

Day one – Making waves: Britain's new polar ship

- Tour of RRS *Sir David Attenborough* – Dr Ray Leakey
- Introduction to ship capability – Dr Sophie Fielding
- Ship into service timetable – Randy Sliester

*'Tour' of the RRS *Sir David Attenborough**

Dr Ray Leakey

SDA science user lead, Scottish Association for Marine Science

RRS Sir David Attenborough

Dual-purpose, multidisciplinary polar research vessel is commissioned by NERC, built by Cammell Laird and operated by the British Antarctic Survey.

The UK's most advanced research vessel which will keep Britain at the forefront of world-leading research in the Arctic and Antarctica.



RRS Sir David Attenborough

A Big Ship!

Length: 129m

Beam : 24m

Draught: 7m

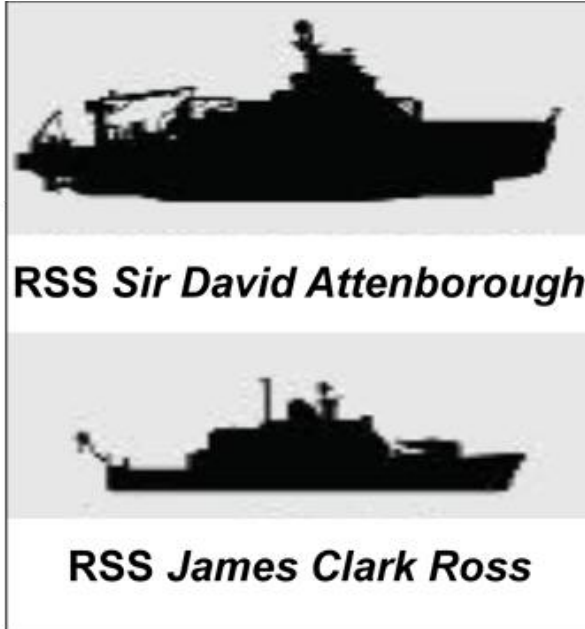
Gross Tonnage: 15000

Endurance: 60 days

Range: 19,000 nm

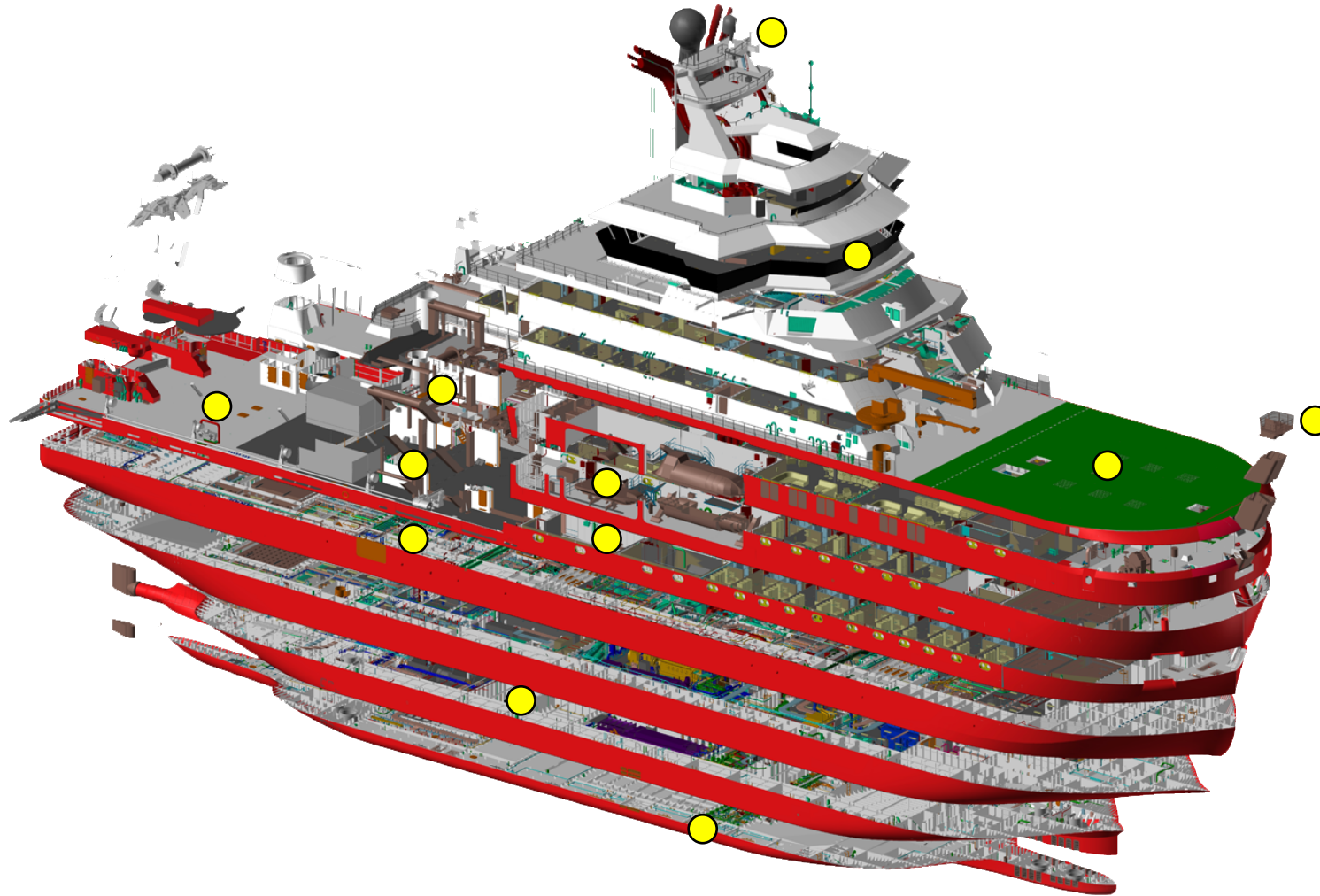
Crew: 30

Science Berths: 60



RRS Sir David Attenborough

Key Working Spaces



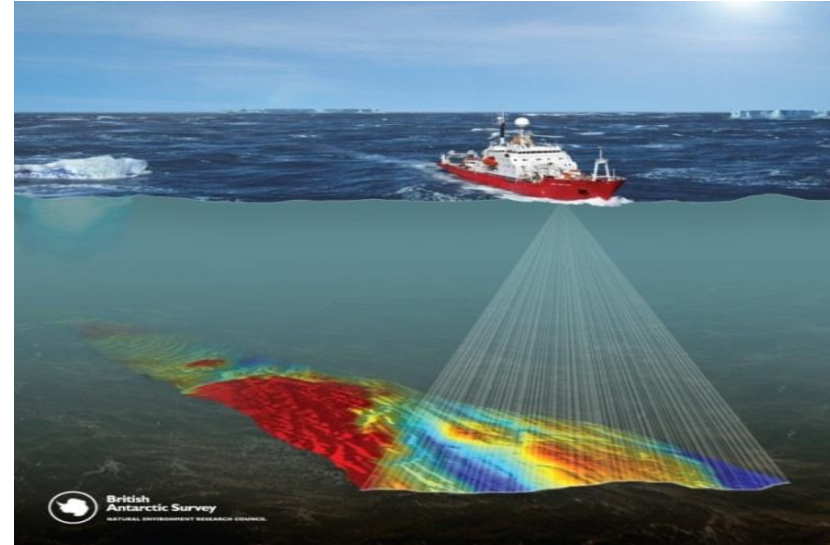
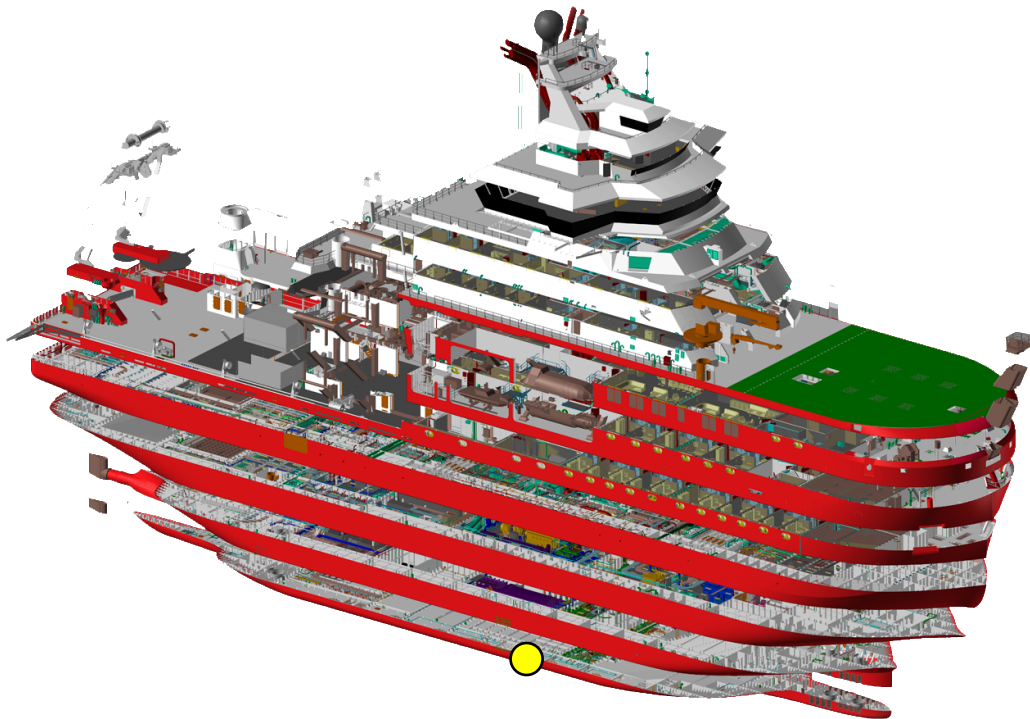
- Acoustic Array
- Engines & Propulsion
- Cargo & Storage
- Aft Deck
- Science Hangar & Moonpool
- Laboratories
- Conference Room and Office
- Winches
- Heli-Deck
- Meteorological Platform
- Bridge
- Meteorological Masts

RRS Sir David Attenborough

Hull: Design and Acoustic Array

Hull designed for:

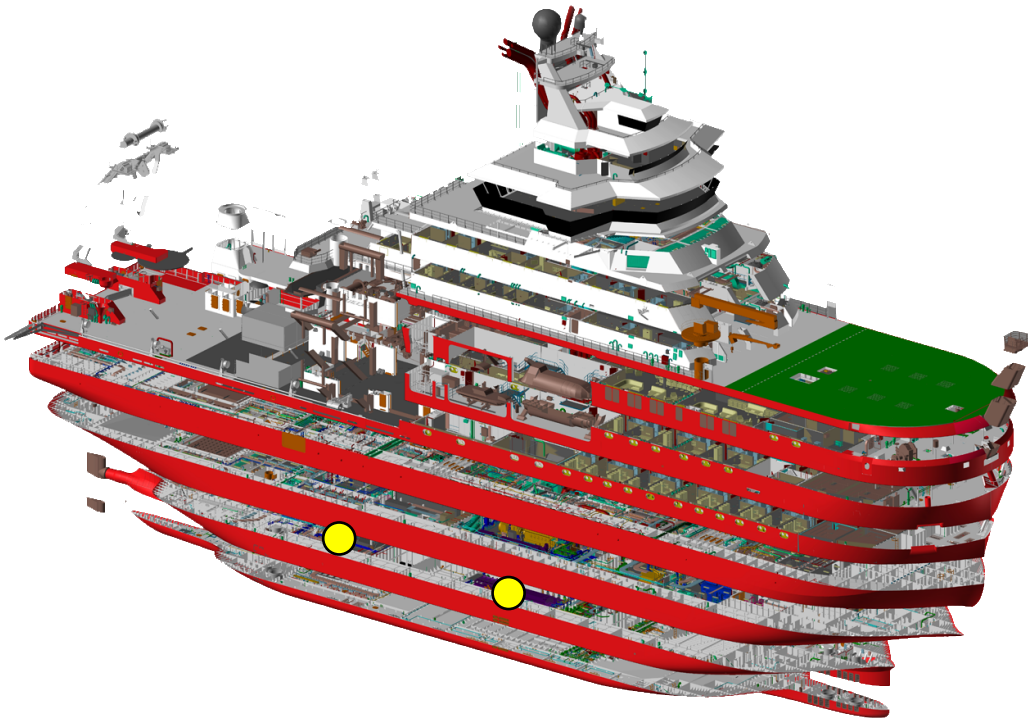
- Icebreaking
- Reduced radiated noise and bubbles
- Dynamic positioning
- Fuel efficiency



RRS Sir David Attenborough

Hull: Engines and Propulsion

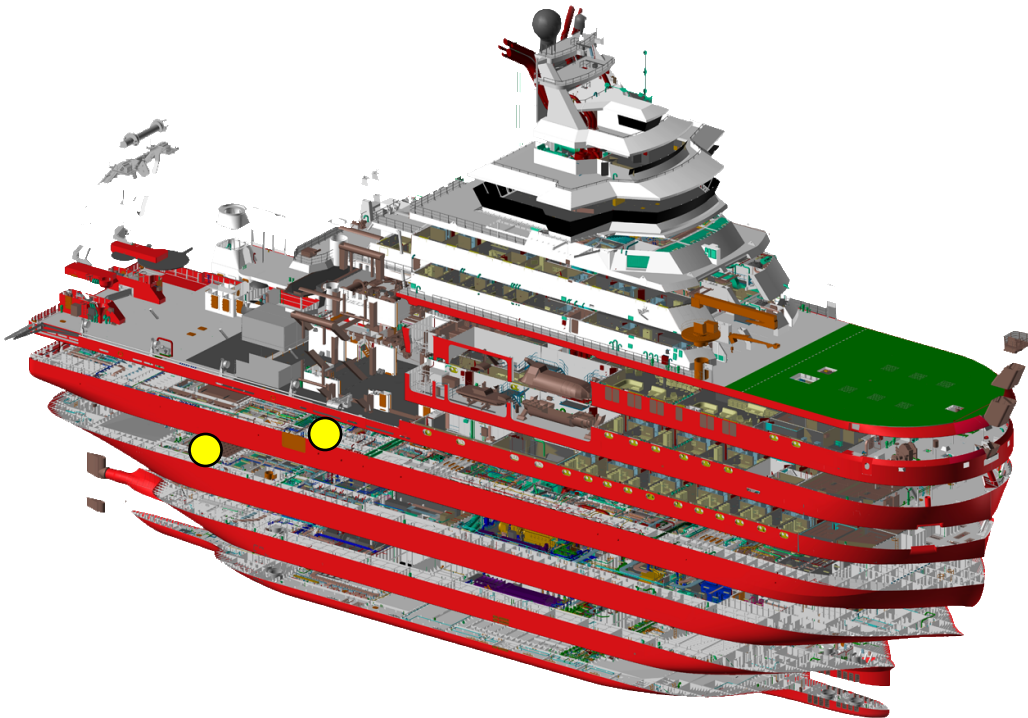
- Diesel-electric Propulsion
- Gill Thrusters at bow and aft
- Polar Class 5
- 13 knot cruising speed
- Reduced underwater radiative noise



