

# MOVING TOWARDS BLOCK 2 OF THE UK'S MINE HUNTING CAPABILITY PROGRAMME

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# MHC PROGRAMME



SANDOWN Class



HUNT Class

Project WILTON

Block 1 (2020-25)

## 1st Generation MHC

- 3x Missions Systems
- 1x Offshore Support Vessel
- Informing the business case & solution for Blk 2

Block 2 (2026+)

## Next generation MHC

- Building the volume of MHC capability to 6 mission systems & 4 platforms
- Incremental delivery & technology insertion
- Full Business Case in 2026

Block 3 (2034 +)

## Future generation MHC

- Decision for next Defence Review
- Generate contingent capability
- Scale to meet most challenging task

OFFICIAL

# OUR SCOPE

- Mission data exploitation
- Command & Control
- Communications
- Platform & Mission Autonomy
- Platforms in the air, on the surface and underwater
- Sensors and Payloads
- Host platforms
- Launch & recovery

*Everything required to achieve the mine counter-measures mission, including integration with RN & RFA ships*

# BLOCK 1



## Maritime Mine Counter-Measures



Medium Autonomous Underwater Vehicle



Wilton



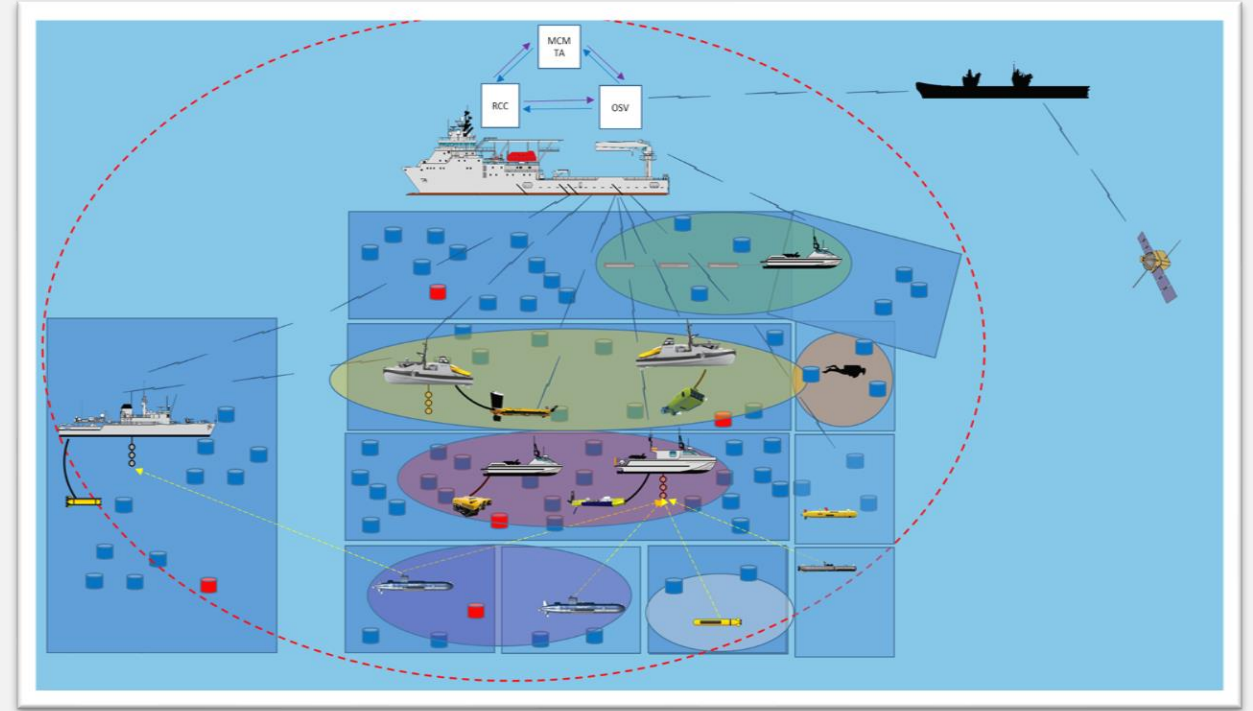
Command, Control & Communications  
+ Autonomy & Data Exploitation

