Navy Awards $430 Million Contract for Operation of Undersea Test Range

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Navy has awarded $430 million contract to a Maryland-based company to operate and maintain one of the service's most sophisticated test ranges.

The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport Division awarded the contract to Amentum Services Inc. of Germantown, Maryland, to operate and maintain the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC), the Defense Department announced in an Aug. 12 release.

"AUTEC is the Navy's large-area, deep-water, undersea test and evaluation range. Underwater research, testing and evaluation of anti-submarine weapons, sonar tracking and communications are the predominant activities conducted at AUTEC," the release said. "The contractor performs AUTEC range operations support services and maintenance of facilities and range systems. In addition, the contractor is responsible for operating a self-sufficient one-square-mile Navy outpost."

The AUTEC range is located at Andros Island in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is frequented by Navy maritime patrol aircraft, anti-submarine helicopters, and attack submarines for events such as tracking exercises, exercise torpedo launches and recoveries, and other uses.

Under the contract, Amentum is expected to run AUTEC through August 2025. With all options exercised, work would continue through August 2030.