

# UK's flagship aircraft carrier launched

The *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, a 65,000-tonne vessel capable of deploying the next-generation F-35 joint strike fighter, is the largest ship ever built by the Royal Navy and the second biggest supercarrier in the world behind America's 100,000-tonne Nimitz Class carrier

## SPECIFICATIONS – QE Class aircraft carrier

**Displacement:** 65,000 tonnes (fully loaded)

**Propulsion:** Two Rolls-Royce Marine Trent MT30 gas turbines, each generating 36MW (48,000hp)

**Beam:** 39m (waterline) **Draught:** 11m

**Maximum speed:** 25 knots (46km/h)

**Range:** Up to 19,000km

**Crew:** 1,600 – ship's company 679 (air wing 921)

Estimated cost of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and sister ship *HMS Prince of Wales* – currently under construction: £6.2bn (\$10.5bn)

**Aircraft:** 40 planes and helicopters, including *F35B Lightning II* stealth jet capable of short take-off and vertical landings

**Aft island:** Flying control centre

Each of two lifts can move two F35s from hangar to flight deck in 60 seconds

**Forward island:** Navigation bridge

**Hangar:** Designed for CH-47 Chinook without blade folding and V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor. Can house up to 20 aircraft

**Armament:** Three Phalanx Close-In Weapon Systems (CIWS) for airborne threats. Ship also has 30mm guns and mini-guns

## CARRIER COMPARISON – Displacement (tonnes)

	<b>Nimitz</b> U.S. 100,000
	<b>Queen Elizabeth</b> UK 65,000
	<b>Admiral Kuznetsov</b> Russia 58,500
	<b>Liaoning</b> China 55,000
	<b>Charles de Gaulle</b> France 42,000

