Once you have set eyes on the RRS Sir David Attenborough, you won’t forget her. Measuring in at 129 metres, the ship is as long as 10 buses and weighs 10,400 tonnes – that’s 1,400 elephants. Built by Cammell Laird to a Rolls-Royce design and kitted out with state-of-the-art facilities, the ship will push the boundaries of polar science and exploration.

HELD DECK AND HANGAR
The ships heldeck and hangar will support two small helicopters which can launch aerial drones for science missions. They can also transfer equipment and people to and from shore.

LIVING ON BOARD
Scientists and crew will be able to unwind using the gym, sauna, bar, and TV facilities. They will sleep in a mixture of single and double-occupancy cabins.

LIFEBOATS
There will be 14 laboratories on board and at least 10 shipping containers with scientific equipment that can be reconfigured to keep up with changing technologies and techniques.

1. CTD (Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth) – a collection of sensors deployed overboard to detect how the salinity (salt levels) and temperature of the water column changes relative to depth.
2. CHLOROPHYLL – a collection of sensors deployed overboard to detect chlorophyll levels in the water.
3. Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) – a collection of sensors deployed overboard to detect current speeds and directions in the water.
4. Work boat “Tirin” transports personnel and supplies.

RROCK DRILLS
Deployed from the stern, sides or moonpool of the ship, drills will sample soft sediment and rock up to 2000 metres underwater.

ENGINES
The engines will run as silently as possible to avoid interference with the ‘ears of the ship’, acoustic instruments, which use echo sounders to measure life in the water and map the sea floor.

Moorings winch

4.5m propeller

Scientific Winch System

Deployment equipment, such as ROV, drills, winches.

LIFEBOATS & WORKSPACES
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