NAVY LEADERS
A DIVISION OF DEFENCE LEADERS LTD

COMBINED NAVAL EVENT

19TH - 21ST MAY 2026 | FARNBOROUGH , UK

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Welcome to the 2026 Combined Naval Event — Europe's largest and most influential gathering for the naval community.

Since we last met, the world has grown more chaotic and less stable. Conflict endures across Europe and beyond, and rapid advances in technology continue to reshape warfare. Autonomous systems, strategic unpredictability, threats to global trade, and the rise of "sub threshold" aggression against our critical infrastructure are now daily aspects of our volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world.

At sea, these challenges are most visible. The maritime domain, once seen as a stable global commons, has become contested. Russian actions on the shores of the Black Sea and on the seabed of the Baltic Sea, China's defiance of international norms in the South China Sea, and the disruption caused by non-state actors in the Red Sea all highlight the scale and urgency of the task before us.

The Combined Naval Event brings together leading experts in maritime warfare, naval capability, and defence technology to confront these realities and shape a shared path forward. As history reminds us, our collective prosperity, freedom, and security depend on the sea, and yet its importance is too easily forgotten until crises arise. This year's conference is therefore not just a meeting, but part of an ongoing dialogue on the future of naval power and global stability.

Now in its fifth year, CNE has become the premier international forum for such discussion. I pay tribute to my predecessor as Executive Chairman, Vice Admiral Duncan Potts, for his leadership and wisdom in establishing this legacy, and I am honoured to step into his shoes. I look forward to welcoming more than 2,000 of you - from defence industries, armed forces, academia, and government - to Farnborough this May, where together we will chart the course ahead.

Rear Admiral (Ret'd)
James Parkin CB CBE
Executive Chairman, Combined Naval Event 2026

What a privilege to see you again at the Combined Naval Event 2026! I am grateful to be back for a second year supporting maritime, submarine, and advanced technology discussions with a wide array of perspectives from naval experts around the world.

Last year I was struck by the difficulties many countries must confront in building and maintaining ships and submarines. During the event, it was emphasized that challenges are prevalent across all nations, regardless of their size or capabilities. Ships and submarines are significant capital investments, require highly trained crews for today's sophisticated technologies, and demand committed lifecycle-maintenance programmes that account for operations in the most challenging ocean environments. Building and maintaining ships and submarines is costly and requires a healthy industrial base, presenting a common challenge for all countries.

Several presentations last year focused on new opportunities that may augment or replace the larger platforms in some mission areas. I highlight below three specific areas that were discussed:

- *The collaboration between nations partnering to acquire naval platforms. These examples emphasised the opportunity to reduce cost, stabilise industrial base capacity, and provide resilience in supply chains and lifecycle maintenance;*
- *The use of uncrewed systems to perform tasks or missions more efficiently. In other words, carry out those missions at lower cost, with less risk. And indeed, perform tasks that just cannot be accomplished by larger, manned platforms. The displays throughout the many industry partner booths highlight just how far uncrewed technology has come in the past few years; and*
- *Lastly, the potential of human and machine collaboration, acknowledging that when smartly teamed, they can provide greater capabilities than when deployed separately.*

All speakers highlighted capabilities considering specific adversary threats, geography, manpower and habitability factors, and the harsh maritime environment. The integration of advanced technology and classic heavy-industry capabilities requires focused collaboration between navies, governments, and industry. Twenty-first-century solutions demand the need for a faster rate of change in technological incorporation and agile acquisition processes.

The importance of security at sea has not changed. The requirement to project power in and across the seas has not decreased, and if anything, is now more necessary in today's more complex geopolitical environment. I look forward to continuing our discussions, advancing ideas and solutions, and creating partnerships at this very important Combined Naval Event 2026!

Vice Admiral (Ret'd)
Jeffrey Trussler
Underwater Chairman, Combined Naval Event 2026

VIP PRE-EVENT PASS COLLECTION & DRINKS | MONDAY 18th MAY 2026 | AVIATOR HOTEL

1700 - 1900: **Pre-event pass collection, informal networking drinks reception**

- Meet the Navy Leaders team and network with other conference delegates
- Collect your badges, conference guides and any other required information
- A relaxed and casual evening that will save you time at registration on Tuesday morning

Hosted by **Leonardo DRS**

LEONARDO DRS

EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE BRIEFINGS | Location: 'Navigate 1'

By invitation only: for information please contact the Navy Leaders team

Navy Leaders are delighted to offer bespoke, invitation-only meetings and workshops to a select group of Combined Naval Event 2026 attendees. These run concurrently alongside our main content programme in our exclusive private briefing room: Navigate 1.

Whilst attendance at these sessions is predominantly by invitation only, please contact the Navy Leaders team if you wish to be present.

TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026

0900 - 1030	RAFAEL	**DETAILS TBC**
1045 - 1215	RTX	**DETAILS TBC**
1230 - 1400	FUGRO	**Safeguarding CUI with a Geo-Datafusion-powered solution**
1415 - 1545	TEKEVER	**DETAILS TBC**
1600 - 1730	copernicos	**Simulating Scenarios to Secure Fleet Readiness—Today and Tomorrow** In this session, you will discover how advanced simulation techniques support the control of readiness and availability across the entire life cycle of maritime assets—from concept design to full operational deployment. ● Simulations based on the principles of Asset Management, Life cycle Management and System Dynamics ● Explore different: mission profiles, use strategies, maintenance strategies, design alternatives ● Case study of Royal Netherlands Navy for: current fleet and future fleet **Commander M.C. (Maurice) van Bellen,** Senior ILS Manager for Anti Submarine Warfare Frigate and Future Air Defender**, NL Materiel and IT Command; Directorate of Projects** **Jan Schipper,** Managing partner, **Copernicos BV** **Michel Kuijer,** Managing partner, **Copernicos B.V.**

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2026

0715 - 0845		**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**
0900 - 1030	INSITU A Boeing Company	**DETAILS TBC**

1045 - 1215	IAI	DETAILS TBC
1230 - 1400	leidos	DETAILS TBC
1415 - 1545	THALES Building a future we can all trust	DETAILS TBC
1600 - 1730	FORCIT DEFENCE	DETAILS TBC

