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POC: Kathleen Roberts
Office: 202.781.3350 or 4123
Kathleen.Roberts@navy.mil
Fax: 202.781.4713

Navy Awards Preliminary Design Contract for MLP

WASHINGTON –General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (GD/NASSCO) is being awarded a Fixed-Price Incentive contract at a target price of \$3.5 million for Systems Design Part 1 (SD1), with an option for Systems Design Part 2 (SD2) for the Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) Program. The MLP is being developed primarily to provide a surface interface between other ships and connectors in the squadron and Sea Base.

“We are excited to commence design of this innovative new ship,” said Capt. George Sutton, program manager of the Strategic and Theater Sealift program within the Navy’s Program Executive Office Ships. “MLP will be a key, flexible ship asset for the Navy and Marine Corps, and we’re eager to field this unique capability.”

MLP will provide the vehicle transfer system that permits transferring personnel and equipment from a between the Large, Medium-Speed, Roll-on/Roll-off Ships (LMSR) to the MLP and smaller craft to facilitate delivery of combat ready forces from the sea base in support of reinforcement missions. An MLP will have two surface interface points for loading, launching and recovering two Landing Craft-Air Cushioned (LCACs) vehicles near-simultaneously. It will carry up to six LCACs. Each MLP will have berthing to accommodate brigade forces during the employment and reconstitution phases of the operation.

The MLP will be able to travel at the rate of approximately 20 knots and have a range of approximately 9,000 nautical miles. The Navy intends to procure and build a total of three MLPs. The first MLP is expected to be delivered in 2015.

This is a two-phase procurement. Once Systems Design, or Phase One, is complete, the Navy intends to solicit a detail design and construction proposals from the General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding Company on a sole source basis. The Navy intends to award the Phase Two detail design and construction for lead MLP options in late 2010.

The Navy's Program Executive Office Ships manages the development and acquisition of U.S. Navy surface ships, and is currently acquiring 11 major ship classes and a variety of small boats and craft. These platforms range from major warships such as frontline surface combatants and amphibious assault ships to air-cushioned landing craft, oceanographic research ships and special warfare craft. Since its creation in November 2002, PEO Ships has procured 27 major warships and hundreds of small boats and craft from more than 20 shipyards and boat builders across the United States.

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