

# POLAR ICEBREAKER RECAPITALIZATION



Acquisition  
Directorate



Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star



Coast Guard Cutter Healy



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Coast Guard requires six new icebreakers to support the country's economic, commercial, maritime and national security needs. The new icebreakers will be national assets that will ensure access to both polar regions and be capable of executing key Coast Guard missions, including defense readiness; marine environmental protection; ports, waterways and coastal security; and search and rescue. The ships will operate worldwide and face the range of extreme environmental conditions found in the polar, tropical and temperate regions.

The Coast Guard released its draft heavy polar icebreaker system specifications in a request for information in April 2017. The Navy, in collaboration with the Coast Guard under an integrated program office, released a draft request for proposal (RFP) in October 2017 for detail design and construction of a heavy polar icebreaker.

The integrated program office received approval from the Department of Homeland Security to advance to the Obtain phase

of the acquisition in February 2018. This phase involves developing and evaluating capabilities. In March 2018, the integrated program office released an RFP for the advance planning and detail design of heavy polar icebreakers, with options for detail design and construction of three of the ships. The service intends to begin production activities in 2020 under an accelerated acquisition timeline. The delivery target for the first new heavy polar icebreaker is 2023.

The operational polar icebreaking fleet currently includes one 399-foot heavy icebreaker (Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star, commissioned in 1976) and one 420-foot medium icebreaker (Coast Guard Cutter Healy, commissioned in 2000). Polar Star underwent a three-year reactivation and returned to operations in late 2013. Since then, the ship has completed five Operation Deep Freeze deployments to resupply McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

For updates on the polar icebreakers, visit the program's website at <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/Polar-Icebreaker/>

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Mission execution begins *here*.