THURSDAY 21st MAY 2026

0715 - 0845		SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE
0900 - 1030	STARK	DETAILS TBC
1045 - 1215	WASS SUBMARINE SYSTEMS a FINCANTIERI Company	DETAILS TBC

OPENING PLENARY | Theatres A & B

0615 - ≈5km Morning run
Leaving from Aviator Hotel
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

0800 - Registration and exhibition opens
Hosted by **Babcock International Group**

0800 - Morning coffee
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

0800 - Performance in the Central Networking Zone by
The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth

0900 - *Chairman's welcome and opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (Ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

0915 - **Host Nation Opening Address: Readiness Warfighting Plan**
General Sir Gwyn Jenkins, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Commandant General of the Royal Marines, **Royal Navy**

0940 - **Industry Keynote**
Hosted by **BAE Systems**

1005 - **The role of NATO navies in restoring deterrence in the Euro-Atlantic region**
Admiral Sir Keith Blount KCB OBE, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, **NATO**

1030 - **Industry Keynote**
Hosted by **BAE Systems**

1055 - Morning coffee and networking
Hosted by **Safeguard Engineering**

1055 - Performance in the Central Networking Zone by
The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth

SURFACE KEYNOTES | Location: Theatres A & B

As global threats intensify, maritime security is more important than ever. This session will explore the strategic imperatives, emerging technologies and evolving requirements that will shape surface-fleet capabilities for the next decade and beyond.

1125 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (Ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

SHIPBUILDING STRATEGIES AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

Ensuring a robust, innovative, and adaptable shipbuilding industry is not only essential for national security, but also for sustaining industrial and economic strength. Here we focus on balancing fleet renewal and modernisation with the long-term goal of developing a sustainable and competitive industrial base.

1130 - **The 5th Fleet in the Contested Maritime Domain**
- The unique command structure of C5F and its vital mission to safeguard the strategic maritime crossroads of the strait of Hormuz, Bal el-Mandeb, and Suez Canal
- Current threat landscape from state sponsored aggression to non-state actor attacks
- Innovative operational responses including multinational coalitions and pioneering the use of unmanned systems

Vice Admiral Curt Renshaw, Commander U.S. Navy 5th Fleet, **US Navy**

1155 - **Industry Above Water Keynote Presentation**
Hosted by **Babcock International Group**

1220 - **The Hybrid Navy**
Rear Admiral Rich Harris, Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

SUBSURFACE KEYNOTE | Location: Theatres E & F

The shape of the underwater sphere has shifted towards the widespread utilisation of emerging technologies to combat hybrid and asymmetric threats. This session will explore the strategic direction of our allies in developing subsurface capabilities to ensure operational effectiveness.

1125 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY

Advances in naval technologies have always shaped war at sea; in the 21st century disruptive and emerging technologies provide opportunities and threats for fleets. This session will explore the technologies that will be needed by warfighters to ensure dominance in the underwater environment.

1130 - **Future undersea warfare capability**
Rear Admiral Andy Perks, Director Submarines, **Royal Navy**

1155 - **Industry Underwater Keynote Presentation**
Hosted by TKMS ATLAS UK

1220 - **US Submarine Capabilities Transformation**
Ongoing programmes
Transformation of procurement and capability development
Opportunities for engagement

Vice Admiral Robert Gaucher, Submarine Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager (Submarine Czar), **US Navy**

Day One: Tuesday 19th May 2026

1245 - Surface Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

1245 - Central Lunch and networking
*Hosted by **Denco Fluid Systems***

1245 - Underwater Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

SURFACE WARFARE AND FUTURE SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre A

In association with ABB

NAVAL OPERATIONS IN CONTESTED ENVIRONMENTS

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (Ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

1415 - **NAD Group Strategy**
Vice Admiral Paul Marshall, Director General of Options and Commissioning, **MOD NAD Group**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **ABB**

SHIPBUILDING AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre B

In association with N·V·L

SURFACE FLEET AUTONOMY

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Torben Mikkelsen, Former Admiral Danish Fleet, **Royal Danish Navy**

1415 - **1 Year of the NAD Group - how maritime companies are helping DE&S deliver defence industrial strategy**
- Strengthening the UK maritime industrial base
- Supporting sovereign capability

Air Vice-Marshal (Ret'd) Keith Bethell, Director Maritime Environment, **DE&S**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **NVL**

DIGITAL, TARGETING AND INNOVATION
Location: Theatre C

In association with VITEC

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Catarina Buchatskiy, Director of Analytics, **Snake Island Institute**

1415 - **Lessons from the War in the Black Sea**
- Unique insight into the maritime conflict in the Black Sea
- What nations may need to make themselves more ready for warfighting
- Seeking industry solutions to these modern problem sets

Commodore Steven Banfield, Co-Leader Maritime Capability Coalition for Ukraine, **Royal Navy**

Commodore Thomas Andersen, Co-Leader Maritime Capability Coalition for Ukraine, **Royal Norwegian Navy**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **VITEC**

SUBMARINE TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
Location: Theatre D

In association with babcock

NEXT GENERATION PROGRAMMES

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

1415 - **An alliance for availability: long-term collaboration for multi-theatre dominance**
- Political commitment from announcements to delivery confidence
- Moving from national to international focus for build and availability
- Collaboration on innovation and technology

Annabelle Ransome-Willams, Programme Director SSN-AUKUS, **Submarine Delivery Agency**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Babcock International Group**

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS AND UNDERSEA WARFARE
Location: Theatre E

In association with GENERAL DYNAMICS

UNDERWATER BATTLESPACE

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

1415 - **ASW and MCM superiority - Future modernisation of Royal Netherlands Navy**
- Current progress for MCM and ASW ships
- Future programmes for RNLN
- Future plans to develop uncrewed and autonomous capabilities

Captain Joost Meesters, Head of Maritime Projects, **Netherlands COMMIT**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **General Dynamics**

SUBSEA AND SEABED WARFARE
Location: Theatre F

In association with KONGSBERG

MAJOR PROGRAMMES

1405 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

1415 - **Developing strategic underwater resilience: The EU Path to protecting critical seabed assets**
- Future EU seabed protection initiative
- Joint future procurement to enhance underwater maritime domain awareness
- Developing a coordinated approach to European underwater security

