

Navy Orders Construction of \$1.7 Billion Dry Dock at Portsmouth Shipyard



USS Virginia (SSN 774) successfully exits dry dock at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine on June 22, 2021. Virginia is at the shipyard for a scheduled maintenance period. *U.S. NAVY / Jim Cleveland*

ARLINGTON, Va. – As a major step in its 20-year plan to upgrade and modernize its shipyard capacity and capability, the Navy has awarded a major construction contract for a multi-mission dry dock at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia, awarded 381 Constructors of Omaha, Nebraska, a \$1.73 billion firm-fixed-price contract for construction of the dry dock, an Aug. 13 Defense Department contract announcement said. The funds will be disbursed in increments over a seven-year period. Work is expected to be completed by June 2028.

PNSY is a Navy-owned shipyard which specializes in the repair, modification, and overhaul of nuclear-powered attack submarines. The upgrades are part of the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP), a 20-year plan to modernize the Navy's four shipyards. The other three shipyards are Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia; Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington; and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii.

"Our naval shipyards need these major modernization efforts to sustain our ability to maintain our nuclear submarine fleet," said Vice Adm. William Galinis, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), in an Aug. 16 release. "The Navy needs

combat-ready ships and submarines to go where they're needed, when they're needed, and these major upgrades and reconfigurations at our naval shipyards will enable the fleet to meet its future missions."

The seven-year project will construct an addition to Dry Dock 1 within the existing flood basin area, as well as new concrete floors, walls, pump systems, caissons, and other mechanical and electrical utilities, enhancing the 221-year-old shipyard's ability to handle multiple Los Angeles-class and Virginia-class submarines, the Navy said.

SIOP is a joint effort between Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command and Navy Installations Command "to recapitalize and modernize the infrastructure at the Navy's four public shipyards, including repairing and modernizing dry docks, restoring shipyard facilities and optimizing their placement, and replacing aging and deteriorating capital equipment," the Naval Facilities Systems Command said.

"We look forward to getting this critical construction mega-project underway," said Rear Adm. John Korka, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, and Navy chief of Civil Engineers. "This project – and other work being planned at all four of our naval shipyards – is one of the most significant and direct contributions that our systems command team can make to enable our Navy's lethality and maximize its readiness for many years to come."