

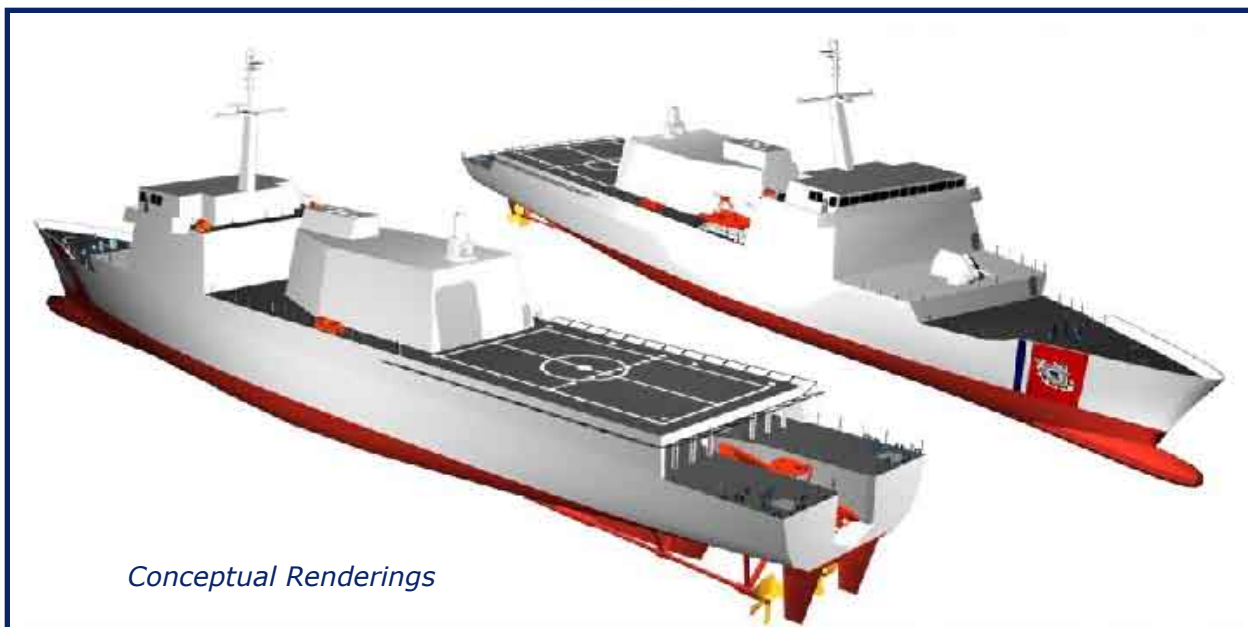


Acquisition Directorate



Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC)

August 2008



Conceptual Renderings

The USCG Acquisition Directorate is committed to delivering and supporting state-of-the-market platforms and systems that are affordable, efficient and mission-capable.

Faced with a growing challenge to sustain current readiness owing to the continuing deterioration and spiraling maintenance costs of its legacy fleet of obsolete cutters, aircraft, and supporting systems, the Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), together with the National Security Cutter will play an important role in ensuring the Coast Guard is able to fulfill its multimission responsibilities. In addition to its improved open-ocean capabilities, the new cutter will make important contributions to the Coast Guard's efforts to safeguard sovereignty, security, and safety in homeland waters.

A faster, more responsive OPC—well-equipped with improved capabilities for anti-terrorism, force protection, and naval warfighting with full C4ISR interoperability for both DHS and DoD missions—will meet the Coast Guard's requirements for maritime homeland security. The OPC flight deck will grow to accommodate all variants of DHS and DoD HH-60 helicopters to provide enhanced interoperability with interagency and inter-service counter-terrorism teams. The OPC will now be fully integrated with the National Distress Response Modernization Program, known as RESCUE 21, which will

provide the port commanders with real-time tracking of the OPC and seamless Common Operational Picture/MDA data sharing, including the Automated Identification System (AIS). The Maritime Security Capabilities allow cutter's weapons and command and control suite to be upgraded and hardened to better survive potential terrorist incidents and process increased data flow. This will include a medium caliber deck gun (57MM) that will provide the ability to stop rogue merchant vessels far from shore. The OPC speed will increase from 22 to 27 knots providing exceptional response and reaction capability. This increased transit speed will allow for more time on station protecting port approaches. An integrated Chemical, Biological, and Radiological, Detection and Defense (CBRD&D) capability allows the OPC to remain on scene and operate in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) scenarios.

Status:

With a successful milestone 1 (project authorization), the Coast Guard formally entered a concept and technology development phase on Jan. 8, 2008.

Mission execution begins here.

Features

- OPC will feature increased range and endurance (60–90 day patrol cycles); more powerful weapons; larger flight decks; chem-bio & radiological environmental hazard detection and defense; and improved Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) equipment. The cutters will be equipped with air and surface search radars and target classification sensors. The cutters' mission influence will be extended by aircraft and a new generation of cutter boats.
- The OPC cutters will have stern ramp to accommodate small boat launch and recovery in higher sea states than conventional davit systems aboard legacy cutters. The new generation of cutter boats, including the Long Range Interceptor and Short Range Prosecutor, improve a cutter crew's over-the-horizon and local force protection capabilities.

Characteristics

Notional

Number Planned: 25

Length: 357.0 ft.

Propulsion: Diesel engines

Max Sustained Speed: 25.3 kts

Endurance: 45 days

Range: 7,500 nm

Crew: 18 Officers, 106 crew

Armament: (1) Mk 110 Mod 0 57mm medium caliber gun; (1) CIWS Phalanx B1B; ATFP (2) Mk 38 Mod 1; (4) M2 .50 cal. heavy machine gun

Stern Launch: (1) Long Range Interceptor

Davit Launch: (1) Short Range Prosecutor

Aviation Facilities: (1) MH-65C helicopter