

## **Operationalizing AUKUS**

### *Industry's Trilateral Take on Defining Success*

The governments of Australia, the United Kingdom (U.K.), and the United States (U.S.) formed the AUKUS trilateral security partnership as a mechanism to ensure regional security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. If successful, AUKUS will respond to shared challenges by building collective industrial capacity and accelerating the technological development of next-generation capabilities. To achieve this objective, the three nations identified two lines of effort: 1) Australia acquiring nuclear-powered submarines; and 2) collaborating on the joint development of advanced military capabilities. Enhancing industrial cooperation is intended to integrate diplomatic, security, and defense activities while establishing AUKUS nations as regional security guarantors. An effective AUKUS will leverage the industrial base of each nation to build a modern force capable of deterring conflict and responding to challenges to the international rules-based-order.

While the establishment of AUKUS is widely supported, operational success hinges on reducing barriers to cooperation and creating optimal pathways to quickly produce and deliver high-end capabilities. This requires a modern, integrated, and consistent national security policy across all three countries that clearly defines and accelerates AUKUS partners. Establishing a defense trade-friendly regulatory landscape across all three governments will also be integral to its success.

To that end, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), U.K. Trade Association for Aerospace, Defence, Security and Space Organisations (ADS), and Australian Industry Group (Ai Group), representing the breadth of the aerospace and defense industry in the U.S., U.K., and Australia, have partnered to facilitate a trilateral dialogue between our countries to enhance cooperation and offer specific criteria defining a successful AUKUS.

### **Strategic Imperatives**

#### **Trade, cooperation, and technology transfer should be seamless among AUKUS partners.**

As Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. strive to enhance cooperation, their regulatory systems must be compatible to facilitate fluid trade, cooperative programs, and advanced technology transfers. While regulations are vital to upholding national security interests, they sometimes impose burdensome requirements that stifle innovation and delay and complicate cooperation. Defense and civilian leaders should therefore consider the impact of current regulations on defense exports, technology release requirements, and acquisition timelines to ensure the proper balance between protecting national interests to that of regional security and mission objectives. This process will involve engagement with defense industry across all three countries' industrial bases to identify and advocate for targeted and effective systemic reforms.

### **Advancement requires forward-leaning approaches.**

Accelerating delivery, aligning resources, and promoting innovative and cost-effective capabilities requires agile policy and regulatory processes, rather than traditional government-to-government dialogues or agreements that often result in case-by-case approaches. The optimal path of streamlined delivery is a state where authorization of activities does not take the time equivalent to obtaining export licenses. This will encourage AUKUS Industrial bases to innovate together, enhance interoperability, and collaborate on future capabilities that are at the heart of the trilateral security partnership.

### **Bolstering integrated deterrence and building shared, robust, and resilient systems will ensure regional security and stability.**

The AUKUS partnership was formed on the foundation of shared values and security goals with the ultimate objective of promoting regional stability through open dialogue and credible deterrence. These objectives are pillars of the technology transfer and release process, which reward robust and resilient security practices. Agreeing to operate under equivalent security requirements and assigning clear country and industry roles at the onset of cooperation is imperative and welcomed. The subsequent contracting mechanisms and systems' certifications should reflect the criteria set forth in the technology release and transfer process. AUKUS presents a unique opportunity to cement these criteria and relieve export control constraints.

### **Our team will make AUKUS a reality.**

The capabilities that will be delivered as a result of the AUKUS partnership are dependent on the Australian, British and American workforce. A regulatory framework that inhibits the free movement of human resources threatens to erode or negate the benefits of cooperation. Only by sharing talent from across our respective industrial bases can industry leverage competitive advantages to build the capacity necessary to operationalize AUKUS quickly; therefore, the regulatory environment must be enhanced to support cross-border collaboration, development, and eventual capability delivery.