

Coast Guard Awards Four More Fast Response Cutters to Bollinger Shipyards



The 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter will be a key component of the Coast Guard's recapitalized fleet. It will be capable of speeds in excess of 28 knots and feature a cutter boat stern ramp launch and recovery system. U.S. Coast Guard LOCKPORT, La. – The U.S. Coast Guard has awarded Bollinger Shipyards LLC four additional Sentinel-Class Fast Response Cutters (FRC), the company said in a Sept. 22 release.

This announcement brings the total number of FRCs awarded to Bollinger up to 60 vessels since the program's inception. The Coast Guard's Program of Record is to procure 64 FRCs.

"It's a great honor to have the confidence of the U.S. Coast Guard to continue the work we're doing," said Ben Bordelon, Bollinger Shipyards president and chief executive officer. "The FRC program is something we're all proud of here in Louisiana. Delivering vessels on schedule and on budget to the Coast Guard during these challenging times shows the determination and resiliency of our workforce."

All four FRCs will be built at Bollinger's Lockport, Louisiana, facility and are scheduled for delivery to the Coast Guard in 2022 and 2023. Three of the four would be home-ported in Alaska and the fourth in Boston, Massachusetts.

"While Louisiana's unemployment rate remains above historic averages, we're proud that Bollinger continues to be an economic pillar and job creator in south Louisiana," Bordelon said. "More than 600 of our 1,500-plus employees have important roles related to the FRC program. Without the support of the Coast Guard and Congress for the continuation

of this critical program in FY21, the security of these jobs would be thrown into question.”

The FRC program has had a total economic impact of \$1.2 billion since inception in material spending and directly supports 650 jobs in Southeast Louisiana. The program has indirectly created 1,690 new jobs from operations and capital investment and has an annual economic impact on GDP of \$202 million, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) on the economic Importance of the U.S. Shipbuilding and Repair Industry. Bollinger sources over 271,000 different items for the FRC, consisting of 282 million components and parts from 965 suppliers in 37 states.

The FRC is one of many U.S. government shipbuilding programs that Bollinger is proud to support. In addition to the construction of the FRC, Bollinger is participating in Industry Studies for five government programs, including the U.S. Coast Guard’s Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) program, the U.S. Navy’s Common Hull Auxiliary Multi-Mission Platform (CHAMP) program, the U.S. Navy’s Auxiliary General Ocean Surveillance (T-AGOS(X)) program, the U.S. Navy’s Large Unmanned Surface Vehicle (LUSV) program and the U.S. Navy’s Light Amphibious Warship (LAW) program.

The FRC is an operational “game changer,” according to senior Coast Guard officials. FRCs are consistently being deployed in support of the full range of missions within the United States Coast Guard and other branches of our armed services. This is due to its exceptional performance, expanded operational reach and capabilities, and ability to transform and adapt to the mission.

FRCs have conducted operations as far as the Marshall Islands – a 4,400-nautical-mile trip from their homeport. Measuring in at 154-feet, FRCs have a flank speed of 28 knots, state of the art C4ISR suite (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance), and stern

launch and recovery ramp for a 26-foot, over-the-horizon
interceptor cutter boat.