

Australia Deputy PM and UK Defence Sec tour Rolls-Royce Derby for update on next generation nuclear subs

The deputy prime minister of Australia and the UK Defence Secretary have toured the Derby Rolls-Royce factory for an update on the next generation of nuclear submarines.

Rolls-Royce Submarines is benefitting from the thousands of jobs created by an agreement between the UK, US and Australia under the [so-called AUKUS submarine deal](#). It will see Australia and the UK build the SSN-Aukus submarines which combine UK and US design and technology – with the Derby engineering giant building the reactors.

The subs will enter operation with the Royal Navy by the late 2030s and go on to [give Australia its first nuclear-powered capability](#) as it seeks to counter an increase in Chinese military activities in the Pacific.

The boats will replace the UK's seven Astute-class subs with Royal Navy insiders suggesting the size of the hunter-killer fleet could double.

Richard Marles, Australia's deputy prime minister and minister for defence, said: "Australia is working closely with the UK and the US to progressively develop the skills, knowledge and expertise to build, operate, and maintain conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

"These Australian industry placements provide us with an invaluable opportunity to learn from our experienced partners in the UK, and to better understand the functions and scope of the work."

His visit, along with UK Defence Minister Grant Shapps, included a tour of the nuclear licensed site and a chance to meet some of the team building the reactors.

Over the next seven weeks the first cohort of Australian industry specialists will begin training and familiarisation activity across the UK, including at Rolls-Royce, as part of the build programme.

The tri-lateral AUKUS deal was announced in March, and in June Rolls-Royce announced plans to almost double the size of its Raynesway site, creating more than 1,000 new jobs in Derby. Funded by the MOD, the site development is required to meet the growth in demand from the Royal Navy, and as a result of the AUKUS agreement.

This increase in demand will see new manufacturing and office facilities being built on recently acquired land surrounding the existing Raynesway site. It will also create skilled roles within Rolls-Royce across a range of disciplines, including manufacturing and engineering.

Rolls-Royce group president Chris Cholerton said: "This is a truly exciting time for our business, with work secured that will see us support UK and Australian submarines well into the second half of this century.

"It will see thousands of jobs created across the UK supply chain, many of which here in Derby, and we're very proud to be playing our part in this strategically important international partnership.

"We are delighted to have the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, and the UK Defence Secretary, with us on site, giving us the opportunity to showcase what makes this business so special.

"For over 60 years we have provided the power to the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines and we are already working hard to

help Australia acquire their own nuclear propulsion attack submarine capability.”