Jürgen Scraback, Head Maritime Domain Unit, **European Defence Agency**

1440 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Kongsberg**

Day One: Tuesday 19th May 2026

1505 - **Blue water ambitions: China's drive for a world class navy**
- China seeks to build a world class navy but what does this mean?
- What navy is China building and why?
- Implications for nations around the world

Captain (ret.) Christopher Sharman, Director of China Maritime Studies Institute, **US Naval War College**

1505 - **Future of the RNLN - The role of uncrewed systems-of-systems from an operational naval warfighting perspective**
- Future vision for seven naval warfare areas being developed by The Royal Netherlands Navy
- Deploying a systems-of-systems of platforms, people and systems to increase naval combat power
- Further development requires a continuous coupling of innovations

Bas Buchner, Project Director Maritime Uncrewed, **Royal Netherlands Navy**

1505 - **The Black Sea's Asymmetric Blueprint: Operational Lessons from Ukraine for 21st-Century Naval Forces**
- SII's analytical report co-developed with Ukraine's active-duty military units and sea drone operators
- The report serves as a learning point for Western Naval forces, based on Ukraine's experience in asymmetric naval warfare without a traditional fleet

Catarina Buchatskiy, Director of Analytics, **Snake Island Institute**

1505 - **OCCAR U212 NFS Submarine Programme status update**
- Programme status
- Key challenges and future plans
- Role as a technology and capability incubator

Captain Decio Trinca, U212 Programme Manager, **OCCAR**

1505 - **TF X Baltic - From foresight to warfight: NATO ACT's approach for rapid capability delivery**
- Innovation is more than just procuring new tech: it is a capability in itself
- TFX Baltic showed we can deliver a capability blueprint in under a year
- How did we do this? Counter-clockwise approach, bringing in EDTs directly into the OpEX format
- Future of NATO Innovation Network

Bart Hollants, Chairman- NATO Innovation, **NATO Allied Command Transformation**

1505 - **Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Group One operational overview**
- Submarine hosted and deployed robotics & autonomous systems
- Confidence course overview - Data management and AI/ML
- Non-submarine hosted robotic and autonomous systems

Captain Mike Dolbec, Commodore - UUVGRUV, **US Navy**

1530 - Afternoon coffee and networking
Hosted by **Bardex**

MARITIME SECURITY IN CONTESTED ENVIRONMENTS

1615 - **Red Sea Security: Stress testing naval alliances**
- Alliance assessments past, present, and future
- Strengthening global coalitions
- Building on lessons learnt from past conflicts

Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, General Director of the General Directorate of the Kuwait Coast Guard, **Kuwait Coast Guard**

Vice Admiral Curt Renshaw, Commander U.S. Navy 5th Fleet, **US Navy**

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

1615 - **PROJECT EUROGUARD: Launching the first of a class of remotely operated and semi-autonomous vessels**
- How EU EDF connect companies across Europe to develop desired solutions
- EUROGUARD hull launch May 2026 and advancements
- The endless struggle of connecting military end-users with new innovation

Kuno Peek, Project Manager, **Estonian Centre for Defence Investments**

1640 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **GE Vernova**

IMPACT OF SPACE ON THE NAVAL DOMAIN

1615 - **The Impact of space capabilities on the naval domain**
- Use of Space for ISR and maritime domain awareness
- Enabling secure communications and targeting
- Future plans and advancements

Commodore Anthony Williams, Head of Capability, **UK Space Command**

1640 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Frazer Nash**

ENABLING COMPLEX PROGRAMMES

1615 - **Future of Submarine Rescue - Italian Navy**
- Current threat environment
- Current progress of ongoing programme
- Future DRASS submarine rescue capabilities for the Italian Navy

Commander Cristiano Raffele Martino, Chief of the 1st Section - Propulsion Systems, **Italian Naval Armaments Directorate**

1640 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Bardex**

AUKUS PILLAR 2

1615 - **Leveraging AUKUS to maintain our advantage in the undersea domain**
- AUKUS pillar 2
- Utilising underwater uncrewed systems
- From SSN combat systems to MPA and utilising AI

Dan Packer, AUKUS Director- Commander Submarine Forces, **US Navy**

Commodore Marcus Rose, Deputy Director Underwater Battlespace Capability, **Royal Navy**

Commodore Michael Turner, Director General Maritime Integrated Capabilities, **Royal Australian Navy**

MCM MOTHERSHIP CONCEPT

1615 - **Belgian-Dutch MCM replacement programme**
- CONOPs
- Contract, scope and product
- Current challenges and opportunities

Commander Pierre Van Engeland, Project Manager rMCM, **Belgian Navy**

1640 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Exail**

Day One: Tuesday 19th May 2026

1705 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Rhode & Schwarz**

1705 - **V & V Framework and techniques for evaluation of USV navigation autonomy**
- Current state of USV V & V techniques
- Challenges and gaps identified
- DSTA-COMMIT-MARIN collaboration
- Insight and recommended way ahead

Lew Ee Kent, Head Capability Development - Unmanned Maritime Systems, **Singapore DSTA**

Commander J. Bremer, Head Unmanned and Autonomous Systems, **NL COMMIT**

1705 - **Development of space-based maritime surveillance in the High North: The Norwegian approach**
- The Norwegian Joint Headquarters has used space based radar imaging for maritime surveillance since 1998.
- Norway's first maritime surveillance satellite was launched in 2010. Since then, Norway has continued to develop sovereign space capabilities in a three-way cooperation between the Armed forces, the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment and Norwegian space industry.
- This presentation presents the current status, with some lessons learned, and some perspectives on future development

Richard Olsen, Director of Research, Space, **Norwegian Defence Research Establishment**

1705 - **Delivering submarine capability to Canada**
- Canadian submarine requirements
- Charting a procurement pathway
- Enhancing creativity and discipline across the service

Captain Martin Byrne, Director Naval Major Crown Projects - Submarines, **Royal Canadian Navy**

1705 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **RTsys**

1705 - **Procuring the generation of UK Mine Hunting Capability - MHC Block 2**
- Reporting progress on mission system integration, a new family of remote command centres and increased focus on data exploitation
- Moving forward with the first elements of Block 2 - A minimum deployable capability
- Working with Norway to procure dedicated host platforms - The MHC offshore support vessels
- Updating industry on Spiral 1 and the next set of opportunities

