



PRESS RELEASE

Marinette Marine Corporation, a Fincantieri company, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks announce the upcoming signing ceremony of the contract for the Construction of the ARRV

Marinette, WI – February 1, 2010 - Marinette Marine Corporation (MMC), a subsidiary of Fincantieri- Cantieri Navali Italiani S.p.A. and the University of Alaska Fairbanks today announced the upcoming ceremonial signing of the construction contract for the Alaska Regional Research Vessel (ARRV) “R/V *Sikuliaq*” for Friday, February 5, 2010 at Marinette Marine.

The “R/V *Sikuliaq*” will be a 254-foot (LOA), ice-capable oceanographic research ship designed specifically to operate in seasonal Arctic sea ice and open waters surrounding Alaska. The *Sikuliaq* will have 2100 Sq. Ft. of onboard science labs and will be outfitted with advanced over-the-side and stern handling systems for science equipment deployment. The *Sikuliaq* is designed for low environmental impact, including reduced underwater radiated noise levels for improved fisheries and acoustics research. The *Sikuliaq* is projected to carry more than 500 researchers and students annually and spend as many as 300 days per year at sea.

“We are pleased with UAF’s selection of Marinette Marine for the construction of the R/V *Sikuliaq*...” commented Richard T. McCreary, President and CEO of MMC. “... being one of the most technologically advanced oceanographic vessels in the world, the ARRV represents yet another step in our commitment to expanding our technical capabilities for research and ice-capable ships, which began with the construction of the exploration ship R/V Shell America in 1984 and has continued through the 90’s and 00’s with the construction of 31 ice-capable Buoy Tenders for the U.S. Coast Guard, including delivery in 2005 of the Great Lakes Ice Breaker Mackinaw.”

Background on Program:

The Alaska Region Research Vessel was designed in 2004 by The Glosten Associates located in Seattle, WA. In November 2006, NSF issued a solicitation for construction and operation of the ARRV. In May 27, 2009, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced its first major award under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to construct the ARRV. The University

of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) was selected and awarded the first phase of construction by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in early August 2007. The University of Alaska issued a competitive solicitation for construction of the ARRV on May 23, 2009; and on December 7, 2009 UAF issued a Notice of Intent to Award Marinette Marine a construction contract for the ARRV program.

When delivered in 2013, the *Sikuliaq* will be home ported in Alaska, owned by NSF, operated by UAF, and will be available to the international oceanographic community, through the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS).

Marinette Marine Corporation, with its shipyard facilities in Marinette, Wisconsin is a leading shipbuilder serving the government, military and commercial customers throughout the maritime industry. Its shipbuilding portfolio includes the U.S. Navy Littoral Combat Ship, U.S. Navy Improved Lighterage System, U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers, buoy tenders and response boats, U.S. Navy mine countermeasure vessels and ocean tugs, as well as ferries, research and exploration vessels.

Its parent company, Fincantieri, heir to the great tradition of Italian shipbuilding, is today one of the largest groups in the world in the design and construction of merchant and naval vessels and mega yachts. The company's core business is the construction of complex ships with high technological content, such as cruise ships and large ferries. Moreover, it is the reference builder in the naval field, providing a wide range of ship types including surface vessels (frigates, corvettes, patrol vessels, etc.) and submarines.

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Contact: Richard McCreary
Marinette Marine Corporation
(715) 735-9341 Ext 6509 (office)
(920) 309-3203 (cell)
richard.mccreary@us.fincantieri.com

Carin Stephens
UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
(907) 322-8730
cbstephens@alaska.edu

For additional information on Marinette Marine, visit:

www.fincantierimarinegroup.com

For additional information on Fincantieri, visit:

www.fincantieri.it

For additional information on the University of Alaska Fairbanks, visit:

www.sfos.uaf.edu/arrv/