

Canada's shipbuilding industry to design new Canadian Coast Guard vessels

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The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced today that contracts have been awarded for the design of the Canadian Coast Guard's new offshore science vessels.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to be moving forward with these projects," said Minister Shea. "This investment demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the safety and sustainability of our waters, as well as to Canada's marine and shipbuilding industries."

Four new scientific research vessels will be designed by Canadian shipbuilding firms including three new offshore fisheries science vessels and one new offshore oceanographic science vessel.

The three new fisheries science vessels will be designed by Robert Allan Ltd, Alion Science and Technology (Canada) Corporation and Alion Science and Technology Corporation in joint venture. Two of these vessels are intended as replacements for CCGS *Teleost*, CCGS *Alfred Needler*, and CCGS *W.E. Ricker*, as well as CCGS *Wilfred Templeman*, which the Coast Guard uses to fill in for the other vessels when they are out of service for repairs.

STX Canada Marine Inc., of Vancouver, British Columbia will design the Canadian Coast Guard's new offshore oceanographic science vessel. The new vessel, which was announced in Budget 2007, is intended to replace CCGS *Hudson* on the East Coast.

"Coast Guard vessels are critical resources for the science that helps us manage and protect our precious marine resources." said Minister Shea. "Our Government is pleased to provide researchers and scientists with the tools they need to do their important work."

In addition to fulfilling its primary commitment to marine safety and environmental response, the Canadian Coast Guard plays an indispensable role in fulfilling the mandate of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to conduct marine scientific research and related activities which are vital to the understanding and sustainable management of Canada's oceans and aquatic resources.

Offshore Fisheries Science Vessels

These Offshore Fisheries Science Vessels are the intended replacements for CCGS *Teleost*, CCGS *Alfred Needler*, and CCGS *W.E. Ricker*, as well as CCGS *Wilfred Templeman*, which the Coast Guard uses to fill in for the other vessels when they are out of service for repairs.

The new offshore fisheries science vessels will be used to:

- conduct fishing and acoustic surveys of fish and invertebrates;
- collect information on the distribution, abundance and biology of species to be used in stock

assessments for new and existing fisheries, and in studies supporting the assessments; and

- collect physical, chemical, and biological oceanographic data to monitor changes in marine ecosystems and their impact on fisheries resources and ecosystem health.

Each vessel will have accommodations for approximately 39 (crew and scientists). The vessels will be about 60-65 metres in length, and will be capable of staying at sea for up to 31 days without reprovisioning. The design will include a modern propulsion system, an integrated bridge, modern acoustic sensors, and modern deck and trawl equipment.

The \$2.5 million design contract for three new offshore fisheries science vessels has been awarded to Robert Allan Ltd, Alion Science and Technology (Canada) Corporation and Alion Science and Technology Corporation in joint venture. Two of these vessels are intended as replacements for CCGS *Teleost*, CCGS *Alfred Needler*, and CCGS *W.E. Ricker*, as well as CCGS *Wilfred Templeman*, which the Coast Guard uses to fill in for the other vessels when they are out of service for repairs.

Two of the new vessels are expected to be delivered in 2014, and the remaining vessel will be delivered in 2015.

Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel

This new Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel is intended to replace CCGS *Hudson* on the East Coast.

The new vessel will be used to:

- conduct multi-disciplinary physical, chemical, and biological oceanographic expeditions;
- observe global and regional oceanographic circulation and interactions;
- contribute to the assessments of resources and impacts to the various marine ecosystems;
- support marine geology; and
- contribute to data gathering for hydrographic charts, oceanographic engineering, establishment of internal and international marine boundaries and for other government departments and research organizations.

The vessel will have accommodations for approximately 59 (crew and scientists). It will be about 90 metres in length, and will be capable of remaining at sea for several weeks without reprovisioning. Its design will include a modern propulsion system, automation in the machinery spaces, an integrated bridge, and a modern dynamic positioning system to allow scientific research within a given zone for prolonged periods.

STX Canada Marine Inc., of Vancouver, British Columbia, has been awarded a \$2.48 million contract to design the Canadian Coast Guard's new offshore oceanographic science vessel. The new vessel, which was announced in Budget 2007, is intended to replace CCGS *Hudson* on the East Coast.

The new vessel is expected to be delivered in 2014.

Combined these new design contracts represent a \$4.98 million commitment to Canada's shipbuilding industry.

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