

# TYPE 31e



**Adaptable by design with a flexible build strategy to maximise export opportunities**

**Core:** Personnel protection to survive attacks including ballistic, blast and fragmentation armour.

**Adaptable:** Internal Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Citadel.

Seaboats for constabulary operations and disaster relief, with design to enable operations of unmanned surface and sub-surface vehicles.

**Core:** Hangar for RN Wildcat + Rotary Wing UAV or 10 ton Helo (Eg NH90);

**Adaptable:** FD and Hangar for Merlin sized Helo.

**Adaptable:** Mission bay and/or deck space for modular payloads (2 x ISO containers).

**Unit price not to exceed £250m**

Speed for interdiction of commercial vessels and maintaining station with adversary warships through UK water-space.

Open Architecture Combat System with common interface standards. Flexible, scalable weapon and sensor fit for future capabilities including autonomous systems, AI and systems such as directed energy weapons.

**Minimum dimensions and draft driven by:**

- Sea-keeping and stability for unrestricted helicopter and boat operations in wide range of sea states in support of maritime interdiction and Disaster Relief roles, and for sensor range.
- Accommodation for crew and augmentees.
- Stowages – ships, boats, stores, emergency relief stores.
- Growth allowances and evolution paths for adaptability.

**Routinely operated by a maximum of 80-100 personnel**  
With space for additional task specific staff and augmentees. Adaptable – Space for 40 personnel additional to normal crew levels.

**Core:** Interoperable with Joint, Allied, coalition and civil forces and organisations.

**Adaptable:** Ability to operate as Maritime Task Unit Command and Control.

**Adaptable:** Act as Maritime Task Group Command and Control.

Naval ship design standards applicable to platform tasking, Commercial by default, enhanced only where a clear requirement or benefit exists.

**Core:** Reduced cost of ownership over legacy RN warships including operating and support costs.

**Core:** T31e shall deploy and operate globally with sustained forward presence, using a common hull adaptable for future variants and/or export markets.

**Core:** Maintain situation awareness of the operating area; conduct maritime interdiction; contribute to Joint and Common operating pictures.

**Core:** Electronic Support and Defensive Aids.

**Core:** Point Defence Missile System (PDMS) + Sensors or Close in Weapon System + Fit to Receive PDMS to survive attacks as expected in constabulary operations.

**Adaptable:** Target and engage surface vessels with long range, ship-launched anti-ship missiles.

**Core:** Medium and smaller calibre guns to provide highly visible deterrent and range of effects for Maritime Interdiction, be capable of engaging small vessels of up to FAC size, and surviving attacks.

**Adaptable:** Medium range gun >76mm capable of Naval Gunfire Support.

Intellectual Property Rights appropriate for MOD to maintain UK Gov Freedom of Action to build, operate and sustain independent warship building capacity.

**In service by 2023**  
with support and training solutions. Export Customer access to RN shore and sea training

**Core variants designed, integrated and assembled in the UK as the principal means of delivering National Shipbuilding Strategy.**

**Adaptable:** Ability to build under licence overseas.

**Core:** Capable of fitting hull-mounted sonar.

**Adaptable:** Active sonar to detect and locate submarines.

**Adaptable:** Ship-launched torpedo; towed array sonar; anti-submarine rocket/mortar system.

Capable of global operations, in between the marginal ice zones and including the Gulf/Red Sea, with self-sustaining food and water for 28 days and a fuel range of 6500 nm at economical speeds. Ability to Replenish at Sea (RAS) fuels with NATO Allies.



## Context

In the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the MOD committed to launch a concept study, then design and build a new lighter, exportable General Purpose Frigate - the Type 31e.

The delivery of the first batch of five Type 31e ships will enable Defence to maintain its global footprint, release our complex warships (Type 26 & Type 45) to fulfill their key roles of protecting the Continuous At Sea Deterrent and Maritime Task Groups, and offer the potential to grow the Royal Navy in due course.

The Type 31e will be a modern and innovative design based on a standard, core platform offering a menu of choice to support exports and beat the competition.



## Procurement

The Type 31e Procurement Strategy will encourage participation from the wider UK shipbuilding enterprise, international players (where they meet national security requirements) and non-traditional shipbuilders/new entrants where appropriate.

Type 31e will be built in the UK in a more modern, efficient, productive and competitive maritime sector. Integration of sensitive UK-specific systems will be done in the UK, where possible, after competition between UK providers.

The challenge to industry is to propose a design and build strategy that meets the funding envelope, whilst ensuring the vessel will be equipped to undertake its critical patrol and presence functions as a key component of the Royal Navy's surface fleet.

## Procurement Key Dates

**Sep 2017**

Market Engagement Activity Begins

**Q1 2018**

Formal Procurement Activity Begins

**Q2 2018**

Competitive Design Phase Begins

**Q1 2019**

Design & Build Contract Award

## Key Personnel

Mr. Henry Parker CB, Director  
Ships Acquisition, Defence Equipment  
& Support.

Mr. Steve Hyde, T31e Programme Team  
Leader, Defence Equipment & Support.

Captain Paul Carroll Royal Navy, T31e Design  
Owner and Chief Engineer, Defence  
Equipment & Support.