
ARMOR
Force
Proven capability. Integrated today. Evolving for tomorrow
Babcock



ARMOR Force — Autonomous and Remote, Maritime Operational Response Force — enables the Hybrid Navy by bringing together crewed, lean-crewed and uncrewed platforms into a single operational capability.

Drawing on decades of naval engineering and systems engineering expertise, Babcock combines platforms, autonomy, mission systems, communications and support into a coherent, deployable solution to create a fleet which is more agile, resilient, and ready for tomorrow's challenges.

Working with partners, we are developing an integrated mission system capability, designed to connect autonomous and remotely operated systems with crewed platforms. By bringing these elements together, ARMOR Force provides a flexible approach to hybrid maritime operations, enabling navies to adapt as requirements evolve and supporting the command and operation of distributed maritime forces at scale.

Hybrid Maritime Advantage:

ARMOR Force combines crewed, lean-crewed, and uncrewed platforms into a single operating capability. Babcock integrates platforms, autonomy, mission systems, communications and support to deliver a coherent and deployable solution to maximise reach, agility and resilience.

Commanded Autonomy:

ARMOR Force supports distributed maritime operations, with people retaining control of missions, escalation and weapons release from Remote Operations Centres.

Interoperable by Design:

Built on open and modular architecture, ARMOR Force enables customers to integrate appropriate technologies and partners to meet their operational needs, without dependence on a single manufacturer or technology supplier.



"Hybrid and autonomous fleets cannot wait. The navies that succeed will be those that can integrate faster, adapt more quickly, and work with allies at greater scale and with greater resilience, because the demand is already there and it is beyond what the current model can fulfil alone. If we do that well, the result will be stronger deterrence, more resilient fleets, and a more credible allied maritime posture for the decade ahead."

Sir Nick Hine KCB, CEO of Babcock's Marine sector speaking at the Combined Naval Event 2026.



Enabling commanded autonomy through integrated systems

"ARMOR Force is not a single product. It is an operating architecture for commanded autonomy — built around integration, trust, and pace."

Sir Nick Hine KCB,
Chief Executive, Marine

Babcock acts as the prime systems integrator, delivering a connected architecture that brings together crewed platforms, autonomous systems, and modular payloads under a single model of commanded autonomy, ensuring control is retained while scale is achieved.

Common Combat Vessel (CCV)

Babcock has designed and is building an adaptable frigate that can be used as a Common Combat Vessel. ARMOR Force can also integrate platforms and technologies from other manufacturers to meet specific customer requirements.

Modular mission packages

ARMOR Force supports modular payload integration, enabling customers to select and integrate the most appropriate technologies and capabilities suited to their operational requirements.

Mission system software

The digital backbone, connecting tried and tested platforms, data and autonomous vessels into one operation system, supporting interoperability across allied forces.

Authority retained. Advantage scaled.

ARMOR Force is built on the principle of autonomy under authority, ensuring the skilled crews remain responsible for intent and accountability, while autonomous systems deliver persistence, scale and support.

Through command nodes, people remain in control of missions, escalation and weapons release. Command and oversight can be provided from land-based centres, forward-deployed facilities or centres aboard Common Combat Vessels, allowing control to transfer between locations as needs change.

The result is a force capable of making faster, more informed decisions while remaining firmly grounded in human authority decision making.



"The key distinction is between disconnected autonomy and commanded autonomy. Autonomy without command is vulnerability. Autonomy under authority is advantage."

Sir Nick Hine KCB,
Chief Executive, Marine

What ARMOR Force delivers

ARMOR Force delivers an integrated, flexible and interoperable capability, designed to support military and humanitarian operations.

