



Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunities

1st April 2025, Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour.

The Future of the UK Naval and Maritime Security Enterprise

1st April 2025. Leonardo Royal Southampton Grand Harbour Hotel

The one day event will bring together key stakeholders within the UK's maritime defence and security enterprise to discuss future opportunities and build valuable connections. The SMI Conference 2025 will expand on the work of SMI's Strategic Defence Review and AUKUS working groups.

2025 Conference Programme

Morning Agenda

0800-0900 - Registration and Networking

Session 1 - The Strategic Context for the Naval Enterprise

0900 - 0920 Opening Remarks
0920 - 0940 The National Shipbuilding Office - Looking to the Future
0940 - 1000 The Strategic Defence Review Outcomes for the Royal Navy
1000 - 1030 Panel Discussion
1030 - 1100 Networking Coffee Break

Session 2 - Underpinning Defence and Security – Lessons Learnt from the Civil Maritime Sector

1100 -1200 How the civil maritime sector underpins the defence and security sector through innovation, investment, and strategic collaboration. The panel session will highlight best practices, shared challenges and practical insights for UK policymakers and organisations currently or aiming to work across both naval and civil maritime.

1200 - 1330 Networking Lunch Break

Afternoon Agenda

Session 3 - Opportunities in AUKUS

1330 - 1345 AUKUS Geopolitical Context
1345 - 1400 AUKUS Pillars 1 and 2
1400 - 1415 Underwater Battle Space
1415 - 1430 ACIF: What it Means to Industry
1430 - 1500 Panel Discussion

Session 4 - Safeguarding Critical National Infrastructure

1500 - 1545 A multi-stakeholder panel discussion covering the below topics and more:

- Security in Renewables
- Designing for Security
- An Operator’s Perspective

1545 - 1615 Networking Coffee Break

Session 5 - How Would You Invest £1.8bn of the National Wealth Fund to Increase Productivity in UK Shipyards?

1615 - 1715 A multi-stakeholder panel discussion outlining the ways that investment could/ should be spent to empower the UK’s shipbuilding enterprise. The panel comprises representatives from yards of varying sizes, all engaged in the UK’s shipbuilding pipeline.

1715 - 1730 Closing Remarks

1730 - 2130 - Networking Reception with Buffet



Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour

Located in the major Solent maritime hub of Southampton, the hotel is close to major transport links - just a 20 minute taxi from Southampton airport and 7 minutes by car from Southampton Central Station.

As the largest conference hotel in Southampton, the Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour provides ample space for delegates. With 175 hotel rooms available, plus a bar and restaurant, the hotel offers a conference hub for a seamless and hassle free delegate experience.

Main Stage

The SMI Conference 2025 will utilise the [Mayflower Suite](#), Mayflower Lounge and Mayflower Foyer within the Leonardo Royal Southampton Grand Harbour Hotel. The plenary sessions will take place in Mayflower 1 + 2 featuring purpose built staging to maximise viewing ability, interactivity and sponsor branding opportunities.

Breakout & Exhibition

The exhibition and networking breaks will take place between Mayflower 3, Mayflower Lounge and Mayflower Foyer with an open plan arrangement to enable delegates to flow through spaces with ease. Exhibitors gain maximum footfall from the dual purpose space.

Audience Demographics & Event Feedback

Demographic

Each year the SMI Conference attracts 200-300 senior decision makers from across the maritime industry, from primes, SMEs, academia and more. The below sectors are typically well represented:

- Shipyards
- Government
- Royal Navy and defence procurement
- Offshore renewables
- Regulatory bodies and class societies
- Maritime autonomy and robotics
- Digital technology
- Equipment supply chain
- Ports
- Professional services.

Stats

- Delegates rated their overall experience **4.22/5 stars** in 2024.
- Usefulness of networking opportunities rated **4.5/5 stars**.
- Overall organisation of the event rated **4.65/5 stars** in 2024.

Feedback



An exceptionally well organised event!



It was by far the most organised and informative event I have attended in a very long time.



The social breaks are very helpful to get connected with people.



The marketing was really well done by SMI.



Overall, excellent!

New for 2025

At SMI, we seek to deliver an annual conference event that provides exactly what our delegates want. To this end, we've made some changes to this year's format to maximise the value of the SMI Conference for all attendees.

Longer Networking Breaks

The 2025 SMI Conference will feature longer breaks to give delegates more time to network and build those all important connections.

