

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.

Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Mid-February 2014
Deposit Balance \$ _____

BIW is finalist for US Coast Guard cutter design (WMSM)

AP 02-11-14 and press release by Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King, Maine



BIW sketch of the proposed USCG OPC



Vigor Industrial design not named as finalist (located Washington State and Oregon area – old Todd Shipbuilding)



Possible Damen design from Bollinger



Eastern Shipbuilding group design.

Artist sketches above of proposed OPC designs

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine's Bath Iron Works is one of three finalists in a design competition for a U S Coast Guard cutter. BIW was one of eight shipyards that submitted proposals for the design of the vessel.

U.S. Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King announced that the Coast Guard on Tuesday

narrowed the selection to three finalists, which include BIW in Bath. U.S. Senators Susan Collins, a senior member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Angus King, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today announced that Bath Iron Works (BIW) has been awarded a preliminary design contract for the U.S. Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) worth more than \$21 million. BIW is now one of three shipyards in contention for the final contract. "With its skilled workforce and an outstanding record of designing, building, and providing superior life-cycle support for ships, Bath Iron Works is uniquely positioned to build vessels like the Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Cutters," Senators Collins and King said in a joint statement. "The Offshore Patrol Cutter would not only be an excellent fit for BIW, but it would also create good-jobs and be a substantial boost to Maine's economy. We are delighted that BIW has been selected to move forward in the Coast Guard's contract process." The Coast Guard released a Request for Proposal for the design and construction of the Offshore Patrol Cutter that closed on January 23, 2013, and BIW was one of the original eight shipyards to submit a design and construction proposal for the OPC. The U.S. Coast Guard has reportedly narrowed the number of competitive shipyards to three. The Coast Guard will continue the source selection and select up to three preliminary designs in early 2014 for a two-year period of performance before down-selecting to a single design and shipbuilder. Construction on the

OPC is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2017.

Ed. Note: Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. of Panama City, FL is also a finalist as was Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., Lockport, LA. I was unable to find a design concept of the BIW WMSM on-line.

USCG Helos first to land on PCU Somerset LPD-21



Two U.S. Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawks were the first helicopters to land on the Somerset's flight deck. The Somerset, the last U.S. Navy warship to be built in Avondale, left the shipyard Feb. 3. While en route to Philadelphia for its March 1 commissioning, the Somerset's crew partook in flight operations training with the Coast Guard aircrews from Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala., on Feb. 5. (Lt. David Blunier, U.S. Coast Guard)

You are not going to like the new peacetime Navy

This info was gleaned from new news releases. The new budget proposals drop the number of LCS's from 52 to 32 ships. No carrier refuelings, 11 Cruisers to go along with one amphib. No carriers will be dropped at this point, but this could bring on the decommissioning of the USS George Washington since a decision on refueling her will be made in 2016. Some reports say the Navy will drop to pre-WWII size. In my humble opinion, a sad state of affairs. Has anyone noticed that China and Russia have robust ship building in progress?

Don't forget the USCS NE Regional Spring Coverfest in Oaks PA at PNSE 2014 stamp show, hosted by Decatur Chapter. Donations of covers are welcomed. The covers will be sold on eBay to offset the cost of the USCS hospitality room at a nearby hotel on Friday and Saturday evenings April 4th and 5th.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

Information published here is not guaranteed.

Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/