

BAE Garner Order for Payload Tubes of Virginia-Class Submarines



Sailors aboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS New Hampshire haul in mooring lines to dock the 7,800-ton submarine at Naval Station Norfolk on July 16. The Navy is adding significant capability to the latest Virginia-class boats by increasing the firepower and payload capacity of the Block V submarines. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alfred A. Coffield

LOUISVILLE,

Ky. – BAE Systems has received a follow-on contract to produce 28 more payload

tubes for the U.S. Navy's Block V Virginia-class attack submarines, the company said in a July 25 release.

Under the

contract with General Dynamics Electric Boat, a builder of the Virginia class,

BAE Systems will deliver seven sets of four tubes each for the Virginia Payload

Modules (VPM).

The Navy

is adding significant capability to the latest Virginia-class boats by

increasing the firepower and payload capacity of the Block V submarines. The

VPM extends the length of Block V subs over previous versions of the Virginia

class by adding a midbody section to create more payload space. Each

large-diameter payload tube can store and launch up to seven

Tomahawk and
future guided cruise missiles.

“The VPM
is critical to the Virginia class because it offers not only
additional strike
capacity, but the flexibility to integrate future payload
types, such as
unmanned systems and next-generation weapons, as threats
evolve,” said Joe
Senftle, vice president and general manager of weapon systems
at BAE Systems.

“We’ve
invested heavily in the people, processes and tools required
to successfully
deliver these payload tubes to Electric Boat and to help
ensure the Navy’s
undersea fleet remains a dominant global force.”

BAE
Systems is also providing nine payload tubes under previously
awarded VPM
contracts. As the leading provider of propulsors and other
submarine systems,
the company has a long history of supporting the Navy’s
submarine fleet. In
addition to payload tubes, BAE Systems is also providing
propulsors, spare
hardware and tailcones for Block IV Virginia-class vessels and
is prepared to
do the same for Block V.

Work under this contract
will be performed at the company’s facility in Louisville,
Kentucky, with
deliveries scheduled to begin in 2021.