

# *Background*

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**B-HQ-09-36(a)**

## **NEW MID-SHORE PATROL VESSELS**

The Government of Canada has awarded a \$194 million contract for nine new mid-shore patrol vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard. All of the new vessels will be built in Canada by Irving Shipbuilding Inc., of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Funding for these new vessels was committed by the Government of Canada in previous annual federal Budgets.

Preliminary work will begin immediately. The first vessel should be ready for service in 2011. All nine vessels will be delivered by 2013.

Five of the mid-shore patrol vessels will be used primarily to support Department of Fisheries and Oceans conservation and protection programs in the Maritimes, Quebec and Pacific Regions.

The other four vessels will be used in a joint program with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to enhance maritime security along the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway system. Since this joint maritime security program was announced in Budget 2007, aging Coast Guard vessels have been performing duties on an interim basis. The new mid-shore patrol vessels will provide a permanent platform for the Coast Guard and RCMP Officers to do their work.

### **About the new vessels**

These new mid-shore patrol vessels are a new type of vessel for the Canadian Coast Guard. Each vessel will support a crew of eight and up to six RCMP Officers or Fishery Officers. Each vessel will be approximately 43 metres in length, have a top speed of 25 knots and a range of 2000 nautical miles, and be able to stay at sea for two weeks without reprovisioning.

With greater speed and range, and the ability to better operate in difficult environmental conditions, these new vessels will be able to perform duties more efficiently.



Artist's rendering of the new mid-shore patrol vessel

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