The response boat-medium has revitalized the Coast Guard’s shore-based boat fleet, delivering improved speed, maneuverability and ergonomics over the 41-foot utility boat and other non-standard boats it has replaced. The RB-M makes boat crews more effective in performing multiple Coast Guard missions, including search and rescue; ports, waterways and coastal security; law enforcement; and drug and migrant interdiction. It can travel significantly faster than older boats of similar size, improving mission response times. The RB-M design also includes waterjet propulsion for greater maneuverability and a climate-controlled cabin and shock-mitigating seats to reduce crew fatigue on extended patrols.

All 174 RB-Ms have been delivered to 105 stations across 30 states and territories across the U.S. The first RB-M was delivered in April 2008 and the last in March 2015.