## UK Host Platform

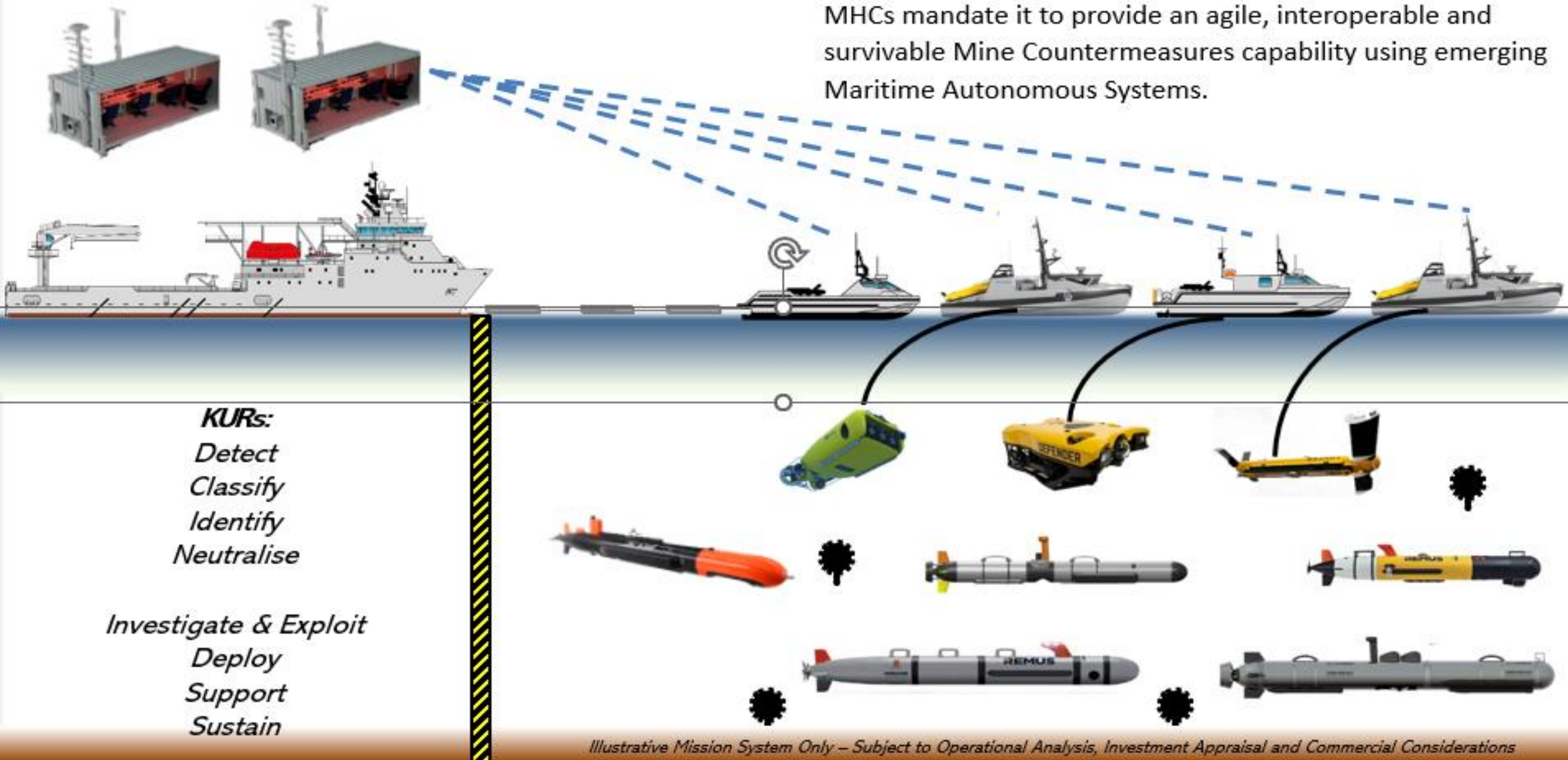


Sweep

# BLOCK 2 - AN INITIAL FOCUS ON SOFTWARE & DATA



MHCs mandate it to provide an agile, interoperable and survivable Mine Countermeasures capability using emerging Maritime Autonomous Systems.

