

POLAR ICEBREAKER



Acquisition
Directorate



Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star



Coast Guard Cutter Healy

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



The Coast Guard requires a minimum of two new heavy icebreakers to support the country's economic, commercial, maritime and national security needs. The new icebreakers will be national assets that will ensure access to both polar regions and be capable of executing key Coast Guard missions, including defense readiness; marine environmental protection; ports, waterways and coastal security; and search and rescue. The ships will operate worldwide and face the range of extreme environmental conditions found in the polar, tropical and temperate regions.

The Coast Guard is in the Analyze/Select phase of acquiring a new polar icebreaker. This phase involves evaluating acquisition approaches and assessing the merits of each approach. The service's polar icebreaker acquisition program completed operational requirements development in January 2016, published the requirements in an industry data package, and in March 2016 held an industry day attended by more than 90 organizations. Future industry engagement, including solicitation of

commentary on a draft request for proposal, is planned. The program intends to begin production activities in 2020 under an accelerated acquisition timeline.

The operational polar icebreaking fleet currently includes one 399-foot heavy icebreaker (Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star, commissioned in 1976) and one 420-foot medium icebreaker (Coast Guard Cutter Healy, commissioned in 2000). Polar Star underwent a three-year reactivation and returned to operations in late 2013. Since then, Polar Star has completed three Operation Deep Freeze deployments to resupply McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

The Coast Guard has also commenced material condition assessment on Coast Guard Cutter Polar Sea – the service's other heavy icebreaker, currently in commissioned, inactive status – to understand the feasibility of restoring it as a means of maintaining icebreaking capability until a new icebreaker is delivered.

For updates on the polar icebreakers, visit the program's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/icebreaker/>

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Mission execution begins [here](#).