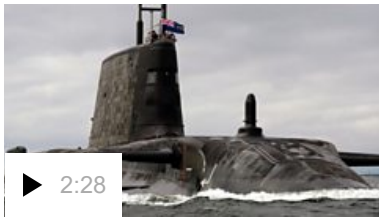




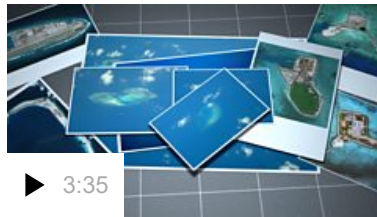
## UK, US and Australia reveal details of nuclear submarine deal

🕒 13 March 2023



What will nuclear submarines mean for Australia?

BBC



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### Summary

The leaders of the US, UK and Australia have revealed details of the Aukus security pact, which includes providing Australia with nuclear-powered submarines

PM Rishi Sunak, US President Biden and Australian PM Anthony Albanese have officially unveiled the plans at a naval base in San Diego in California

UK firm Rolls Royce will provide the reactors for the submarines, creating thousands of jobs

The 2021 Aukus pact aims to counter what the three nations see as China's threat in the Indo-Pacific region

Sunak has announced plans to boost defence spending to tackle the "epoch-defining challenge" posed by China

Labour says this is not enough and the Conservatives are "failing to secure Britain's national defence for the future"

**Live Reporting**

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Edited by Siobhan Toman and Emily McGarvey

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23:44 13 Mar

## What did we learn from the press conference?

We'll be closing our live page shortly. You can read more in our main [news story here](#) and here's a reminder of today's announcement by the US, UK and Australian leaders:

- US President Joe Biden confirmed **the US will send three Virginia-Class submarines to Australia**, with the potential to sell up to two more if needed
- He said the **US will partner with the UK** to build a new "SSN-Aukus" submarine based on British design and incorporating US technologies
- Australian Prime Minister Albanese described the Aukus agreement as the **"biggest single investment in Australia's defence capability"** and said it will offer opportunities for Australian workers
- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said **thousands of new jobs will be created** in places like Barrow and Derby to help with the design and creation of the submarines
- Sunak cited Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, China's growing assertiveness, and the "destabilising behaviour" of Iran and North Korea as reasons for strengthening resilience
- **UK engineering giant Rolls-Royce** will provide the reactors for the nuclear-powered submarines, creating jobs at its business in England's East Midlands

Today's live page was written by Nadine Yousif, Emily McGarvey, Andre Rhoden-Paul, Rob Corp, Victoria Lindrea, Mattea Bubalo and Jasmine Taylor-Coleman.



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23:25 13 Mar

## A significant step for the UK, US and Australia



Will Grant  
Reporting from San Diego

The Aukus group's decision to supply Australia with several nuclear-propelled submarines is being billed as the most significant trilateral military technology agreement since the Cold War.

Australia will procure at least three Virginia-class attack submarines from the United States and the UK will supply the SSN-AUKUS, an updated version of the Astute submarine, expected to be built in Barrow-in-Furness.

The British Government says it will create thousands of jobs in the decades ahead.

For its part, Australia will obtain the naval deterrent it has sought in the face of China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

The UK and the US also plan to establish a Submarine Rotational Force operating near Western Australia.

The submarines won't carry nuclear weapons. But China has condemned the alliance as "extremely irresponsible" and accused the members of having a "Cold War mentality".



23:08 13 Mar

## What do we know about the new submarines?



Mocked-up images of the new SSN-AUKUS submarine

Dubbed the SSN-AUKUS, the new model of nuclear-powered attack submarine will be built in Britain and Australia to a British design.

The state-of-the-art submarines - the first of which is expected to be ready in the UK in the late 2030s - will use a "significant" amount of technology from the nuclear-powered Virginia class submarine.

They will mainly be built by BAE Systems at Barrow-in-Furness, and Rolls-Royce - and will replace the Royal Navy's Astute-class boats when they enter into operation.

"Plans we have announced today will see pioneering British design expertise protect our people and our allies for generations to come," said UK PM Rishi Sunak.

The submarines will carry conventional weapons and the nuclear reactors will be sealed shut and not require refuelling in their lifetimes.

Training of Australian personnel, alongside members of the US Navy and the Royal Navy will begin this year