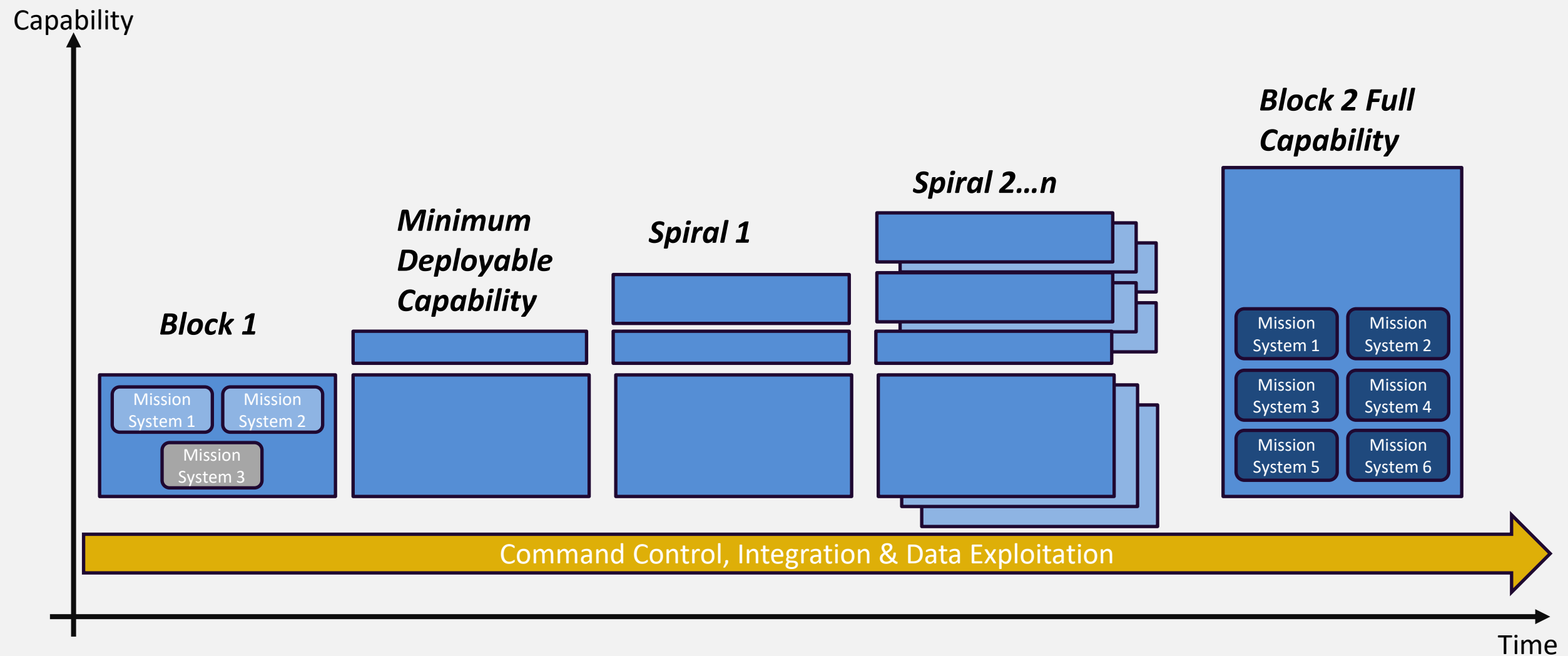


**KURs:**  
Detect  
Classify  
Identify  
Neutralise

**Investigate & Exploit**  
Deploy  
Support  
Sustain

*Illustrative Mission System Only - Subject to Operational Analysis, Investment Appraisal and Commercial Considerations*

# MHC BLOCK 2 – DELIVERING THE TOTAL SCOPE



# HOW WE WILL SEQUENCE FROM MDC – KEY FACTORS



Level and stability of LFE & concept maturity.



