



News Release

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Navy awards preliminary design contracts for JHSV

WASHINGTON -- The Navy awarded contracts to Austal USA, Bath Iron Works, and Bollinger Shipyards Inc., for a firm fixed price of \$3 million each for the preliminary design of Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) concepts on Jan. 31.

“Once delivered, the Joint High Speed Vessel will be a key component of the U.S. military’s expeditionary warfare capability,” said Rear Adm. Charles Goddard, program executive officer for ships. “This high speed transport will carry soldier or Marines, with their gear, to harbors that would normally be unusable by conventional maritime assets.”

Once preliminary design is complete, the Navy will receive detail designs and construction proposals from the three teams. The Navy intends to award a single Phase Two detail design contract with construction options in late 2008. The first ship, an Army vessel, is expected to be delivered in 2011.

The JHSV program is a joint effort between the Army and the Navy to acquire high-speed vessels for the two branches of the U.S. military. JHSV will be used for fast intra-theater transportation of troops, military vehicles and equipment. Currently the U.S. military leases two HSVs each capable of achieving speeds of more than 30 knots.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) allows the U.S. Navy to use its surface ship acquisition expertise in acquiring these vessels for the Army, which will assume full responsibility post acquisition. The JHSV program merges the Army Theater Support Vessel (TSV) and the Navy High Speed Connector (HSC), taking advantage of the inherent commonality between the two programs.

The current program calls for a total of eight ships, three to be operated by the Navy and five to be operated by the Army. The Army will own and operate the Army-funded vessels after procurement. Army responsibilities for their vessels will include crew training and vessel maintenance. The Navy will have the same responsibilities for the Navy-funded vessels.

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