



Press Release

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POC: Chris Johnson
Office: (202) 781-4123
Christopher.g.johns2@navy.mil

Navy Awards Contracts for the Construction of JHSV 6, 7

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On June 30, Austal USA was awarded contract modifications to exercise options for the construction of JHSV 6 and JHSV 7.

These are the sixth and seventh ships fully funded under its previously-awarded, fixed-price incentive contract modification of November 2008 for the detail design and construction of one JHSV with the option for the construction of up to nine additional ships and associated shore-based spares.

Authorization to proceed with construction of JHSV 2 and 3 was granted in January 2010 and authorization to procure long lead time material for JHSV 4 and 5 was granted in June 2010.

“The awards represent the newest additions to a shipbuilding program that is pursuing an aggressive schedule and a relentless drive for affordability,” said Capt. Henry Stevens, program manager for the Strategic and Theater Sealift Program Office of the Program Executive Office (PEO), Ships. “We continue to work diligently with the shipbuilder to evaluate and improve production processes and efficiencies. JHSV 6 and 7 will benefit from the hard work and integrity of everyone involved.”

JHSV will be used for fast intra-theater transportation of troops, military vessel and equipment. They will be capable of transporting 700 short tons 1,200 nautical miles at an average speed of 35 knots, and can operate in shallow-draft ports and waterways, interfacing with roll-on/roll-off discharge facilities, and on/off-loading a combat-loaded Abrams Main Battle Tank (M1A2). Other joint requirements include an aviation flight deck to support day and night air vehicle launch and recovery operations. Also, JHSV will have airline style seating for 312 embarked forces and fixed berthing for 104 more. JHSV is designed to commercial standards, with limited modifications for military use.

Combatant commanders will have the flexibility to use JHSV in a variety of roles to include supporting the overseas contingency operations, conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, supporting special operations forces, and supporting emerging joint seabasing concepts.

The program initially divided the 10 prospective ships of the JHSV class into five ships for assignment to the Army and five ships for assignment to the Navy. However, both services agreed to transfer the Army's five JHSVs to the Navy at the Army/Navy Warfighter Talks in December 2010. Both departments signed a memorandum of agreement May 2 transferring all five of the Army's joint high-speed vessels to the Navy. All 10 JHSVs will now be assigned to the Navy.



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The ships will be built at Austal USA in Mobile, Ala. To improve production efficiency, Austal has been implementing modular manufacturing techniques and facilities. Austal's second Modular Manufacturing Facility under construction represents an \$80 million investment that will provide a significant increase in the shipyard's capacity. Austal and the Navy anticipate these additional production efficiencies will reduce construction duration, reduce production costs, and streamline existing production processes across both the JHSV and Littoral Combat Ships under construction at the shipyard.

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