

WATERWAYS COMMERCE CUTTER



Acquisition
Directorate



The Coast Guard's inland tender fleet comprises three main cutter types. Shown clockwise from left are an inland construction tender, a river buoy tender and an inland buoy tender.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Coast Guard's inland tender fleet protects vital infrastructure and enables the free flow of commerce along the nation's marine highways, protecting American jobs and contributing to America's economic and energy security. The fleet consists of 35 tenders that allow the Coast Guard to establish, maintain and repair aids to navigation (ATON) in dynamic waters largely inaccessible by larger and geographically displaced ATON units. The inland tenders also provide some of the same capabilities as the Coast Guard's oceangoing cutter fleet, enabling them to quickly and effectively respond to emergencies such as environmental incidents and severe weather events.

The vessels in the current fleet of inland tenders, however, have an average age of more than 50 years and are in a state of obsolescence. To replace the capability these tenders provide, the Coast Guard has established the Waterways Commerce Cutter (WCC) Program. The program recently partnered with the Naval

Sea Systems Command to conduct an independent alternatives analysis (AA). The AA will evaluate materiel and non-materiel options to determine viable methods of addressing the service's mission needs within cost and schedule constraints. This analysis will include the possibility of renewing and standardizing its inland maritime mission capability with modern, state-of-the-market tenders equipped with proven technology to conduct missions in the Western Rivers, Intracoastal Waterway, and other inland and coastal waters of the United States. The program has released four requests for information – one each in February 2018, June 2018, October 2018 and February 2019 – to conduct market research and invite industry to comment on creative, effective, and affordable solutions.

The WCC Program is working under a heavily accelerated program schedule to reach initial operational capability by fiscal year 2024 and full operational capability by fiscal year 2030.



For updates on the WCC, visit the program's website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/WCC/

U.S. COAST GUARD
April 2019
www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition

Mission execution begins *here*.