This nuclear-powered submarine is the fifth of seven in the Astute class. The Astute submarines are recognised as

the most technologically advanced attack submarines ever operated by the Royal Navy.

Armed with a combination of up to 38 Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk Block V cruise missiles, Anson can take out enemy ships/submarines, destroy land targets up to 1,000 miles away and launch and recover Royal Marines raiding and reconnaissance teams – among other capabilities.

It has taken more than 11 years – and some 20 million hours' work by an estimated 10,000 people from 400 firms and organisations across the UK – for the 7,800-tonne boat to be ready for action.

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