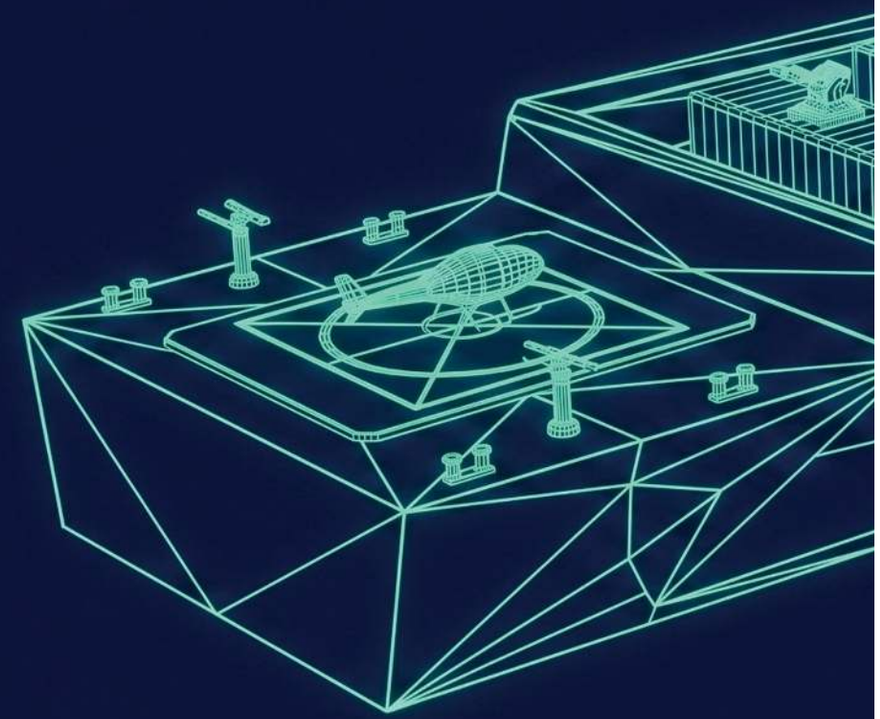
By integrating autonomous vessels with crewed platforms, ARMOR Force reduces risk to personnel while distributing capability across the maritime domain, increasing resilience and operational reach.

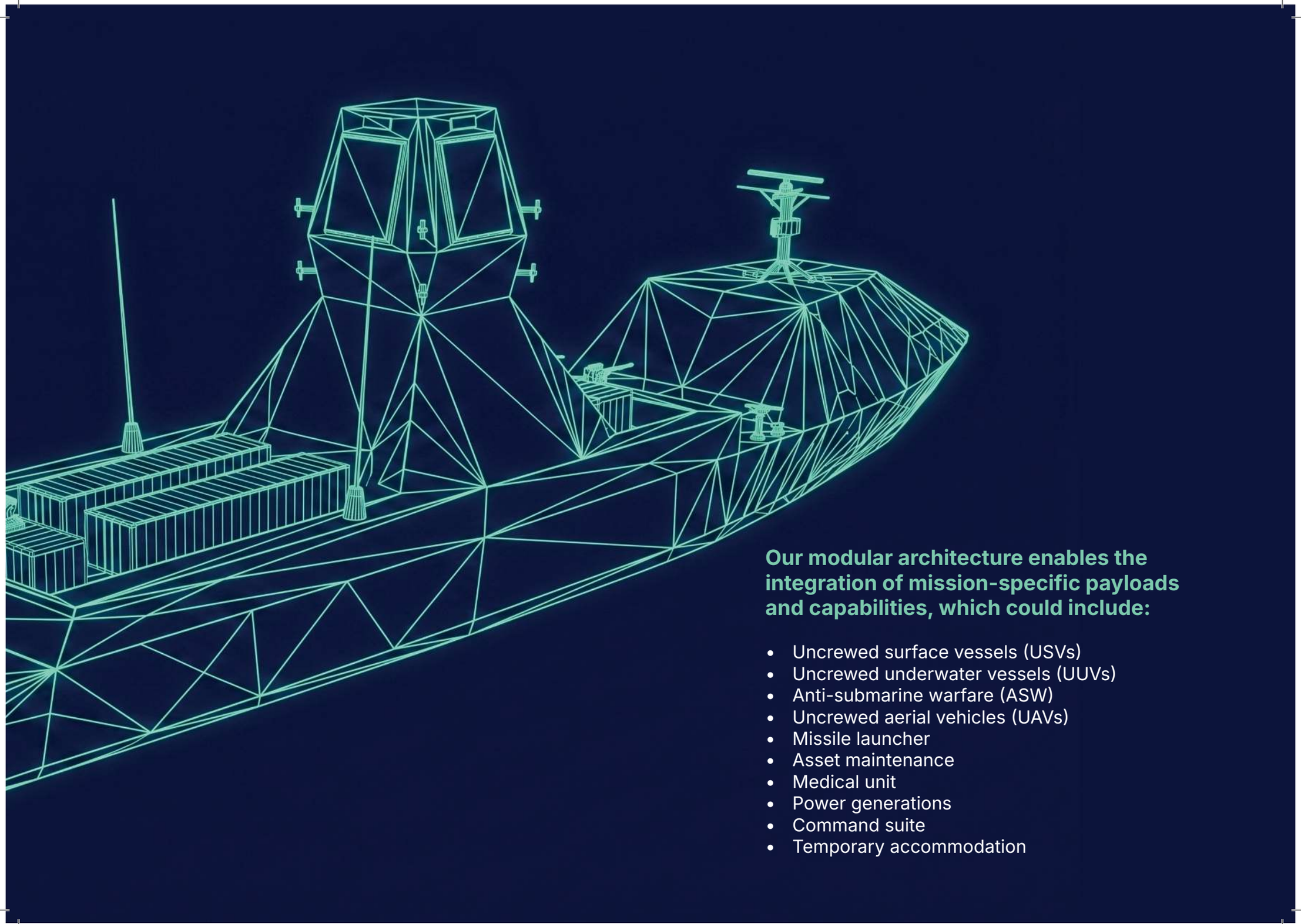
Its open and modular architecture enables the integration of different technologies, mission systems and payloads, allowing navies to adapt quickly to operational requirements as they evolve.

