



In 2018, the French defense & security international contractor Thales announced that it has signed an agreement with MSubs Ltd. for the two firms to collaborate on the development of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) to deliver complex sensors and systems with MSubs' experience in the design, manufacture and operation of manned and unmanned submersibles.



The partnership followed Thales' opening of a new UK maritime autonomy centre in the Future Autonomous at Sea Technologies [FAST Cluster](#) in the south-west of England in Plymouth, where MSubs Ltd operates from. [The new Turnchapel Wharf facility](#) was opened by Stuart Andrew MP, Minister for Defence Procurement. Thales have already invested £2 million in the facility to build on its leadership in autonomous systems and strengthen the position of UK industry in this emerging market.

One of the key strategic aims of investing in the facility for Thales was to develop an ecosystem of specialists and experts around Plymouth, bringing together industry and academia to establish a world class research and development facility for the UK. This facility established a globally

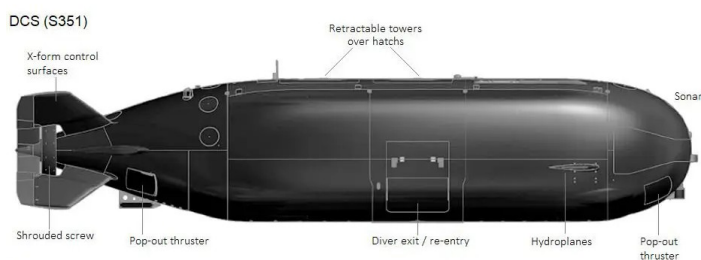
recognised base in Plymouth for surface and sub-surface assets for both the domestic and international markets.

Thales in the UK continues to foster the close relationship with the Royal Navy (RN) that began in the early days of sonar-based mine hunting technology, establishing itself as the principal and trusted supplier of Mine Counter Measure sensors to the British Royal Navy. ([source](#))

Msubs went on developing different types of manned and unmanned underwater vehicles which are today used by the US Navy seals and [US-SOCOM](#)

Dry Combat Submersible, [DCS](#) was operational for BALTOPS 2022.

In 2020 Naval news [confirmed](#) The Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) was a year away from achieving Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for USSOCOM's US Navy SEALs.



NAVSEA is responsible to certify that the DCS Next generation safety for the U.S. Navy's host submarine and USSOCOM is responsible to certify the DCS Next safety for SEAL embarkation who is not launched from a submarine but from a vessel.

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/info/now/>

UK Built - MSUB Dry Combat Submersible ([DCS](#))

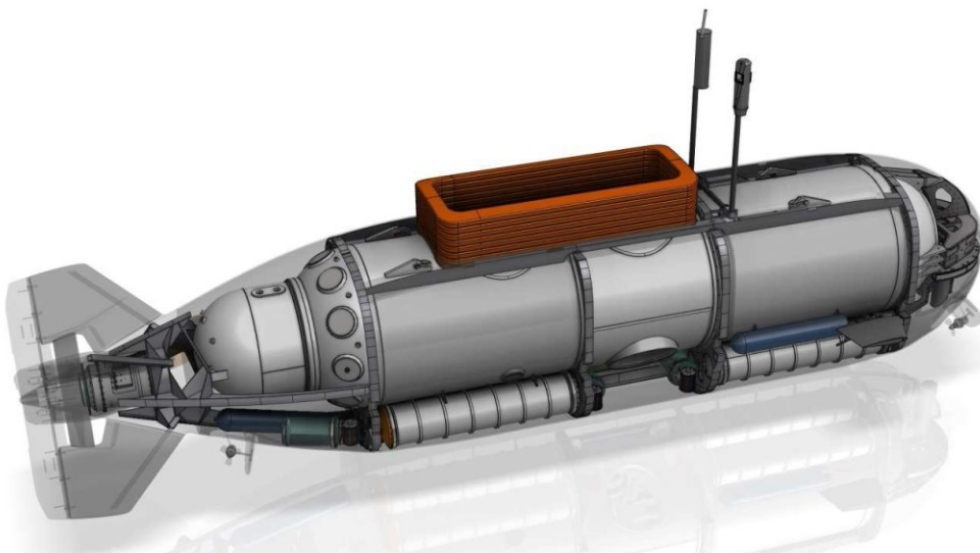
The S351 "Nemesis" Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) from MSUB. (MSUB picture).