RRS Sir David Attenborough

Decks 1 and 2: Cargo and Storage

- 900 m³ science cargo capacity

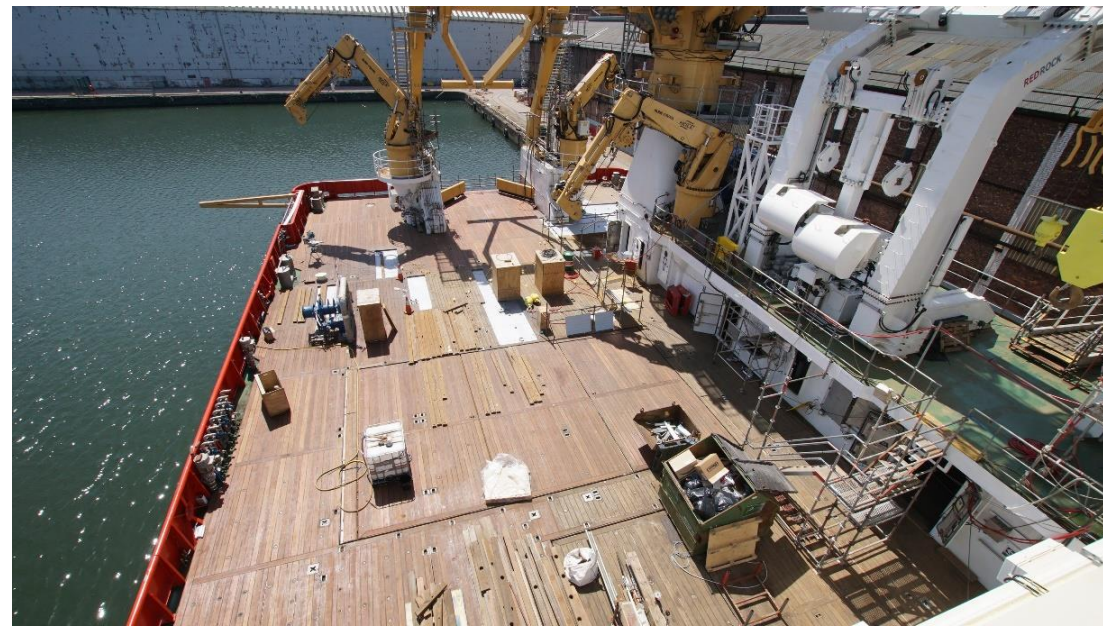
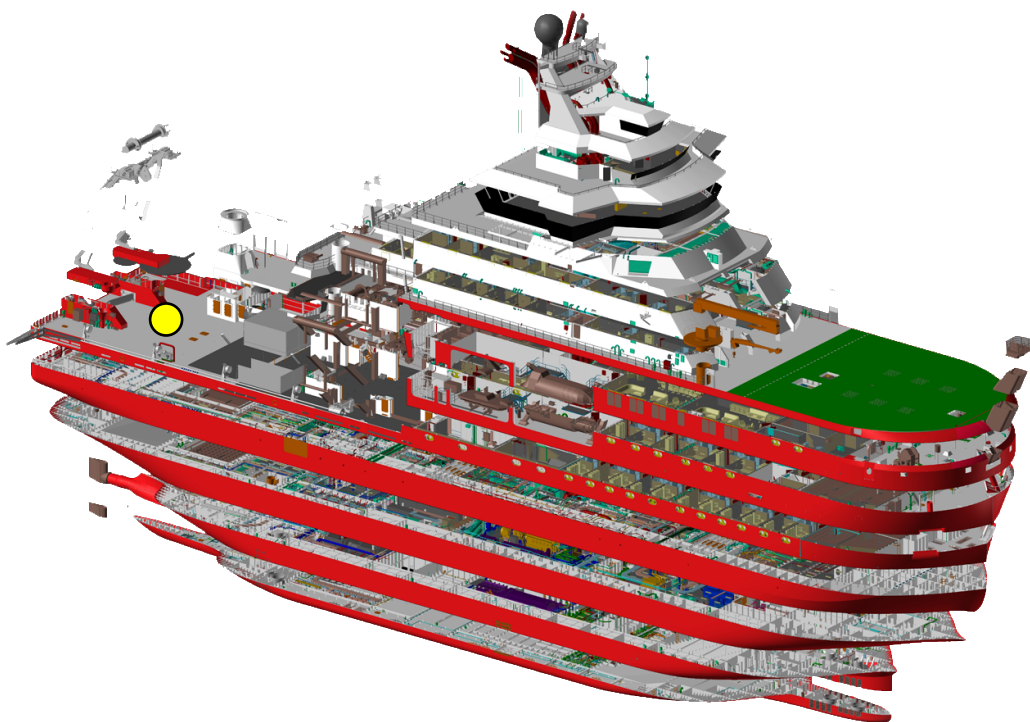


RRS Sir David Attenborough

Deck 3: Aft Deck

Length: ~35m

Area: ~670m²

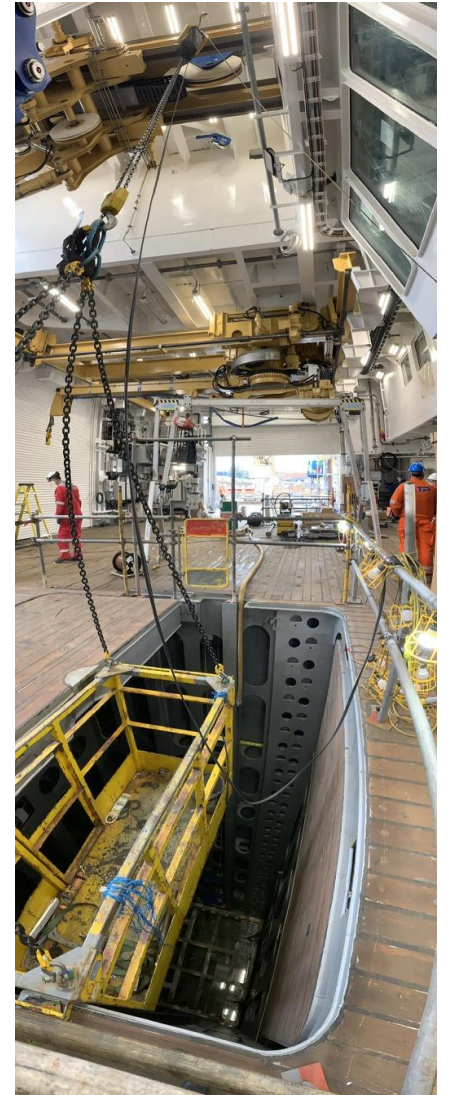
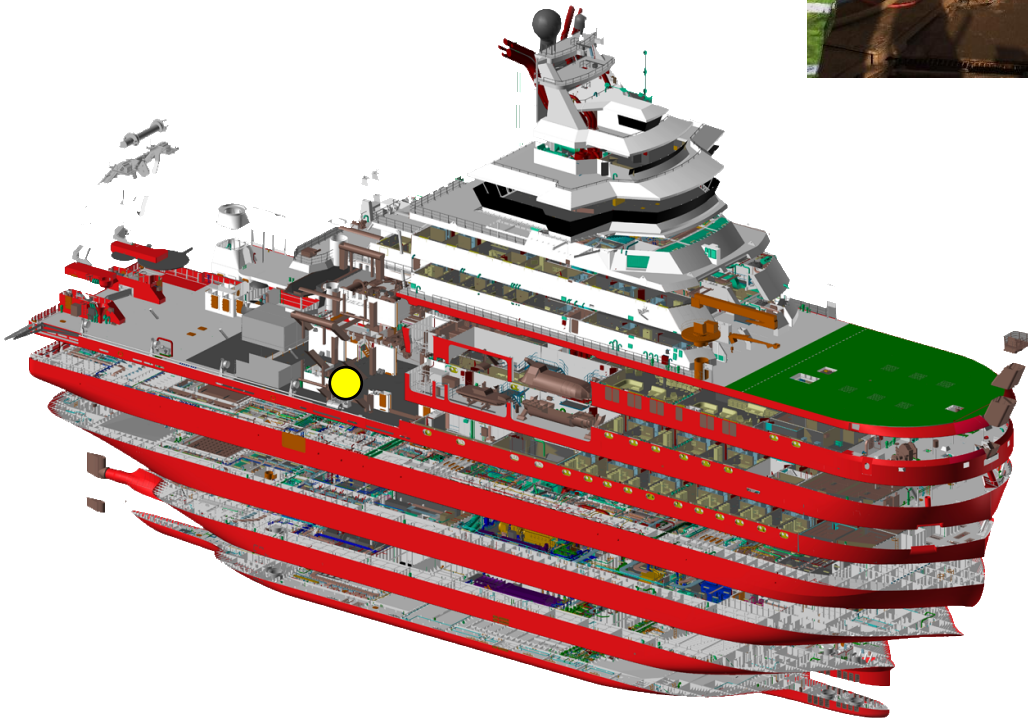


RRS Sir David Attenborough

Deck 3: Science Hangar and Moonpool

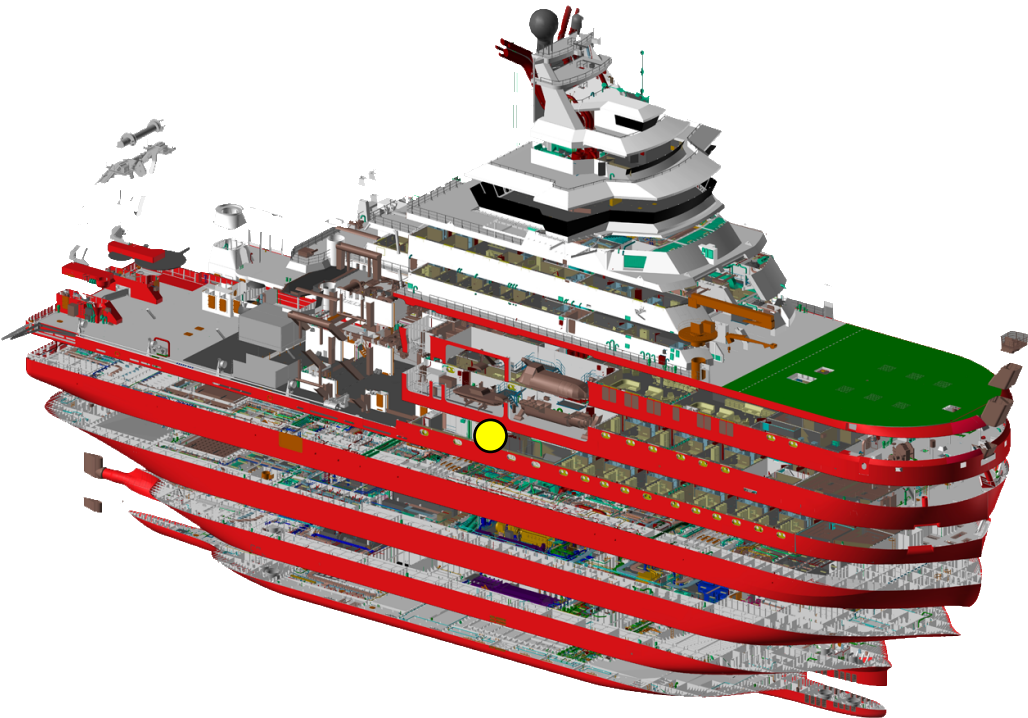
Length: ~20m

Area: ~290m³



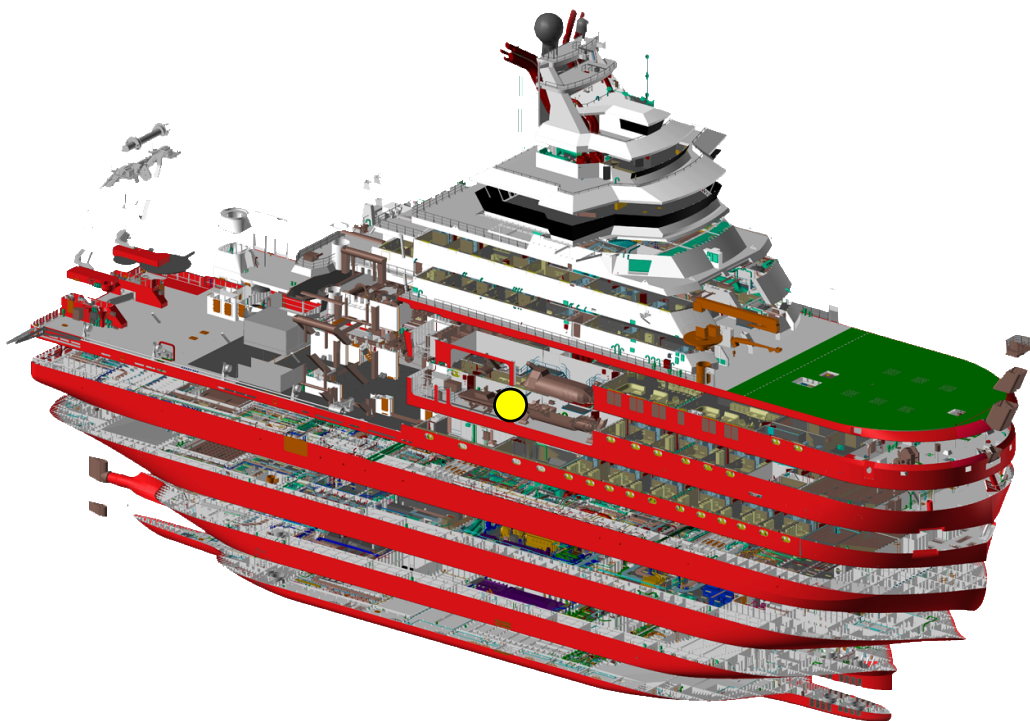
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Deck 3: Laboratories



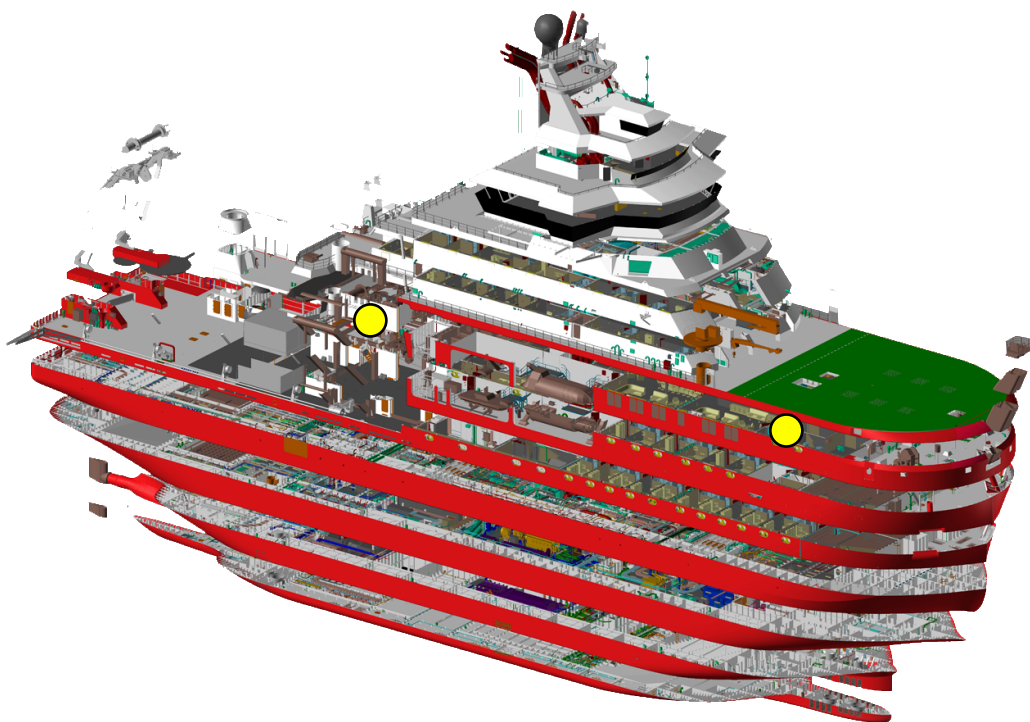
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Deck 4: Conference Room and Office



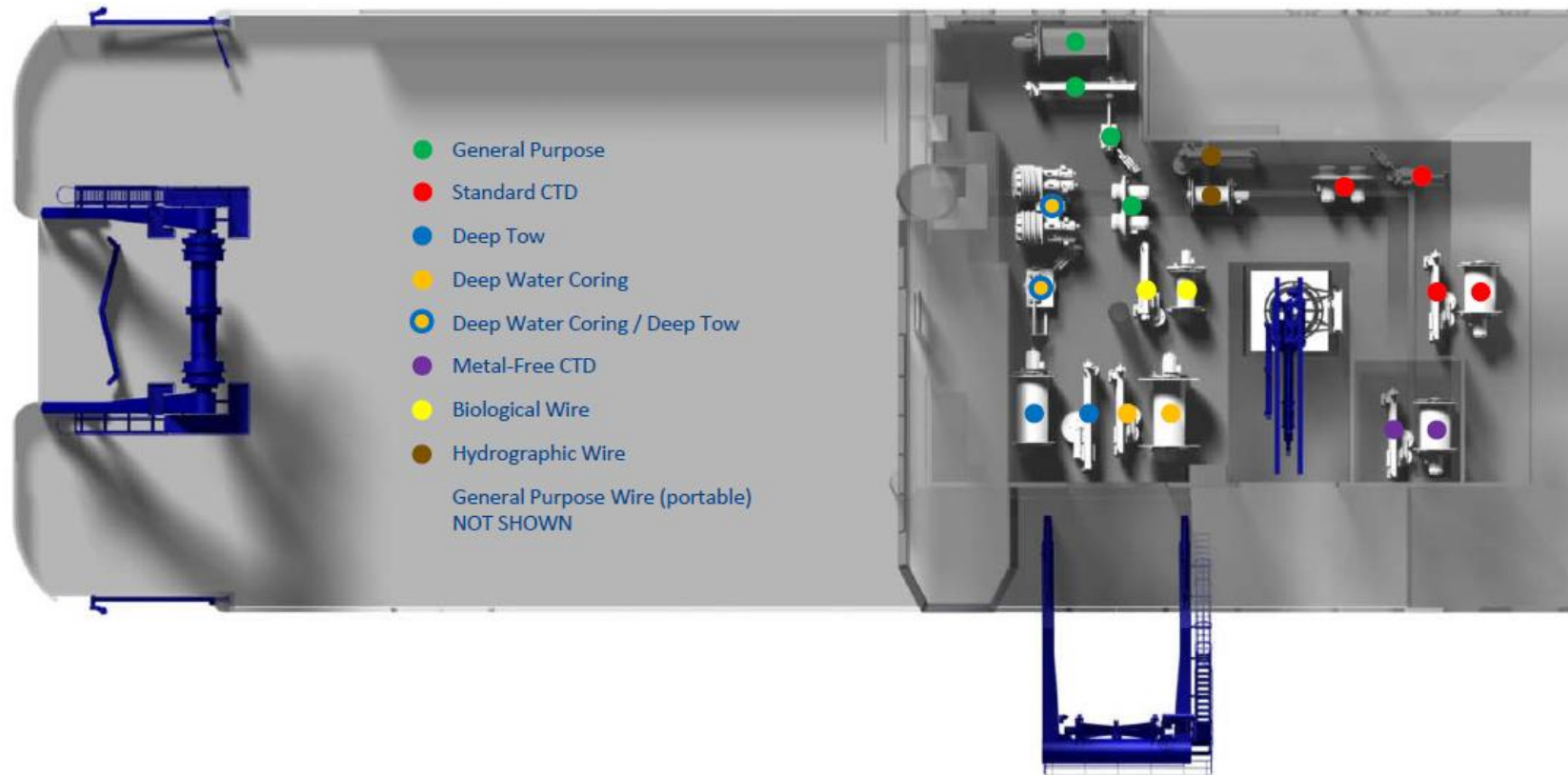
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Deck 5: Atmospheric Lab and Winches



