



Acquisition Directorate



OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER

NOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Length:

360 feet

Beam:

54 feet

Draft:

17 feet

Maximum Speed:

22.5 knots

Range:

10,200 nautical miles at 14 knots

Endurance:

60 days

Acquisition of the offshore patrol cutter (OPC) is one of the Coast Guard’s highest investment priorities. 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 approximately 30 and 55 years respectively and are in many ways technologically obsolete. The OPC is the most effective 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, on Sept. 15, 2016, awarded a \$110.29 million contract option to Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG) of Panama City, Florida, that included detail design and options for construction of up to nine OPCs. The Coast Guard exercised a fixed-price option to the service’s existing contract with ESG on Sept. 7, 2017, to procure long lead time materials for the first OPC. The service exercised contract options on Sept. 28, 2018, on the same contract to begin construction of the lead OPC and to acquire long lead-time materials for the second OPC. The Coast Guard in 2020 modified the contract to add production of the second OPC. Modifications to add production of the third and fourth OPCs were added in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

In 2019, the Coast Guard revised the OPC acquisition strategy and established a new, full and open competition for OPCs five through 15, designated as Stage 2 of the overall program. On June 30, 2022, the Coast Guard awarded a fixed-price incentive (firm target) contract to Austal USA of Mobile, Alabama to produce up to 11 offshore patrol cutters (OPCs). The initial award is valued at \$208.26 million and supports detail design and long lead-time material for the fifth OPC, with options for production of up to 11 OPCs in total.



Argus in production during February 2023

“The OPCs are assets our crews deserve and our nation needs.”

– Adm. Linda Fagan, commandant of the Coast Guard

For updates on the **Offshore Patrol Cutter**, visit the program’s website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition