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## **DSEI 2023: Team Resolute unveils evolved design for Fleet Solid Support Ships for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary**

**(PRESS RELEASE: ExCeL London, DSEI - Defence & Security Equipment International: Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 1145 BST)** – Team Resolute, a consortium of Navantia UK, BMT and Harland & Wolff, is delighted to unveil its evolved design for the Fleet Solid Support ship. The progress towards a mature design is a key part of the UK Ministry of Defence's (MoD) £1.6 billion 'Manufacture Contract' for three Fleet Solid Support (FSS) ships that will provide the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) with a world leading capability to support global operations for the Royal Navy.

The cutting-edge design from BMT's UK based engineers and naval architects represents a significant advancement in naval logistics capability, offering enhanced operational efficiency and support to the Royal Navy. BMT is also using its depth of expertise and experience to provide safety and environmental management, Integrated Logistics Support (ILS), training packages, and support to obtaining the ships' security accreditation.

The evolution of the ship design at this stage of the FSS programme demonstrates the progress that has been made with the design and reflects the dedication of BMT, its partners in Team Resolute and the strong relationship with the MoD and DE&S.

The progressive approach to the design provides a pathway for the introduction of new technologies and the incorporation of energy-saving and emission-reducing technologies and future fuels that will contribute to carbon reduction. This collaborative effort will ensure the FSS ships' reliability, ease of maintenance, operational readiness, and overall effectiveness.

The evolved design of the FSS ship draws inspiration from BMT's extensive experience across a spectrum of naval programmes — including the QEC, Tide Class, Norwegian Logistics Support Vessel, and Type 31 Frigate. This evolved design promotes compatibility, interoperability and the highest levels of safety. It meets the demanding sustainability requirements set by the UK MoD and is an example of how British design excellence will enable the UK's net zero ambitions.

**Non Executive Chairman of Navantia UK, Vice Admiral (Retd) Sir Alan Massey, KCB, CBE, said,**

"This is an important milestone for this critical programme for the Royal Navy. It demonstrates how successfully Team Resolute is working together in boosting UK maritime capabilities, providing an evolved cutting-edge design, transferring knowledge and laying the foundation for the modernisation of Harland & Wolff's shipyards."

**BMT Chief Executive, OBE, Sarah Kenny said,**

“The MoD’s investment brings significant social and economic value to the UK enabling BMT to create 120 high-skilled jobs at its Bristol, Bath, Weymouth, Fareham, Glasgow, and Southampton sites, meeting the Government’s ‘Refreshed National Shipbuilding Strategy’ objectives.

The development of an advanced FSS ship design demonstrates BMT’s commitment to delivering state-of-the-art solutions that meet the evolving needs of modern naval operations for government customers and allied partners, including pathways to achieve carbon neutrality.

**Harland & Wolff Group CEO, John Wood said,**

“Team Resolute progress on FSS is already re-establishing a skills base for UK shipbuilding in Northern Ireland, thus strengthening UK sovereign capability. Transfer of knowledge from Spanish shipbuilder Navantia concerning programme management, procurement and cutting-edge shipyard technologies is well underway.

“With planning permission approved, works are due to start on recapitalisation of Belfast, creating the UK’s most technologically advanced shipyard, meaning FSS is providing a foundation on which to complete for decades to come.

“Having welcomed the second cohort of young apprentices to Belfast and Appledore, we’re not only building the skills base to deliver FSS, but creating a new highly skilled talent pool for the UK.”

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**Notes to Editors**

**1) About Team Resolute**

Team Resolute is the partnership created by Navantia UK, Harland & Wolff and BMT to support the National Shipbuilding Strategy Refresh while boosting UK sovereign shipbuilding capacity. Team Resolute will provide the Royal Fleet Auxiliary with three Fleet Solid Support (FSS) ships to enhance UK maritime defence capability. The £1.6 billion programme will contribute significant social and economic value, developing a solid local supply chain and a skills base for shipbuilding in Northern Ireland, strengthening the UK’s industrial base and economic prosperity.

**2) About Navantia UK**

Navantia UK Ltd is a UK incorporated company, subsidiary of Spanish Navantia SA SME. By supporting UK National Shipbuilding Strategy and Net Zero Strategy, Navantia UK contributes

to growing the UK's economy and moving forward Britain's decarbonisation efforts while creating jobs across the country.

### **3) About Harland & Wolff**

Harland & Wolff is a multisite fabrication company, operating in the maritime and offshore industry through five markets: commercial, cruise and ferry, defence, energy and renewables and six services: technical services, fabrication and construction, decommissioning, repair and maintenance, in-service support and conversion.

Its Belfast yard is one of Europe's largest heavy engineering facilities, with deep water access, two of Europe's largest drydocks, ample quayside and vast fabrication halls. As a result of the acquisition of Harland & Wolff (Appledore) in August 2020, the company has been able to capitalise on opportunities at both ends of the ship-repair and shipbuilding markets where there will be significant demand.

In February 2021, the company acquired the assets of two Scottish-based yards along the east and west coasts. Now known as Harland & Wolff (Methil) and Harland & Wolff (Arnish), these facilities will focus on fabrication work within the renewables, energy and defence sectors.

In addition to Harland & Wolff, it owns the Islandmagee gas storage project, which is expected to provide 25% of the UK's natural gas storage capacity and to benefit the Northern Irish economy as a whole when completed.

### **4) About BMT**

BMT is a leading international design, engineering, science, and risk management consultancy with a reputation for excellence. We're driven by a belief that things can always be better, safer, greener, and more efficient. We provide our customers with the capability, capacity, and confidence to enable them to make the right decisions at the right time by drawing upon the expertise of over 1,300 professionals located in UK, Europe, Asia Pacific, Australasia, and the Americas. Delivering independent, complex design and consultancy capabilities for over 38 years, we pride ourselves on being equipped to support our customers to tackle the most complex design and systems issues, and challenges, which enables the industry to deliver safer, cleaner, and more fuel-efficient shipping for the future. We draw upon a wide range of experience and expertise to provide high-quality, high value products and services across the maritime sector. The group's assets are held in beneficial ownership for its employees [www.bmt.org](http://www.bmt.org)

- For more information about BMT and its advanced Fleet Solid Support (FSS) ship design and 3D display model at the DSEI London 2023 show, please visit the BMT stand H5-315.
- The BMT 3D scale FSS model will be presented as a centrepiece for DSEI to illustrate its in-house design and naval architecture, and to showcase the benefits of this collaborative manufacturing partnership that's being led by the Team Resolute consortium.



**5) For FSS media enquiries and imagery, please contact the Team Resolute media leads:**

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