



PRESS RELEASE

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SEA win major contract for ASTUTE Boat 4

SEA, a Cohort plc company, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the contract as Prime contractor to supply the External Communication System (ECS) for ASTUTE Boat 4.

This is a strategic contract to SEA as it is valued in excess of 10 million pounds but it also carries the opportunity for a submarine flotilla wide fit of this technology over the medium term. At the same time this both extends SEA's engagement with the ASTUTE submarine programme and with BAE Systems, the UK's largest defence contractor. This contract was won against strong domestic and international competition. SEA is teamed with Thales Underwater Systems Ltd, Selex Communications and Aish Technologies Ltd to deliver this contract.

ECS builds on SEA's heritage regarding the communications system onboard the Trafalgar Class submarines. SEA, in conjunction with its partners, will significantly extend the capability and scope of the submarine communications system to provide the Royal Navy (RN) with a world-class, leading-edge solution.

Under this contract, SEA will design, procure, build, integrate, and test the complete communications system. This includes baseband switching, management of classified data and messages, RF switching, management and control and voice system. The ECS solution embraces open architecture principles that will allow the RN to maintain and upgrade the system for the foreseeable future. This contract encompasses supply of an ECS to both ASTUTE Boat 4 and a separate reference system to BAE Systems' land-based integration facility.

Andy Thomis, Chief Executive Officer of Cohort plc, commented: "We are extremely pleased to win this competition against some of the world's best defence contractors and establish a significant position with BAE - one of our most important customers. It is even more pleasing to hear the support coming from both BAE Systems and the Ministry of Defence to extend this technology flotilla wide."