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.

**CTD (Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth)**
- A collection of sensors deployed overboard to detect how the salinity (salt levels) and temperature of the water column change relative to depth.

**Scientific winch system**
- Deploys equipment, such as rock drills, overboard.

**Science crane**
- Used for deploying scientific equipment overboard.

**Rock drills**
- Deployed from the stern, sides, or moonpool of the ship, drills will sample soft sediment and rock up to 2000 meters underwater.

**Main cargo crane (50 tonne)**
- Used for loading and unloading cargo.

**Scientific hangar**
- Offers a protected area for scientific equipment.

**Work boat “Erebus”**
- Transports personnel and supplies.

**Moon pool**
- Scientists can lower and raise equipment (such as ROVs) through the moon pool, a vertical hole running through the hull of the vessel. This makes it easier and safer to deploy scientific equipment in the rough polar oceans and ice-covered waters.

**ROV (remotely-operated underwater vehicle)**
- The ship will act as a central platform for deploying state-of-the-art autonomous and remotely-operated vehicles. These will explore untouched parts of the ocean and atmosphere. Remotely controlled vehicles will be connected to the ship and powered via a cable – just like an umbilical cord. Autonomous underwater vehicles, like the ‘Boaty McBoatface’ Autosub Long Range, will have no link to the ship and will travel deep beneath ice shelves and at the edge of active glaciers.

**Marine robotics**
- Scientists can use the ship to deploy scientific equipment through the moon pool.

**Scientist cabins**
- 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.

**Labs & workspaces**
- 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.

**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.

**Hull designed to break through ice one metre thick**
- The ship is capable of spending 60 days at sea without being refuelled, allowing her to embark on longer voyages than any other UK polar research vessel.

**NERC**
- NERC is the UK’s biggest funder of environmental and life science research and training.

**UK Research and Innovation**
- UKRI is the newly formed innovation agency with a vision to ensure that the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation.