

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

Date: September 26, 2008
Contact: Laura Williams
(202) 475-3116
Laura.A.Williams@uscg.mil

**MEDIA ADVISORY:
COMMANDANT AND COAST GUARD LEADERS TO ANNOUNCE COAST GUARD
AWARD OF THE CONTRACT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FAST
RESPONSE CUTTER/SENTINEL CLASS PATROL BOAT**

WASHINGTON DC - The Commandant, Admiral Thad W. Allen, and Coast Guard senior leaders will host a media round table to announce the award for the design and construction of the Fast Response Cutter (FRC)/Sentinel Class patrol boat to Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., an \$88 million contract. The event will be held Monday, September 29 at 11:00 a.m. at Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd St. SW, Room 2610, in Washington DC 20593.

The 153-foot cutter, which will be capable of speeds of over 28 knots, will be built at Bollinger's shipyard in Lockport, La. This is a firm fixed price contract with an economic price adjustment. The approximate maximum value of this contract, if all options are exercised for a total of 34 patrol boats, is \$1.5 billion over a period of between six and eight years.

The winning design is based on the Damen 4708, which has conducted operations similar to those the Sentinel Class patrol boat will perform. Using a proven (or parent craft) design, will ensure that the Coast Guard receives new patrol boats capable of performing the required missions as soon as possible.

"We feel confident in the design we have chosen for the Sentinel Class," said Rear Adm. Gary T. Blore, the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for acquisition. "Providing a patrol boat that will provide superior service to the American public and be crewed by the next several generations of Coast Guard men and women is an extraordinary responsibility."

The Coast Guard's Acquisition Directorate followed a disciplined process to determine the award of the Sentinel Class patrol boat project, including a careful analysis of operational requirements; conducting worldwide market research; close consultation with Coast Guard technical authorities; use of third party independent review and an assessment of the most competitive designs put forth by industry in responses to the Coast Guard's June 2007 solicitation.

"Besides awarding a contract for design and construction of a world-class patrol boat, we have demonstrated the importance of acquisition reforms introduced by our Commandant and how well they are serving the taxpayer." said Rear Adm. Blore.

To meet specific U.S. Coast Guard mission requirements, a stern launch and increased speed

capability were incorporated into the winning design. The Sentinel Class will be 153 feet long, capable of speeds of 28 plus knots, and armed with one stabilized remotely-operated 25mm chain gun and four crew-served .50-caliber machine guns. It will be able to operate independently for five days at sea and be underway for 2,500 hours per year. The Sentinel will accommodate 22 crew members. A state-of-the-market command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) system will be fully interoperable with other Coast Guard assets as well as those of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

The first Sentinel will be delivered to Coast Guard District 7, based in Miami, in the fall of 2010. It will complete a comprehensive operational test and evaluation period, and then enter operational service in the Caribbean area of responsibility.

The Sentinel Class will save lives, enforce U.S. and international maritime law, and ensure national security along the United States' 95,000 nautical miles of coastline.

More information on the Sentinel Class and other Coast Guard Acquisition programs is available on the Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate web site at: <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/sentinel>.

Interested members of the media should RSVP to Laura.A.Williams@uscg.mil and meet in the lobby of the Coast Guard Headquarters building no later than 10:45 a.m. Monday.

####

The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multi-mission service within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to protecting the safety and security of America.