

China's Rapidly Evolving Submarine Capabilities



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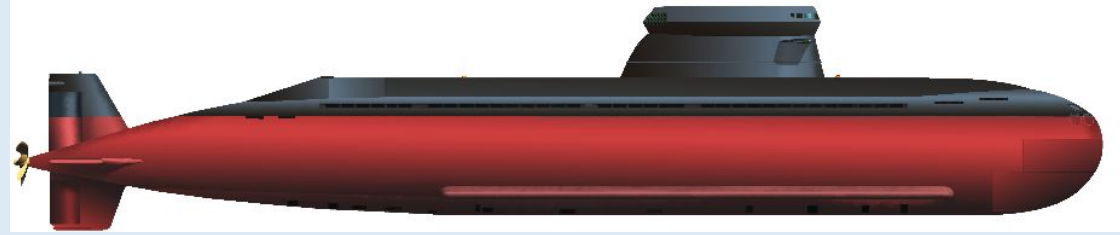
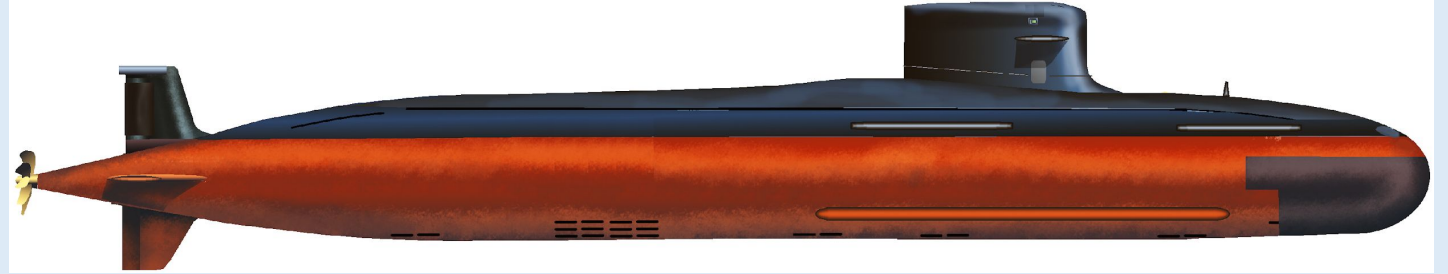
Caveats Apply

Nuclear

Conventional

Unique

XLUUVs



H I Sutton



Nuclear Submarines (SSNs)

1970s: Han (09I)



2000s: Shang (09III)





Type-09III/A Shang

- YJ-18 anti-ship missile (like Russian SS-N-27 SIZZLER)
- Towed Array Sonar
- Possibly pumpjet, probably not VLS *yet*





Enlargement of Huludao Shipyard





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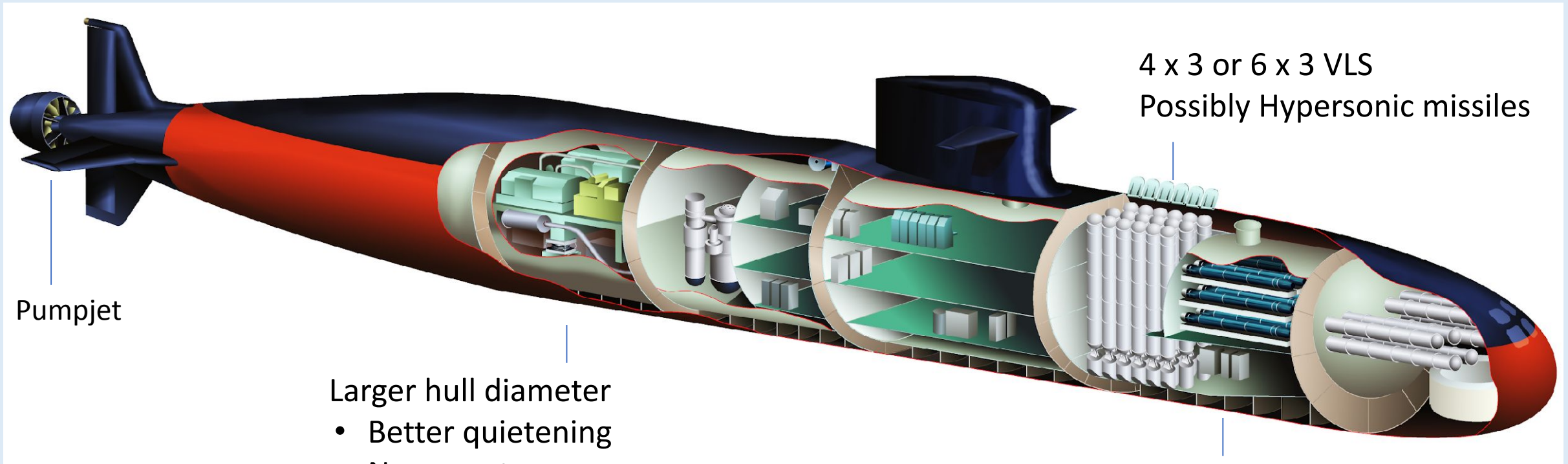




Type-09V

Illustrative of expected features

CAPT Christopher P. Carlson
USN (Retired)





Nuclear Submarines (SSBNs)

1980s: Xia (09II)



2000s: Jin (09IV)





Type-09IV/A Jin

- 7 built so far
- Active service, patrols in SCS
- 12 x JL-2 SLBMs
- JL-3 SLBM introduced

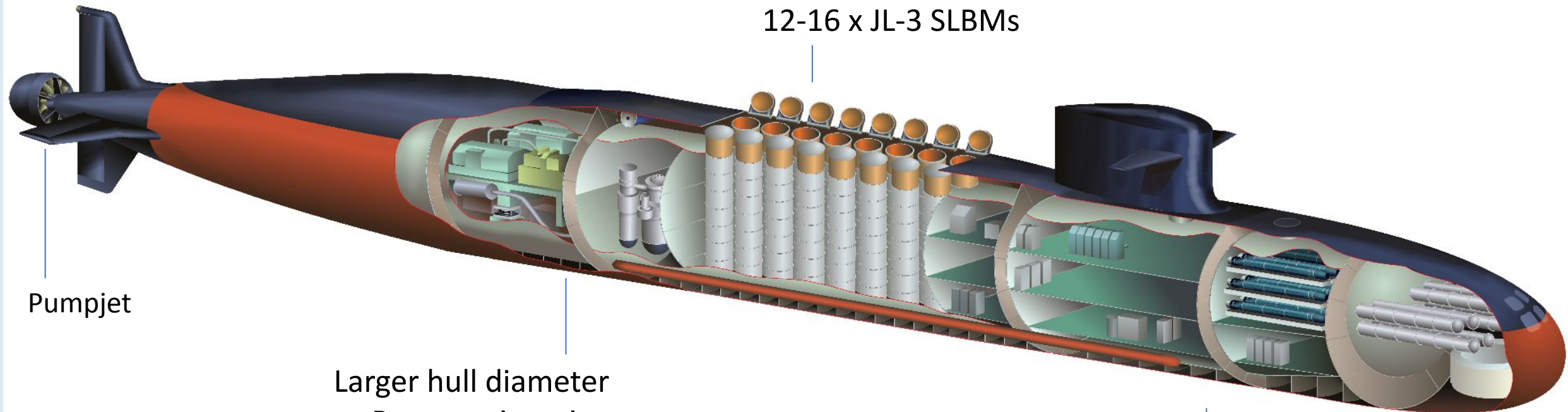




Type-09VI

Illustrative of expected features

CAPT Christopher P. Carlson
USN (Retired)



Pumpjet

12-16 x JL-3 SLBMs

- Larger hull diameter
- Better quietening
 - New reactor

Commonality with Type-09V



Conventional Submarines

Ming (035)



Kilo



Song (039)



Yuan (039A/B/C)





Type-039C Yuan





Type-039C Yuan



- Iterative Improvement, not radical internally
- New sail / casing
- Not a copy of Swedish A-26



Type-039C Yuan



- Iterative Improvement, not radical internally
- New sail / casing
- Not a copy of Swedish A-26
- Towed array



Unique Submarines

2014



2018



2022



- 1 new type every 4 years
- Discovered through open sources
- Not acknowledged and barely discussed
- May hint at future developments

Designation? Role? Current status?