UT 851 – RRM DMSS

Scientific Winch System & Over-side Handling Equipment Layout / Arrangement



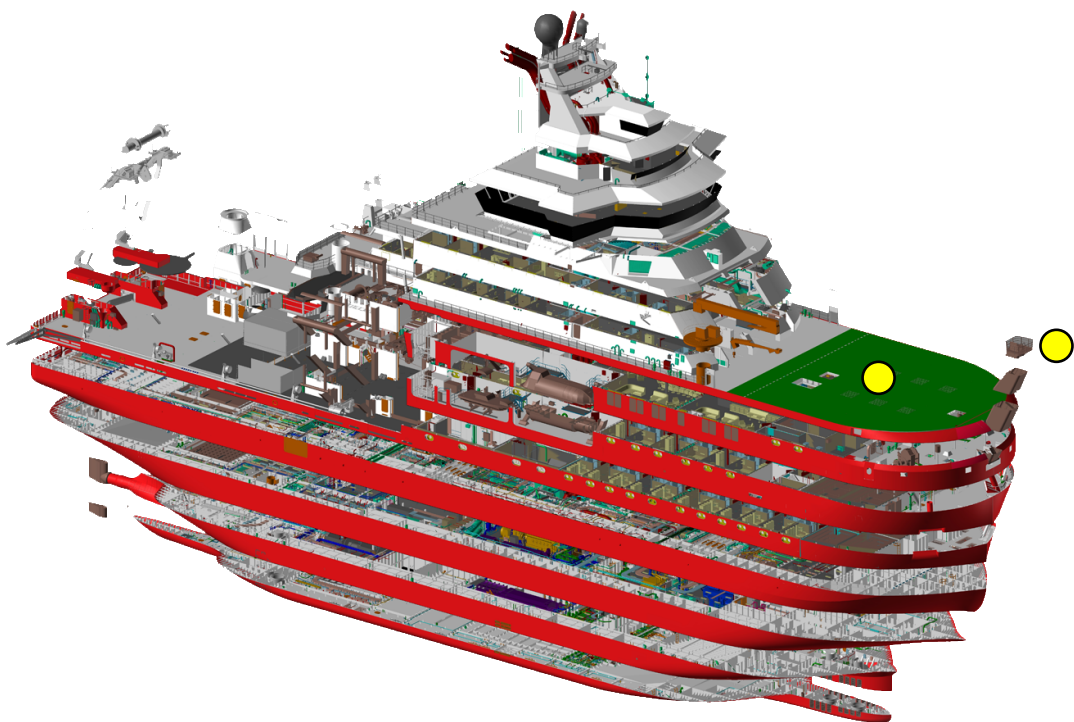
Rolls-Royce proprietary information



Rolls-Royce

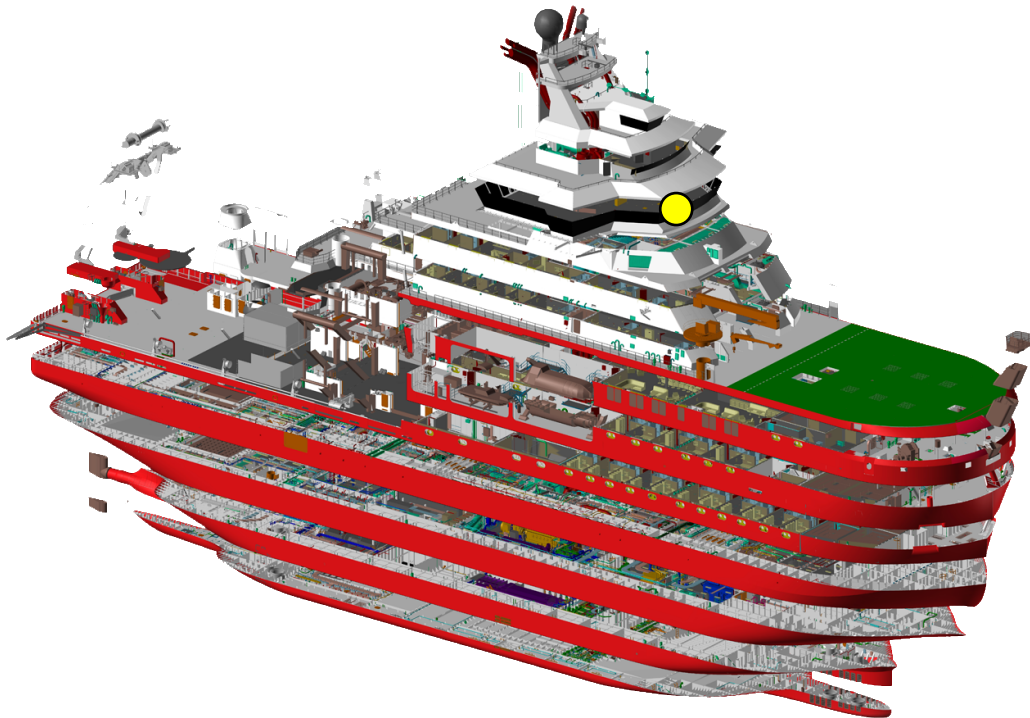
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Deck 6: Heli-deck and Met Platform



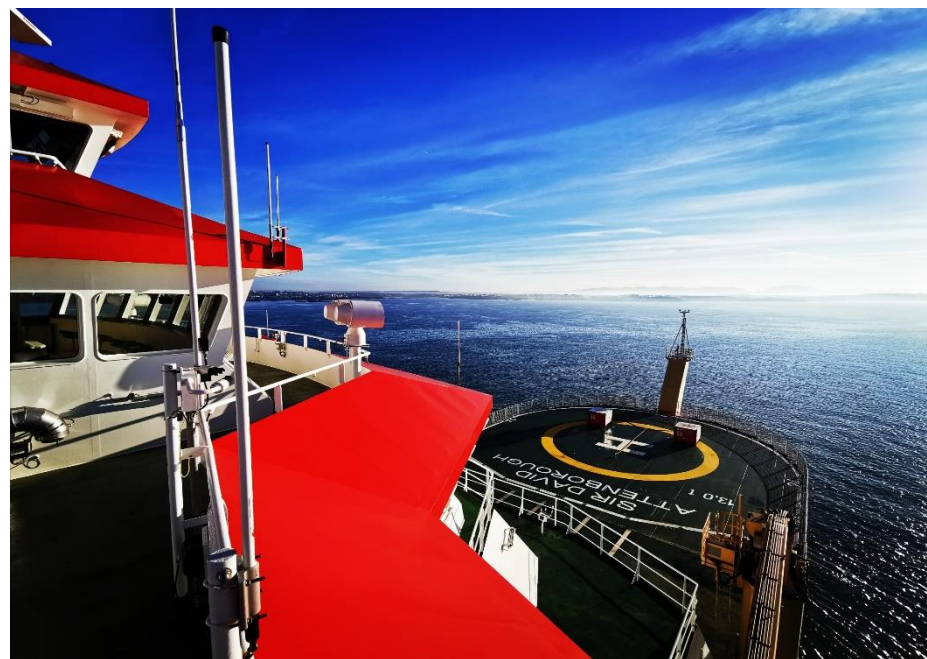
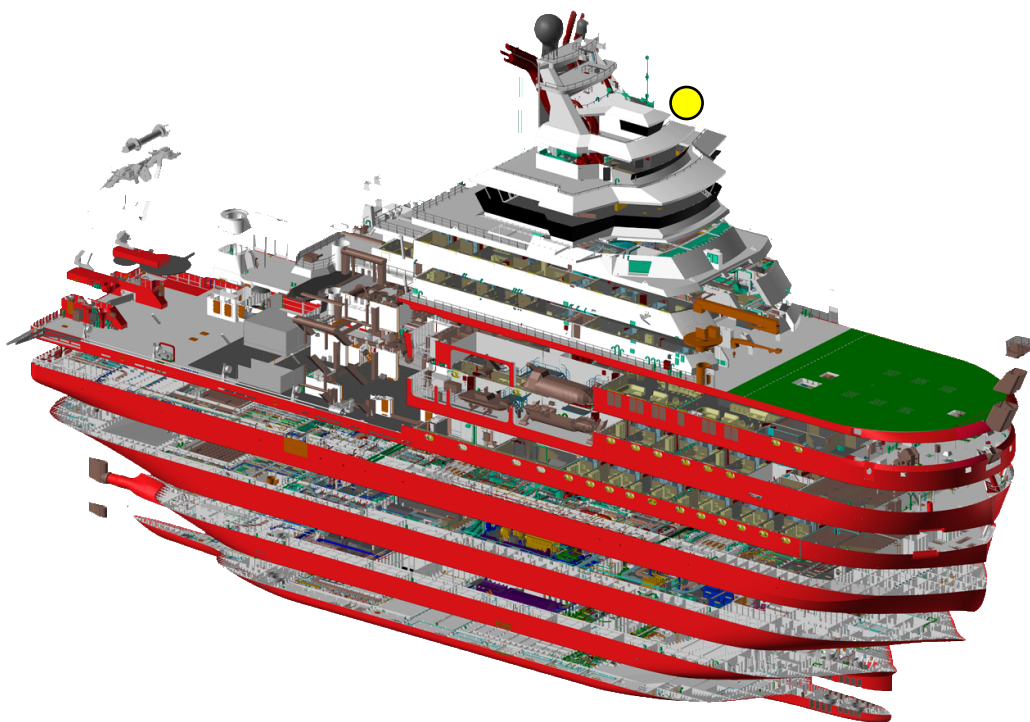
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Deck 9: Bridge



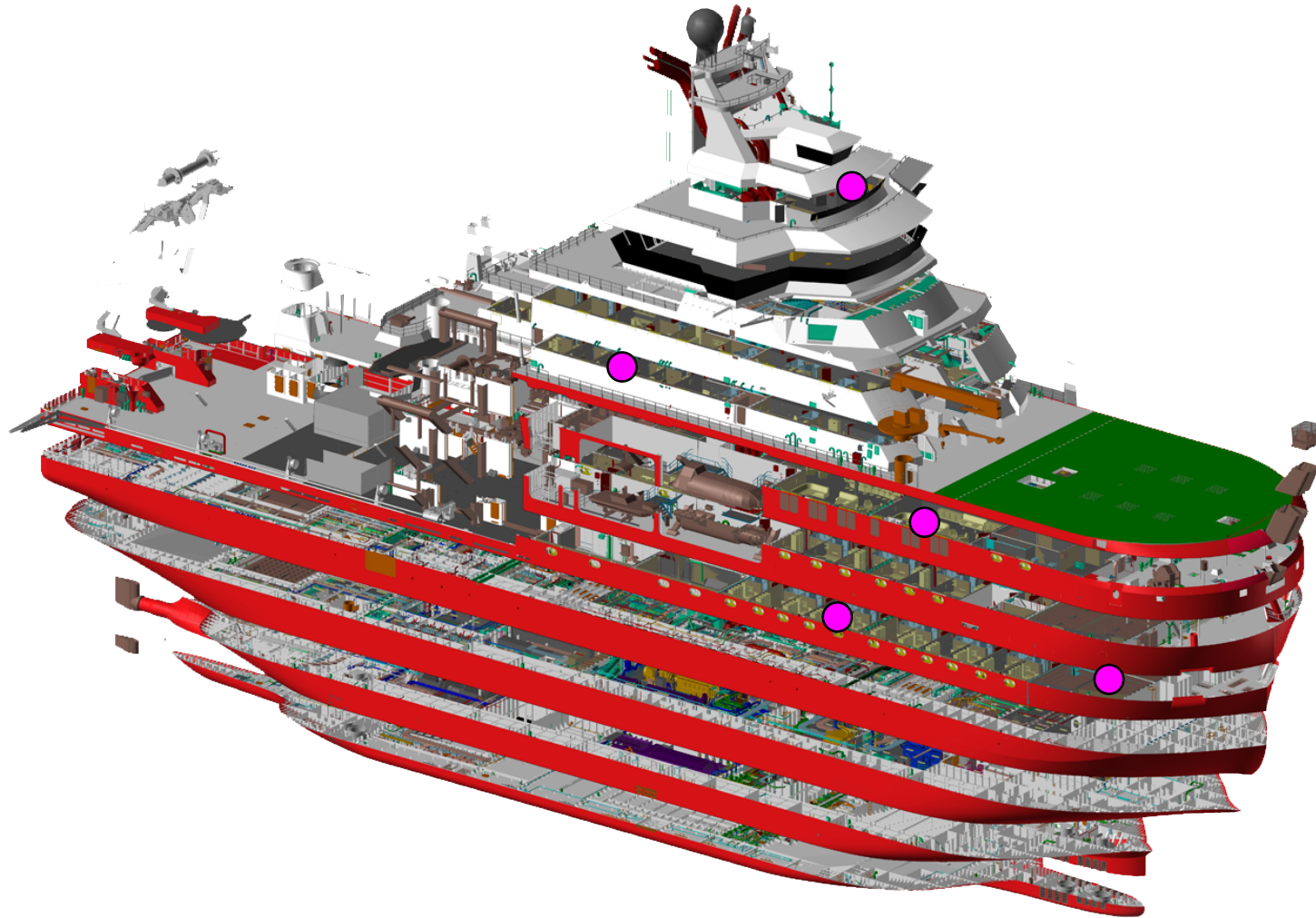
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Decks 10 to 12: Aerosol Lab and Met Masts