Ability to secure risk reduction & manage complexity (technical & schedule risk reduction).



DLOD impact and ability to assimilate.



Ability to secure acceleration & rapid scaling (operational risk reduction & deterrent).



Impact on industrial strategy.



Profile realities and affordability



Linkage to and leverage of international opportunities



Effect on competitive tension/collaborative engagement within the industrial base.

*.....and not forgetting deliverability*



# BLOCK 2 – MISSION SYSTEM EQUIPMENT NEED

## In the region of

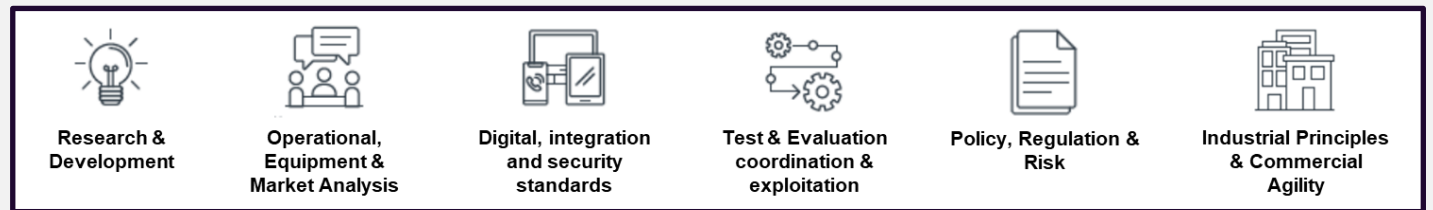
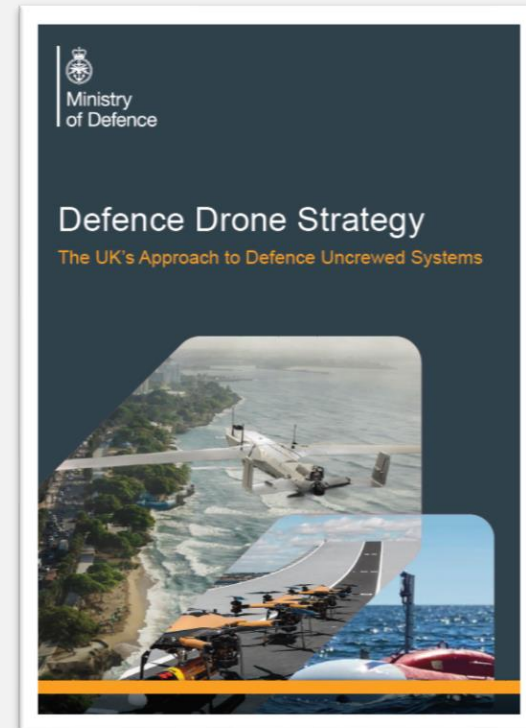
- 21 USVs
- 24 medium UUVs
- 14 towed hunting payloads
- 14 neutralisation payloads
- 7 sweep payloads

## *Delivering in*

- *Mission System 4 – 2029*
- *Mission System 5 – 2030*
- *Mission System 6 – 2031*

