



Acquisition
Directorate

NOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Length:

360 feet

Beam:

54 feet

Draft:

17 feet

Maximum Speed:

22.5 knots

Range:

10,200 nautical miles
at 14 knots

Endurance:

60 days

Acquisition of the offshore patrol cutter (OPC) is one of the Coast Guard's highest investment priorities. The OPC will provide a critical capability bridge between the national security cutter, which patrols the open ocean in the most demanding maritime environments, and the fast response cutter, which serves closer to shore. The OPC will feature state-of-the-market technology and will replace the service's 270-foot and 210-foot medium endurance cutters, which are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and operate.

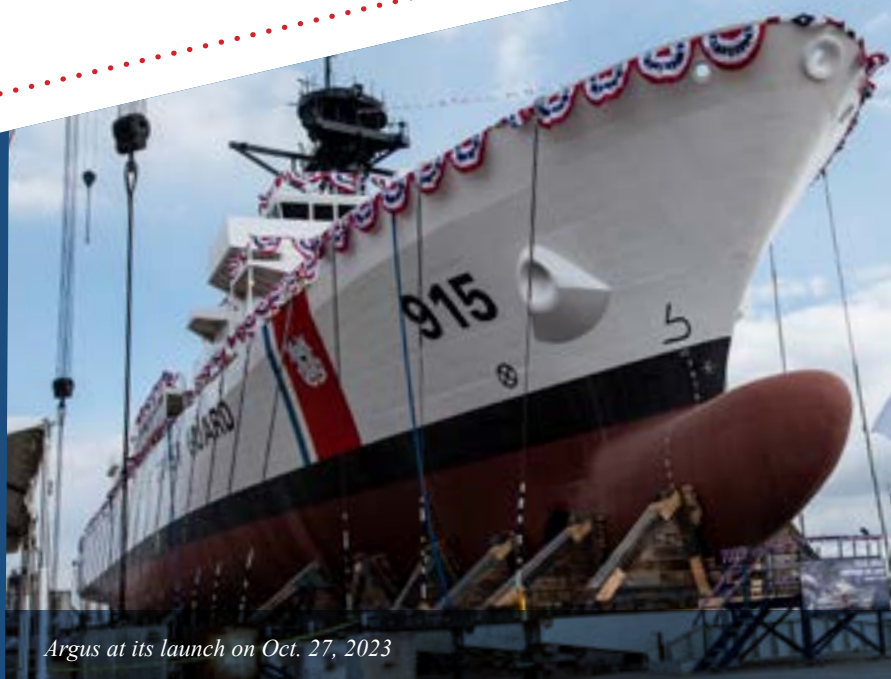
These medium endurance cutter classes have been in operation for approximately 30 and 55 years respectively and are in many ways technologically obsolete. The OPC is the most effective way to meet the service's long-term need for cutters capable of deploying independently or as part of task groups to conduct law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security and defense missions.

The Coast Guard has begun production of the OPC fleet at two shipyards. Stage 1 currently includes production of four cutters at Eastern Shipbuilding Group of Panama City, Florida. The first OPC, Argus, was christened in 2023 at Eastern's Nelson Shipyard in Panama City.

In 2019, the Coast Guard held a full and open competition for production of up to 11 additional OPCs, designated as Stage 2 of the overall program. On June 30, 2022, the Coast Guard awarded a fixed-price incentive (firm target) contract to Austal USA of Mobile, Alabama, to produce up to 11 OPCs. In 2024, the Coast Guard and Austal began production of the first Stage 2 OPC, Pickering.



OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER



Argus at its launch on Oct. 27, 2023

For updates on the **offshore patrol cutter**, visit the program's website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition