

A significant step for the Programme

Last week the Secretary of State for Defence made an important announcement regarding the future of the QEC programme. He said:

"I am pleased to inform the House that we have now reached heads of terms with the alliance. Under the revised agreement, the total capital cost to Defence of procuring the carriers will be £6.2 billion. Crucially, under the new agreement, any variation above or below that price will be shared on a 50:50 basis between Government and industry, until all the contractor's profit is lost, meaning that interests are now properly aligned, driving the behaviour change needed to see this contract effectively delivered"

This is a very significant step for the programme. Once implemented it will put us on a sound footing for delivery against stretching but achievable schedule and cost targets, while providing a strong commercial incentive to deliver. I know that during the past year many of you have been heavily involved in the re-baselining of the programme and I want to thank you for all of your efforts, without which we would not have been able to agree on this deal and move the programme forward. That we have done this while the rest of the team has maintained a focus on programme delivery is a credit to everyone.

While we finalise the revised baseline and contract amendment we must turn our attention to improving our delivery and cost performance to match the new construct. This will call for all of us to examine everything we do, to look for ways to do things faster and better, reducing waste, inefficiency and rework so that we deliver the two aircraft carriers cost effectively and on time.

The nation has entrusted us with delivering these important and iconic ships and we know we can rise to the challenge.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and working alongside you as we continue to proudly deliver the nation's flagships.

Ian Booth
Programme Director

Final Ramp Lift

The final section of ramp for HMS Queen Elizabeth was successfully lowered into place on Sunday 10th November taking just under 5 hours to complete.

Tom Gifford, Shipbuild Integration Manager said;
"The weekend's work has brought to an end all major lifts with the Goliath Crane for HMS Queen Elizabeth, and now enables all the major structure to be welded in order to meet the overall programme activities for the assembly process."



SHE

On LB03 and LB04 last week there were no recordable accidents on the block, continuing the positive trend of no lost working day cases on LB03 since April 2012, and no lost working day cases on LB04 to date. This is a great message and demonstration of the teams vigilance to Safety.

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Rosyth

HMS Queen Elizabeth LB04:

- The monthly care and protection audit has been carried out with initial feedback being positive. The formal report is due to be issued this week.
- Last week three compartments were signed off by the customer following successful inspections; these are all in the 5M medical complex.
- Five compartments will be offered to the client for signing this week. A further seven compartments have been put through their initial compartment inspections and are also scheduled to be washed up this week, giving a total of 12 compartments scheduled to be signed off this week.
- Last week, a total of 14 compartments were put through their initial compartment inspections. Included in this is the stairwell 7QY9, this is the final compartment to achieve in that ring deck.
- Further prerequisite work is taking place throughout the block with four compartments in 6N scheduled to complete their behind inspections this week.
- In support of the inspection programme the pipe testing team are expected to test circa 200 spools this week.

Tanks

- The tank programme has seen another compartment (9HA0 Fresh Water Tank) successfully complete the ITR06 Air Test. This has been signed off by Lloyds and allows one of the largest tanks to progress the removal and refitting of portable items.
- Further progression with the Shot Blast programme continued this week with 0BX0 (Ballast Tank) offered to Quality Control (QC) for inspection. Minor defects should be cleared over the weekend.
- Compartment 0FY0 (Avcat Tank) has also been offered to QC for its paint inspection.
- Engineering have reviewed three tanks, 0MC0 and 0MX6 (Dieso Tanks) and 0NC6 (Avcat Tank). The reports for these are currently being created and will be signed- off this week.

- Further focus continues to complete the remaining design reviews and mitigate any issues prior to flood up.
- Compartment 0BX0 (Ballast Tank) has achieved its Design Intent with minor caveats relating to the clearance of some minor NCs, which will be completed in the forthcoming weeks.

Shaft Programme

- Welding has commenced on the Port Side main 'A' bracket and there has been continual progress on the Port Intermediate bracket.
- The Port Side tunnel bearing casting has also been offered into position.
- Continual focus on the shaft programme remains on the movement of major equipment for the alignment of the shafts which consists of; 120 Tonne Motors, Break Assembly, Plumber Block etc.

Hull Programme

- There has been good progress made on the A-Frames programme with the main Port Side fully welded to the ship casting.
- Good progress has been made on the Intermediate A frame and was completed last week.
- The Port side stern tube has been hoisted into position and after Dimensional Control, this is expected to be completed over the weekend.
- Dock stool removal is still progressing in-line with the plan. The focus remains on completing the pre-requisites to allow hull painting to be completed in line with flood up timescales.