Andy Lapsley, Team Lead MHC, **UK MoD DE&S**

Bill Biggs, Systems of Systems Architect, **UK MoD DE&S**

1730 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Rear Admiral (Ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

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Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

1730 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

1735 - Evening drinks reception
Hosted by **NVL B.V. & C o. KG**

1915 - Hall closes

Day Two: Wednesday 20th May 2026

0615 - ≈5km Morning run
Leaving from Aviator Hotel
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

0800 - Registration and exhibition opens
Sponsored by **Babcock International Group**

0800 - Morning coffee
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

SURFACE WARFARE AND FUTURE SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre A

In association with AIRBUS DEFENCE & SPACE

NATIONAL FLEET STRATEGIES

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

0900 - **Challenges towards a naval capability transformation**
- Creating the conditions for rapid innovation: REPMUS and beyond
- Uncrewed systems and the drone mothership
- Improving national infrastructure for shipbuilding and innovation

Rear Admiral Antonio Mateus, Deputy National Armaments Director, **Portuguese Ministry of Defence**

0925 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Airbus**

SHIPBUILDING AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre B

In association with BAE SYSTEMS

BUILDING THE FUTURE NAVY AS AN ALLIANCE

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Torben Mikkelsen, Former Admiral Danish Fleet, **Royal Danish Navy**

0900 - **Countering the challenges of modern navies today and beyond - Developing strategic partnerships**
- Challenges of manning, maintaining and developing a modern navy
- Dual-use solutions for effective operations
- Integration and implementation

Commodore Kyrre Haugen, Fleet Commander, **Royal Norwegian Navy**

0925 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **BAE Systems**

DIGITAL, TARGETING AND INNOVATION
Location: Theatre C

In association with IAI

HIGH NORTH SURVEILLANCE

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Catarina Buchatskiy, Director of Analytics, **Snake Island Institute**

0900 - **Surveillance and task in the GIUK Gap**
- Icelandic Coast Guard priorities
- Challenges in building situational awareness within Icelandic waters
- Coast Guard defence duties and tasks

Captain Audunn Kristinsson, Director of Operations and Strategic Planning, **Icelandic Coast Guard**

0925 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **IAI**

SUBMARINE TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
Location: Theatre D

In association with TERRADEPTH

FUTURE INNOVATIONS

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

0900 - **Additive manufacturing solution to obsolescence and supply chain challenges: UK Submarine Delivery Agency future strategy**
- UK SDA has been exploiting additive manufacturing across multiple programmes
- Obsolescence is an issue for all defence programmes that can impact platform availability
- Additive manufacturing is an innovative option to augment the current supply chain in the SDA

Caryl Russell, Head Platform Equipment Delivery Team, **Submarine Delivery Agency**

0925 - **Industry presentation**
Tim Anderson, Director Government SaaS, **Terradepth**

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS AND UNDERSEA WARFARE
Location: Theatre E

In association with BAE SYSTEMS

DEPLOYING UNDERWATER AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

0900 - **Panel Discussion - How do we effectively deploy uncrewed systems for underwater surveillance?**

Captain Mike Dolbec, Commodore - UUVGRUV, **US Navy**

Captain Joost Meesters, Head of Maritime Projects, **Netherlands COMMIT**

Rear Admiral Angus Essenhigh, National Hydrographer & Director Data Acquisition and Defence, **UK Hydrographic Office**

Sam Vye, CEO & Founder, **Syos Aerospace**

SUBSEA AND SEABED WARFARE
Location: Theatre F

In association with Helsing

PROTECTING SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION

0850 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

0900 - **Fireside chat - 'The Black Sea Alliance', countering naval threats in the Black Sea**
- Black Sea Alliance for MCM
- Protecting freedom of navigation in the Black Sea
- Enhancing interoperability and safeguarding civilian shipping from naval sea mines

Rear Admiral Özgür Ekren, Commander of Istanbul Strait Component and CTF Black Sea, **Turkish Naval Forces**

Rear Admiral Cornel-Eugen Cojocaru, Fleet Commander, **Romanian Navy**

Day Two: Wednesday 20th May 2026

0950 - **Going above 2% defence spending: The future of the Royal Danish Navy**
- New vessel procurement
- Testing and developing unmanned systems
- Integration of new technology

Commodore Claus Lundholm Andersen, Director of Naval Program, **Danish Defence Acquisition and Logistics Organisation**

0950 - **Lessons learnt from Operation HIGHMAST**
- Path towards CSG 29
- Uncrewed systems integration
- Collaboration with allies in the Indo-Pacific and NATO

Rear Admiral Antony Rimington, Director Force Generation, **Royal Navy**

0950 - **Royal Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness Programme**
- Collect, understand, exploit maritime information
- Utilising advanced analytical capabilities

Captain Des Hirons, Deputy Director RNMDA, **Royal Navy**

0950 - **Suffren class submarine programme**
- Current progress of the construction of submarines
- Progress of the transition from the old Rubis to the new generation of SSNs
- Remaining work of the surrounding programmes (infrastructure, DDS, heavy torpedo F21)

Commander Peu-Duvallon, Barracuda Program Manager - SSN Class, **French Navy Headquarters (EMM)**

0950 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **BAE Systems**

0950 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Helsing**

1015 - Morning coffee and networking
*Hosted by **Palantir***

ASYMMETRIC CAPABILITIES

1100 - **Royal Navy Disruptive Capabilities and Technologies Office**
Brigadier Jaimie Roylance RM, Chief Technology Officer, **Royal Navy**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Navantia**

AIRCRAFT CARRIER PROGRAMMES

1100 - **Turkish Navy Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (MUGEM) programme**
- Design project office and design philosophy of Turkish Navy
- Strategic role: power projection, sea control and allied maritime security
- Combat systems and sensors

Rear Admiral Hakan Ucar, Commander of the Naval Technical Command, **Turkish Navy**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **BMT**

INCREASING THE TEMPO OF INNOVATION

1100 - **Deploying capital for maritime innovation**
- Introduction to the NIF, what we do and what we can offer
- Priority investment areas; autonomy, uncrewed systems and advanced manufacturing
- How capital is directed: venture investments alongside allies, partnering with start ups

Patrick Schneider-Sikorsky, Founding Partner, **NATO Innovation Fund**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Echandia**

