

Submarine training facility takes shape at HMNB Clyde

Last year the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) awarded a contract worth £80-million to Kier Graham Defence Ltd to deliver the works, which are expected to be completed in early 2023.

The Submarine Training Facility (SMTF) building will house the Royal Navy's new submarine school for all submarine specific training including training for submariners on the new Dreadnought Class submarines, which will maintain the UK's Continuous At Sea Deterrent. Designed and built in the UK, these submarines will employ world-leading and cutting-edge technology.

The training currently based at the Royal Naval Submarine School (RNSMS) at HMS Raleigh and elements of the training from the Defence School of Marine Engineering (DSMarE), and the Nuclear Systems Group and Nuclear Faculty at HMS Sultan will also transfer to the new facility.

During May, the new building started to take shape as steel frames were put into place, marking a significant construction milestone in the project.

The new SMTF facility will be located adjacent to, but separate from, the recently completed submarine escape, rescue, abandonment and survival (SMERAS) facility on the base.

The works are part of a wider Defence plan to create a Submarine Centre of Specialisation located at HMNB Clyde, which is already home to the core of the Submarine Service, including the nuclear deterrent and new generation of hunter-killer submarine. DIO is investing a total £1.6-billion in facilities at HMNB Clyde.

Steven O'Connor, DIO Project Manager, said:

DIO is proud to be leading on the development of this essential facility at HMNB Clyde and to support the development of the centre of specialisation.

This will ensure that Royal Navy personnel can train in a state-of-the-art environment for many years to come.

The Submarine Training Facility building will provide training for submariners on the new Dreadnought Class submarines. MOD Crown Copyright.

Captain Iain Breckenridge, Captain of submarine training with the Royal Navy's Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) organisation at HM Naval Base Clyde, said:

These are exciting times for all Submariners. With training delivery being reshaped to provide modern and highly realistic training in classrooms, simulators, by virtual and synthetic means, as well as online, it means Submariners no longer have to travel to different locations to train. Everything will be delivered at HM Naval Base Clyde helping to improve their career and domestic balance.

The Submarine Training Facility project is the final piece in the creation of a Submarine Centre of Specialisation at HM Naval Base Clyde. All future training, from the Submarine Qualifying Course to the world-renowned 'Perisher' Command Course, will now be based on the Clyde along with the Royal Navy's entire fleet of submarines.

The creation of the Submarine Escape, Recovery and Survivability (SMERAS) has already placed the Submarine Service at the leading-edge of escape training and the creation of the Submarine Training Facility will place us at the forefront of all submarine training.

The new building is starting to take shape as steel frames were put into place. MOD Crown Copyright.

As part of the UK, Scotland benefits from billions of pounds of Defence contracts placed directly and indirectly with hundreds of companies, which sustain thousands of jobs.

The UK government is firmly committed to Scotland's continued vital role in Defence, and the major investment in the future of HMNB Clyde is a testament to this.