More Interactive Sessions

This year will feature a larger number of panel and interactive sessions, in addition to typical keynotes to enable audience members to interact more with speakers and topics of interest.

Networking Reception

In breaking with tradition, the SMI Conference will forego the typical gala dinner in favour of a networking buffet reception. This is to encourage a greater level movement within the room, aiding the ability to network with a higher number of fellow delegates and speakers.

Sponsorship Package Options





Entryway Branding



Conference Brochure Advert



Sponsor Banner



Stage Branding



Poseur Table Vinyl Coverings



Lectern Branding



Media Promotion



Video Interview

Headline Sponsor

£15,000 + VAT

Limited to one organisation

- 6 tickets to the SMI Conference 2025
- Logo shown on lectern branding
- Prime placement on stage branding
- Press release announcing sponsorship
- Sponsor welcome speech at the commencement of the day
- Logo inclusion in entryway branding
- Video interview at SMI Conference
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Double page case study in SMI Conference brochure
- Outer cover advert placement in SMI Conference brochure
- Logo included in poseur table top vinyl coverings
- Social media post announcing sponsorship
- Rolling video on screens throughout daytime conference programme (3 mins maximum length)
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair

Lunch and Reception Sponsor

£10,000 + VAT

Limited to one organisation

- 5 tickets to the SMI Conference 2025
- Welcome speech at the reception
- Exclusive use of screens in reception area
- Host table at reception to display company branded materials
- Double page case study in the conference brochure
- Full page advert in conference brochure
- Branded table talkers on catering table
- Press release announcing sponsorships
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Rolling video on screens throughout daytime conference programme (3 mins maximum length)
- Logo inclusion on stage branding
- Logo inclusion on stage lectern
- Logo inclusion on entryway branding
- Logo included in table top vinyl coverings
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair
- Video interview at SMI Conference

Platinum Sponsor

£8,500 + VAT

- 4 tickets to SMI Conference 2025
- Logo shown on lectern branding
- Inclusion on stage branding
- Press release announcing sponsorship
- Logo inclusion in entryway branding
- Video interview at the SMI Conference
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Full page advert in SMI Conference brochure
- Logo included in poseur table top vinyl coverings
- Social media post announcing sponsorship
- Rolling video on screens throughout daytime conference programme (3 mins maximum length)
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair

Gold Sponsor

£5,000 + VAT

- 3 tickets to the SMI Conference 2025
- Inclusion on stage branding
- Press release announcing sponsorship
- Logo inclusion in entryway branding
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Full page advert in SMI Conference brochure
- Logo included in poseur table top vinyl coverings
- Social media post announcing sponsorship
- Rolling video on screens throughout daytime conference programme (3 mins maximum length)
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair

Silver Sponsor

£3,750 + VAT

- 2 tickets to the SMI Conference 2025
- Inclusion on stage branding
- Press release announcing sponsorship
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Half page advert in SMI Conference brochure
- Social media post announcing sponsorship
- Rolling video on screens throughout daytime conference programme (3 mins maximum length)
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair

Bronze Sponsor

£2,500 + VAT

- 1 ticket to the SMI Conference 2025
- Press release announcing sponsorship
- Logo included on sponsor banner and screens
- Quarter page advert in SMI Conference brochure
- Social media post announcing sponsorship
- Sponsor profile listing in SMI Conference brochure
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship by Conference Chair

Exhibition package

In keeping with previous years, we will be running a small exhibition area within the break out spaces. With the SMI Conference 2025 offering longer networking breaks, this year's exhibitors benefit from even greater opportunity to showcase their brand. This year's exhibition is limited to just **8 organisations**, so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

The 2025 exhibition package focuses on delivering reusable materials for exhibitors. All exhibitors will receive the below as a minimum:

- 6 ft trestle table and two chairs
- Branded table cloth (for you to take away)
- 2x A4 and A5 literature stands
- Access to power
- 2x2m free-standing backdrop (for you to take away)
- Social post announcing your status as an exhibitor and inclusion in the SMI Newsletter
- Exhibitor profile listing within the SMI Conference brochure
- Inclusion in pre conference briefing information for delegates
- 1 ticket to the SMI Conference 2025

£1,200 + VAT



We look forward to welcoming you to the SMI Conference 2025

For further information on sponsorships and exhibitions,
please contact Katie Lafferty:

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