HMS Prince of Wales

Portsmouth

HMS Prince of Wales LB02:

- There has been more progress on the pipe testing, completing 30 108s this week
- Painters have started in the F to G join up areas and progressing well after hotwork completed on time (Week 44).
- The dry survey plan is progressing on ring G, E and F in preparation for handing over to paint in line with structural completion which is going well.
- Work is progressing well in 6C and 6G priority compartments with outfit to advance cable reeving to the main switchboards.
- All priority compartments on 6G will be ready to hand over to screeding on Monday (week 46).
- There is constant progress with pipe installation, and there are a total of 7,071 pipes across the block.

HMS Prince of Wales CB02:

- There have been some big moves this week, with unit C212 moving from Hall A to Hall B early in the week followed by unit C215 moving from Hall A to Hall B on Thursday 7th November.
- Another big move has been the build grillage for ring C which has been moved onto the build line this week.
- The main move this week has been unit C205 which has been placed on Ring A this week, this is the last unit to be placed on Ring A, completing the Ring. Consolidation has started with the rest of the block. – see below.



Govan

HMS Prince of Wales LB03:

- The main focus on LB03 remains the Compartment Hand-Over Inspection (CHOI) programme which has been progressing well 14 achieved last week with a further 17 to be inspected this week.
- All of the teams have been working together to achieve the challenging programme to block completion.
- Painting on the block continues with the spray painting of void spaces, 9Dk port space has already been handed over and the starboard side expected early this week.
- Ticon are continuing to focus heavily on the progression of ceilings and linings, particularly within the cabin flats on 6 and 7 deck and the dining halls, galley and bakery on 5 deck. This allows electrical work such as smoke detectors, sockets and lighting to progress.
- Compartment air testing and pipe system testing continue with the completion of the air test of ring L starboard ballast tank.
- The preparations to begin the air testing of the ring L port ballast tank are also taking place.
- Last week 160 spools were mechanically audited and 234 spools have been pressure tested.
- Progress on electrical scope continues with 1,736 metres of cable installed, 1,154 terminations completed and over 16,112 cores check wired to date.

HMS Prince of Wales LB04:

- With regards to the 'quality' performance on LB04. Last week there were seventeen 'pre-paint' inspections with zero observations highlighted. This is an area where 'coaching' sessions have been on-going with Quality Control and the Build team to improve the levels of observations found during inspections, and this is a positive indication that these sessions are working.
- To date there are 124 units in preparation with 111 having progressed into the fabrication stages and 75 successfully delivered into the shipbuild outfitting hall.
- Last week LN05, LQ12 and LQ13 were safely erected, which is one unit ahead of the erection plan.
- Last week also saw three successful dry surveys being completed. These were on units LR87, LP11 and LP10. This takes the build to four surveys in front of the plan.
- On ring N high levels of outfit have been completed on 9 deck since the shot blasting was completed. This allowed the first 8 deck unit to be erected this week which is in advance of the plan.
- On ring M the focus is now on the Diesel Generators which were delivered at the weekend. Plans are in place to remove the forward access tower and remove the temporary protection from the seats and mounts ready for the installation plan to commence.
- As part of the '*Learning from Experience*' (LfE) from Ship 01 the team has managed to progress the compartment through a PO1 Inspection, allowing more outfit to be installed as well as areas painted and insulated prior to having the DG's fitted.

Merseyside

HMS Prince of Wales CB02:

- The ring G steelwork erection programme is on-going with four units erected at the berth with the flight deck units to follow shortly.
- Ring F steelwork manufacture is now underway with various panels in manufacture.
- Installation of hotwork and seats has now commenced.
- Pipe manufacture and testing continues ahead of plan with pipe penetrations being installed in ring G.

HMS Prince of Wales CB04:

- Successful Production Readiness Review (PRR) on 30th October, thus confirming the start date for this block in January 2014.
- First steel call offs submitted with deliveries expected before the end of the November.

Tyne

HMS Prince of Wales CB03:

- CB03 ring H to J join up continues and is on track to complete in November in line with the project milestone.
- Rings H and J are now well advanced in outfit with HVAC, pipe and equipment installed throughout. The electrical team will shortly commence pulling local cables in ring H.
- Ring K is erected into two half rings and the hotwork inspection programme has commenced. Following these inspection painting is scheduled to start 22nd November.
- Ring LK is now partially erected in the build hall with ring L well advanced in the panel stage close behind. (see below)



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