

NEWSLETTER

AUKUS Agreement

HII, Babcock Sign AUKUS Agreement: Naval Today reported on Thursday, September 14th, that HII and Babcock will collaborate to develop the optimal models for nuclear-powered submarine capability, including infrastructure, sustainment and the development of the necessary skills, to support the trilateral agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom and United States known as AUKUS. The parties will engage the Australian industry to optimize specific solution sets and provide a trilateral offering. Babcock currently sustains 100% of the U.K.'s Royal Navy submarine fleet and owns and operates the U.K.'s only licensed facility for refitting, refueling and defueling nuclear submarines. The agreement announced Thursday comes after HII and Babcock announced in July that the parties will collaborate on naval and civil nuclear decommissioning and construction opportunities in the U.K. and U.S. The memorandum of understanding identifies opportunities for cooperation in civil nuclear, including power plant and component design, fabrication and construction in North America and the U.K.

CNO Support For Amphibs, Columbia-Class Subs

Inside Defense reported on Thursday that acting Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti told Senate lawmakers she is committed to maintaining a fleet of at least 31 amphibious ships. Franchetti discussed several topics related to shipbuilding and the fleet during her confirmation hearing Thursday with the Senate Armed Services Committee. The acting CNO said she recognizes that the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine program is the Navy's No. 1 priority and will ensure the first of 12 submarines planned for development are delivered on time and operational by 2031. She noted the Navy has developed a "mitigation strategy" to extend the service life of Ohio-class submarines if the Columbia-class submarines are not delivered on time. Defense News reported on Thursday that Franchetti expressed optimism that shipyards will be able to ramp up production of Virginia-class submarines to fulfill requirements of the trilateral AUKUS agreement. The Navy expects to achieve production of two Virginia-class submarines per year – its pre-AUKUS goal – by 2028. Under AUKUS, the U.S. plans to sell between three to five Virginia-class submarines to Australia as an interim capability in the early 2030s.

Latest Newport News Shipbuilding Activities

- July 2023—The U.S. Navy awarded Newport News Shipbuilding a contract to support maintenance of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in San Diego. Contract has a potential value of \$528.4 million over five years, if all options are exercised.
- August 2023—Newport News Shipbuilding held a keel authentication for *Virginia*-class submarine *Oklahoma* (SSN 802).
- September 2023—Newport News Shipbuilding has reached a significant milestone in the construction of *Virginia*-class submarine *Arkansas* (SSN 800). *Arkansas* (SSN 800) is now "pressure hull complete," meaning that all of the hull sections were joined to form a single, watertight unit.



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Key Dates

Submarine Industrial Base Council (SIBC) will hold its 33rd annual Supplier Days March 4-6, 2024 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel located at 2800 Potomac Avenue, Arlington, VA, 22202. More information regarding the schedule of events will be released as the event approaches.

Shipping and Receiving: (Holiday Periods)

Thanksgiving Holiday—Receiving material at NNS is preferred Monday/Tuesday, November 20/21 to avoid delays.

Christmas & New Years Holiday—Receiving material at NNS is preferred by Friday, December 15 to avoid delays.

Special arrangements: If there is any urgent shipments that need to be received after the cutoff dates, requests in advance can be sent to the POC for the delivery location to accept the material.

HII Partners to Advance Additive Manufacturing on a VIRGINIA-Class Submarine

HII's (NYSE: HII) Newport News Shipbuilding division and General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) announced today that the companies have advanced efforts to integrate additive manufacturing technology, also known as 3D printing, into the shipbuilding process for nuclear-powered submarines. The use of certified 3D-printed parts has the potential to accelerate construction and delivery of submarines to the U.S. Navy by cutting lead times for critical components.

The companies have focused on the availability and deployment of marine-based alloys, such as copper-nickel, to provide an alternative to traditional copper-nickel castings. Recently, a copper-nickel deck drain assembly was identified as a candidate for the 3D printing solution. Working with shipbuilding partner GDEB, and supplier AMMCON on the model and proof of concept, NNS successfully created a copper-nickel deck drain part using additive manufacturing. AMMCON is providing final machining and assembly of the part, before it is installed on *Virginia*-class submarine [Oklahoma \(SSN 802\)](#), to be delivered by NNS.