RRS Sir David Attenborough

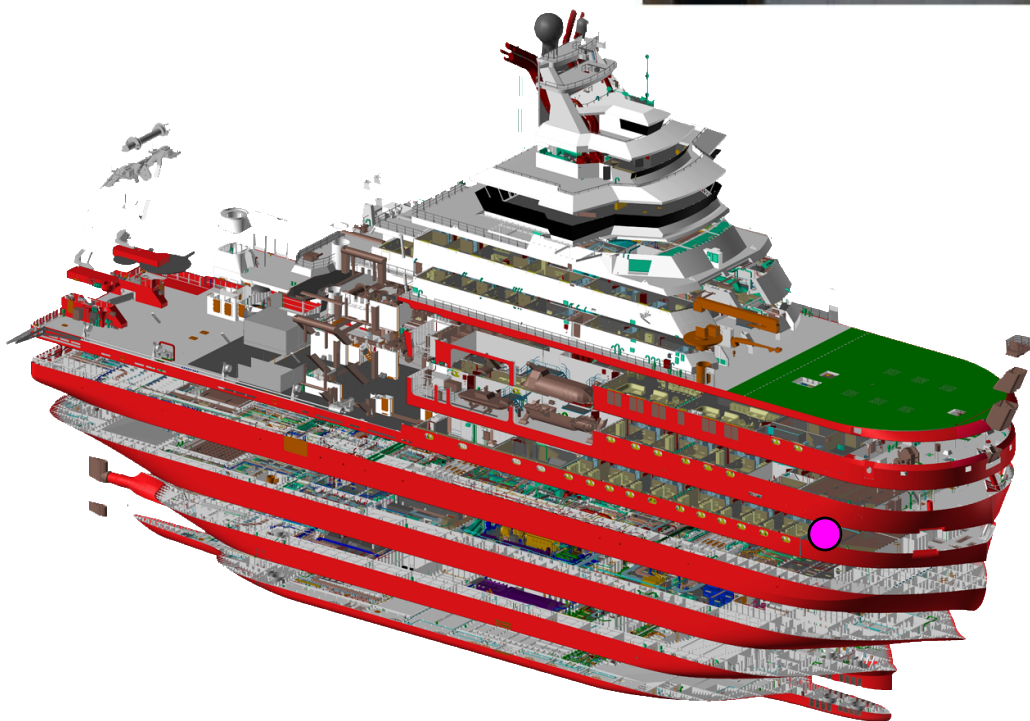
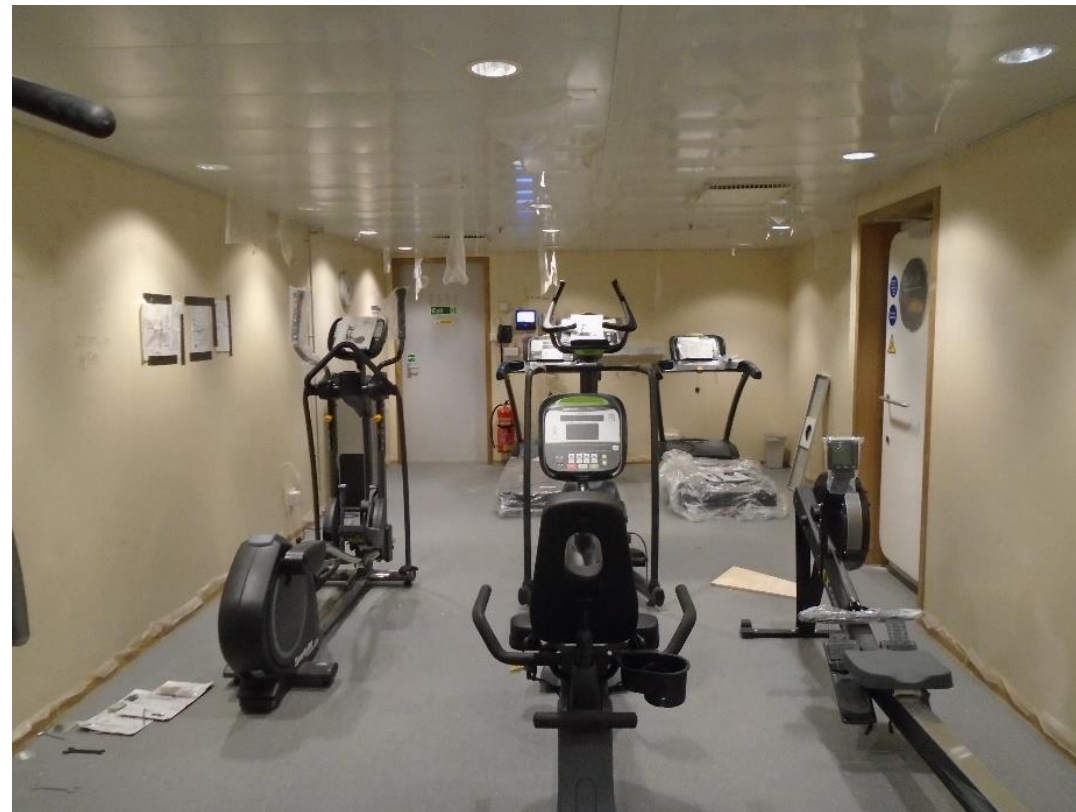
Key Living Spaces



- Gymnasium
- Gally, Mess Room and Bar
- Hospital
- Accommodation
- Viewing Lounge

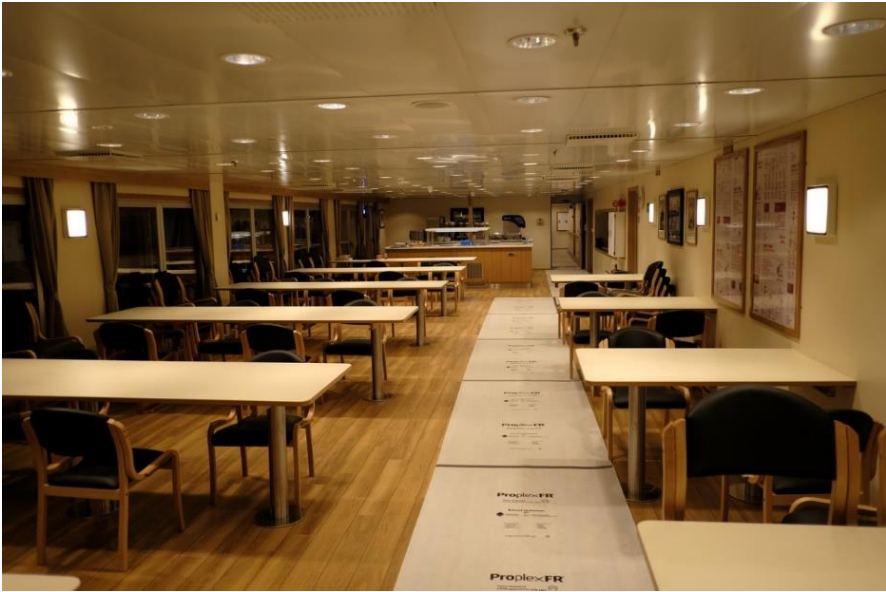
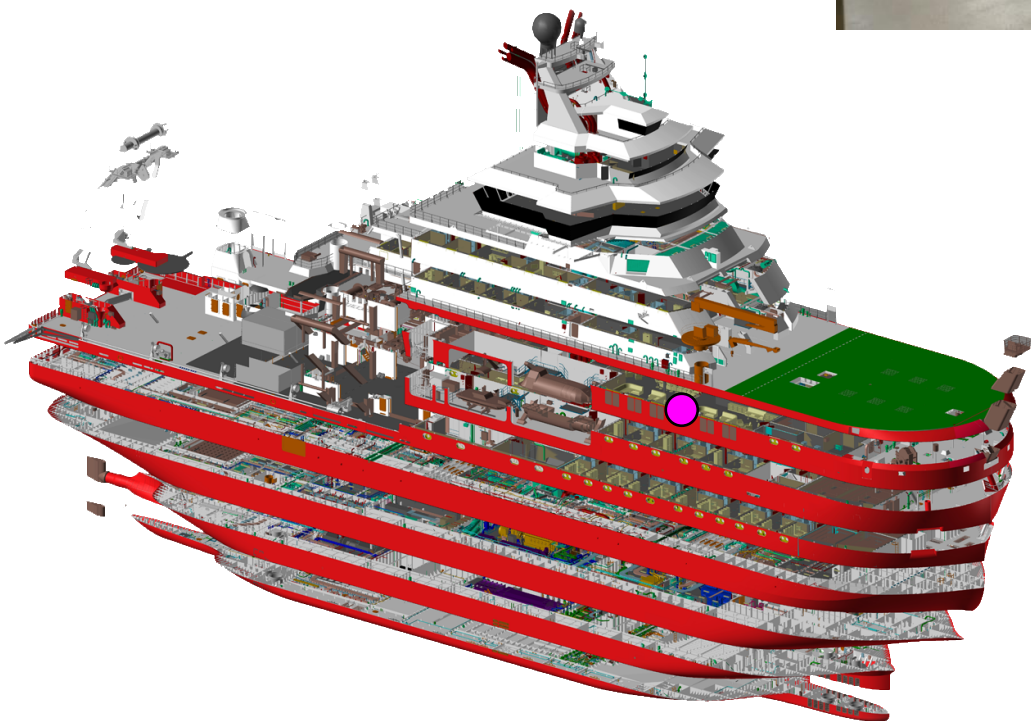
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Decks 3: Gymnasium



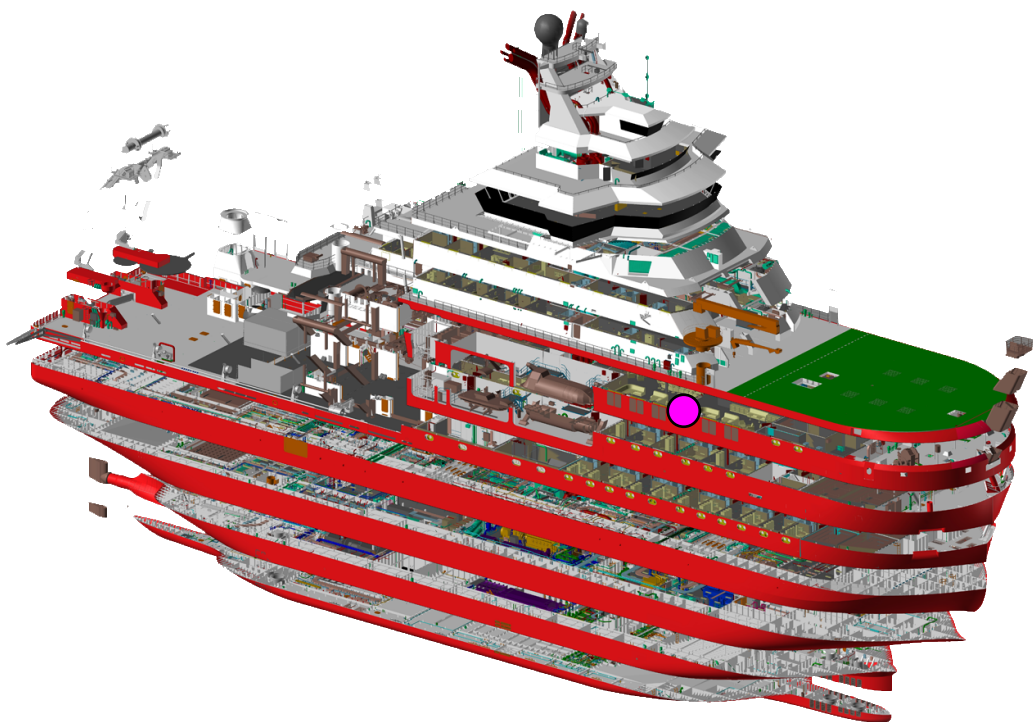
RRS Sir David Attenborough

Decks 5: Galley and Mess Room



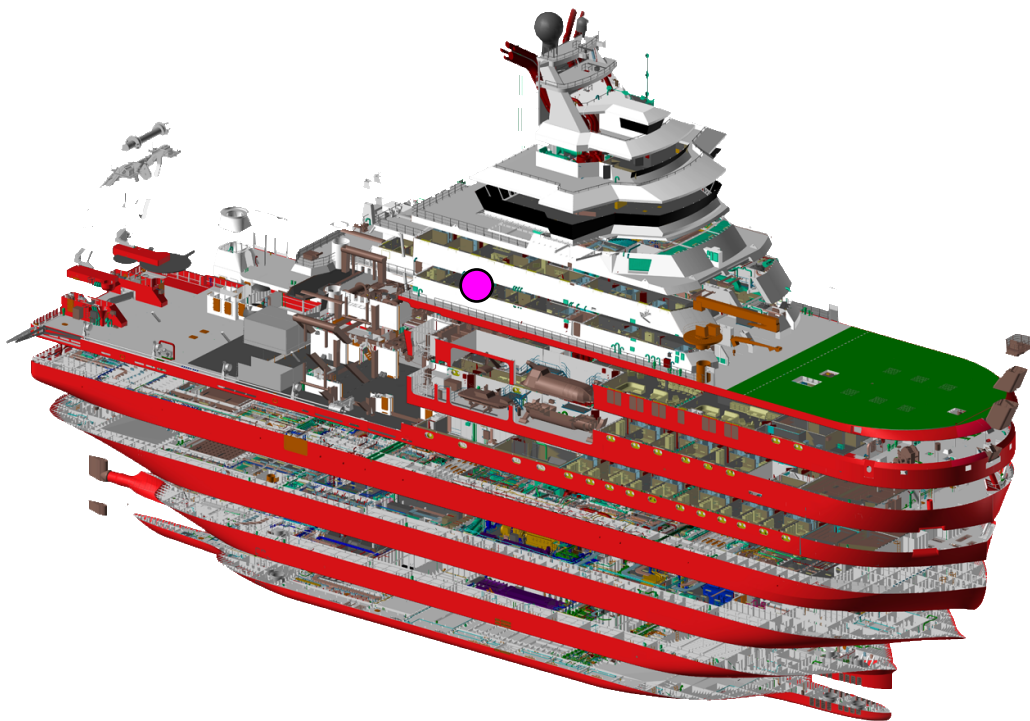
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Decks 5: Lounge and Bar



RRS Sir David Attenborough

Decks 6: Hospital



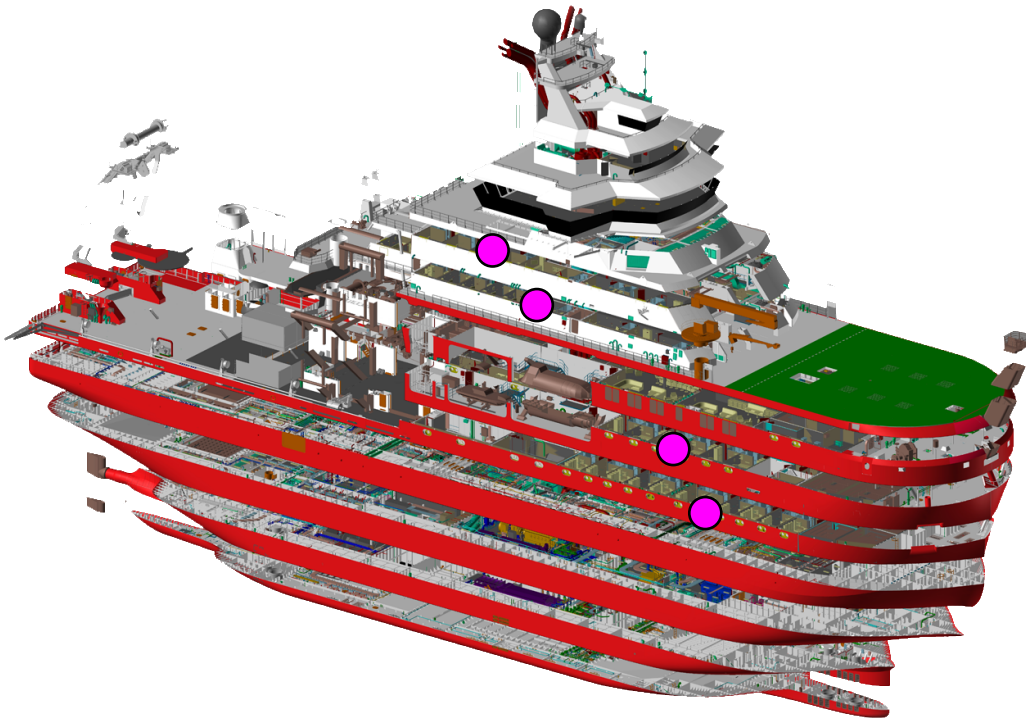
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Decks 3, 4, 6 and 7: Accommodation

65 ensuite cabins with WiFi

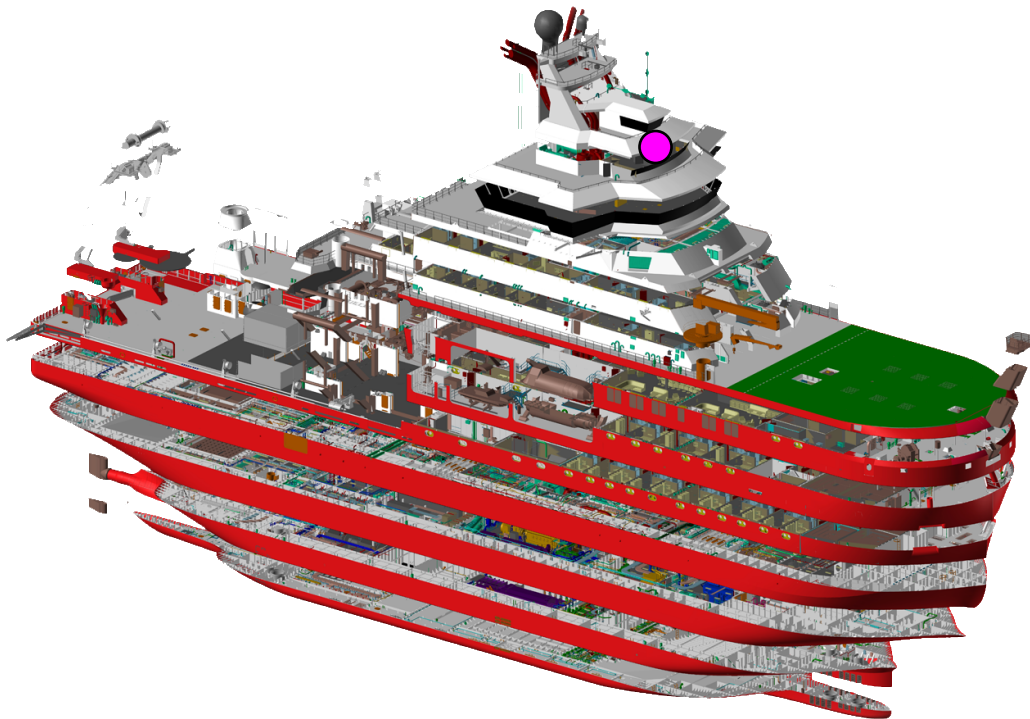
90 berths

- 30 Crew (single)
- 60 Scientist (10 single, 25 double)



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Decks 10: Viewing Lounge



RRS Sir David Attenborough

Further Information and Online Resources

<https://www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/sites-and-facilities/facility/rrs-sir-david-attenborough/>



Thanks!

