**Exhibition Design Brief:**

**Voices From The Abyss**

**50 Years of the Continuous At Sea Deterrent (working title)**

**Location:** Neptune Gallery, Ground Floor, John Fieldhouse Building, Royal Navy Submarine Museum (RNSM)

**Dates:** Permanent Gallery, to open on 15th June 2018

**Exhibition overview**

Since 1968 Royal Navy submarines have carried ballistic missiles (known as SSBNs). The first class of submarine to carry them were the Resolution Class. Today 4 Vanguard class submarines carry the nation’s nuclear deterrent, Trident.

This exhibition, set to open on the anniversary of the first Polaris patrol of HMS Resolution, charts the history of the Royal Navy adopting ballistic missiles and the reasons for it, through to modern day submarines and the Trident era. It will also cover the stories of those who served on board SSBNs and what it is like to live and work on a submarine that must be on constant alert.

The exhibition will highlight the need for a continuous at sea deterrent, correct misinformation but will not shy away from debate about the need for Trident.

**Aims of exhibition**

* To raise awareness about the role of Britain’s nuclear deterrent
* Highlight the experiences of the crews who served/are serving on SSBNs
* Give a broad understanding of the history of the deterrent
* To give the opportunity for debate on the argument for the deterrent by including different voices and viewpoints

**Interpretative approaches**

The exhibition will take a broadly chronological approach to show why the nuclear deterrence was adopted during the Cold War though to the present day. Reflecting crew’s service in ballistic submarines, the exhibition will draw together content from the RNSM collection and other NMRN sites, most notably the Explosion Museum, supplemented with loans from private lenders and other Museums. The exhibition will feature the stories, documents and personal possessions of those who served in Polaris submarines. These reveal the social history of life on a vessel that was in a state of constant readiness.

As well as celebrating the role of the deterrent within the Royal Navy it is important the exhibition reflects the current debate on the renewal of Trident missiles. We envisage that this will be told through several viewpoints, including concerns on the moral and ethical issues. The Museum will not tell the visitor what to think, but will leave them to form their own opinion.

We want the cased displays of artefacts and items on open display to be supported by large, visually stimulating exhibition graphics which make extensive use of the RNSM photographic collection.

There is an opportunity to include an audio visual film within the exhibition to enable us to hear experiences from the crews of Polaris submarines, as well as show footage of test firings of the missile. As part of the project we will be interviewing veterans of Polaris submarines and can also draw on existing audio archives to create a short AV with broadcast audio.

We also want to include a reminiscence and feedback area to enable visitors to reflect and leave memories of their own experiences as well as their thoughts on the Trident renewal.

**Audiences**

The visitor profile for exhibitions at RNSM includes:

* Local residents
* Family groups
* Visiting tourists including those from overseas
* School and cadet groups
* Serving personnel and their relatives
* Veterans and veterans’ associations
* Special Interest e.g. Family or military historians

The general visitor, most of whom are visiting for the first time, make up the majority of the NMRN (P) profile.

**Exhibition Space**

The proposed display area approximately **???**m2 is located within a modern museum building which was refurbished in 2005. It includes:

* 2 Netherfield display cases (one table top and one upright) with possible access to other cases
* Lighting system - LED track mounted spot lighting from above
* No windows
* AV projector and screen
* Speakers

The requirement for 3D exhibition build is minimal, although we do expect to work constructively with the design team to agree the best layout.

**Exhibition design specification**

The designer appointed will work with the RNSM exhibition team to:

* Design all exhibition artwork and create a distinctive logo for the exhibition which can be used within the exhibition, on marketing materials and in digital media
* Supply all interpretive graphics including title panel, story panels and object labels
* Input on the audio-visuals
* Design and build a reflective/feedback area

**Other requirements**

* Consideration of continuity between adjoining display areas and visitor flow through the exhibition space
* Accessibility of design
* All artwork is to be produced in formats usable by the National Museum of the Royal Navy for marketing and promotion

**Installation**

Installation of graphic design elements is to form part of this contract. All other installation remains the responsibility of NMRN.

**National Museum of the Royal Navy (Portsmouth) will provide**

* All text for display boards and captions
* Images
* Company/sponsor logos and any statutory wording
* Hardware for interactives

**Budgets**

The budget for this work will not exceed £**?????** exclusive of VAT

**Miscellaneous**

* A timetable will be agreed with the RNSM exhibition team, including the deadline for signing-off final versions and delivery of completed exhibition material;
* Font style to be advised
* Hard copy drafts, in full colour, of all designs, to be approved and signed-off by the client before printing
* All final artwork, panels, interpretation board content and graphics to be provided in a digital format that will allow NMRN to use them in future if required
* All design work and copyright relating to it will become the property of the client upon completion of the contract
* All travel will be at the expense of the contractor
* Any sub-contractors’ costs to be included in the price submitted
* All prices to include packaging, delivery and unloading
* All design estimates and costings to be produced nett of VAT

**Submission of Design Tender**

The deadlines for submission of tender is: **????**

Submissions to be in writing, outlining initial responses to the above brief, summarizing how the project can be delivered for the available budget.

**Site Visits**

Site visits can be arranged on request during working hours of 9.30am to 2.30 pm between**?????**.

**Attachments**

* Floor Plan of the ground floor of the Museum showing the location of the exhibition space (labelled as ‘Temporary Exhibition Gallery’)
* Photos of existing display space (showing First World War exhibition)
* Exhibition Brief

**For further information or to return submissions contact:**

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