"As a leader in additive manufacturing for shipbuilding, we are aggressively looking for opportunities to find ways to incorporate this technology into mainstream shipbuilding," said Dave Bolcar, NNS vice president of engineering and design. "This collaborative project leverages authorizations made by the Navy that streamline requirements for low-risk additive manufacturing parts. It is possible due to the foresight and longer-term development efforts by our engineers to deploy additive manufacturing marine alloys for shipbuilding."

"Our submarine design and engineering teams are focused on working with our supply and construction partners to speed the adoption of innovative technologies," said Megan Roberts, vice president of quality, waterfront engineering, radiological controls and fleet support for Electric Boat. "These first efforts to install additive-manufactured parts on submarines demonstrate the technology's potential to dramatically reduce lead times for critical components, which will enable us to deliver more submarines faster, supporting the Navy's fleet demands."

"We are honored to contribute to the ongoing success of the *Virginia*-class submarine program in this innovative way," AMMCON President Darrell Grow said. "As a longtime supplier for nuclear-powered submarines, our team understands the importance of these national security assets and remains committed to delivering the critical parts needed for their delivery."

This latest advancement in 3D printing follows [HII's announcement in March](#) that NNS received certification and approval as a vendor for additive manufacturing components on Naval Sea Systems (NAVSEA) platforms. The highly digitized process could lead to cost savings and reduced production schedules for naval ships.

17 Ship RFQ (Update)

Needham Jones, Dept. 059

The 17 Ship COLUMBIA Build II and VIRGINIA Class FY24 and Block VI Submarine Bid and Proposal effort has been making great strides through the summer and the end is in sight. Thank you to all suppliers that have already submitted their proposals! If you still have proposals pending, please remit them as soon as possible. NNS Supply Chain will continue our efforts to place select material required by schedule with the funding that has been allocated for Advance Procurement. The VCS Program anticipates Advance Procurement and Economic Ordering Quantity (AP/EOQ) funds no later than early summer 2024 to begin block buy procurements as needed. The CLB Program currently has limited Advance Procurement funds for the first two hulls of Build II and we anticipate additional funding for FY 2024. We appreciate everyone's continued support for their effort in order to secure a safer future for our nation with the next generation of submarines.



Newport News Shipbuilding's *Columbia*-Class Submarine Construction Program has grown fast in just the past year. The program, which recently surpassed 500 shipbuilders in production, celebrated spirit week July 31-Aug. 4.

Hosted by the *Columbia* Engagement Team, the week included themed days for shipbuilders to wear clothing to represent their favorite sports team, character and school as well as mental health awareness and *Columbia*/NNS swag. There also was a HERO: HII Employees Reach Out deckplate huddle and a cornhole tournament that included teams of shipbuilders from across the program.

The week culminated on Friday with an appreciation cookout for shipbuilders.

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Integrated Enterprise Plan (IEP) Wave 7

Wave 7

Wave 7 of the annual Critical Supplier Readiness Assessments began this year with Shipbuilders distributing kick-off letters to suppliers in July, allowing supplier self-assessments to get underway. A new component for this Wave, the Partner Assessment Teams (PATs), has been introduced to the process as an additional resource to ensure the industrial base is provided the best support to meet simultaneous production of both COLUMBIA and VIRGINIA Class submarines and FORD Class aircraft carriers. Both Shipbuilders and the Navy have aligned with Blue Forge Alliance (BFA) to lead the development of their assessments, which commenced in August 2023. This also included execution of the PAT visits. The PATs key mission is to perform onsite assessments with a select group of Wave 6 critical suppliers. The PATs are made up of 3-5 subject matter experts (SMEs) from supporting third-party organizations to perform an independent assessment and recommend enterprise actions to be included in the Wave 7 corrective action POAMs. The PATs visit to supplier facilities are typically for 1-2 days to perform their assessments.

Supplier Readiness Assessment Process

Suppliers are given an opportunity to self-assess.

Suppliers are evaluated and scored as green, yellow or red in each of the following business categories

- Business Stability
- Existing/Future Human Resource
- Supply Chain
- Production/Facility/Capability
- Schedule
- Supplier Quality Score

NNS, EB and PATs work collaboratively to assess shared suppliers

The Shipbuilders assess non-shared suppliers independently.

Plan of Action & Milestone (POA&M) Development

All suppliers assessed as overall red or yellow are placed on a POA&M.

Actions are built upon a team effort of the supplier, shipbuilder (NNS/EB) and other Navy stakeholders.