LITTORAL STRIKE

1100 - **Low profile and semi submersibles vessels: Applications for maritime special operation forces**
- Emergence of innovative solutions for maritime mobility in denied maritime spaces
- How to best operate low-profile vessels and semi submersible vessels in maritime special operations
- Insights on capability development and the adoptions of these vessels

Commander Ricardo Pereira da Silva, Staff Officer for Expeditionary Operations, **NATO Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Frazer Nash**

ASW AS A SERVICE

1100 - **Atlantic Bastion - A new way of finding submarines**
- Future of Royal Navy undersea warfare
- Hybrid force for undersea warfare in the North Atlantic
- Using crewed and uncrewed systems for ASW

Commodore Marcus Rose, Deputy Director Underwater Battlespace Capability, **Royal Navy**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Teledyne Marine**

MODULAR CAPABILITIES

1100 - **Belgian-Dutch rMCM Programme, a Paradigm Shift in Mine Warfare**
- Why rMCM is both an evolution and a revolution
- Systems of systems open architecture
- Readiness for modern warfare scenarios
- Future proof concept

Captain Kurt Engelen, Director Centre for Security and Defence Studies, **Royal Belgian Navy**

1125 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **HII**

Day Two: Wednesday 20th May 2026

1125 - **UK Commando Forces: Enabling strike and advantage in the high north**
- Commando forces as critical enabler of all Royal Navy outputs
- Role in the atlantic series of operations
- Shifting risk away from high-value assets and onto the adversary

Brigadier Jaimie Norman, Commanding Officer 3 Commando Brigade, **Royal Marines Commandos**

1150 - **Building France's Next Generation Aircraft Carrier**
- A ship overview
- An ambitious building process
- An aircraft carrier, a drone and smart carrier

Commander Gabriel de Roquefeuil, PA-Ng Programme Officer, **French Navy**

1150 - **Integrating Multi-role USVs into hybrid point defence in littoral waters**
- Overall study objectives and management
- Operational requirements and delivering effective point defence capability
- Sensors, effectors and C3
- Platform options and concept development
- Flexibility, sustainability, maintainability, safety and legality
- Initial findings and acquisition challenges
- Accelerated initial operating capability and the future

Commander (ret'd) Dickie Burston RN, Chairman NIAG SG315, **NATO Industrial Advisory Group**

1150 - '**Not everything can be done by machines' - the enduring role of divers in undersea warfare**
- Undersea warfare
- Submarine covert deployment
- Special forces

Commander Rory Armstrong, Commanding Officer - Diving and Threat Exploitation Group, **Royal Navy**

1150 - **ASW in North Atlantic - The age of multi-domain operations and hybrid navies**
- Evolving Russian submarines and underwater capabilities constitute a pacing threat - the 'fourth battle of the Atlantic has begun
- Russian capability designed to disrupt allied reinforcement remains a hindrance to FoN for the alliance
- Norway & UK combined and interchangeable ASW capability using a combination of sensors, warships, aircraft and new tech - this is called the Atlantic Bastion Concept

Captain Daniel Thomassen, Commander 1st Frigate Squadron, **Royal Norwegian Navy**

1150 - **Automatic target recognition technology for MCM AUVs - Future of Japan's MCM capabilities**
- Japan's shift to autonomous systems in MCM
- Operating MCM AUVs using both HF and LF synthetic aperture sonars, results of sea trials
- Using ML to automatically detect and classify mines, including in buried and contested conditions

Chihiro Hirari, Research Staff - Unmanned Maritime Vehicle Research Section, **Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA)**

1215 - Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

1215 - Lunch and networking
Hosted by **CUBEDIN**

1215 - Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

SUSTAINING OPERATIONS

1345 - **The Royal Fleet Auxiliary - the war fighting enabler**
- The RFA in recent operations
- Sustaining the current fleet
- Evolving the RFA to meet the demands of the future

Commodore Sam Shattock, Head of Service and Commodore of the RFA, **Royal Fleet Auxiliary**

RENEWING THE FLEET

1345 - **The HORIZON mid life upgrade and FREMM Programmes**
- Introduction to OCCAR
- FREMM frigates & Horizon class capabilities
- Considerations and conclusion

Lorenzo Raciti, Programme Manager, **OCCAR**
Sebastien Le Bouter, Deputy Programme Manager, **OCCAR**

MARITIME SECURITY

1345 - **Maritime Security Update - from the Caribbean Sea to the Indian Ocean**
- Persistent surveillance capabilities
- Collaboration with commercial shipping
- Update on Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea

Commander Thomas Scalabre, Commander of MICA Centre, **French Navy**

OPERATING IN THE LITTORAL

1345 - **Fireside chat - Building future submarine capability - Operational and industrial lessons learnt from the German-Norwegian submarine**
- 212CD submarine from a Navy perspective
- Submarine service to submarine service cooperation
- Current developments

Captain Jim Robertsen, Head of the Norwegian Submarine Service, **Royal Norwegian Navy**

Commander SG Kai Nickelsdorf, Commander 1st Submarine Squadron, **German Navy**

DEFENDING THE GIUK GAP & HIGH NORTH

1345 - **Defending the GIUK Gap - Lessons learnt from Royal Danish Navy activities in ASW**
- Russian submarine threat in the GIUK Gap
- Lessons learnt from ASW operations
- Future capabilities for effective operations

Captain Thomas Stig Rasmussen, Commander of the 2nd Squadron, **Royal Danish Navy**

MINE WARFARE AS A STRATEGIC DETERRENT

1345 - **Finland – "Superpower" of naval mine warfare**
- Strategic mine laying
- Naval mine warfare systems
- Mine laying capability
- Naval Mine Cooperation

Commander SG (ret'd) Rami Keinänen, Programme Manager - Navy Command, **Finnish Navy**

Day Two: Wednesday 20th May 2026

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **SH Defence**

1435 - **Ensure operational availability and performance of Naval Assets - Maintain and enhance new capabilities in an ever growing competitive environment**
- Overlook on current support organisation - from mainland and to the area of operations
- Secure logistics flows and consolidate support responsiveness throughout the support chain
- Lessons identified and learned: operational feedback from new technology integration
- Future plans