ARMOR Force is designed to support a fully-integrated partnership approach to hybrid naval operations. Supported by our SME network and allied infrastructure, ARMOR Force can be deployed globally at scale. AI-informed systems and continuous tracking provide the insight and coordination needed to sustain persistent operations.

With a range of uncrewed vessels of varying sizes and interoperable systems that can be controlled by allied forces through our system on board the Arrowhead 140, ARMOR Force provides centralised human authority. Supporting a wide range of missions, from air defence and anti-submarine warfare to ISR and humanitarian support, the result is a system that combines scale, flexibility and control, delivering capability where it is needed, when it is needed, under command.

Alongside this, we are developing our own large and extra-large uncrewed surface vessels to support the capabilities required for a Hybrid Navy, offering the opportunity to deploy an infinite range of equipment, weapons and capabilities to support military and humanitarian missions across the globe.





Our modular architecture enables the integration of mission-specific payloads and capabilities, which could include:

- Uncrewed surface vessels (USVs)
- Uncrewed underwater vessels (UUVs)
- Anti-submarine warfare (ASW)
- Uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs)
- Missile launcher
- Asset maintenance
- Medical unit
- Power generations
- Command suite
- Temporary accommodation

Arrowhead 140

A proven, intelligent and adaptable frigate primed for export



Arrowhead 140 is a highly capable and adaptable white and blue water frigate that offers a Common Combat Vessel platform for ARMOR Force. It is able to change operational role rapidly depending upon need and will meet naval requirements both now and in the future.

Arrowhead 140 is a proven hull form that significantly reduces programme risks. The platform delivers high levels of survivability, operability and responsiveness and is a modern, global platform that can operate for national purposes or within a coalition force.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS	
Overall length	138.7m
Beam, maximum	19.8m
Displacement	5,700te
Max speed	28+knots
Endurance	1 – 2 months
Propulsion	CODAD, 2 x CPP

The value

The Arrowhead 140 frigate provides exceptional value for money underpinned by known baseline costs. It is designed for efficient, affordable through-life support with embedded technology, including predictive maintenance systems that inform rapid maintenance decision making.

The platform benefits from our comprehensive understanding of the delivery of cost-effective through-life support to global naval platforms.

The support

Babcock brings decades of experience integrating complex naval systems and delivering mission-critical capabilities to customers worldwide.

Beyond platform integration, we provide the training, assurance, remote operations, maintenance and through-life support services required to turn emerging technologies into trusted operational capability.

