Navy awards contract for MPF(F) test article

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Navy’s Naval Sea Systems Command issued a $19,560,381 firm fixed-price contract Jan. 31 to MacGregor USA Inc. for the detail design, fabrication, installation and documentation of a Test Article Vehicle Transfer System (TAVTS) to demonstrate the transfer of vehicles between a surrogate Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future) (MPF(F)) Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) ship and a side port platform on a large medium-speed roll-on/roll-off (LMSR) ship.

The two primary components of TAVTS are a self-deploying ramp system that will be mounted to a surrogate MLP and a self-deploying sideport platform system that will be mounted to an existing LMSR ship. The TAVTS system is intended to operate through sea-state 3 conditions. MPF(F) will be an enabler of future seabasing missions, and will provide at-sea assembly, sustainment, support and deployment capabilities for a joint force.

“The Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future) represents the cornerstone of seabasing,” said Rear Adm. Charles Goddard, program executive officer for ships. “MPF(F) capabilities will be invaluable in supporting the Navy’s new joint maritime strategy, and will ensure that the Navy and Marine Corps will be able to provide fully supplied and capable combat forces anywhere in the world. TAVTS will be one of the keys to make this capability possible.”

The Navy expects TAVTS to be delivered and begin testing in FY09. Testing is scheduled to last for approximately two months.

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