Commander Mathieu Girardot, Deputy Vice-Director Technical Sub-Directorate, **French Navy Fleet Support Service**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Plasan**

1435 - **Royal New Zealand Navy Fleet Renewal Programme**
- Transformation and the building of a resilient naval system
- The programme's principles
- Future options with a fleet of crewed and uncrewed platforms

Commodore Brendon Clark, Co-Director Maritime Fleet Renewal, **Royal New Zealand Navy**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **IAI**

1435 - **US Navy Robotic and Autonomous Systems Employment in Europe and Africa**
- Research and development of systems vs employment
- Improving acquisition speed
- Allied collaboration and breaking down barriers to RAS employment
- Continuous future operations of unmanned systems to fill gaps in allied defences

Rear Admiral Kelly Ward, Commander US Naval Forces EU-AF, Commander Task Force 66, **US Navy**

1435 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Gabler**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Cellula**

1435 - **Canada's role in maritime security in the high north**
- Unmanned and autonomous systems are essential to improving underwater MDA
- Recent events in the Baltic and SCS highlight the vulnerabilities associated with CUI and underwater surveillance
- CUI is not purely a naval problem - it requires a whole of government approach

Captain Robert Watt, Director of Naval Strategy, **Royal Canadian Navy**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Kraken Robotics**

1435 - **Moving from a post war to pre war footing - Future strategy for Royal Danish Navy's naval mine laying capability**
- Current maritime threat environment
- Responding to hybrid threats to CUI and Russian aggression
- Danish historical and future deployment of naval sea mines
- Mine warfare for the strategic protection of ports and sea lines of communication

Commander Dr. Johannes Riber, Military Analyst, **Royal Danish Defence Academy**

1500 - Afternoon coffee and networking
G3 Systems Limited

OVERCOMING THE TYRANNY OF DISTANCE

1545 - **Assured Sealift and maritime logistics: Enabling joint operations across Europe and Africa**
- Overview of task and AOR
- Operations throughout 2025
- Future developments and plans

Captain Bill Miante, Deputy Commodore TF63, **Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa, US Navy**

SHIP PROGRAMMES

1545 - **European Combat Vessel - The future ships for Europe**
- European Combat Vessel as a modular family of small, medium, and large combatants
- Future-ready, adaptable design for evolving missions and threats
- NATO-compatible interoperability with advanced sensors, communications, and weapons

Jürgen Scraback, Head Maritime Domain Unit, **European Defence Agency**

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

1545 - **Operating in a digitally transparent battlespace**
- Working in the littoral is complicated by connectivity
- Drones are only the start of the challenge
- Cyber capabilities will not be enough to support you
- You will need much closer shore based support
- It will be impossible to control the information environment
- Noise will be your friend

Dr Matthew Ford, Associate Professor, **Swedish Defence University**

HOSTILE NAVIES AND EMERGING THREATS

1545 - **Preparing for the Dreadnought and SSN AUKUS class - Clyde 2070 future vision**
- Strengthening national security - delivering a warfighting ready naval base to house the continuous at Sea deterrent
- Enhancing lives and capability - improving training environment for personnel at HMNB Clyde
- Driving regional growth and strengthening investment into West of Scotland

Andrew Tims, Deputy Director Clyde Capital Programme, **Royal Navy**

EVOLVING UNDERSEA WARFARE CAPABILITIES

1545 - **Manned-unmanned teaming' - ROK Navy Sea Ghost Programme**
- Developing manned and unmanned teaming for maritime operations
- Deploying UUVs for combat operations
- Delivering unmanned capabilities at pace

Captain Chongsu Lim, Director of Integrated Warfare Systems Division - ROK HQ, **ROK Navy**

SEABED WARFARE

1545 - **The Norwegian model for effective CUI - Enhancing surveillance and deterrence**
- Current threat environment in the North Atlantic
- Developing a whole of government approach - resilience and redundancy
- Reducing adversary ability through deniability
- Developing civilian-military information sharing

Commodore Kyrre Haugen, Fleet Commander, **Royal Norwegian Navy**

Day Two: Wednesday 20th May 2026

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **IAI**

1635 - **Update on Maritime Aviation transformation and the route to a hybrid air wing**
- MATX - embedded in Defence planning
- Exploiting experience and preparing to scale-up at pace
- From RPAS to ACP - operationalising for the fight
- Defence reform - the opportunity to do things differently

Commodore Steve Bolton, Deputy Director Aviation Programmes and Futures, **Royal Navy**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **SEA**

1635 - **Advances in the naval industry and the modernisation of the naval fleet to meet new challenges**
- Mission, vision and scenery
- Main threats and challenges
- Our roles
- Advances in strengthening and development of the naval industry
- Advantages of naval construction for the country
- Construction of a modern naval force

Rear Admiral Belisario Zagazeta, Director Naval Projects, **Peruvian Navy**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Torben Mikkelsen, Former Admiral Danish Fleet, **Royal Danish Navy**

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Safran**

1635 - **EU Maritime Surveillance - MARSUR III programme**
- Federated maritime situational awareness under full Member State control
- Multi-domain integration (surface, underwater, seabed data)
- EU SECRET–capable, NATO-interoperable, operationally validated system

Jürgen Scraback, Head Maritime Domain Unit, **European Defence Agency**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Catarina Buchatskiy, Director of Analytics, **Snake Island Institute**

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Thales**

1635 - **Naval developments in China and Russia**
- Latest developments in submarines, naval drones and relevant warships
- Areas where China is taking the lead

H I Sutton, OSINT Analyst, **Covert Shores**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Anduril**

1635 - **Shift to underwater warfighting capability - Royal Australian Navy shift to integrated maritime uncrewed systems**
- Integrating maritime uncrewed systems
- Undersea warfare initiatives
- Future plans for the underwater domain

Commodore Michael Turner, Director General Maritime Integrated Capabilities, **Royal Australian Navy**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

1610 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **DSG**

1635 - **French Navy's future vision for seabed warfare capabilities**
- Mastering crewed and uncrewed capabilities
- Enabling effective seabed warfare operations
- Ambition for future seabed warfare capabilities

Captain Hugues Vallette, Seabed Warfare Coordinator, **French Navy**

1700 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

1705 - Evening drinks reception
Hosted by **ABB Marine**

1705 - Evening drinks reception
Hosted by **Aeromaritime Systembau GmbH**

1705 - Evening drinks reception
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1915 - Hall closes

NAVY FORUMS

Navy Leaders are delighted to introduce our new NAVY FORUMS format that will bring military commanders, policy makers, subject matter experts, academia and industry together to address some of the most pressing issues for the community. The format combines focused presentations from experts, a moderated panel discussion and practical workshops with each element supporting frank exchanges and shared learning.