The wider benefits

Our integration expertise and partnership approach can offer benefits including:



Strengthening domestic supply chains

with contracts for small and medium-sized businesses

Investing in infrastructure

to modernise and equip domestic facilities





Upskilling and growing local workforces

through in-country build programme

Transferring technology and knowledge

through collaboration with industry and technology partners





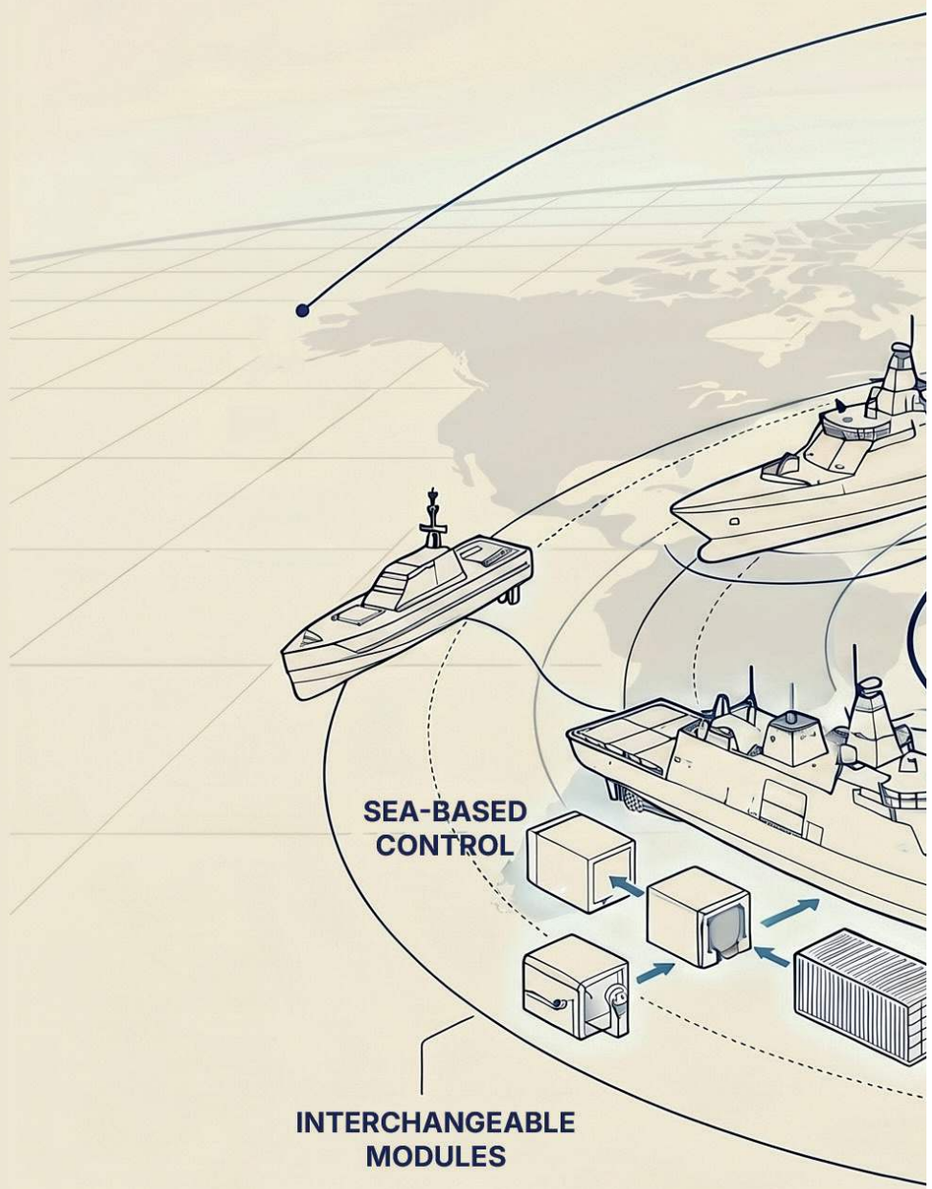
Sovereign design and build

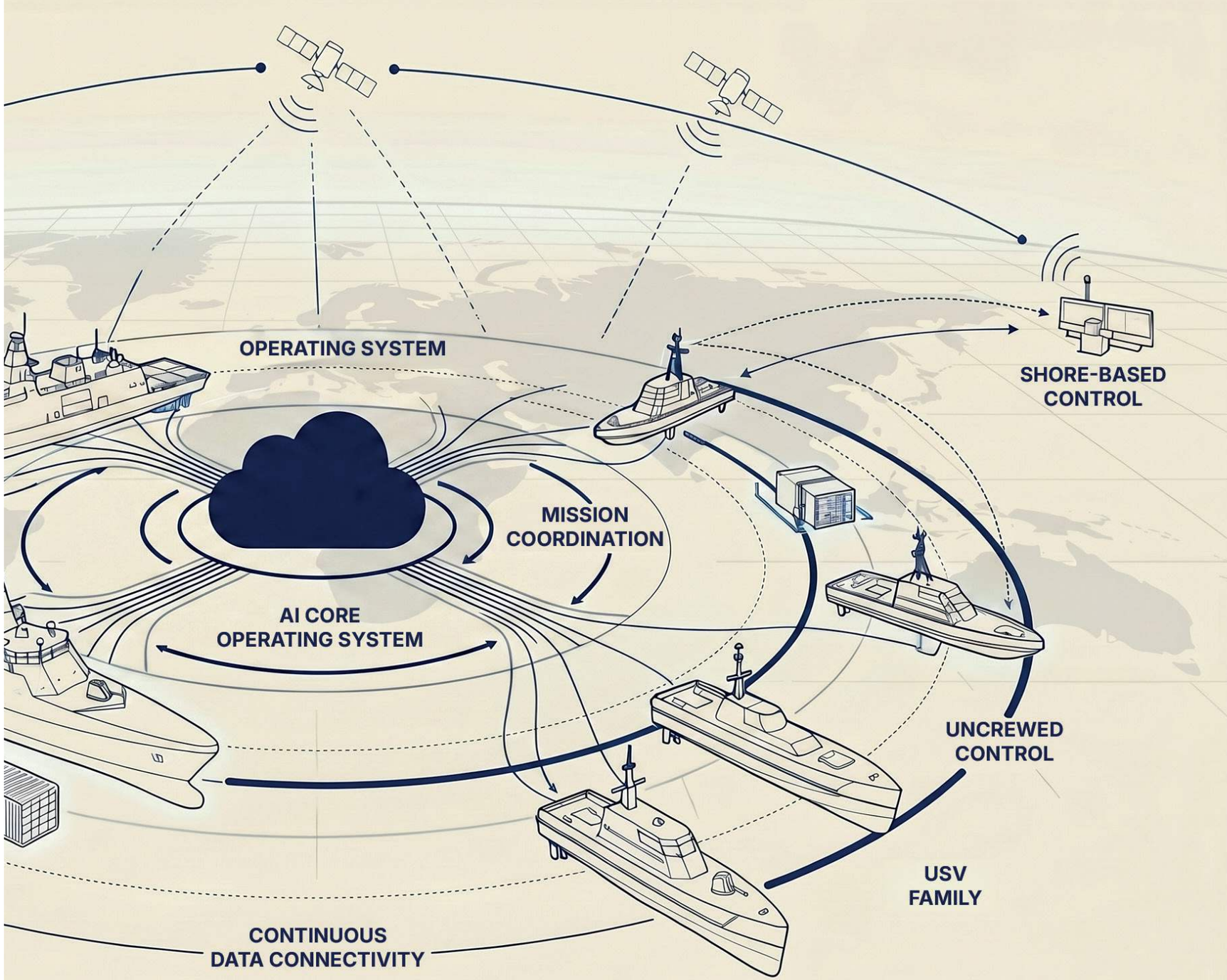
through in-country fleet development, equipping industry for future programmes

Our partners

Babcock is building a network of established USV platform manufacturers and specialist autonomy and mission orchestration technology suppliers.

Through collaboration agreements, we can integrate partners’ technologies, products and services into ARMOR Force, offering customers flexibility and choice.




OPERATING SYSTEM
SHORE-BASED
CONTROL
MISSION
COORDINATION
AI CORE
OPERATING SYSTEM
UNCREWED
CONTROL
USV
FAMILY
CONTINUOUS
DATA CONNECTIVITY



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