

Coast Guard Awards Eight Contracts for Industry OPC Studies

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard has awarded eight offshore patrol cutter (OPC) industry studies contracts, the service announced in a release. These awards support the Coast Guard's strategy to mitigate OPC program risk and establish a new, fair and open competitive environment to complete the OPC program of record.

Industry studies contracts were awarded to:

- Austal USA of Mobile, Alabama: \$2 million base award (\$3 million total potential value)
- Bath Iron Works of Bath, Maine: \$2 million base award (\$3 million total potential value)
- Bollinger Shipyards Lockport of Lockport, Louisiana: \$2 million base award (\$3 million potential value)
- Eastern Shipbuilding Group of Panama City, Florida: \$1.1 million base award (\$1.2 million potential value)
- Fincantieri Marinette Marine of Marinette, Wisconsin: \$2 million base award (\$3 million total potential value)
- Huntington Ingalls, Inc. of Pascagoula, Mississippi: \$2 million base award (\$3 million total potential value)
- Philly Shipyard of Philadelphia: \$2 million base award (\$3 million total potential value)
- VT Halter Marine of Pascagoula, Mississippi: \$2 million base award (\$2.9 million total potential value)

Under their respective contracts, the awardees will assess OPC design and technical data, provided by the Coast Guard, and the program's construction approach. Based on their analyses, the awardees will recommend to the Coast Guard potential strategies and approaches for the follow-on detail design and

construction (DD&C). The awardees will also discuss how they would prepare the OPC functional design for production. The awardees may also identify possible design or systems revisions that would be advantageous to the program if implemented, with strategies to ensure those revisions are properly managed.

The Coast Guard will use the industry studies results to further inform its follow-on acquisition strategy and promote a competitive environment for the DD&C award. Participation in industry studies is not a pre-requisite for submitting a DD&C proposal.

The OPCs will replace the service's aging medium-endurance cutters, which are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. The OPCs will bridge the capabilities of the national security cutters, which patrol the open ocean, and the fast response cutters, which serve closer to shore.

The current OPC DD&C contract is for up to four hulls. The contract was adjusted as part of a request made by the incumbent, Eastern Shipbuilding Group, for extraordinary relief. The request was a result of devastation caused when Hurricane Michael made landfall in Panama City, Florida, on Oct. 10, 2018. Hurricane Michael caused extensive damage to the ESG's shipyard and the Panama City region.