NAVY BUSINESS FORUM | THEATRE D

Moderated by: Rear Admiral (Ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

0930 - 1100	**Selling to the MOD** *This practical working group session will explain how the Ministry of Defence buys capability and how suppliers can engage effectively. It covers key decision makers, procurement routes and commercial requirements. Attendees will learn how to shape clear value propositions, align with naval capability priorities and work confidently with defence customers.* **2 x SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**	***Panelists:*** **Vice Admiral Paul Beattie CBE,** Second Sea Lord, **Royal Navy** **Jim Carter,** Director General Commercial and Industry, **MOD NAD Group** Ministry of Defence Office for Small Business Growth, **UK Ministry of Defence** Ministry of Defence
1115 - 1245	**Selling to primes** *This working group focuses on how to approach and work with major defence primes. It examines how primes identify opportunities, how suppliers can engage, and what qualification criteria matter. Attendees will gain practical insight into partnership models and how to match technologies or products to programme needs.* **2 x SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**	***Panelists invited to participate:*** BAE SYSTEMS babcock Navantia
1400 - 1530	**How to get investment** *This working group looks at how to attract investment for defence innovation. It covers how to position a defence proposition, meet investor expectations and demonstrate market potential. Attendees will learn how to approach venture capital firms, build credible relationships and work effectively with investors.* **2 x SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE** UK DIN	***Panelists:*** Defence Investors Advisory Group, **UK Ministry of Defence** Ministry of Defence **Patrick Schneider-Sikorsky,** Senior Partner, **NATO Innovation Fund** NIF

NAVY PEOPLE FORUM | THEATRE C

Moderated by:

0930 - 1100	**Under pressure; Mental wellness and human factors on operations** *Extended high-tempo deployments test the limits of concentration, judgement and mental resilience. Fleets rely on crews who can endure pressure without loss of effectiveness. This session brings together human factors specialists, clinicians, operational leaders and service charities to look at how fatigue, workload, stress and isolation influence human performance and will set out practical measures for keeping personnel operationally effective and resilient.* HEFRING MARINE **2 x SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**	***Presentations from:*** **Commodore Ben Haskins CBE,** Commander Submarine Flotilla, **Royal Navy** Centre of Military Health Research, **Kings College London**
1115 - 1245	**People power; Future skills and training** *This working group covers current and future training demands across naval roles. It assesses gaps in technical and digital skills and reviews modern training tools, including simulation and adaptive learning. It sets out approaches to develop competent, confident personnel who can operate advanced platforms and systems.* **2 x SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**	***Presentations from:*** **Lieutenant Commander Toni Harding,** FutureNEST Royal Navy Rep, **Royal Navy** UKNEST Fleet Operational Standards and Training, **Royal Navy**

Day Three: Thursday 21st May 2026

0800 - Registration and exhibition opens
Hosted by **Babcock International Group**

0800 - Morning coffee
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Location: Theatre B
0855 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) James Parkin, Former Director Develop, **Royal Navy**

0900 - **Ministerial Address**
Luke Pollard, Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, **UK Government**

SURFACE WARFARE AND FUTURE SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre A

In association with DAVIE

ENSURING MARITIME SECURITY IN GREY ZONE WARFARE

0925 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

0930 - **From Preparedness to Response: Addressing Grey-Zone Threats in the Maritime Domain**
- The maritime domain has become a permanent frontline
- Maritime Domain Awareness: Decisive only when shared
- Clear jurisdiction and executable legal powers enable early response
- Response requires assets in high readiness
- Intelligence and risk-based analysis turn awareness into action
- Adaptability depends on cooperation beyond governments

Vice Admiral Markku Hassinen, Chief of the Border Guard, **Finnish Border Guard**

0955 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Davie**
DAVIE

SHIPBUILDING AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
Location: Theatre B

In association with LEONARDO

INCREASING SHIPBUILDING CAPACITY

0925 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Torben Mikkelsen, Former Admiral Danish Fleet, **Royal Danish Navy**

0930 - **Autonomy, sustainability and resilience: The future of British Shipbuilding**
- UK's Maritime Technology Action Plan
- Type 26 deal with Norway
- UK shipbuilding pipeline, autonomous systems, sustainability and industrial readiness

Commodore Jon Carrigan, Deputy Director, **National Shipbuilding Office UK**

0955 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Leonardo**
LEONARDO

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS AND UNDERSEA WARFARE
Location: Theatre E

In association with ULTRA MARITIME

MAJOR PROGRAMMES

0925 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

0930 - **JMSDF 2035 vision for UxVs and UUVs**
- Future maritime defence concept
- Direction for securing undersea superiority
- Operation for securing undersea superiority

Captain Masahiko Ito, Director of Systems Programs Division, **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Forces**

0955 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Ultra Maritime**
ULTRA MARITIME

SUBSEA AND SEABED WARFARE
Location: Theatre F

In association with THALES

SUBSEA SURVELLIANCE

0925 - *Chairman's opening remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

0930 - **Security of shipping and protecting critical undersea infrastructure**
- Military role against non-military threats
- Breaking down sector silos - comprehensive approach to countering hybrid threats
- Operational cooperation with industry

Captain Niels Markussen, Director NATO Shipping Centre & NATO Maritime Centre for the Security of Critical Undersea Infrastructure, **NATO MARCOM**

0955 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Thales**
THALES

Day Three: Thursday 21st May 2026

1020 - **Maritime Security Situation in the Black Sea**
- Current maritime situation environment in the Black and its impact on regional security
- Key challenges and threats affecting naval operations and freedom of navigation
- Operational lessons identified from recent developments and activities
- The role of allied and partner naval cooperation in addressing shared security concerns
- Future perspectives and priorities in enhancing maritime security in the Black Sea region

