

PRESS RELEASE

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Aker Arctic to participate in the Design of the Canadian Coast Guard's new Polar Icebreaker

The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Official Languages and Regional Minister for British Columbia on Friday announced on behalf of the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, an important step forward for Canada's Northern Strategy: selection of the designers for the Canadian Coast Guard's future Flagship, the Polar Icebreaker, *CCGS John G. Diefenbaker*.

Aker Arctic is a member in the team led by local STX Canada Marine that have been awarded the contract to design the new polar icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard. The awarding of this 9.5 M CAD contract formally launches the detailed design effort for the Polar Icebreaker. Expected to take 18 – 24 months to complete, STX Canada Marine Inc. will, based on the conceptual design produced by the Canadian Coast Guard, advance the design work to the point where a comprehensive design package can be provided to Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd. to build the vessel. *"I am pleased to announce that the team at STX Canada Marine Inc. of Vancouver is taking on this important project,"* said Minister Moore. *"This project is yet another example of our Government's commitment to support jobs and growth, and we look forward to seeing the Diefenbaker, designed and built in Vancouver, defending Canada's Arctic sovereignty in the North."*

The polar icebreaker, will be named after former Prime Minister. It will be able to operate autonomously for 270 days in the Arctic, over a larger area, and in more difficult conditions than any of Canada's current icebreakers. The new Icebreaker will be delivered to coincide with the decommissioning of the *CCGS Louis S. St-Laurent* in 2017. The polar icebreaker is one of the vessels included in the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) Non-Combat contract awarded to Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd in October. The vessel will, therefore, be designed and built in Vancouver. The project will provide a significant economic boost to Canadian marine industry and west coast shipyard workers and marine related companies in particular.

The new vessel will replace the *CCGS Louis St. Laurent* as the CCG Flagship. The polar icebreaker will be designed to accommodate 100 personnel with space for 25 additional people and have the ability to break through 2.5m of ice at 3 knots.

STX Canada Marine will be supported in the Polar Icebreaker Design project by a team of highly experienced partners including Aker Arctic Technology (AARC). Aker Arctic will provide their world leading icebreaker design and construction expertise to the project. Aker Arctic's main roles will be assessment of the ice loads, development of the hull form and structure, propulsion conceptual design and descriptions on winterisation principles.

STX Canada Marine (previously Kvaerner Masa Marine) is a naval architecture and engineering services company with offices in Vancouver and Ottawa. For almost 30 years they have been providing ship design and engineering services nationally and internationally. In recent years,

they have had the privilege of working with the Canadian Coast Guard on the design of the Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel (OOSV) and with the Department of National Defense on the design of the Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPS) in which work AARC also participated. On January 12, 2012 Irving Shipbuilding welcomed the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Defence for Canada as well as senior representatives of the Royal Canadian Navy to their Halifax Shipyard facility to mark the successful conclusion of an agreement in principle to build Canada's combat vessels under the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS). Irving Shipbuilding is privileged to be poised to negotiate the combat vessel contracts, commencing with the Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels,.

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Aker Arctic Technology Inc is an independent arctic R&D, engineering and consulting company with STX Finland as the main shareholder. The company has been engaged in research with its own ice model basin for decades and been involved in numerous projects wherever freezing waterways are found. The most advanced and innovative ship designs, such as the double-acting and oblique ship concepts, originate from Aker Arctic. www.akerarctic.fi

