

OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER



Acquisition
Directorate

NOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Length:	360 feet
Beam:	54 feet
Draft:	17 feet
Sustained Speed:	22.5 knots
Range:	10,200 nautical miles at 14 knots
Endurance:	60 days



Notional offshore patrol cutter design



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“The OPC will provide the tools to effectively enforce Federal laws, secure our maritime borders, disrupt Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs), and respond to 21st century threats... OPCs will be the backbone of the Coast Guard’s strategy to project and maintain offshore presence.”

– Adm. Karl Schultz,
commandant of the Coast Guard

Acquisition of the offshore patrol cutter (OPC) is the Coast Guard’s highest investment priority. 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 affordable 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 is using a multi-phased design-build strategy to acquire the OPC. This approach establishes stable requirements and design early in the acquisition to help mitigate cost and schedule risks. The Coast Guard awarded contracts to three shipbuilders in February 2014 for the first phase, preliminary and contract design.

After evaluating an extensive range of proposed deliverables submitted by each of the potential contractors, the service on Sept. 15, 2016, awarded a \$110.29 million contract option to Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG) of Panama City, Florida, to complete detail design. The Phase 2 includes detail design and options for construction of up to four OPCs. The Coast Guard exercised a fixed-price op-

tion to the service’s existing contract with ESG on Sept. 7, 2017, to procure long lead time materials for the first OPC. The service exercised contract options on Sept. 28, 2018, on the same contract to begin construction of the lead OPC and to acquire long lead-time materials for the second OPC. Delivery of the lead OPC is planned for 2022. Twenty-five vessels are planned.

On Oct. 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael – a Category 5 storm – made landfall in Panama City, Florida, causing widespread damage to ESG’s facilities. As a result, ESG requested extraordinary cost and schedule relief from the Coast Guard to support continued performance on the OPC contract. The Acting Secretary of Homeland Security determined that extraordinary relief was necessary to maintain the national defense and was in the best interest of the government. The Coast Guard is moving forward with an adjustment to the OPC contract with ESG to include options for construction of up to four OPCs. The Coast Guard will work with ESG to establish new cost and schedule targets under the contract and continue OPC production at ESG’s facilities.

The Coast Guard established the project resident office (PRO) for OPC acquisition at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., in July 2016 to lay the groundwork for the new unit and ensure efficient transition of acquisition personnel to the shipyard facilities. The PRO is staffed with Coast Guard personnel who oversee work and provide management of contract execution for the OPC acquisition; it moved to facilities at ESG’s shipyard in Panama City in May 2017.

For updates on the OPC, visit the program’s website at
<http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/Offshore-Patrol-Cutter/>

U.S. COAST GUARD
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Mission execution begins *here*.