

# X-CRAFT *... in a class by itself*

The Office of Naval Research is developing a high speed, experimental vessel called Littoral Surface Craft – Experimental, or “X-Craft.” This high-speed aluminum catamaran will test a variety of technologies that will allow the Navy to operate in littoral, or near-shore, waters. The X-Craft will be used to evaluate the hydrodynamic performance, structural behavior, mission flexibility, and propulsion system efficiency of high-speed vessels.

Mission flexibility will be demonstrated through interchangeable “mission modules” (standard twenty foot containers) housed in the X-Craft’s large, climate controlled Mission Bay. The Mission Bay will be capable of housing twelve containers, permitting the vessel to be quickly reconfigured to support a variety of

potential missions, including battle force protection, mine counter-measures, anti-submarine warfare, amphibious assault support and humanitarian support. A multi-purpose Stern Ramp will allow X-Craft to launch and recover manned and unmanned surface and sub-surface vehicles up to the size of an 11 m Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). From its flight deck, X-Craft will be able to operate with two H-60 type helicopters or VTUAVs at a time.

After completion of the contract design, shipyard competition, and design review in March 2003, the keel for the 262 foot-long X-Craft was laid in June 2003. The 950-ton (light ship displacement) ship will be launched in early 2005, followed by two months of trials and delivery to the Navy in April 2005. The X-Craft may be upgraded post-delivery with weapons and additional electronic equipment, depending on the needs of the Fleet Commanders. Commissioning is also possible at a later date.



Conceptual Drawing of X-Craft

## X-Craft Specifications

DISPLACEMENT: 950 metric tons (light ship)

BEAM: 72 feet (22.0 m) (overall)

DRAFT: 11.5 feet (3.5 m)

SPEED: 50 knots; 40 knots in Sea State 4 with active ride control

POWER PLANT: 2 x GE LM2500 Gas Turbine Engines

2 x MTU 16V 595 TE 90 Propulsion Diesels

4 x Kamewa 125SII Waterjets

AIRCRAFT: (2) H-60 type helicopters or VTUAVs  
(Day VFR; Night NVD/NVG Compatible)

ARMAMENT: Force protection armaments only

COMPLEMENT: 16-26 core crew

BUILDERS: Nichols Brothers Boat Builders (Whidbey Island, Washington)

HOMEPORT: San Diego, California