Dry Combat Submersible undergoing sea trials and testing in open waters. Photo: Msubs ([source](#))



James Smith, acquisition executive for USSOCOM, speaking with reporters May 17, 2020 in a roundtable of the National Defense Industrial Association's Special Operations Industry Conference (SOFIC), said the first submersible, DCS1, is finishing up Developmental Test and will begin Operational Test this summer 2022. (source: [NavalNews](#))



More info on the engineering side of this Dry Combat Submersible ([DCS](#))

According to [Seapower](#), Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) S351 "Nemesis" New SEAL Dry Combat Submersible was already Set for Operational Test in Late 2021, a strong indication that MSUBS Dry Combat Submersible for navy seals, built in Plymouth, UK was fully operational by June 2022 and was brought to BALTOPS 22 by the British Royal Navy or by the US Navy since DCS1 can only be launch from a vessel crane and not from a submarine.

Royal Navy warships complete their BALTOPS 22 NATO mission in the Baltic Sea



One of the six Type 45 destroyers, UK Royal Navy's Type 45 Daring-class destroyer **HMS Defender** along with **Archer-class (P2000)** fast inshore patrol craft HMS Archer, Charger, Explorer, Exploit, Ranger and HMS Smiter took part in BALTOPS 2022 as confirmed by the British Royal Navy [website](#)

It goes without saying that the British Royal Navy Archer-class (P2000), which are fast inshore patrol craft, would have been too small to take on board and operate MSUB DCS, hence, from a tactical perspective, if it was indeed the British Royal Navy who carried out this joint mission with the US Navy, only HMS DEFENDER, under the command of Commanding Officer George Storton, had the space, size and operability to conduct this mission successfully, launching Navy Seals MSUBS (submergence group) Dry Combat Submersible manufactured in Plymouth UK, off the coast of Denmark Bornholm island over the Nord Stream Pipelines.

It is very possible that the Archer class patrol class P2000 vessels were used for logistics support due to their speed and agility.

MSUB DCS can stay 24H under the water, keeping the navy seals dry and warm giving plenty of time for the seal diving team to reach multiple strategic points on the pipeline to place and secure the casing and C4 charges. Top navy divers are reported to sometimes stay up to 10 hours underwater.

MSubs must have graduated and its prowess recognised by the NAVY, in Dec 2022 the Plymouth based company won a UK Royal Navy contract For Cetus XLUV, a crew-less mini submarine. According to Naval News, the [contract](#) value is estimated at £15.4 million.

For those that have played attention, Norway kicked off '[Joint Viking 2023](#)' the largest military exercise in Norway in 2023.

Running between 6 and 16 March, the bi-annual 'Joint Viking' exercise was taking place at sea in Norway's northern fjords and ashore in the region around Bardufoss.



According to the Norwegian Armed Forces, Joint Viking is closely connected to the British Naval exercise Joint Warrior and the Norwegian Home Guard exercise Jøssing, in southwestern Norway.

The at-sea presence includes the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force ([JEF](#)) a task group mainly focused on Baltic security and who [participated](#) in BALTOPS 2019.

The Forces under the JEF banner have been [deployed](#) several times in support of the BALTOPS exercise, a NATO-led exercise held annually since 1972, yet not a word about their activities during BALTOPS 22. The JEF Joint Expeditionary Force leaders made a [statement](#) on 15 March 2022

during a meeting held at UK Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, 3 months prior to BALTOPS 22 and it leaves no doubts about their position regarding Russia.

During the 'Joint Viking' operation, the UK Royal Navy (RN) amphibious assault ship [HMS Albion](#) was operating as flagship. **JEF** participants for the exercise included Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, **Norway**, Sweden, and the UK.

Although the HMS Defender participation was not reported we [know](#) from the British Royal Navy website that HMS Defender (D36) was deployed for the Joint Viking operation in Norway.



What this information tells us is that the UK and Norway over the years have built strong ties in the defense naval sectors and it is not too much of a stretch to see how BALTOPS 22 was the perfect opportunity for the Norwegian Armed forces and the UK Royal Navy to cooperate with the NATO six fleet and the US Navy to put together a plan to take out the Nord Stream pipelines.

This document will be updated as more info are coming in and will soon be released....