

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Russia Lays Keel for Giant Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker

g-Captain blog 5-28-15



Russia's state-owned Baltic Shipyard (Baltiyskiy Zavod-Sudostroyeniye) has hosted the keel laying ceremony for a nuclear-powered icebreaker being built as part of a massive shipbuilding program undertaken by the Russian government.

The shipbuilding program, dubbed Project 22220, involves the construction of three nuclear-powered icebreakers to be delivered by 2020 that will be used further strengthen the country's development in the Arctic and shipping capabilities along the Northern Sea Route.

The keel of the new icebreaker, known as *Siberia*, was laid down during a ceremony on Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by a number of high-ranking guests and government officials, including Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, ROSATOM State Atomic Energy Corporation Director General Sergey Kiriyenko, and United Shipbuilding Corporation Alexey Rakhmanov.

Siberia is the first of two icebreakers to be built under a contract Baltic Shipyard signed with ROSATOM in May 2014 worth 84.4 billion rubles (US \$1.7 billion). The lead ship in Project 22220, named *Arktika* (LK-60), has been under construction at the shipyard since November 2013. ROSATOM reported previously

that the pilot ship *Arktika* will be the world's largest icebreaker and fitted with a new type nuclear power reactor, called RITM-200. The icebreaker will displace 33,540 tons and will measure 173.3 meters long by 34 meters wide, and feature a double-draught design – 10.5 m and 8.55 m – which will allow their operation in both the Arctic Seas and estuaries of Polar rivers. Delivery of all three vessels is expected by 2020.

Editors note: Please hold your breath for the next USCG icebreaker keel laying.

First Floating Nuclear Power Plant Reaches End of the Road in Galveston

By Mike Schuler On May 1, 2015 from gCaptain blog



Former Liberty ship SS *CHARLES H. CUGLE*. After a 1,750 mile tow from Virginia, the former Corps of Engineers *Sturgis* barge arrived at the Port of Galveston, Texas on Thursday where its nuclear reactor will be fully decommissioned. The *Sturgis* is a former WWII Liberty Ship that was converted into the first floating nuclear power plant in the 1960's as part of the US Army Nuclear Power Program. Before being shutdown in 1976, the *Sturgis'* nuclear reactor, MH-1A, was used to generate electricity for military and civilian use in the Panama Canal. After that, *Sturgis'* reactor was defueled, decontaminated, and sealed before being towed to the James River Reserve Fleet at Joint Base Langley Eustis, Virginia, where it has been

mothballed since 1978. The decommissioning work will be carried out by contractor CB&I at the Malin International Shipyard. CB&I won the \$35 million contract from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District to decommission, dismantle and dispose of the nuclear reactor aboard the *Sturgis* in April 2014. Radiological work is expected to begin in July. Once the work is completed, what remains of the Nuclear Barge *Sturgis* will head for a scrap yard in Brownsville, Texas where it will be dismantled.

Cutter Transferred to Bangladesh Navy



BNS *Somudra Avijan F28*

WASHINGTON, May 18 (UPI) -- The Navy of Bangladesh has received a second Hamilton-class cutter from the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. officials reported.

The cutter *Rush* was handed over to the Bangladesh Navy earlier this month during a ceremony in California and has now been renamed BNS *Somudra Avijan F28*, the Bangladesh Embassy said in Washington. The USCGC *Rush WHEC-723* was built by Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana and launched in 1968. It will join the 9th Frigate Squadron of the Bangladesh Navy later this year. The first U.S. Coast Guard vessel transferred to Bangladesh was the ex-USCGC *Jarvis WHEC-725* in 2013, now serving as BNS *Somudro Joy F28*.