Readiness Assessment And POAM Results

The results of each Readiness Assessment period as well as POA&M status is reported to the Navy Customer throughout each Wave.

Small Business Resources

Small Businesses (SB) make up more than 60% of the Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), a division of HII, supply base. NNS is committed to the success of its SB suppliers. Therefore, NNS is sharing a few resources below that can assist small businesses and enable their success.

Small Business Administration (SBA): <https://www.sba.gov/>

Aids, counsels, assists and protects the interests of small businesses

APEX Accelerators, formerly Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs): <https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/>

Assists businesses that pursue and/or perform as a prime contractor or subcontractor under contracts with federal, state, and local government

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA): <https://www.mbda.gov>

Offers customized business development and industry-focused services to provide greater access to capital, contracts and markets

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP): <https://www.nist.gov/mep>

Provides U.S. manufacturers with access to resources they need to succeed

Most services, from the federal agencies above, are available at no cost or on a discounted basis. Please visit each website for additional information, and utilize available resources to scale and sustain your business.

NNS also has a Small Business Program Office that assists and advocates for its SB suppliers. Please contact smallbusiness@hii-nns.com or Katina Adams at 757-380-7011 for assistance.

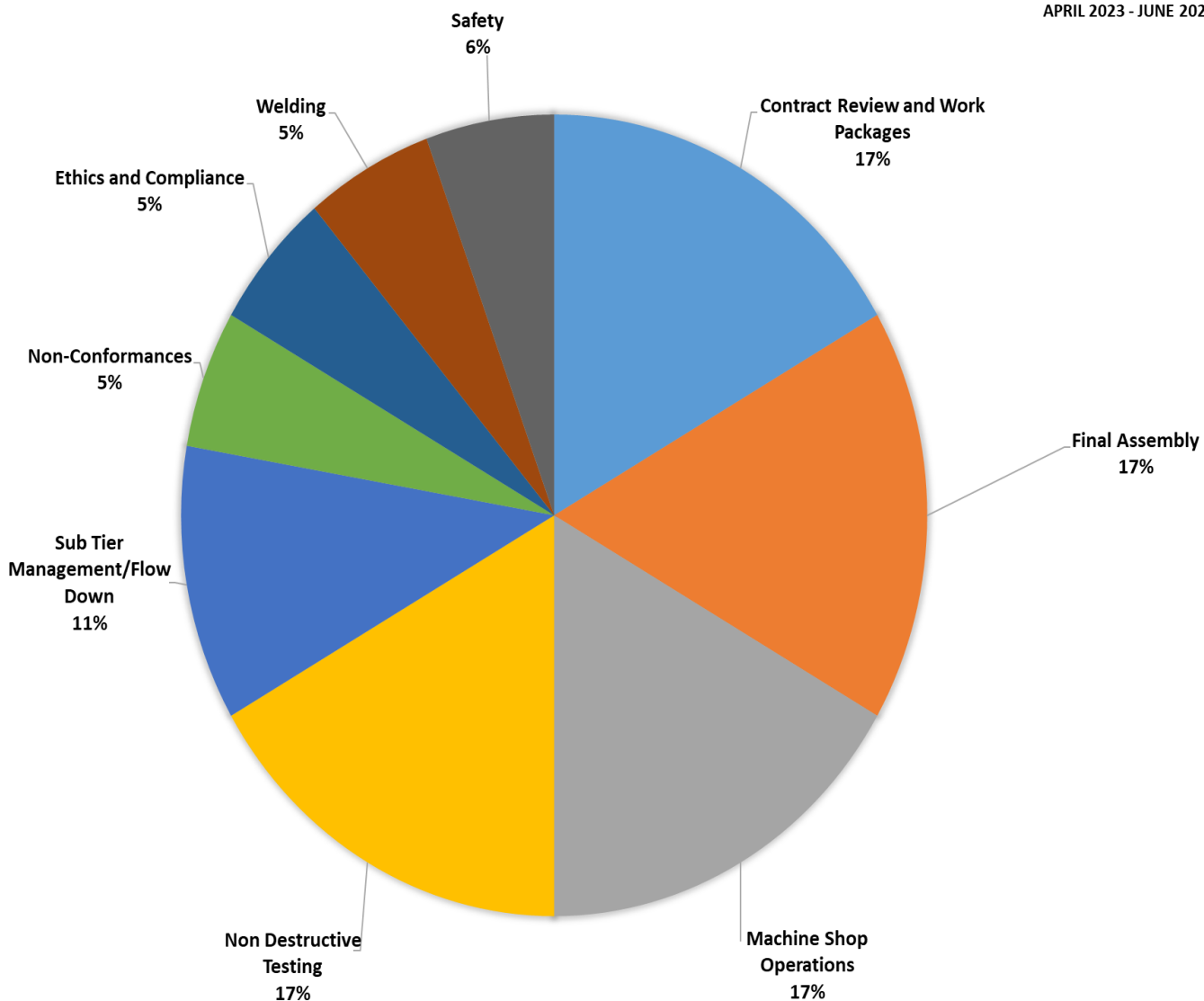
Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation

Summary April through July 2023

The Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation (STAV) group performs in-depth Supplier Assessments, Technical Assessments, and Capability Assessments around current and future orders. From April 2023 through June 2023 the assessment team has performed a total of three In-Depth Supplier Assessments and one Technical Assessment, identified 9 risks, and 9 significant weaknesses. The assessment team is committed to working with the supply base to ensure potential and current risks are being identified and mitigated.

STAV SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

APRIL 2023 - JUNE 2023





Cybersecurity Compliance

A friendly reminder the Exostar transition of the NIST SP 800-171 from the Partner Information Manager (PIM) to the Onboarding Module (OBM) application began at the end of September. There is no action required on the Suppliers' part for this migration. HII will be reaching out to Suppliers as their current submission's in PIM reach the one year expiration, with guidance on how to log in and access your questionnaire in the new OBM application. NNS has been communicating on this migration in emails from Exostar@hii-nns.com to the Suppliers' email POC on record. Please refer to these previously communicated emails or contact us at Exostar@hii-nns.com for more information.

About *SPARS* – Shipbuilding Partners and Suppliers

Regulatory Compliance

Attention!

The SPARS training guide has been updated on the Supplier Website and can be found [here](#). This training document is a great resource for troubleshooting common problems and types of submittals in SPARS.

Additional questions or guidance can be sent to SPARS@hii-nns.com

BuildSubmarines.com



Buildsubmarines.com job portal will be powered by ZipRecruiter. The new job board allows candidates to create personal profiles to highlight their skills for potential employers. It also gives them up-to-the-moment access to what will be tens of thousands of available specialized opportunities. Additionally, the integration provides critical SIB suppliers around the country weekly access to over 12M job seekers, as well as the ability to search for eligible candidates to fulfill critical roles.

Posting to the Job Portal

To have your company's job openings featured in the Job Portal:

- ◆ Click "Job Portal" in the website's banner or visit:
<https://atdm.org/build-submarines>
- ◆ Click "Add Your Company"
- ◆ Enter the required information:
 - ◇ Company Information
 - ◇ Contact Information
 - ◇ Website Address with Career Postings
- ◆ The website will automatically import your job postings that match the job titles currently being targeted. This process may take up to two weeks

The screenshot shows the BuildSubmarines.com website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About, Career Paths, Job Portal (highlighted with a red arrow), Search for Talent, and News. Below the navigation bar is a map of the United States. To the right of the map is a sidebar with a search filter section containing dropdown menus for "Choose an occupation...", "Choose a company...", and "Choose education level...". Below the search filters is a table titled "LOCATIONS" listing the number of job openings for various states.

LOCATIONS	
ALABAMA	299
ALASKA	4
ARIZONA	439
ARKANSAS	120
CALIFORNIA	1836
COLORADO	344
CONNECTICUT	321

NOTE: Currently, this will display jobs for specific trades to include welding, machining, NDT, Additive Manufacturing, 3D printing, and metrology / quality control / quality assurance. Other position titles may not display.

HII-Built Ships Sail with Royal Australian Navy

Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and *Virginia*-class submarine *USS North Carolina* (SSN 777), both built at Newport News Shipbuilding, were among the U.S. Navy ships participating in the 2023 Talisman Sabre, a large-scale multi-national military exercise in Australia.

Also participating were *USS Robert Smalls* (CG 62) and *USS Antietam* (CG 54). The *Ticonderoga*-class guided-missile cruisers were built at HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division.



Supplier Ideas for Next Newsletter

We are looking for ideas for our next newsletter. What would you like to know or see. Please provide your ideas to E-mail address:

SupplEngAdvocate@hii-nns.com



Published August 09, 2023 at 15:08PM in [Alexander's Column](#)