

AUKUS nuclear submarine unveiled

The U.S., UK and Australia are set to create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, intended to counter China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region

Rendering of SSN-AUKUS

SSN-AUKUS SUBMARINE

■ **Design:** Built by **BAE Systems** to replace UK's **Astute-class** boats

■ **Power:** **Rolls-Royce** reactors supplied in sealed units that do not have to be refuelled in their lifetime

■ **Armament:** U.S. **Vertical Launch System (VLS)**



PHASE ONE

From 2023: Australian personnel embedded with U.S. and UK navies, including submarine industrial bases, for training

U.S. subs to increase port visits to Australia. UK to follow from 2026

PHASE TWO

2027: One British and four U.S. subs establish rotational presence at Perth to help train Australian crews and bolster deterrence

Late 2020s: Construction of **SSN-AUKUS** starts in Barrow-in-Furness, UK, and Adelaide

2023 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 2040

HMAS Stirling base, Perth

AUSTRALIA

AUKUS cost:
\$368bn by 2055

Osborne shipyard, Adelaide: Submarines to be assembled

PHASE THREE

From 2032: Australia to buy three U.S. **Virginia class** subs – with option for two more – as stop-gap while new vessels are built

PHASE FOUR

Late 2030s: Britain takes delivery of first SSN-AUKUS submarine.
Royal Australian Navy to receive first vessel in early 2040s