2014



2018



2022



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Unique Submarines: Takeaways

- China is investing in research and can afford to build experimental submarines
- China can build new submarines without revealing them beforehand, or discussing them publicly afterwards
- These secrets are well kept
- China can innovate



XLUUVs

Yulin (Sanya)

Image: Maxar via Google Earth



Yalong (Yulin)

Image: Maxar via Google Earth



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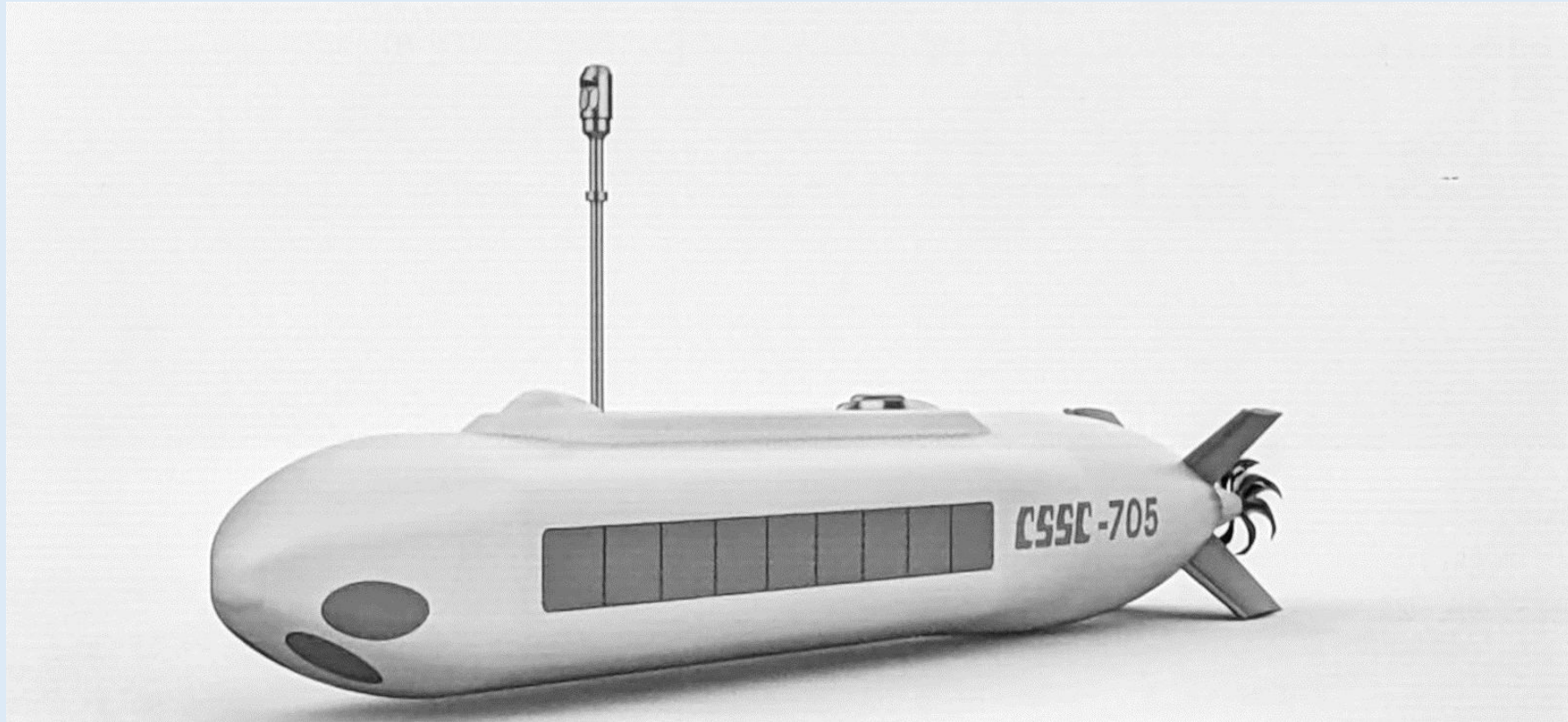


