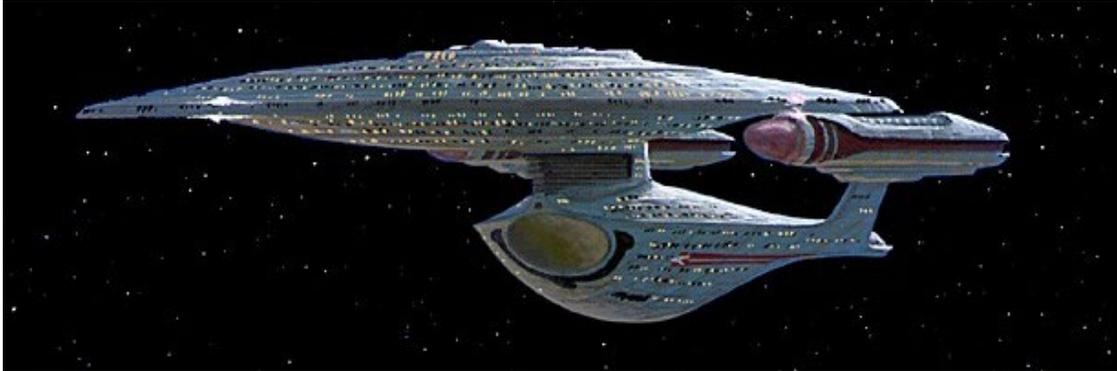


HERALD-CLASS SPACEFRAME PROJECT

by David Heidelberger (goldenankh@gmail.com)



Original Ambassador-class Sketch from Andrew Probert

Strategic Parameters Posed to the Utopia Planitia Planning Group (UPPG), Stardate 51132.4

1. Starfleet has suffered major losses to its effective and actual strength due to the Dominion War
2. Smaller ships and older ships represent a disproportionately large percentage of losses
3. Losses are mounting at a rate that outpaces current refit and construction techniques
4. Ships must be able to prosecute the Dominion War and pursue Starfleet's historical mandates
5. The Federation will not countenance the creation of capital ships intended solely for combat

Utopia Planitia Planning Group (UPPG), Summary of Reply and Recommended Approach:

In summary, the UPPG proposes that it is time Starfleet raids the pantry...thoughtfully.

Starfleet maintains large stocks of older starships in mothballs awaiting reactivation in time of need. However, considering parameter 2, pulling the Excelsior classes out of their well-earned rest and pointing them at the great unknown or – even worse – at the latest arrivals from the Gamma Quadrant would be a waste of time, materiel, and personnel.

The UPPG recommends instead a crash modernization project. To satisfy parameter 3, the objective of the project is to get a proven spaceframe 90% ready for today at 30% of the time to launch a new hull from the ground up. We believe that for these mothballed ships to be able to meet parameter 4 in both letter and spirit, the byword must be reconstruction, not refit.

We recommend as the testbed for the concept the *Ambassador*-class starship. The most famous ship of the class was the *Enterprise-C*, but the entire class served with honor and distinction, and we see no reason why it cannot continue to do so with effective modernization.

A full list of recommended reconstruction efforts can be found in appendix C of this document. In short, our primary objective is to ruggedize the spaceframe. We will achieve over 70% of this objective by enhancing the secondary hull and shortening the warp nacelle pylons. Most of the remainder will come from thickening the saucer section and adding necessary interior reinforcement. It is important to note that we have modeled solutions that will interfere with neither the impressive impulse engines nor with saucer separation capability.

Three ships have been identified as the optimal initial candidates: the *USS Horatio*, the *USS Ghandi*, and the *USS Zhukov*. As the totality of the reconstruction stands to be more than the sum of its parts, the UPPG proposes that the reconstructed ships be launched as a new class: the *Herald*-class. As such, the ships would earn new names. Perhaps Starfleet is not ready to name starships after famous starship captains. However, we do not see any reason, especially in this time of turmoil, why Starfleet would hesitate to name starships after towns that have had famous people of note born in them, perhaps even famous starship captains.

Following convention, the first reconstructed ship would be named the USS Herald. The second ship would be named for politics. The UPPG humbly requests that the third be named after Riverside, Iowa, Earth.

U.S.S. Herald

Class: Ambassador-class

Mission Profile: Multirole Explorer

Traits: Federation Starship, Long-Serving, New Tech on an Old Frame

Systems

Comms	9	Engines	9	Structure	11
Computers	10	Sensors	10	Weapons	10

Disciplines

CMD	3	SEC	2	SCI	3
CONN	2	ENG	3	MED	2

Scale: 5

Resistance: 6

Power: 9

Shields: 13

Crew Support: 5

Attacks

- Phaser Arrays (7♣, Versatile 2, Area/Spread)
- Photon Torpedoes (6♣, High Yield, Vicious 1, Calibration Required)
- Tractor Beam (Strength 4)

Talents

- Quantum Torpedoes
- Improved Impulse Drive
- Saucer Separation
- Rugged Design
- Improved Hull Integrity