VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance and Asset Management Committee

Research Vessel Thomas G. Thompson – Approve Contract for Mid-Life Refit

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Finance and Asset Management Committee that the Board of Regents delegate authority to the President or her designee to award a contract to Vigor Marine LLC, in an amount not to exceed $35,000,000 plus applicable tax, for the mid-life refit of the Research Vessel Thomas G. Thompson at a ship construction/ship repair facility located in Seattle, Washington.

BACKGROUND

Research Vessel Thomas G. Thompson (R/V Thompson) is owned by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and is operated by the University of Washington’s School of Oceanography under a Charter Party Agreement. R/V Thompson is the lead ship of the AGOR-23 class of global research vessels and was delivered to the Navy in 1991.

As the ship has exceeded the mid-point of its originally expected 30-year service life, ONR has initiated a program to complete the mid-life refit overhaul of the ship. The intent of the program is to ensure that the ship can continue to operate reliably and effectively for the remainder of its expected 30-year service life. In addition, the mid-life refit is intended to address changes in regulatory requirements for the ship so they can continue to sail the world’s oceans without limitation.

This highly capable vessel is essential to supporting deep water oceanographic research and for taking large integrated science expeditions to sea. Congressional funding has been received to complete the mid-life refit of R/V Thompson. Funding for R/V Thompson’s mid-life refit is sufficient to enable re-powering of the ship, which will thus serve as a Service Life Extension. R/V Thompson’s service life will be extended from 30 years to 40-45 years as a result of this fully funded initiative.

The core vessel upgrades and improvements include replacement of much of the propulsion system, renovation and/or upgrades to alarm and monitoring, electrical, ship controls, navigation, firefighting, potable water, ballast and seawater piping, sewage, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), habitability, ballast water treatment, lighting, science, over-the-side winch, and internal communications systems.
B. Finance and Asset Management Committee

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The contract, which is the result of a publicly advertised competitive solicitation, will be accomplished over a period of approximately twenty-two months, commencing in July/August 2015, with estimated completion in May 2017. In order to ensure timely completion of the project, the contractor is bound by a firm schedule agreed to by all parties. Schedule changes due to unknown conditions are mitigated through continuous, proactive project management, change order control, and inclusion of liquidated damages in the contract, in the event that the contractor fails to meet the agreed upon delivery date. The contract not to exceed amount of $35,000,000 includes contingency funds of $5,500,000 for potential additional work.

Funding for this purchase is provided by funding from the Office of Naval Research, National Science Foundation, as well as the ship’s Maintenance Operations Stabilization Account (MOSA). The MOSA is a maintenance account managed by the School of Oceanography as authorized by the National Science Foundation and Office of Naval Research.