Image: Naval News

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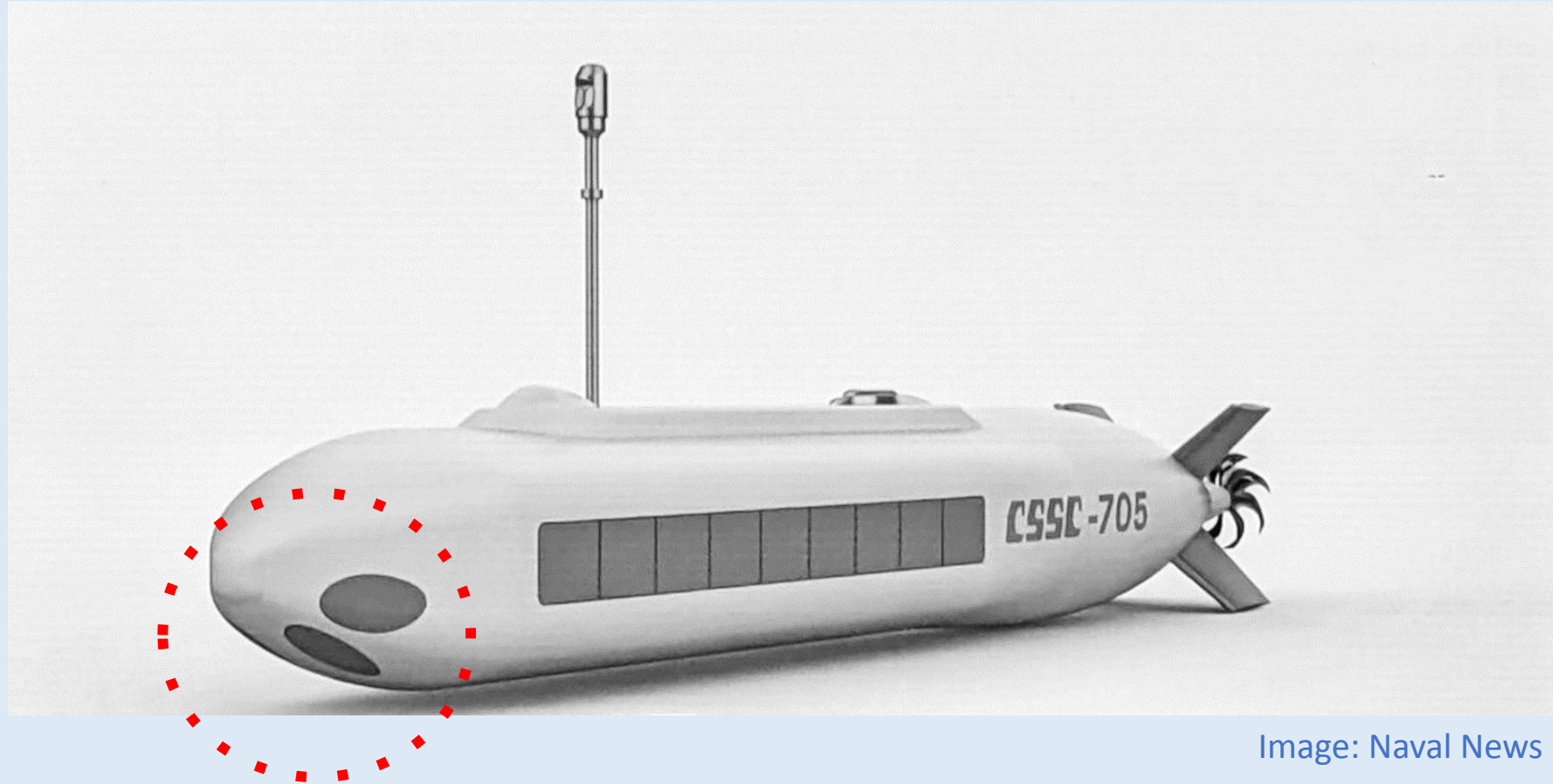


Image: Naval News



What Does This Mean For Export Markets? What Does It Mean For Future Proxy Wars?

