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TRACKING NO.	SLS-104
PROGRAM	ORCA
CATEGORY	Surface Vessels (USV)
FISCAL YEAR	FY2024
CONTRACT AWARD	02 AUG 2024

CAPABILITY BRIEF

RIPTIDE

SLS-PROPRIETARY

High-Speed Interceptor USV

Riptide is the high-speed interceptor USV — the sprinter to HERON's marathoner. Held at ready alert, ORCA launches on cue to close, shadow, and non-kinetically interdict surface contacts developed by the wider Salish fleet. It trades endurance for burst speed and maneuverability, extending the reach of the common maritime picture into a physical response.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- 40+ kt sprint; planing hull optimized for sea-state 3 intercept runs.
- Cued autonomous pursuit and station-keeping off a designated contact.
- Non-kinetic interdiction options — shouldering, blocking, and hailing payloads.
- Runs the CEDAR (SLS-301) stack with an intercept-tuned maneuver policy.
- Rapid launch and recovery from pier or mother-ship davit.
- Tasked and re-vectored in real time from ALDER (SLS-305) fleet C2.

PLATFORM AT A GLANCE

42 kt

SPRINT SPEED

36 hr

ENDURANCE

600 nm

RANGE

SS3

SEA STATE



NOTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH OVERALL	9.0 m	PROPULSION	Twin waterjet, diesel
BEAM	2.6 m	ECONOMICAL SPEED	12 kt
DRAFT	0.8 m	MAXIMUM SPEED	42 kt
DISPLACEMENT	4,200 kg	ENDURANCE	36 hr
PAYLOAD CAPACITY	300 kg	RANGE	600 nm @ 12 kt
AUTONOMY	CEDAR (SLS-301), intercept profile	NAVIGATION	INS + GNSS, radar-aided
PRIMARY SENSORS	E0/IR, surface-search radar	COMMUNICATIONS	LPI SATCOM, LOS mesh
INTERDICTION	Non-kinetic (shoulder / hail)	LAUNCH & RECOVERY	Pier or davit

CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT

ORCA stands ready alert and launches on cue from ALDER (SLS-305) or a HERON (SLS-101) detection, sprinting to intercept and shadow surface contacts. Operating within the CEDAR rule set, it channels and delays a contact using non-kinetic options while maintaining a continuous track, then hands off up the escalation chain or recovers for rapid re-tasking.