

OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER



Acquisition
Directorate

NOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Length:	360 feet
Beam:	54 feet
Draft:	17 feet
Sustained Speed:	22.5 knots
Range:	10,200 nautical miles at 14 knots
Endurance:	60 days



Notional offshore patrol cutter design



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“The OPC will be the backbone of Coast Guard offshore presence and the manifestation of our at-sea authorities. It is essential to stopping smugglers at sea, for interdicting undocumented migrants, rescuing mariners, enforcing fisheries laws, responding to disasters and protecting our ports.”

– Adm. Paul Zukunft,
commandant of the Coast Guard

Acquisition of the offshore patrol cutter (OPC) is the Coast Guard’s highest investment priority. The OPC will provide a critical capability bridge between the national security cutter, which patrols the open ocean in the most demanding maritime environments, and the fast response cutter, which serves closer to shore. The OPC will feature state-of-the market technology and will replace the service’s 270-foot and 210-foot medium endurance cutters, which are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. These medium endurance cutter classes have been in operation for 25 to 50 years and are in many respects technologically obsolete. The OPC is the most affordable way to meet the service’s long-term need for cutters capable of deploying independently or as part of task groups to conduct law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security and defense missions.

The Coast Guard is using a two-phased design-build strategy to acquire the OPC. This approach establishes stable requirements and design early in the acquisition to help mitigate cost and schedule risks. The Coast Guard awarded contracts to three shipbuilders in February 2014 for the first phase, preliminary and contract design.

After evaluating an extensive range of proposed deliverables submitted by each of the potential contractors, the service on Sept. 15, 2016, awarded a \$110.29 million contract to Eastern Shipbuilding Group of Panama City, Florida, to complete detail design. The Phase 2 award has a full potential value of \$2.38 billion, which includes detail design and options for construction of up to nine OPCs. Construction is slated to begin in fiscal year 2018 and delivery of the lead OPC is planned for fiscal year 2021. Twenty-five vessels are planned.

The Coast Guard established the project resident office (PRO) for OPC acquisition at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., July 1, 2016. The OPC PRO was established prior to the down-select option award to lay the groundwork for the new unit and ensure efficient transition of acquisition personnel to the shipyard facilities. The OPC PRO, staffed with Coast Guard personnel who will oversee construction and provide management of contact execution for the OPC acquisition, will move to facilities located at the contractor’s shipyard following their completion this winter.

For updates on the OPC, visit the program’s website at
<http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/opc/>

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www.uscg.mil/acquisition

Mission execution begins *here*.