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The Royal Navy's New-Generation Type 45 Destroyer. Acquisition Options and Implications.

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Abstract : The United Kingdom has several ship procurement programmes under way or planned for the future, including those for new attack submarines, aircraft carriers, surface combatants, and auxiliary ships. Among these programmes is the new-generation destroyer,

known as the Type 45. The United Kingdom intends to acquire up to a dozen of these warships for the Royal Navy beginning in 2007. These ships will be some of the largest surface combatants built for the Royal Navy since World War II and will constitute a sizeable portion of the new surface warship acquisitions that the United Kingdom plans to make over the next two decades. As such, the acquisition and production techniques that the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) adopts for the Type 45 will be a bellwether for later acquisitions. In recent years, the MOD has become interested in evaluating a variety of different strategies that it might employ to acquire warships. It also has become increasingly aware of excess industrial capacity in the UK's warship-building sector. As a result, the MOD in 2001 asked RAND to help it: (1) analyse the costs and benefits of alternative acquisition paths and (2) evaluate near- and long-term strategies that would yield the highest value, encourage innovation, use production capacity efficiently, and sustain the UK's core warship industrial base, given other current and future MOD ship programmes, with particular reference to the Type 45.

Descriptors : *NAVAL VESSELS(COMBATANT) , *DESTROYERS , MILITARY STRATEGY , AIRCRAFT CARRIERS , MILITARY PROCUREMENT , MILITARY PLANNING , ATTACK SUBMARINES , UNITED KINGDOM

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