

Navy Awards Ship-to-Shore Connector Contract to Textron

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Navy has awarded a contract for the fiscal year 2017-2020 procurement of ship to shore connector craft, the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO)–Ships said in an April 16 release.

Ship to shore connectors are the evolutionary replacement for the existing fleet of landing craft air cushion (LCAC) vehicles and will primarily transport weapon systems, equipment, cargo and personnel of the assault elements through varied environmental conditions from amphibious ships over to the beach.

"As the program continues to move forward with delivering these important capabilities to the fleet, the procurement of these additional craft is critical," said Tom Rivers, program manager of the Amphibious Warfare Program Office for PEO-Ships.

Textron Systems was awarded the \$386 million fixed price incentive-firm target and firm fixed price contract modification for the construction of 15 craft. Work will be performed primarily in New Orleans.

The contract award is one of several recent milestones for the program. The Navy accepted delivery of the first of the next-generation landing craft, Ship to Shore Connector Craft 100, on Feb. 6. Craft 100 is the developmental unit for the next-generation landing craft and will be located in Panama City, Florida, where additional testing and crew training will be conducted.

The second craft, LCAC 101, is making headway and will head to sea within the next few weeks for builder's trials for assessment of its operational readiness. During the trials,

LCAC 101 will undergo integrated testing in both unloaded and loaded states to ensure the craft will successfully meet all requirements. The detail design and construction contract procured nine craft. Beyond Craft 100 and LCAC 101, an additional seven craft are in the later stages of production.