



## Defence Committee

Chairman, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood

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Steve Timms, Managing Director, BAE SYSTEMS Submarines (via email)

*Dear Steve,*

18 October 2021

I am also writing to get your thoughts on the potential sale of GE Steam Power to EDF Energy. The Committee is concerned that the sale may negatively affect the Astute and Dreadnought programs.

As I'm sure you will have seen in the press, General Electric and EDF announced on 22 September that they were in preliminary talks over the possible sale of GE Steam Power's nuclear activities in France. The Committee has been informed that the potential sale would include a GE site in Rugby that manufactures turbines for the Astute and Dreadnought programmes. The Committee is concerned that this would result in foreign ownership of intellectual property related to one of the UK's most important national security projects. The Committee is also concerned that foreign ownership could increase the chance of the Rugby site closing and capacity for MoD classified work being transferred from the UK.

Would you be able to let the Committee know if BAE have made any assessment of the potential impact any sale might have on the Astute and Dreadnought programs? Have BAE had any discussions with GE about the potential impact of their plans?

The Committee will also be writing to the GE and the Secretary of State for Defence about this issue.

*Yours sincerely,*

*P.P. Jonathan Edwards*

**Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP**  
**Chair of the Defence Committee**