

Australia chooses nuclear submarines

Australia will acquire a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, likely to be based either on Britain's Astute-class vessel or the U.S. Navy's equivalent, the Virginia class

VIRGINIA CLASS (U.S.): Built by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding

Propulsion
General Electric S9G reactor



12 VLS tubes



Armament: Mk 48 torpedoes and Vertical Launch System (VLS) for Tomahawk cruise missiles. Up to 37 weapons stored

Four torpedo tubes

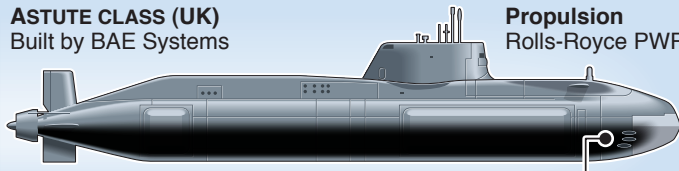
Displacement	7,925 tonnes	Speed	25+ knots (46km/h)
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Length	115m	Crew	132
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ASTUTE CLASS (UK)

Built by BAE Systems

Propulsion
Rolls-Royce PWR2 reactor



Armament: Six torpedo tubes capable of launching Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles. Up to 38 weapons stored

Displacement	7,400 tonnes	Speed	30 knots (56km/h)
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Length	97m	Crew	98
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AUSTRALIA'S SUBMARINE FLEET

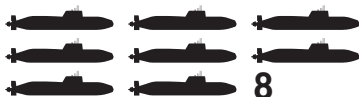
Current: Diesel-electric



Indigenously-built Collins class, first deployed in 1996

Range: 21,300km (surfaced)

Future (by 2040): Nuclear-powered



To be built in Australia under security partnership with U.S. and UK

Range: Limited only by food supply