The 1000's of people who have commissioned and built the ship.

The Science Community who have volunteered their time and advice for free

The Science User Consultation Panel representatives:

- Ian Brooks – Atmospheric Science
- Colm o'Cofaigh - Geology
- Sophie Fielding - Biology
- Brian King - Physics
- Rob Larter - Geophysics
- Malcolm Woodward - Chemistry

Introduction to SDA science capability

Dr Sophie Fielding

Science trials co-lead, British Antarctic Survey

Brief summary of user requirements

Aerosol/atmospheric sampling: Clean sampling location (minimal flow distortion), ease of running sample lines (fixed and temporary) to lab space, short sample lines, minimal bends, underway seawater, containerised labs near inlets, bulk aerosol samplers, need to move large equipment in/out, fumehoods, UAV deployments, data telemetry, lidar, radiometer.

Autonomous sampling: Ability to deploy AUVs, ROVs and UAVs. USBL, low freeboard, deck space for LARS systems for AUVs and ROVs, Antarctic autonomous hub, good (great) satellite comms for fleet command and control. Storage for lithium batteries and multiple autonomous vehicles.

Biological sampling: Sample benthic habitats to depths up to 9000m, conduct horizontal, oblique and vertical pelagic nets over stern or side of the vessel, conduct acoustic surveys for bathymetry and biological research, conduct CTDs and cores to 6500m, deploy landers, moorings and ocean bottom packages, continuously monitor and log environmental, meteorological, navigational, geophysical, biological data, support AUV and ROV operations, conduct shallow water acoustic surveys, undertake manned and autonomous marine mammal surveys, have flexible multidisciplinary labs, support dive activities, transport live animals, store samples and chemicals appropriately (-80°, -20° and 4°C storage, UN appropriate), undertake outreach (e.g. live streaming), 2 constant temperature labs, small boat for sampling coastal areas

Chemistry sampling: Multidisciplinary capability, ice class, stable, no bubbles!, 40 berths, cabins quiet with natural light, large well specified labs, large number of covered sinks, modular benching with stauff rails, deck matrix in labs, 2 constant temperature labs with full temperature range, large accessible -80° and -20°C freezers, milli-q water, storage of haz chems, labs to have double doors, global air con, multiple container slots for lab containers with easy sheltered access, forward met platform, clean underway water system, clean starboard side, clean lab, trace metal and normal CTD, Kevlar winch system, RN lab container, large fumehoods, liquid scintillation counter, liquid nitrogen generator, multiple gas storage, gas lines, temporary gas lines, gym, sauna, decent internet system, cabins with screens.

Geology sampling: Gravity, piston, mega, multi and box corer, dredges, grabs, capable of taking BGS vibrocorer and rockdrill, large low working deck, direct access to Hangar and wet labs for core processing, working deck in direct line of sight rather than using CCTV, long starboard deck for piston corer, small number of large accessible flexible labs, core/wet lab on working deck level, large cold storage room with direct connection to wet lab, containerised lab slots, moonpool for coring in ice covered waters height clearance of 10m

Geophysics sampling: Acoustically quiet ship, no bubbles, wide low aft working deck, large space for instrumentation, centralised data logging, high pressure compressed air supply for airguns, clean electrical supply at several voltages and AC frequencies, multibeam swath system (shallow and deep), sub-bottom profiler, USBL, hydraulic supply manifolds at strategic locations around working deck, gravity meter, magnetometer, basic seismic streamer, ROV and AUV deployments, a lab at least one working deck up from e.g. underway instrument control room on JCR.

Physics sampling: Underway ADCP, met, pumped seawater, swath bathymetry, precise navigation, CTD, underway profilers, ability to switch packages between wires, small winch for deployment of small packages, deploy moorings, gliders, floats, cranes capable of reaching a block down to water surface, large working deck, deck space on a single working deck for mooring and glider recovery, low freeboard for AUV deployment, space for lab containers, permanent lab spaces, stable temperature lab for salinometer, layouts fostering good comms between labs, winch control and bridge, space for gas bottles, haz chems, ultra clean chemistry laboratory, USBL, ability to work in high sea states, usable winch control system, small boat for instrument recovery, berths for 30 scientists

Polar Research Vessel Requirements

- Undertake atmospheric, biological, chemical, geological, geophysical and physical science measurements
- Undertake single and multi-disciplinary science cruises
- Carry a large number of scientists and support staff to undertake those science cruises
- Stay at sea undertaking science for as many days as possible
- Be very quiet for environmental monitoring and good data quality
- Have good dynamic positioning to ensure safe and maximise instrument deployments
- Undertake science at the ice edge and within sea-ice



RRS James Clark Ross

A new ship with new capabilities

- More science berths
- Faster cruising speed
- Long endurance at sea
- Increased laboratory space
- Space for many laboratory containers
- Helicopter hanger and deck
- Moon Pool
- Giant Piston Corer
- Science Work Boat
- Advanced acoustics for 3D underwater imaging
- Permanent trace metal-free winch, CTD and lab facilities
- Deep (>6000m) trawling capability
- Advanced atmospheric science facilities
- Multiple cruise control hubs and system control
- Half multichannel seismic streamer
- New laboratory facilities



RRS Sir David Attenborough

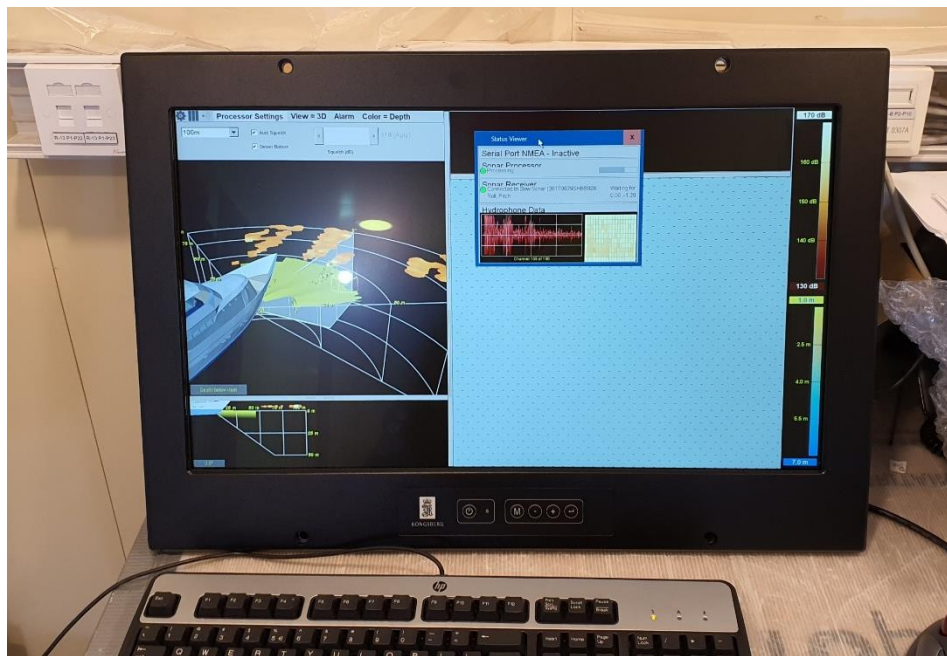
Berths, cruising and endurance

- More science berths (max 60)
- 35 single berths
- 10 single, 25 double cabins



Berths, cruising and endurance

- Faster cruising speed (13 knots)
- Long endurance at sea (60 days)



Farsounder: forward looking sonar for submerged object detection.



Bespoke deployment system

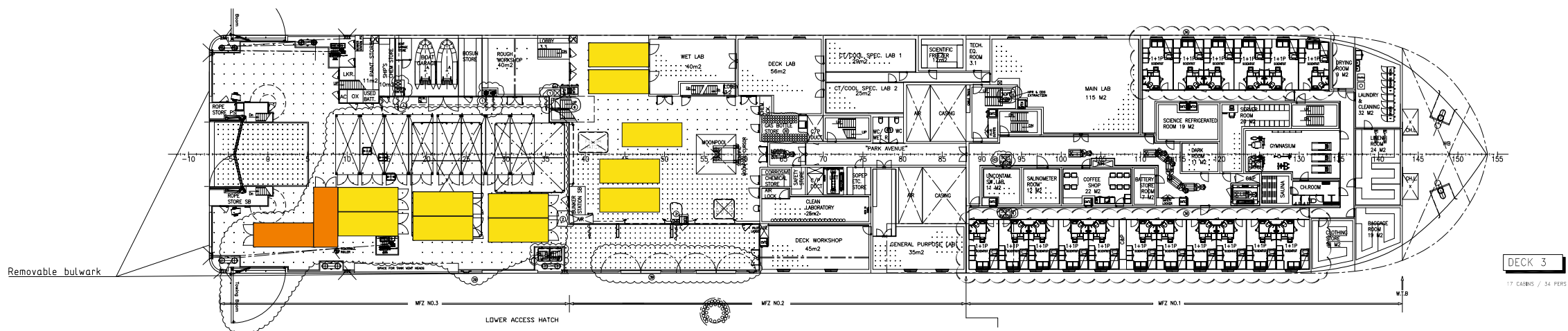
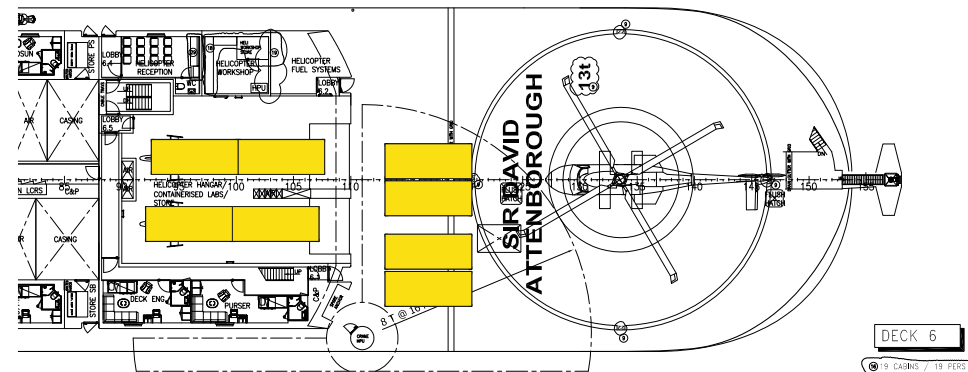
Increased science space



Scientific space	SDA (m ²)	JCR (m ²)
Aerosol Lab	11	
Atmospheric Lab	25	
Clean Lab	25	
CT lab	25	13
CT store	29	
Data Suite	57	17
Deck Lab	56	
General Purpose Lab	35	
Main Lab	115	40
Salinometer Room	12	10
Sealed Lab (Dark)	11	
Scintillation Counter Lab	12	
Underway Seawater Lab	11	
Wet Lab	40	10
Winch Control Room	57	74

Versatile Laboratory Container Slots

- Up to 18 laboratory containers
- 8 Container slots on aft deck
- 4 Container slots within hangar, 2 connected to wet lab
- 2 Container slots in helicopter hangar
- 4 Container slots on helideck



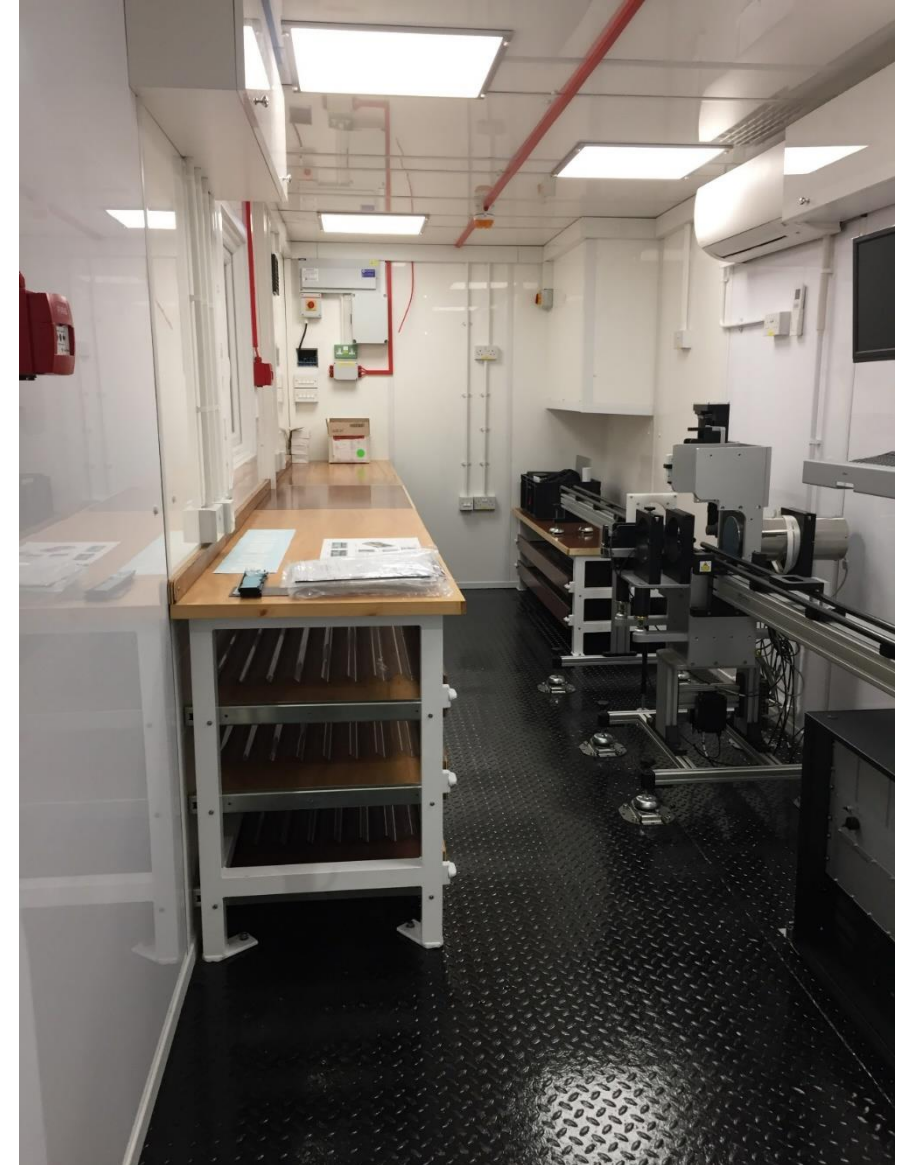
Potential container locations

Versatile Laboratory Containers

- Clean Laboratory Container
- Radioactive Laboratory Container
- Multi-Core Sensor Logging Container
- Experimental Aquarium Container



Clean Laboratory



Multi-Core Sensor Logging

Helicopter Hangar and Helideck

- Space for 2 helicopters, for terrestrial and marine science
- Area for fixed-wing and rotary-wing drone deployment
- Site for 6 containers close to met platform
- Large, open space for biological deck incubations



Moon Pool

- 4 * 4 m moon pool in centre of ship
- Sheltered, safer deployments
- In-ice deployments
- Flush with deck when not in use



Moon pool control cab



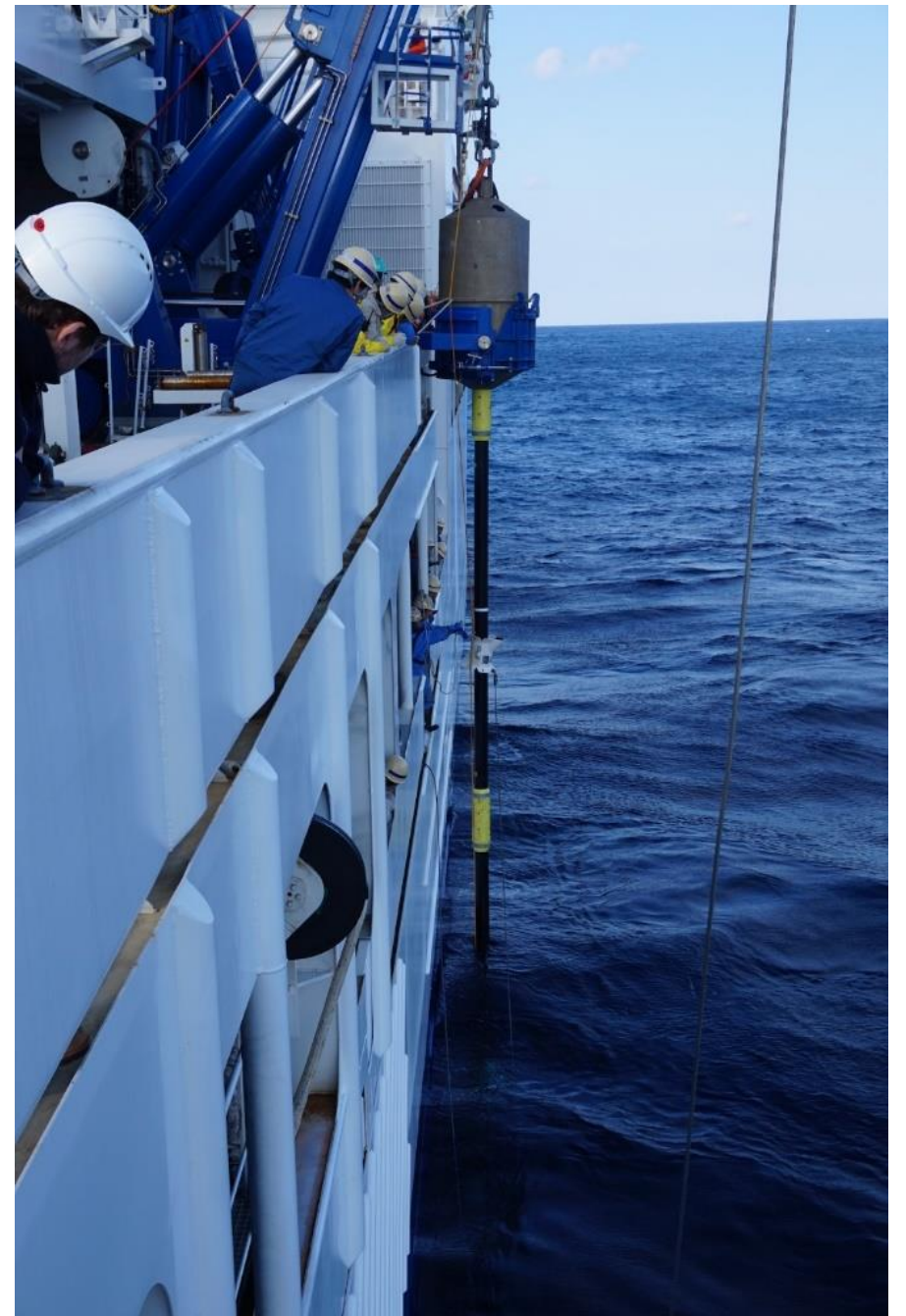
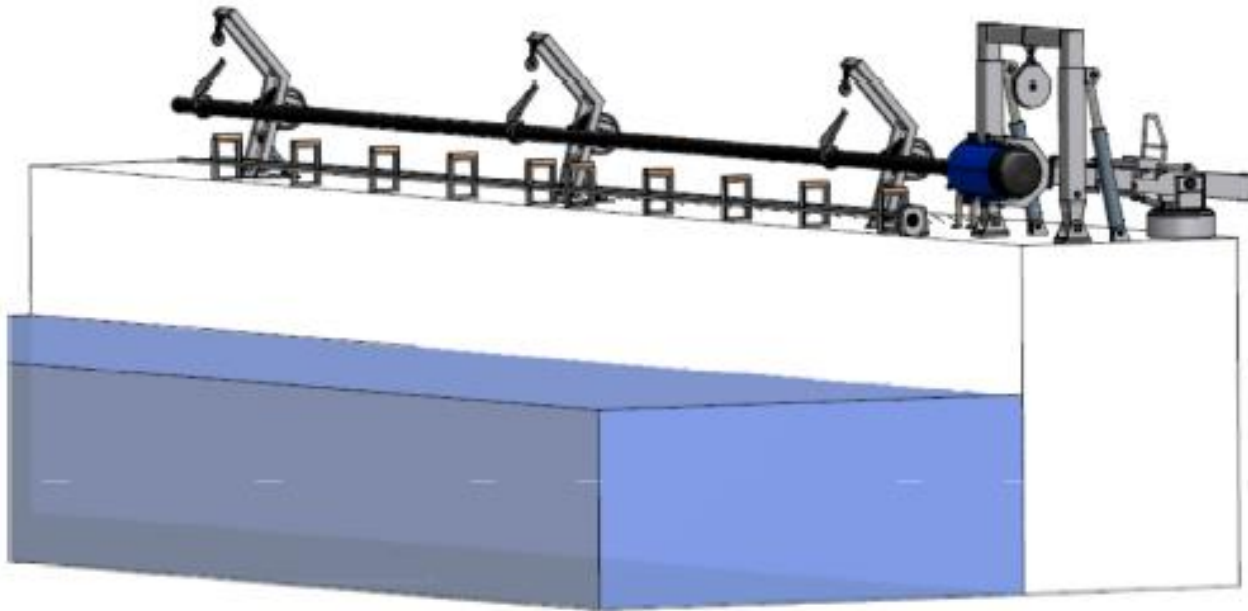
Moon pool cursor



Moon pool

Giant Piston Corer

- New UK capability, 40 m long cores
- 5.8 m barrel sections
- Extended palaeo-record from polar waters



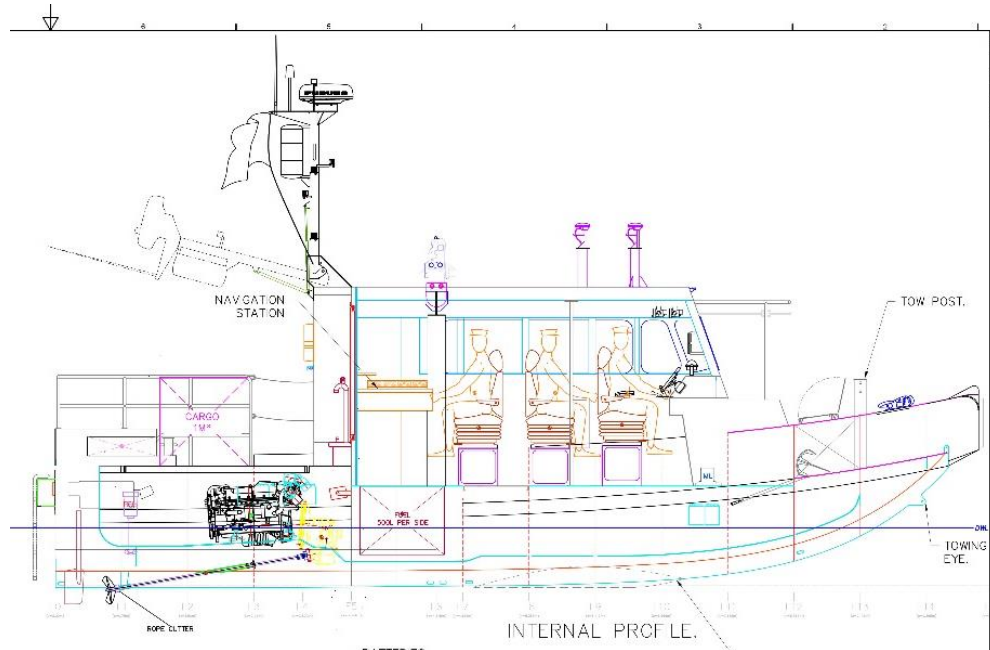
Science Work Boat

- Erebus, 10.5 m long, 3.5 m beam
- 2 crew, 6 pax



Science Work Boat

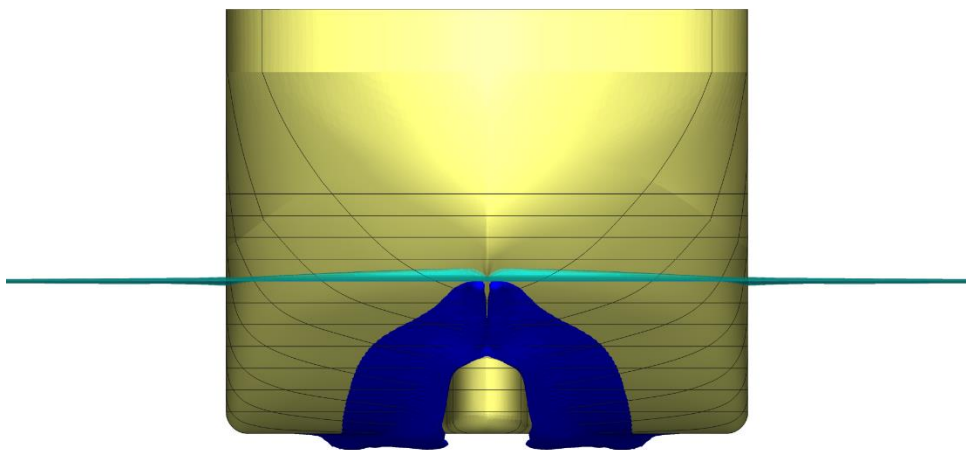
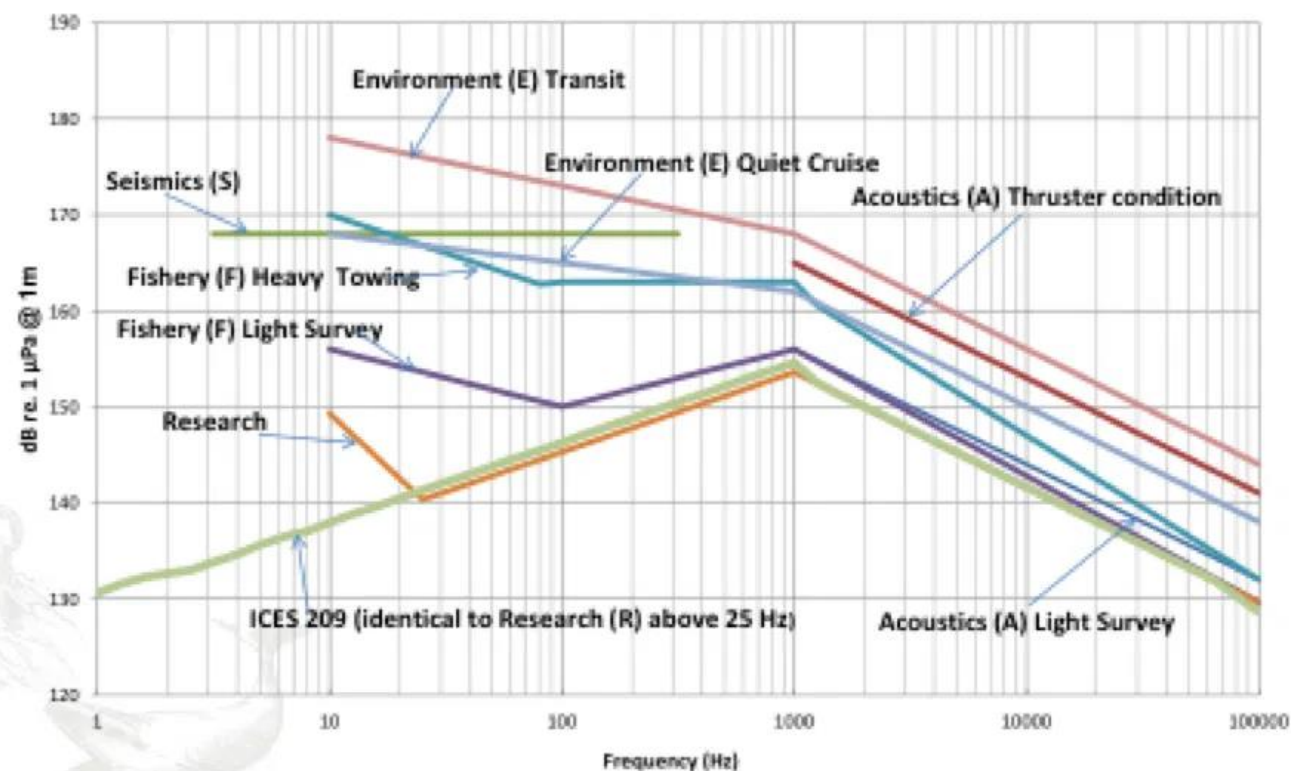
- Shallow water science enabling:
 - Simrad EK80 (38, 70, 120, 200 kHz)
 - Kongsberg EM2040 (1° x 1°)
 - Hydraulic stern davit and winch (250kg, 500m rope)
 - Dive support



Advanced acoustic 3D underwater imaging

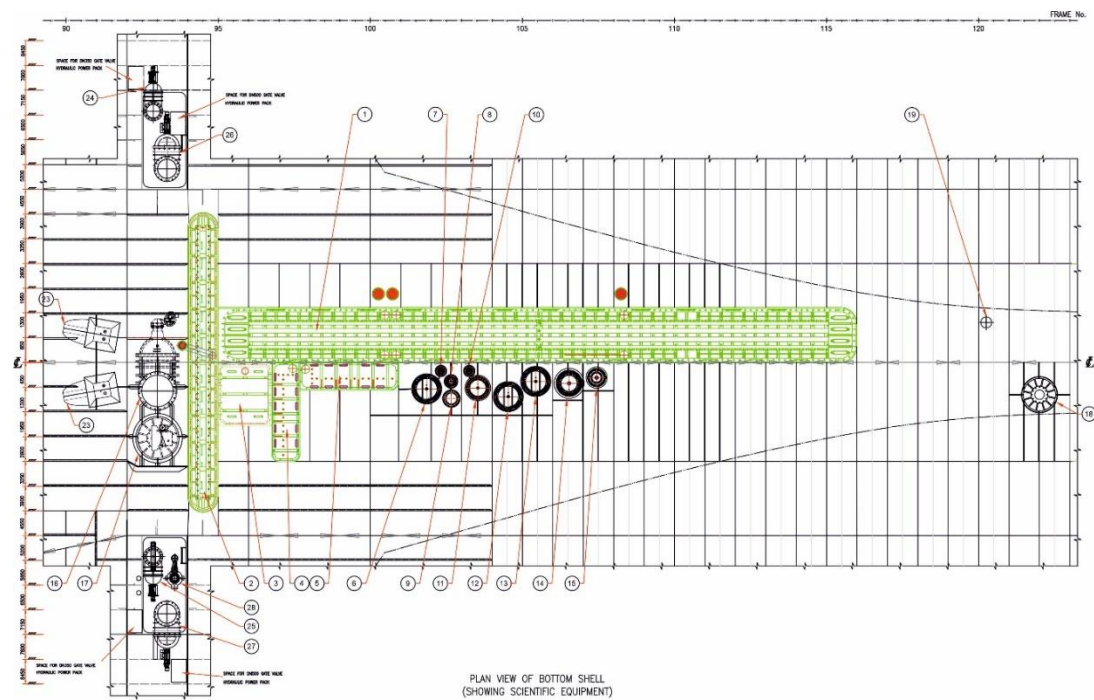
- Vessel to meet Silent R
- Computer models to test hull form for creation of bubbles

DnV Silent notations, Summary of criteria, Band levels vs ICES 209



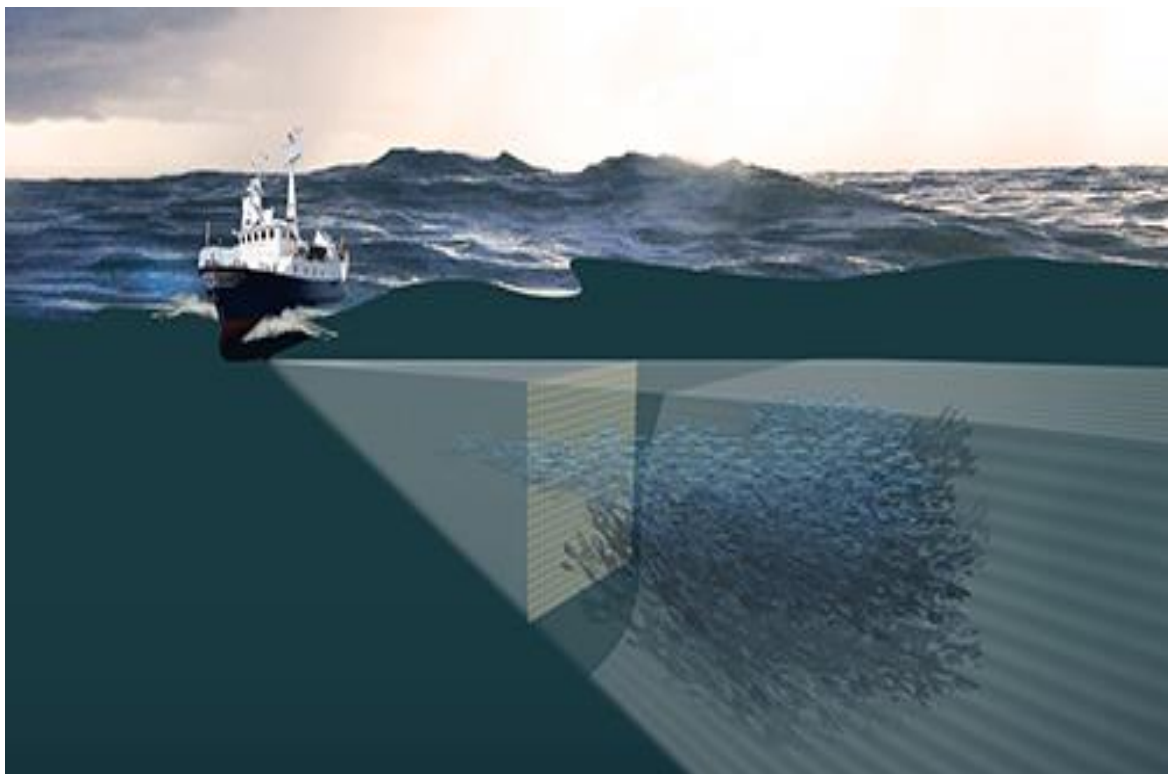
Advanced acoustic 3D underwater imaging

- Hydrographic echosounder (EA640)
- Multibeam swath (EM122, EM712)
- Current meters (ADCP)
- Fisheries broadband echosounder (EK80)
- Fisheries multibeam sonar (MS70)
- Fisheries multibeam echosounder (ME70)
- Sub-bottom profile (TOPAS)
- Omnidirectional sonar (SU94, SC94)
- Underwater positioning (USBL)
- Trawl monitoring (Scanmar)
- Obstruction detection (Farsounder)
- Mooring transducer (12 kHz)



