Naval Sea Systems Command Awards CVN 79 Construction Preparation Contract


Under this contract, Northrop Grumman will include engineering, detail design, test and evaluation, logistics support and the procurement of long lead time material for CVN 79.

“It’s great to start work on CVN 79. These Ford-class carriers will be able to adapt and evolve to defend this nation and our allies well into the 21st century,” said Capt. Brian Antonio, CVN 78 program manager, Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers.

CVN 79 will represent the second aircraft carrier of the Gerald R. Ford class to incorporate major investments in aircraft carrier design since the 1960’s Nimitz-class design. Some of the improvements include a new flight deck with an improved weapons handling system, new and simplified nuclear propulsion plants, a new electrical power generation system and reconfigurable design architecture.

“These improvements provide transformational warfighting capabilities and enable reduced manning, ultimately reducing the total ownership cost of each Ford-class carrier by approximately $5 billion over the life of the ship,” said Antonio.

CVN 79 has not been named. The ship will be constructed in Newport News, Va. The keel is scheduled to be laid in 2013, and the ship is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in 2019. The Navy plans to build 11 Ford-class aircraft carriers, and construction of Ford-class aircraft carriers is projected to continue through 2058.

- NAVSEA -