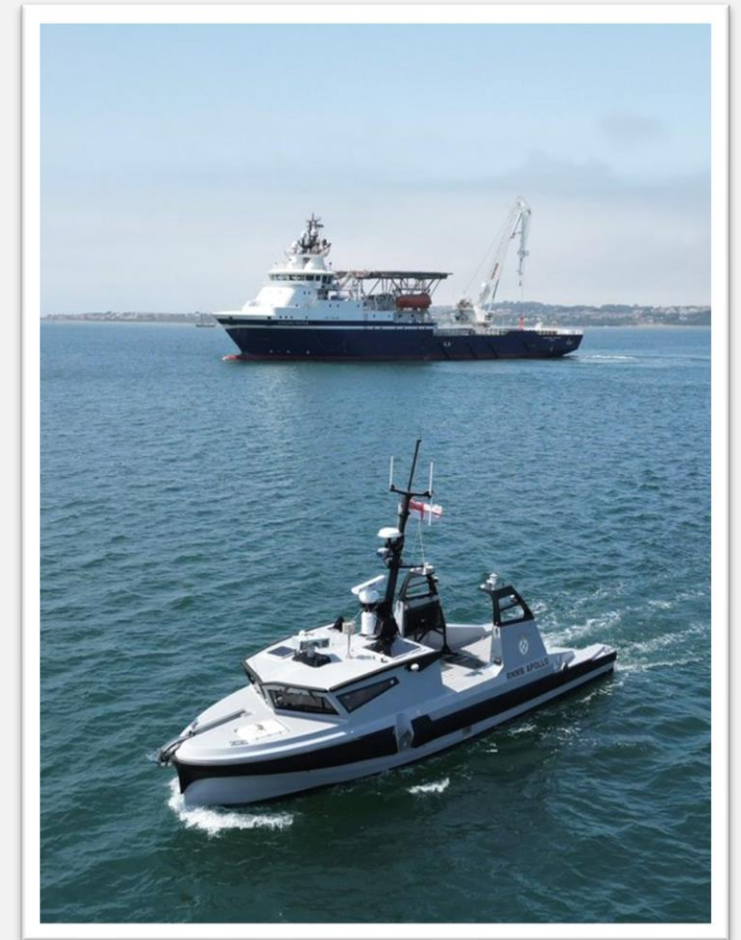
# OUR APPROACH

- Open competition
- Use of a Category Management approach & an inclusive framework
- Consultation on requirements and specifications
  - Maximising the scope for industry innovation
- A strong preference for non-development items
- An expectation of live evaluation as part of the competitive process



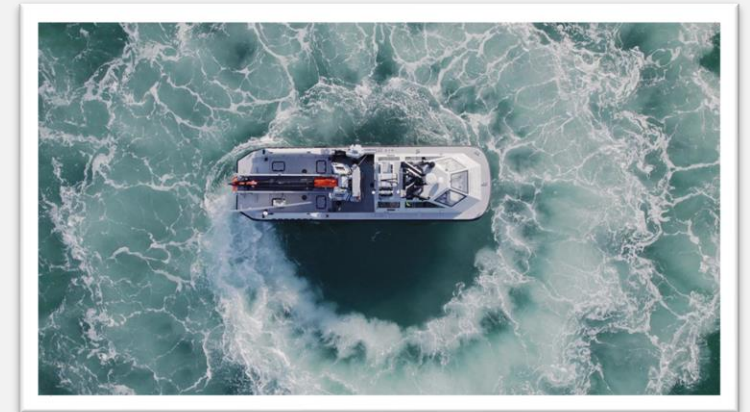
# MHC BLOCK 2 – WHAT'S NEXT.....

- A lot of Block 1 delivery and LFE – a year of significant milestones
- More detail on our plans through an Industry Day
- Consultation on sequencing, approach to testing of specification and costing, procurement route and focus on live evaluation
- Wider sharing of the reference architecture and core concept/vignette
- Consultation regarding our Category Management strategy



# CONCLUSIONS

- Block 1 is delivering and the next year sees this accelerate
- Our principles and approach have not changed
- Our focus is increasingly is on the digital back bone – integrating Block 1 into a single toolset and creating the foundations for Block 2
- Becoming an IPM pilot and our position in the DE&S Gateway secures our ability to deliver Block 2 incrementally & to establish a pattern for others to follow
- Block 2 is a significant expansion of the Block 1 capability and represents a sizeable opportunity



# QUESTIONS

Any further correspondence should in the first instance be through our group email address:

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