

Case Study 06

Type 31 Frigate

Project Background

The Type 31 Frigate programme was initiated by the UK Ministry of Defence to deliver a class of general-purpose warships that are flexible, affordable and exportable. The client, a consortium led by Babcock and Thales, required support in navigating a unique commercial contracting route that demanded compliance with both naval and civilian maritime regulations.

The challenge lay in achieving statutory and safety certification for vessels, operated by civilian crews during Contractor Sea and Acceptance Trials (CSATs), whilst still meeting the Royal Navy's operational and safety expectations.



Approach

Naval Solutions Ltd adopted a systems-led, certification-first approach. We worked collaboratively with stakeholders to define the Requirements and Acceptance criteria and developed a robust Requirements and Acceptance Management Plan (RAMP). Our team integrated the use of IBM DOORS for requirements traceability and mapped contractual obligations to acceptance evidence. We also embedded ourselves within the client's design and delivery teams to ensure early identification of certification risks and alignment with the Naval Authority Certification Strategy.

Scope and Contributions

Our contributions spanned the full lifecycle of the Type 31 Design and Build programme. We developed and implemented the management policy, processes and plans for achieving Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Defence Maritime Regulator (DMR) certification for Mission Systems and Platform elements. We defined the contractual acceptance requirements and created an integrated Test and Trial regime covering platform, marine and combat systems.



Outcomes

Our involvement ensures that the Type 31 programme will meet its certification milestones on schedule. The structured approach to acceptance and certification reduced programme risk and enhanced stakeholder confidence. Through aligning the design and build process with both MOD and civilian regulatory frameworks, we helped the client demonstrate compliance, secure statutory approvals, and maintain momentum toward the Vessel Acceptance Date (VAD). This outcome not only supported the Royal Navy's capability goals but also reinforced the export potential of the Type 31 platform.

Naval Solutions

Naval Solutions Ltd is a trusted engineering consultancy at the forefront of marine innovation. We deliver high-impact engineering and technology solutions that shape the future of defence, nuclear and commercial maritime sectors.

We offer a full suite of consultancy and engineering services tailored to the complex demands of modern maritime operations. With a relentless commitment to excellence, paired with a deep understanding of our clients' operational environments, our solutions enhance capability, ensure safety and drive operational success at sea and beyond.



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