



The first national security cutter, Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf, entered service in 2008 and is stationed in Alameda, California. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Awards National Security Cutter Structural Enhancement Contract

Feb. 18, 2016

The Coast Guard awarded a contract to Vigor Marine LLC Feb. 16, 2016, for the structural enhancement drydock availability effort for the first and second national security cutters. The current value of the award is \$2.3 million, which will support the detail design and planning phase of the contract and long lead time material for the first NSC.

The contract has a potential value of up to \$70.6 million if all options are exercised. The contracted work will be performed in Seattle.

During the early stages of NSC production activities, it was determined that certain structural modifications would need to be incorporated into the NSC design in order to achieve a 30-year design fatigue life. The Coast Guard and the contractor conducted additional analyses and engineering efforts to address the fatigue life concerns, and structural enhancements were incorporated into regular production during the construction of the third NSC, Coast Guard Cutter Stratton. Stratton and all subsequent NSCs have the enhancements already installed; however, due to construction timelines, the first two NSCs – Coast Guard cutters Bertholf and Waesche – were not able to receive the structural enhancements.

During the detail design and planning phase for SEDA, the contractor will develop detailed drawings and engineering work packages for the structural enhancement and

establish the schedule and approach for the repair execution phase. The repair execution phase will include structural enhancement work, work on planned recurring maintenance items, and several system upgrades to conform to the final NSC baseline design. Successful execution of the structural enhancements will prevent long-term fatigue damage, which would result in additional life cycle maintenance costs, and ensure a 30-year design fatigue life for the cutters Bertholf and Waesche.