

BMT Defence Services Case Study

RFA Support (ARGUS) - “...the best co-ordinated judgements”

The challenge

To offer a full range of support services for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) flotilla.

Our response

The RFA flotilla displaces a greater tonnage than all the Royal Navy warships combined. The vessels are technologically complex and cannot be released from active service for long periods to undergo maintenance and upgrade. In its bid for the RFA contract A&P Group Ltd, the UK's largest privately owned marine maintenance, ship-repair and conversion company signed a teaming agreement with BMT Defence Services. As part of the Long Term Agreement between the two companies, BMT undertook extensive design work on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship RFA ARGUS.



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Customer benefits

Here is a team that combines a fully inclusive range of fleet and technical management expertise, innovative design skills and ship-repair facilities.

RFA ARGUS' flexible design means she is able to fulfil several functions. Her primary role is to provide specialist aviation training facilities so more than two thirds of her length is given over to a flight deck that can accommodate any of the Royal Navy's helicopters - the new Merlin has been operating from the ship in a trials programme in recent months. RFA ARGUS can also, when required, transport and launch RAF GR7 Harriers.

However, RFA ARGUS performs equally well as a logistic ship when she can be adapted to transport large amounts of equipment very quickly – which was exploited during the deployment of Britain's contribution to the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia. RFA ARGUS is also equipped with a hospital complex including two operating theatres and beds for 96 casualties.

In working closely with the RFA on the whole flotilla, the team can make the best co-ordinated judgements on how, when and where to carry out work. This means that the RFA can continue to operate its flotilla safely and cost-efficiently while supporting the Royal Navy.

