



The Coast Guard's polar icebreaker acquisition program was approved to move forward to the next phase of the acquisition life cycle. The project is designed to maintain critical icebreaking capabilities at high latitudes, currently performed by the Coast Guard Cutter Healy (shown above) and two aging Polar-class heavy icebreakers. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Lally.

Acquisition Update: Polar Icebreaker Acquisition Project Approved For Next Phase

June 20, 2014

The U.S. Coast Guard's Polar Icebreaker acquisition project achieved the next acquisition milestone on June 13, 2014, with approval to enter the Analyze/Select phase of the Department of Homeland Security acquisition lifecycle. This action validates the need for continued icebreaker capabilities and allows the project to move forward to the next acquisition phase.

Approval to proceed was granted after the Coast Guard identified specific capabilities necessary to address mission performance gaps and prepared a formal mission need statement, concept of operations overview and preliminary acquisition plan. During the Analyze/Select Phase, the Coast Guard will develop operational requirements for a future polar icebreaker, identify resources required to maintain the asset through its lifecycle and assess potential alternatives capable of meeting polar icebreaking mission requirements.

The Coast Guard's Major Systems Acquisition Manual (MSAM) prescribes a disciplined acquisition lifecycle approach that divides the acquisition process into five phases:

- Project Identification
- Need
- Analyze/Select
- Obtain

- Produce/Deploy/Support

The MSAM outlines specific goals and milestones that a project must achieve before proceeding to the next phase and is available for view at <https://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/aboutus/pdf/msam.pdf>