

Press Release

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USCG NEWS

U.S. Coast Guard Purchases Response Boat – Medium Test Boats.

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2003 – The U. S. Coast announced today the purchase of three Response Boat - Medium (RB – M) test boats. These boats are the first of a class that will replace the aging fleet of 41' Utility Boats, which have been the workhorse of the coastal stations for the past 25 plus years. The 41' Utility Boats are in operation throughout the United States.

The RB – Ms will have increased maneuverability and be capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots (46 mph) with twin high output inboard diesel engines. A full cabin provides crew protection from the elements and will be equipped with a robust navigation system, heating and air conditioning, shock mitigating seats and a communication system capable of communicating with other Federal, State and Local Homeland Security partners.

The Coast Guard is pursuing the RB – M acquisition project with a two-phased competitive process. Three vendors were selected from their written proposals to produce a test boat of their design. Coast Guard personnel will test these boats and the three vendors will bid for a contract for full production consisting of approximately 180 RB –Ms. Contracts for the three test boats were awarded to Ocean Technical Services, Inc (OTECH), Harvey, LA; Manitowoc Marine Group/Marinette Marine, Marinette, WI; and Textron Systems, Marine and Land Operations, New Orleans, LA. Ocean Technical Services, Inc (OTECH), Harvey, LA qualifies as a "Small Business" as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Each test boat will cost approximately \$2.5M, which includes logistics support.

Delivery of the test boat is expected by November or early December 2003. Eventually, the Coast Guard will purchase approximately 180 boats as needed over a period of about six years.

The Response Boat - Medium will perform the many missions typically performed by the Coast Guard small boat fleet, including Homeland Security and Search and Rescue. Additionally, the standardization of the RB – M will generate greater operational effectiveness and safety due to standard training and operations; improved maintenance and logistics support; and lower total ownership costs.