

Type 45 update

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A regular briefing on progress and key activity on one of the UK's largest defence programmes. This briefing is intended to give interested parties an overview on certain key aspects of the programme. It is informal and not intended for direct reproduction.

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**Lord Drayson
observes final weld
on HMS Daring**

Lord Drayson, the Minister for Defence Procurement visited BAE Systems Naval Ships to see the First of Class Type 45 for himself this month. While he was in the Scotstoun yard he met welder James Dempster and watched as James completed the welding and grinding which links block D to block E/F. This completion effectively means that Daring is ready for launch.

While he was in the yard, Lord Drayson said: “It is good to be here today to see first hand the new Type 45 Destroyer, HMS Daring, as she gets ready for her launch in February.

“This will be one of the most modern and powerful air defence destroyers anywhere in the world providing the Navy with Anti-Air Warfare capability for decades to come. In addition its versatility will enable it to play a key role in a variety of operational tasks.

“This programme however is not just great news for the Navy but also for the UK Defence Industry. It secures more than 2000 jobs here on the Clyde, plus a further 650 shipbuilding jobs in Portsmouth and hundreds more jobs at sub contractors around the country well into the next decade.

“I have been impressed by the professionalism of both the experienced BAE Systems employees and the apprentices who I have been fortunate enough to meet and talk to today and who are working side by side to help deliver this important programme.”

Lord Drayson was shown around the ship by Naval Ships MD Vic Emery who added: “The Clyde is the natural home of warship building in Britain. In Scotstoun and Govan we have some of the best designers, naval architects and shipbuilders anywhere in the world. I am convinced that only the Clyde yards can deliver this capability to the Royal Navy.”



Lord Drayson
and Vic Emery

Preparations ongoing for February 1st launch

The completion of the block link ups is only one part of the preparations for launch on February 1st 2006.

BAE Systems Naval Ships' yard at Scotstoun will play host to more than 6000 guests on the day. Around a thousand tickets have been reserved for local school children and the rest will be distributed between BAE Systems employees and members of the public. On the day, observers will be treated to a flying display from the Royal Navy and a mock amphibious assault on a patrol boat on the river by the Royal Marines.

The launch ceremony itself will be conducted by a chaplain of the Fleet and it is expected that it will be attended by senior politicians and Royal Navy representatives, including Secretary of State for Defence John Reid and First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Alan West.

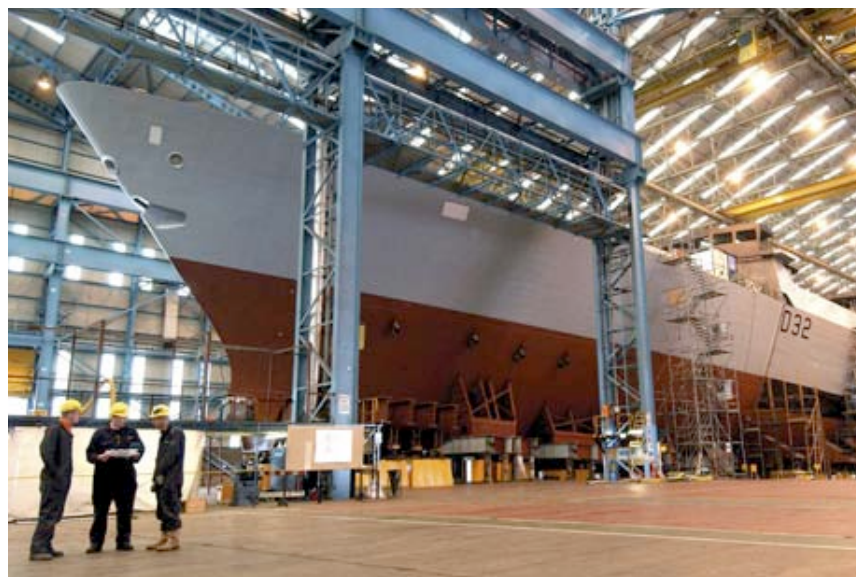
Daring's size and weight mean that she will require almost 900 tonnes of drag chains to arrest her and turn her downriver when she hits the water. Work on attaching the chains has already begun.

Work ongoing on Ship 02

Activities on second of class Type 45 destroyer HMS Dauntless are building up towards first block to berth early in the new year. Block A stern section will be first in February, followed by machinery space blocks in June and July, and weapons block in August.

Meanwhile work is underway on the Govan berth, to enable activities on the ship's aft end to take place unaffected by tidal constraints, and the two programmes are being closely co-ordinated.

Govan production director Tony Williams said: "There is still a long way to go but at this stage it is encouraging to see that we are performing well."



HMS Daring

Painting, insulation and cable installation are all well underway on block A and being driven towards year end targets.

November also saw the start of the main propulsion programme for the second ship with the positioning of the main and intermediate shaft brackets. Outfit levels on Dauntless continue to outstrip past performance, for example in the gas turbine rooms of block B and also on early block C outfitting.

Major 'lockout' items, which must be installed before a unit is closed, have been installed on block C, with the capping units now being erected to achieve structural completion of the block.

Following the major payment milestone on block D, with all 'open sky' machinery, equipment, piping and flooring installed on target, work has started on outside machinery compartments such as the sewage plant room and mess spaces.

20 million pound upgrade prepares Scotstoun for next stage of Type 45 construction

After launch, HMS Daring will stay at Scotstoun. She will be moved into number 2 dry dock, where the remainder of work will be carried out. In order to prepare for a ship as large and complex as Daring, BAE Systems Naval Ships is investing around twenty million pounds in a substantial refurbishment of the facilities around the dock.

By the start of the month work on the new sonar pit had been completed, and an extension to the other pit was nearing completion; a new hauling-in system was also nearing completion; and minor modifications to the dry dock gate had been carried out.

Number 2 dry dock is a considerable walk from existing amenities for staff so a new accommodation and facilities block adjacent to the dry dock is being constructed. The buildings were delivered in modular form in early November and erected over a one week period. The building was handed over at the end of the month.

The work is due to be completed by Christmas.



Scotstoun dock