Rear Admiral Cornel-Eugen Cojocaru, Fleet Commander, **Romanian Navy**

1020 - **Commercial ship conversion for defence**
- Militarising a commercial ship
- Rapid capability insertion pitfalls
- Schedule vs engineering vs safety
- Implementing a HV policy

Trevor McKerlich, Electrical Power & Distribution Engineer, **DE&S at Royal Fleet Auxiliary**

1020 - **Countering underwater threats in the Baltic Sea - Sweden's future procurement and capabilities for undersea warfare**
- Assessing the current threat environment in the Baltic Sea
- Building Sweden's future undersea warfare capabilities
- The rise of maritime uncrewed systems in the underwater domain

Ulrik Sköldkvist, Project Manager UW Weapons Systems, **Swedish FMV**

1020 - **MCM next - Purpose built design for the MCM force of the future**
- US MCM force design has been an evolutionary process
- MCMTD is currently working a 'tabula rasa' approach to US MCM force design
- Lessons learnt and deliberate approach to capability, costs, sensors, modality and force structure

Captain Scott Hattaway, Director - Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Centre Mine Countermeasures Technical Division, **US Navy**

1045 - Morning coffee and networking
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DELIVERING FUTURE SURFACE COMBATANTS

1130 - **Future above water capability and surface ships**
- Use of AI for shipbuilding
- Hunter class update
- New amphibious platforms
- Mogami class frigate update

Commodore Michael Turner, Director General Maritime Integrated Capabilities, **Royal Australian Navy**

1155 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by
RENK

1220 - **How the NAD group is bringing new focus to SMEs role in Defence Acquisition**
Jim Carter, Director General Commercial and Industry, **MOD NAD Group**

1245 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

NAVAL BASE TRANSFORMATION

1130 - **Clyde X - Naval base innovations**
- Developing an interconnected innovation landscape - Connecting people and digital capabilities
- Turning lessons learnt into actionable action for effective operations
- Marginal gains are hard-won not easy wins

Captain Paul Barker, Captain Clyde X, **Royal Navy**

1155 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by
aselsan

1220 - **Rapid Acquisition and delivery: Portsmouth Capability Accelerator**
- Bringing innovators to the waterfront
- Delivering technology at scale to the warfighter
- Assurances by design
- Future plans to build a naval innovation hub

Commodore Marcel Rosenburg, Naval Base Commander Portsmouth, **Royal Navy**

1245 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Torben Mikkelsen, Former Admiral Danish Fleet, **Royal Danish Navy**

DELIVERING AT PACE

1130 - **Ready for war - Cooperation within NNCC and NATO**
- Developments within uncrewed systems and autonomy
- Ongoing cases with the NATO Armament Group
- Industry's relations to NATO

Rear Admiral Paul Flos, Program Director International Maritime Materiel Cooperation and Chairman of NATO Naval Armament Group, **Netherlands Ministry of Defence**

1155 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by
ThayerMahan

1220 - **Anti-Torpedo Torpedo programme - A strategic leap in underwater defence**
- Hard kill anti-torpedo solution
- EDA supported project - From prototype to series
- ATT will transform survivability, restore freedom of manoeuver and strengthens collective maritime deterrence

Captain Ricardo Braz Freitas, Maritime Program Manager, **European Defence Agency**

1245 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

FUTURE SEABED CAPABILITIES

1130 - **Delivering transformative capabilities for Navy Acquisition - Introducing the Maritime Systems Group**
- Mine Hunting Capability Update
- Future Offshore Support vessel programme and cooperation with Norway
- Future Military Data Gathering (FMDG) and Maritime Electronic Warfare (MEWP) programmes

Commodore Michael Wood, Deputy Director Maritime Systems Group - Navy Acquisition, **Royal Navy**

1155 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by
TELEDYNE MARINE Everywhereyoulook

1220 - **Delivering FR/UK MMCM Capability – Progress, challenges and lessons learned**
- Overview of the MMCM and its strategic importance
- Key milestones and current delivery status
- Managing delays, risk and contractual challenges
- Lessons learnt for future collaborative programmes

John Sinclair, Commercial Officer - FR/UK Maritime Mine Counter Measures (MMCM) Programme Division, **OCCAR-EA**

1245 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) David Burton, Director, **NATO ASW Barrier Programme**

Day Three: Thursday 21st May 2026

1245 - Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

1245 - Lunch and networking
Hosted by **Leidos Innovations UK Ltd**

1245 - Lunch and networking
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

DIGITAL NAVY: THE ROLE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FUTURE FLEET
Location: Theatre B

The recurring theme of discussions has been leveraging advanced technologies for increased operational effect in the maritime domain, be it quantum, big-data, AI or advanced manufacturing. It is clear that navies must embrace new technologies and evolve at pace to ensure overmatch at sea.

1345 - **From conflict lessons to capability: Aligning scientific diplomacy, R&D and allied capacity building**
- Going backwards to go forwards: How naval and air defence strategies are changing in the drone age
- Decision integrity in contested C5ISR environments
- Capacity vs capability: Structuring cross regional Defence
- From prototype to Fleet: From modelling to operational doctrine across partnered naval forces
- AI, digital twins and institutional readiness: Assurances for fielding the unmanned fleet

Captain Ali Ashour, Senior Engineering Officer, **Kuwait Coast Guard**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Navantia**

1435 - **Surface Closing Keynote**
Rear Admiral Matthew Stratton, Director Acquisition, **Royal Navy**

1500 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Commodore (Ret'd) Philip Nash, Former Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea COE, **Royal Navy**

FUTURE OF UNDERWATER BATTLESPACE
Location: Theatre F

This session offers an in-depth exploration of the strategic objectives, technological advancements, and geopolitics of the AUKUS security partnership. Pillar II emphasises collaborative development of advanced military capabilities, including AI, quantum technologies, hypersonics, and cyber.

1345 - **UK submarine acquisition - Future plans**
Rear Admiral Paul Carroll OBE, Director Submarines Acquisition, **Submarine Delivery Agency**

1410 - **Industry presentation**
Hosted by **Northropp Grumman**

1435 - **Subsurface closing keynote**
Vice Admiral Paul Beattie CBE, Second Sea Lord, **Royal Navy**

1500 - *Chairman's closing remarks*
Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Jeffrey Trussler, Former Deputy Chief of the Naval Operations for Information Warfare, **US Navy**

1505 - **CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**