Advanced acoustic 3d underwater imaging

- Fisheries multibeam sonar (MS70)
- Image a fish school in 1 transmission
- Resolve gas plumes



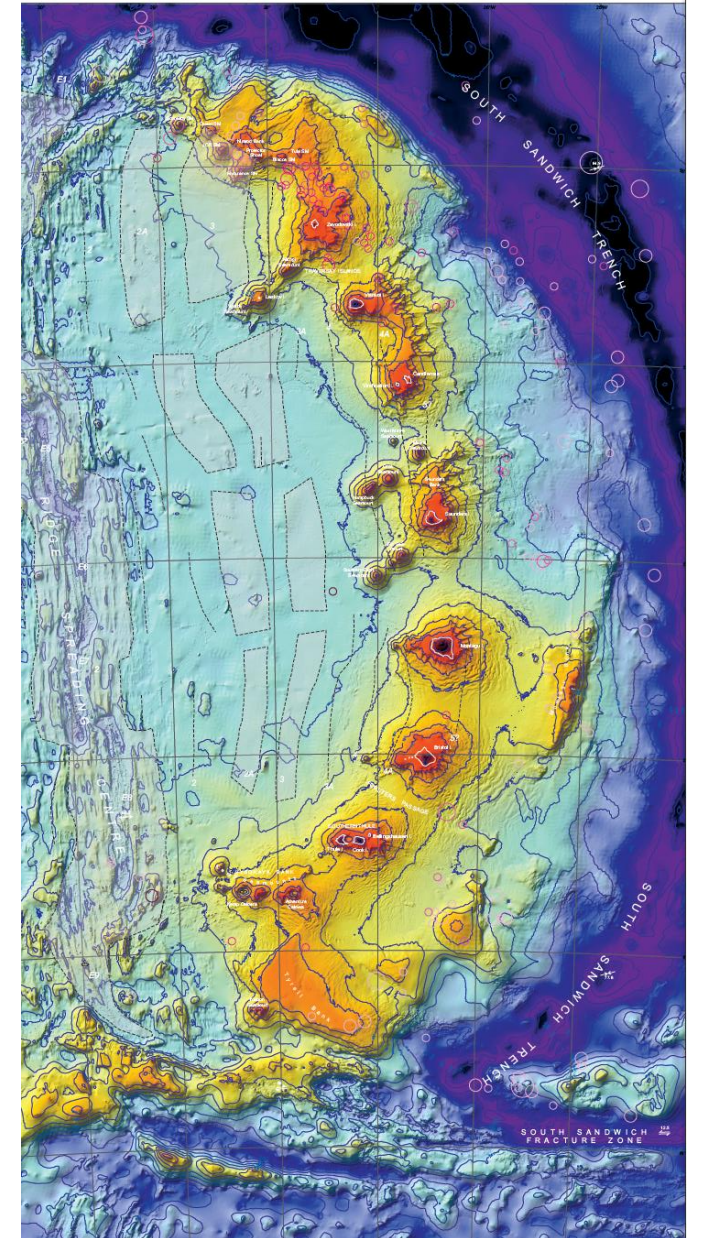
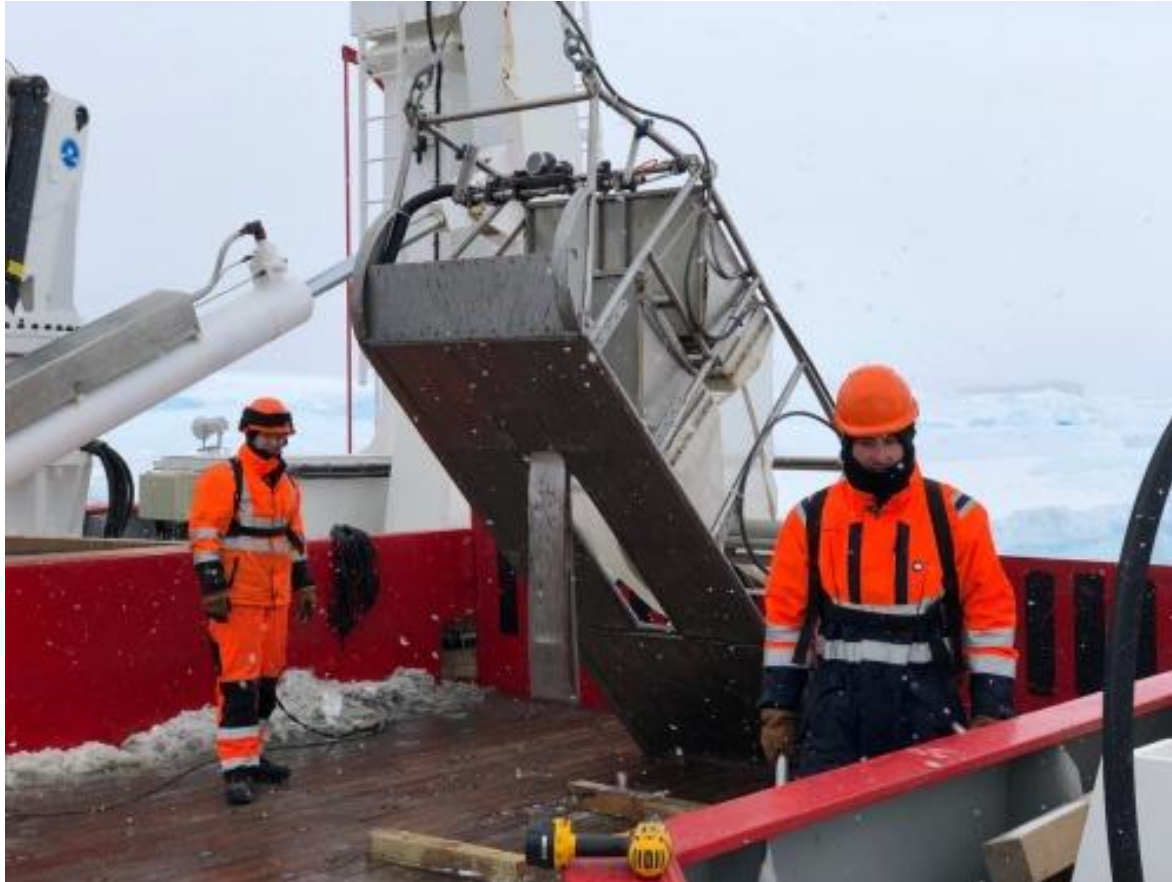
Trace metal clean winch, CTD and laboratory

- Polyester jacket cable (9000m)
- Titanium CTD and sensors
- Clean laboratory



Deep (>6000m) trawl capability

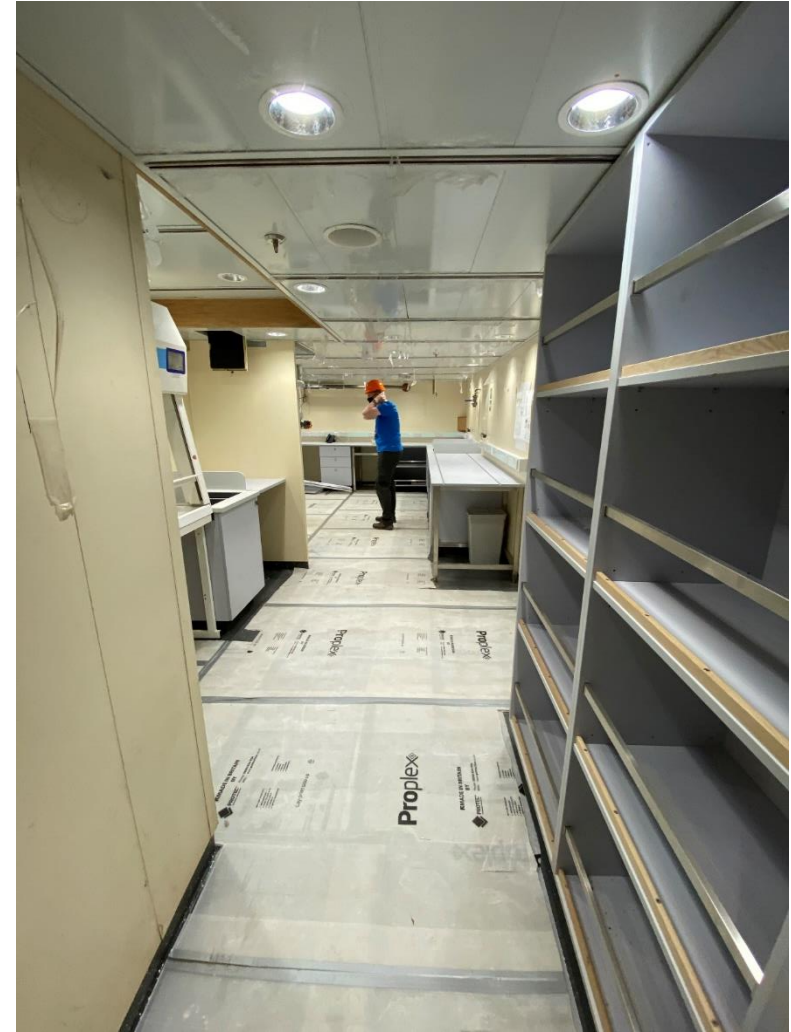
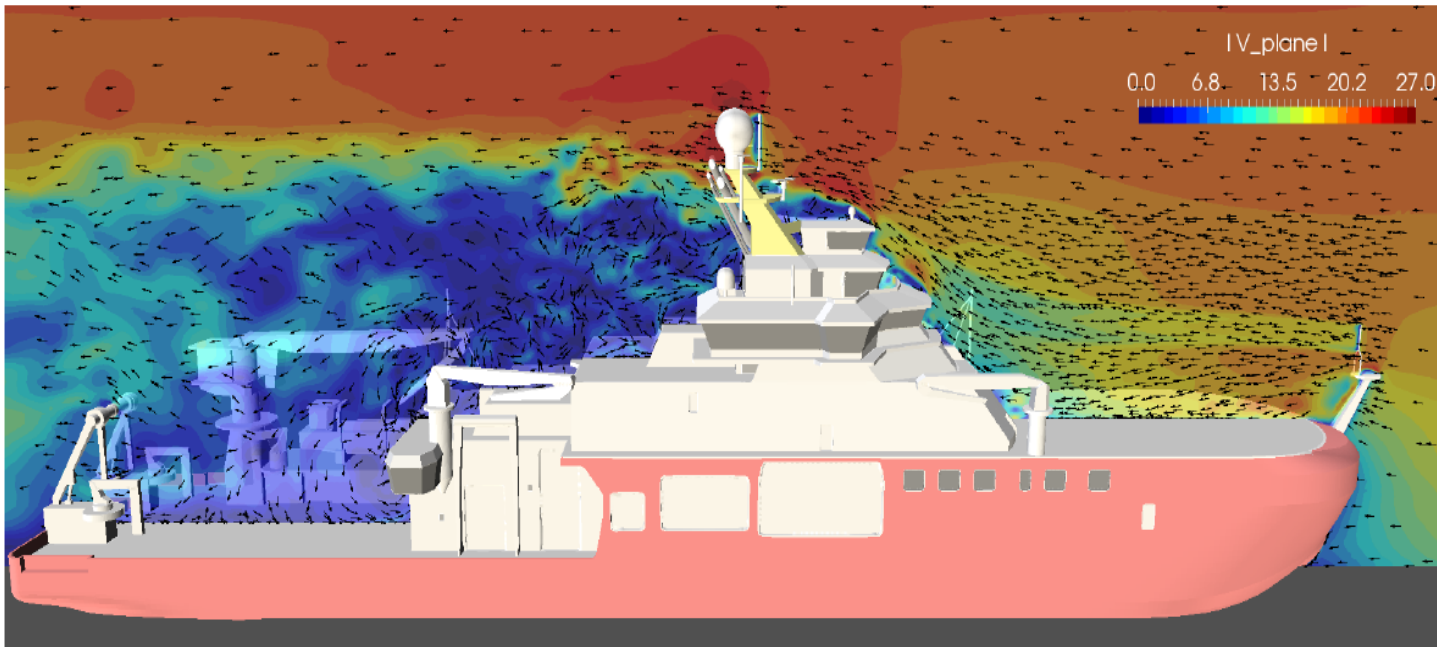
- 12,000m of steel wire rope



Leat et al. 2014

Advanced atmospheric science facilities

- Aerosol and atmospheric laboratories
- Modelled air flow
- Advanced sensors



Atmospheric lab

Multiple cruise hubs and system control

- Versatile cruise and science system control
- 12 screen video walls in 3 key cruise hub locations (Data suite, Winch control room, main lab)
- 4 screen system control stations in multiple labs



Data Suite

Seismic Profiling Systems

- New compact high-resolution seismic profiling system



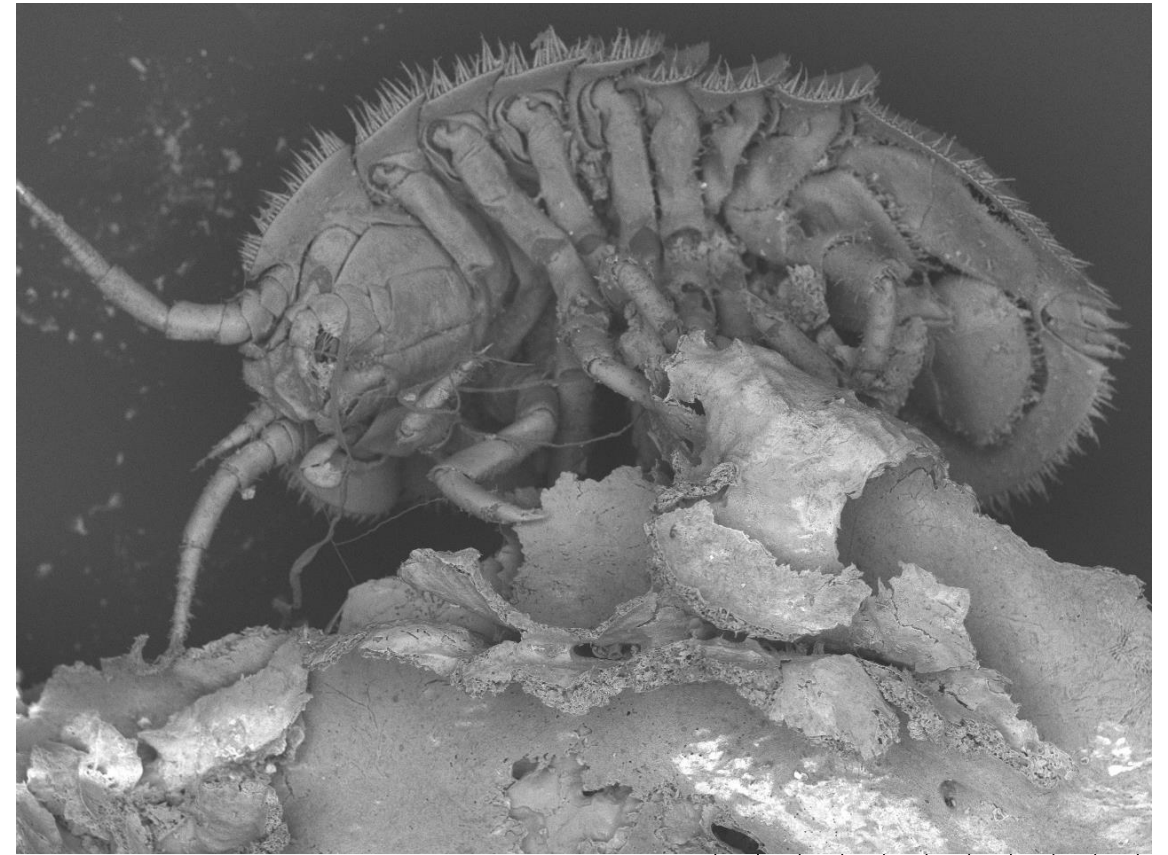
2 x 3.44 l generator-injector airguns



Geometrics GeoEel solid hydrophone streamer with 40 x 6.25 m groups

Advanced laboratory facilities

- Scanning Electron Microscope



JC42_0251

2012/01/06

N

x60

1 mm

Further information

Equipment/capability requests are made through the SME

- Physics and IT capability – Brian King & Jeremy Robst
- Geology and geophysics capability – Colm Ó Cofaigh & Rob Larter
- Biology capability – Sophie Fielding
- Chemistry capability – Malcolm Woodward
- Atmospheric science and meteorology capability – Ian Brooks & Anna Jones

Images courtesy of Simon Wright, Richard Turner, Jeremy Robst, Rob Larter, Malcolm Woodward, Ray Leakey, Andy Barker, Katrin Linse, Sophie Fielding

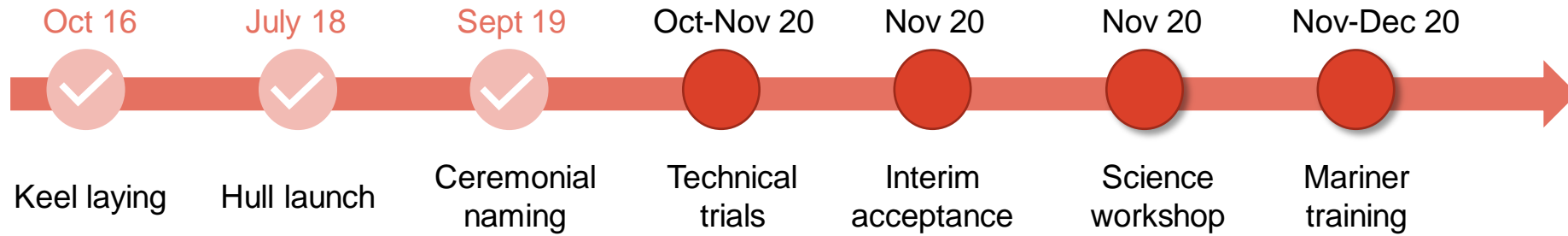
Ship into service timetable

Randy Sliester

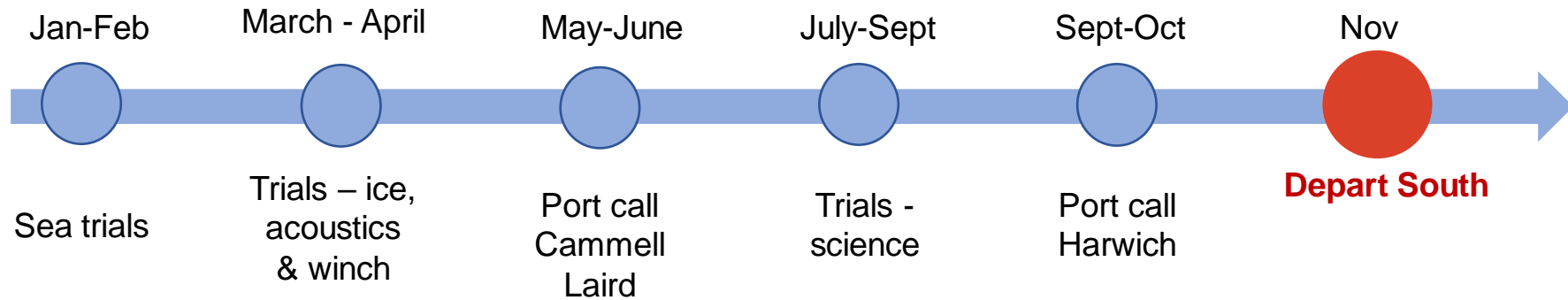
Head of Ship Operations, British Antarctic Survey

RRS *Sir David Attenborough* – milestone timeline

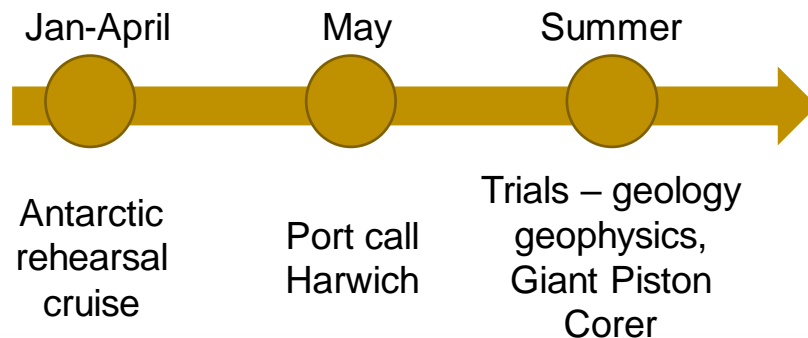
2016-
2020



2021



2022



COMMUNICATIONS



promote



explain



engage



support

October 2016

Keel laying

The first major milestone, and a maritime engineering tradition that marks that start of a ship's construction. It involves lifting the first hull unit onto the construction berth.

Learn more [here](#)



Stakeholder engagement

1000 people watched Sir David Attenborough officially start the keel laying process at Cammell Laird's shipyard.

Next 

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support

July 2018

Hull launch

The second construction milestone. The ship's 129m, 10,000 tonne hull was launched into the River Mersey before being tugged to a wet basin for the next stages of construction.

[Watch video](#)



Stakeholder, media and public engagement

3000 people - shipyard workers, engineers, scientists and maritime industry experts watched Sir David Attenborough and Professor Dame Jane Francis 'push the button. [Learn more](#)

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September 2019

Ceremonial naming

The third milestone in the ship's construction where the ship was officially named by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

[Watch video](#)



Stakeholder, media and public engagement

Sir David Attenborough and HRHs The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. A three-day celebration of UK science, engineering and shipbuilding. Over 10,000 people attended Ice Worlds science festival. [Learn more](#)

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October - November 2020

Technical trials

Ship departs Birkenhead for technical sea trials off the coast of North Wales. 13 days putting the ship through its paces, performing operational checks on the propulsion, steering, engineering and navigation systems.



Stakeholder engagement planning

The Big Sail attracted local, national and international attention with media coverage reaching up to one billion people. Ongoing social media engaging public in technical trials. This was a big moment for the local community, corporate stakeholders and our BAS staff

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November 2020

Interim acceptance

This is the stage in the contract when the ship is 'handed over' to NERC-BAS. Any issues that arise during trials and testing are still managed through the contract. BAS Operations team takes over but continues to work with the Project delivery team.



Stakeholder engagement planning

Corporate, internal and news stories to mark the 'handover' moment.

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COMMUNICATIONS



promote



explain



engage



support

November 2020

Science users' workshop

This second workshop picks up from the Thornton Hall workshop held in 2017. Delegates will examine optimal methods to plan, fund and execute multidisciplinary cruises. Held on Zoom over three two-hour sessions and four breakout sessions. Features science capability, in-to-service planning and a virtual 3D tour of the ship.



Stakeholder engagement

Aimed at science users from BAS and UKRI-NERC-funded community, and wider marine science community. Hosted by Dr Ray Leakey and Professor Susan Waldron, supported by BAS Communications Team

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November - December 2020

Alongside in Holyhead and mariner training

The BAS crew will spend 50 days intensive training at Holyhead Port, including safety drills, familiarisation, Helideck certification and stocking and stowing the ship. Completion of interior fit out.



Stakeholder engagement

Holyhead Port arranging drone footage of ship entering port and engaging with local media. Ongoing social media engaging public in ship and its science.

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January – February 2021

Sea trials

Ship departs Holyhead for the Irish Sea. 30 days testing anchoring, manoeuvring, dynamic positioning, proving procedures and engine mode, and trialing helideck with aircraft landing.



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Ongoing online media including news stories, blogs and social media to engage stakeholders, media and the public in the ship's progress.

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March - May 2021

Trials – ice and winch

Trials in Svalbard and Aalesund, Norway respectively.



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Aim to maintain momentum and interest through digital comms – social media, news stories, blogs and visual content.

Media – potential to have media on board. Ice trials likely to be a big hook. Possible diplomatic visit?

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May – June 2021

Port call, Cammell Laird

Post-ice trials hull inspection and snagging.



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Our aim is to engage local media – with potential for science user and staff onboard visits.

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July - Sept 2021

Trials – science (physics, biology, atmospheric)

Dedicated cruise to UK and North Atlantic waters to test all ship-fitted and portable equipment and systems required to support science activities. Lead scientists Dr Sophie Fielding and Dr Hugh Venables, Prof Ian Brooks (Leeds University).



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Aim to maintain momentum and interest through digital comms – social media, news stories, blogs and visual content.
Media – potential to have media on board.

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Sept - Oct 2021

Port call, Harwich

Ship arrives after sea trials



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Our aim is to achieve national and local media coverage – with potential for science user and staff onboard visits.

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January - April 2022

Antarctic rehearsal cruise

Cruise will be undertaken in the Southern Ocean to test the ship science systems and operations. It will simulate a real peer-review funded research cruise. The focus will primarily be on biology, physics and bio-geochemistry. Dr Sophie Fielding is the lead scientist for the cruise.

Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

A major campaign event with all target audiences included through media and digital comms – social media, news stories, blogs and visual content. Potential stakeholder event in Stanley, and opportunity to have media on board.



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May 2022

Port call, Harwich

Welcome home after first successful Antarctic mission!



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Our aim is to achieve national and local media coverage – with potential for science user and staff onboard visits.

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Summer 2022

Trials – geology, geophysics and Giant Piston Corer

Trials include a dedicated cruise in UK and North Atlantic waters to test all the ship-fitted and portable equipment and systems required to support geological/geophysical science (coring and seismics). Lead scientists are Prof Christine Pierce (Durham University) Dr Rob Larter and Prof Colm Ó Cofaigh.



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

Science users – keep updated with progress and results of trials
Stakeholders/public - aim to maintain momentum and interest through digital comms – social media, news stories, blogs and visual content. Media – potential to have media on board.

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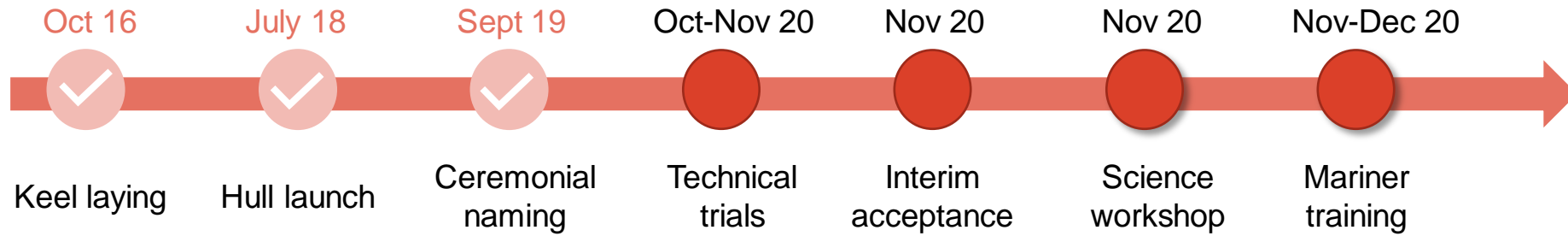
Ship into service timetable

Randy Sliester

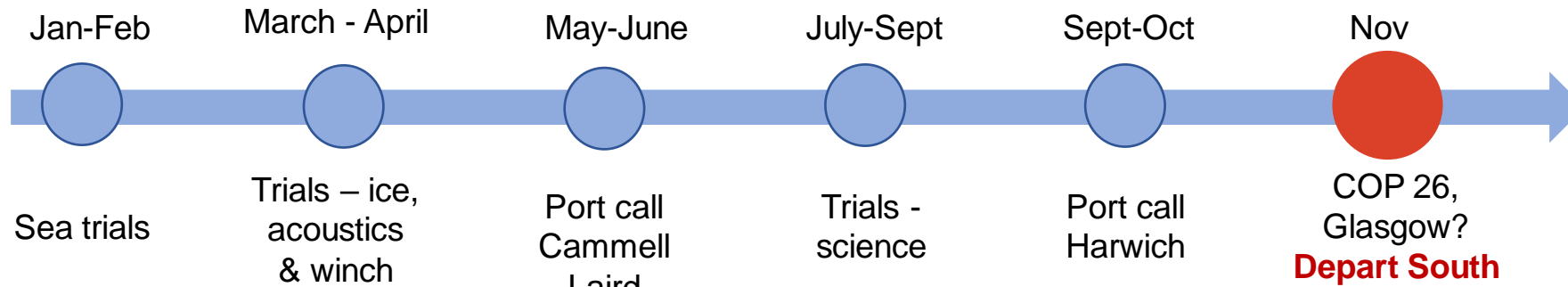
Head of Ship Operations, British Antarctic Survey

RRS *Sir David Attenborough* – milestone timeline

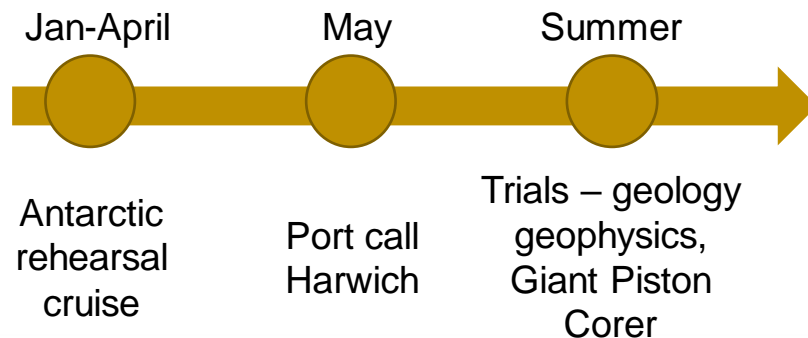
2016-
2020



2021



2022




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October 2016

Keel laying

The first major milestone, and a maritime engineering tradition that marks that start of a ship's construction. It involves lifting the first hull unit onto the construction berth.

Learn more [here](#)



Stakeholder engagement

1000 people watched Sir David Attenborough officially start the keel laying process at Cammell Laird's shipyard.

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July 2018

Hull launch

The second construction milestone. The ship's 129m, 10,000 tonne hull was launched into the River Mersey before being tugged to a wet basin for the next stages of construction.

[Watch video](#)



Stakeholder, media and public engagement

3000 people - shipyard workers, engineers, scientists and maritime industry experts watched Sir David Attenborough and Professor Dame Jane Francis 'push the button. [Learn more](#)

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September 2019

Ceremonial naming

The third milestone in the ship's construction where the ship was officially named by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

[Watch video](#)



Stakeholder, media and public engagement

Sir David Attenborough and HRHs The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. A three-day celebration of UK science, engineering and shipbuilding. Over 10,000 people attended Ice Worlds science festival. [Learn more](#)

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October - November 2020

Technical trials

Ship departs Birkenhead for technical sea trials off the coast of North Wales. 13 days putting the ship through its paces, performing operational checks on the propulsion, steering, engineering and navigation systems.



Stakeholder engagement planning

The Big Sail attracted local, national and international attention with media coverage reaching up to one billion people. Ongoing social media engaging public in technical trials. This was a big moment for the local community, corporate stakeholders and our BAS staff

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November 2020

Interim acceptance

This is the stage in the contract when the ship is 'handed over' to NERC-BAS. Any issues that arise during trials and testing are still managed through the contract. BAS Operations team takes over but continues to work with the Project delivery team.



Stakeholder engagement planning

Corporate, internal and news stories to mark the 'handover' moment.

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November 2020

Science users' workshop

This second workshop picks up from the Thornton Hall workshop held in 2017. Delegates will examine optimal methods to plan, fund and execute multidisciplinary cruises. Held on Zoom over three two-hour sessions and four breakout sessions. Features science capability, in-to-service planning and a virtual 3D tour of the ship.



Stakeholder engagement

Aimed at science users from BAS and UKRI-NERC-funded community, and wider marine science community. Hosted by Dr Ray Leakey and Professor Susan Waldron, supported by BAS Communications Team

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November 2021

COP26 (Council of Parties meeting on Climate change)

The ship will spend approx. 2-3 days in Glasgow prior to sailing south. This is a major international event with potential to showcase UK excellence in polar science. Berthed alongside Glasgow Science Centre.



Stakeholder, media and public engagement planning

This has the potential to support the UK Presidency of COP26 with strong science policy and diplomatic benefits. Attendance depends on outcomes from trials, UKRI-NERC and Cabinet Office support

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