

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Coast Guard Takes Novel Approach To Support Response Boat-Medium

BACKGROUND

The Response Boat-Medium is a 45-foot multipurpose craft designed to replace the Coast Guard's 41-foot utility boat, which has been in service for nearly 30 years. The program is part of the Coast Guard's recapitalization and standardization of its entire small boat fleet.

SCOPE

The Coast Guard is expected to purchase 180 to 250 medium response boats, a deal worth \$600 million if all contract options are exercised. The Response Boat-Medium program includes a lifecycle support system, which is a Web-based application that houses all support data for the boat. Marinette Marine Corp., Marinette, Wis., and its Seattle-based subcontractor Kvi-chak Marine Industries, will split construction of the boats.

TIMELINE

Contracts were awarded to three companies to build test boats in May 2003. The test boats underwent extensive trials into March 2004. The production contract was awarded to Marinette Marine in 2006, and the first boat is slated for delivery to the Coast Guard in March. Full production will begin in 2009 and approximately 30 boats are expected to be delivered each year thereafter, until 2018.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

Stanley G. Laird, outfitting services manager, has worked with Marinette Marine for 11 years. He has managed the company's medium response boat program since its onset.



“ The lifecycle support system that we’re building to support this boat is one of the things I enjoy the most about this program, and it is also one of our greatest challenges.

The Coast Guard likes to tell us that the Response Boat-Medium is a system, not just a platform. Certainly the boat is a large part of the system. However, its lifecycle support system is a very novel approach within the marine industry for assisting crews and sustaining the boat.

Everything is contained within the lifecycle support system, and it’s accessed simply through the Web. Through a number of different search methods, including a three-dimensional navigation of the ship, this environment enables the boat’s operator and users at all command levels to — at any time — find what is needed for training, maintenance or support purposes.

This has never been done in the marine environment, so this is really a challenge for us. It is also a real opportunity for the Coast Guard — an organization with great lifecycle needs — to get a system in place to manage the lifecycle of their assets as they have never done before.

The Coast Guard knows what they want. They are clear about their requirements and they move forward to accomplish those goals. ” Having that kind of direction from your customer is wonderful.