

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 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, on Sept. 15, 2016, awarded a \$110.29 million contract option to Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG) of Panama City, Florida, that included detail design and options for construction of up to nine OPCs. The Coast Guard exercised a fixed-price option 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.

On Oct. 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael – a Category 5 storm – made landfall in Panama City, Florida, causing widespread damage to ESG’s facilities and the surrounding area. As a result, ESG requested extraordinary cost and schedule relief from the Coast Guard to support continued performance on the OPC contract. The then-Acting Secretary of Homeland Security determined that limited extraordinary relief was necessary to maintain the national defense and was in the best interest of the government. The Coast Guard adjusted the contract with ESG to support the continued production of the lead OPC and options to produce up to four OPCs in total.

Concurrent with those modifications and at the direction of DHS, the Coast Guard initiated a new round of acquisition activities to support a full and open follow-on competition to complete the OPC Program of record (25 cutters). These activities include industry studies to assess the state of the current design and identify potential acquisition strategies and industry engagement events.

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

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Mission execution begins *here*.