

Your naval
partner



BARRACUDA

**Stealthy, far,
fast and for long**

STRENGTH at sea

DCNS

Boosting naval flexibility to its limits

Asserting France's sovereignty at sea is one of the reasons why the French Navy decided to acquire 6 second-generation nuclear-powered submarines or SSNs. A powerful political tool, the Barracuda-class capital ships will allow France to play a key role as part of a coalition.

With more than 1,000 staff dedicated to the engineering of submarines, DCNS is one of the few world's experts in this highly complex field. When the contract was signed between DCNS and the French MOD on 21st December 2006, the design of the Barracuda-class SSNs had been on the agenda for 10 years. Another decade will be necessary for the first boat to be fully operational in the deepest oceans: named after the famous 18th century French admiral Suffren, it is scheduled to be commissioned in 2017.

France will then be provided with a further 5 new-generation SSNs at a pace of one every two years. By 2027, the Barracuda-class boats will be ensuring French sovereignty in the country's vast oceanic territory stretching as far as Polynesia, the Reunion Island and the West Indies.

A history of achievements

In order to carry out the programme

within deadlines and budget, DCNS' expertise as a designer and prime contractor is enhanced by its partnership with nuclear plant world expert Areva TA. Whilst the whole project is conducted under the authority of the DGA (Délégation Générale pour l'Armement), the design and building of the nuclear power plant is realised under the authority of the CEA (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique). To raise such a challenge, DCNS can build on its success with the Charles-de-Gaulle aircraft carrier as well as with 50 years experience in the

field of nuclear-powered submarines, among which the six Rubis-class SSNs launched between 1979 and 1990, and most particularly their upgraded version, dubbed Améthyste.

Powerful and versatile

Designed for both anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, the next-generation SSNs will feature a totally new internal architecture as well as numerous technological breakthroughs.

From anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare to special operations and deep strikes

As a result, it will boast minimised acoustic, magnetic, radar and visual signatures whilst featuring enhanced listening capabilities thanks to ultimate sonar suite. The boat will allow for high-speed transmission of tactical data and will be fitted with Shipmaster fully-automated IPMS (Integrated Platform Management System). Last but not least, it will be capable to handle land targets, deploying commandos or using stealthy long-range cruise missiles for deep strikes. In addition to these outstanding features, the most cost-effective solutions have been imagined and developed by DCNS to meet France's defence budgets, from design to through-life support.



50

years of nuclear-powered submarines

6

SSNs in service

6

Barracuda new-generation SSNs to come

FOCUS ON



Availability on the rise

One of the French Navy's requirements was that 4 Barracuda-class subs should be fully operational at any given time. To improve the availability of the boat, taking into account that current maintenance would be carried out by a reduced crew, all equipment used on the Barracuda class have a higher availability compared to the Amethyste class. Time between major overhauls will be brought to 10 years.

The Rubis, a class of its own

THE RUBIS-CLASS SUBMARINE IS NOT ONLY A POWERFUL SSN BUT ALSO THE SMALLEST EVER TO BE DESIGNED AND OPERATED. ONE OF THEIR WELL-KOWN ACTIONS BRINGS BACK TO THE KOSOVO WAR IN 1999.

Between 1979 and 1990, DCNS launched six nuclear-powered attack submarines under the Rubis programme, fitted with an extremely compact nuclear plant. DCNS continuously increases the performances of these submarines, according to technological development steps. For example, one of these major evolutions gave birth to the Amethyste-class SSN.*

New standards for SSNs

The Rubis-Amethyste SSN class still proves its reputation as one of the most efficient combat tool ever designed in the 20th century. Capable of operating at great depths and speed, boasting a low acoustic signature, benefiting from high-efficiency propulsion system, the Amethyste is fitted with improved hydrodynamic hull as well as quiet propellers to reduce noise at high speed. The boat also is equipped with advanced sonars, an automated platform management system allowing operation with a reduced crew and an integrated combat system for efficient data processing.

Proven dissuasion

All these outstanding features were used to keep the Serbian Navy at harbour during the Kosovo war back in early 1999. As part of the French contribution to the operation under NATO command, three SSNs provided the coalition headquarters with on-going tactical data. Powerful dissuasion tools, the SSNs prevented the Serbian Navy from operating for the whole duration of the NATO 130 day-long operation.

** The last two Rubis were directly built in Amethyste standards.*





Serving France's naval policy

The next generation of SSNs designed by DCNS is a powerful tool for France's political and military goals. Whilst the Barracuda class will enhance the French Navy's flexibility as it is faced with a wider than ever array of challenges, it will also contribute to the durability of the French nuclear deterrence (FOST). Since skills and know-how allowing to design, operate and maintain attack and strategic submarines are similar, DCNS' position is continuously strengthened as a leading expert in the field of submarines.

A strategic asset for France

For decades, DCNS has been involved in a successful partnership with the French Navy. By committing to provide six second-generation SSNs, DCNS also contributes to protecting France's military and economical interests on the long term.

Prevent, project, protect

Designed for deep sea and worldwide operations, either joint or autonomous, the Barracuda-class nuclear submarine is the future jewel of France's sovereignty. An attack ship capable of massive deep strike, it is also a sea control vessel capable of securing France's vital supplies of energy as well as deploying forces as part of a coalition. Highly versatile, the Barracuda-class submarine can be assigned strategic defence missions such as protecting SSBNs and aircrafts carriers. As an attack nuclear submarine, it will be able to carry out sea denial missions. As a whole, the new capital ship will be a most strategic asset for France's sovereignty and defence.

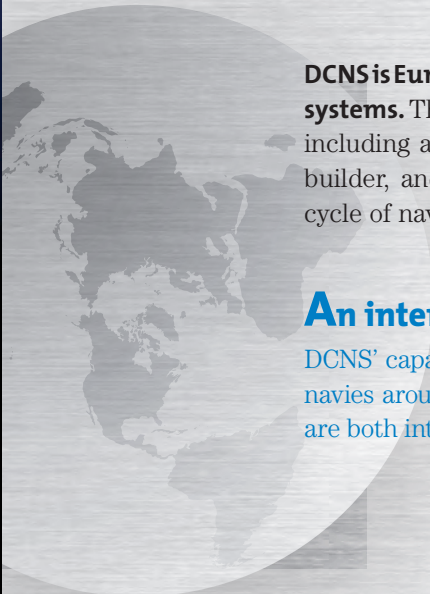


STRENGTH at sea

DCNS is Europe's key global player providing high-value-added naval defence systems. The Group offers the world's navies a turnkey approach to warships, including all related equipment and services. As prime contractor, designer, builder, and integrator, the Group masters the overall value chain and life-cycle of naval systems, from initial design to full operational maintenance.

An international player

DCNS' capacity for innovation allows it to respond to the complex challenges of navies around the world by proposing cost-efficient integrated solutions, which are both interoperable (air/naval/land) and applicable to inter-allied operations.



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