



*United States*  
**Navy Warfare Development Command**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NAVY WARFARE DEVELOPMENT COMMAND AND U.S. ARMY COMBINED  
ARMS SUPPORT COMMAND TO LEAD JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL  
EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAM**

A partnership of component commands from the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, U.S. Special Operations Command and Coast Guard will explore the operational implications and opportunities of new marine technologies that are bringing higher speeds, longer ranges and increased payload capacities to surface vessels.

A contract for the lease of a wave-piercing catamaran manufactured by Incat of Hobart, Tasmania for use as an experimental platform has been signed by the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command with Bollinger/Incat USA LLC of Lockport, LA. The contract with optional extensions covers operations through Fiscal Year 2003 at a cost of \$20.5 million.

The Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC); U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command; Office of Naval Research (ONR); the Marine Corps Plans, Policies, and Operations Department; Navy Special Warfare Command and the U.S. Coast Guard Deep Water Project Program, have agreed to cooperate in a joint experimentation effort to explore and develop this kind of technology.

Each of the participating services have been assessing new technologies that promise such highly desirable mission capabilities in new, smaller faster ships such as:

- 40+ knots speed;
- high payload fraction;
- longer and more useful ranges; and,
- the ability to tailor the payload for optimum mission success.

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The effort reflects the fact that each of the services has been looking at emerging capabilities through exercises and working groups to better understand their implications on specific mission areas across the entire spectrum of warfare and combat operations.

The new joint experimental effort recognizes the on-going interest in these capabilities by all the services and their commitment to mature and adapt the new technologies in the most cost effective ways, including improved mission capabilities and interoperability.

The Joint Experiment will look at the capabilities and potential operational impact of high speed vessels, including wave piercing catamaran-type vessels and other applicable technologies, but not focusing on a specific hull form. This joint experimentation effort will center on examining, exploring and developing those concepts of operations that can best exploit these unique capabilities across several mission areas.

The 12-24 month experimentation phase will be coordinated by NWDC, in close partnership with other elements of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard. These commands and others will develop the experimentation plan that incorporates all the research objectives from each of the services to include joint experimentation in Millennium Challenge 02, the major Joint experimentation venue led by Joint Forces Command.

The services will also work together to consolidate the analytical talent to both build the experiments and analyze results.

Members of the experimentation team expect to conclude this joint experimentation effort with an understanding of where these technologies can best be applied across our respective mission spectrums. At that point, each partner will be able to much more accurately define and articulate the capabilities they need to include in the future ships that will optimize the advantages of these technologies.

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