Fairbanks Morse Finishes Engine Build, Testing for First Offshore Patrol Cutter



An artist’s rendering of the offshore patrol cutter. Eastern Shipbuilding Group

BELOIT, Wis. – Fairbanks Morse has completed the build and testing of the two main propulsion diesel engines for the U.S. Coast Guard’s offshore patrol cutter (OPC), the company said in a release. Fairbanks Morse was awarded contracts by the prime contractor, Eastern Shipbuilding Group, to build the two main engines for OPC Nos. 1 and 2.

“We are incredibly pleased to have successfully completed testing for our OPC engine,” said George Whittier, CEO of Fairbanks Morse. “We are particularly proud to work with Eastern Shipbuilding and support them in their successful build of the first new generation of patrol cutter. Together we are proud to do our part in helping the U.S. Coast Guard keep our borders safe.”

The OPC is a 360-foot vessel that will be powered by two FM | MAN 16V 28/33D STC diesel engines, with each engine rated 7,280 kWm (9,763 brake-horsepower) running at 1,000 revolutions per minute. These engines will be delivered to Eastern Shipbuilding Group in Panama City, Florida. The first OPC engine has been built and was delivered in January 2020. Fairbanks Morse has completed testing on the PTO engine, which is expected to be delivered to Eastern Shipbuilding this month.

Joey D’Isernia, president of Eastern Shipbuilding, congratulated Fairbanks and said, “Today marks another successful milestone in the OPC program. Our team continues to execute, and we are very pleased and excited to take delivery

of and install these engines in USCGC Argus. This highly durable and reliable engine will support USCG missions for the next 40 years.”

The OPC will provide a capability bridge between the national security cutter, which patrols the open ocean in the most demanding maritime environments, and the fast-response cutter, which serves closer to shore. The OPCs conduct missions including law enforcement, drug and migrant interdiction, search and rescue, and other homeland security and defense operations.