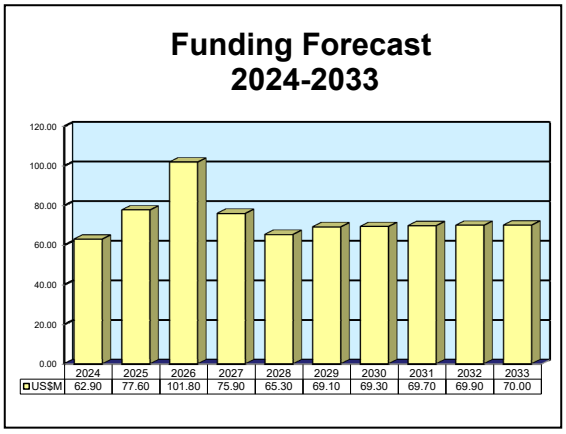
AUTEC

Outlook

- Funding for undersea warfare increasing
- Facility upgrade and modernization continue
- Environmentalists continue to challenge naval sonar exercises



Orientation

Description. The U.S. Navy's AUTEC (Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center) offers underwater and in-air test facilities, and provides support to United States, Canadian, and British military and civilian organizations, and to NATO. AUTEC facilities are located at Andros Island, Bahamas (ASD) and West Palm Beach, Florida (WPB). A small detachment of Navy personnel are stationed at these facilities, with primary responsibility for protection of military interests. The contractor responsible for maintenance and operations serves under contract with the Navy. Approximately 45 civil service personnel at the Naval Underwater Warfare Center (NUWC) oversee AUTEC operations and the maintenance and operations contractor.

Sponsor

U.S. Navy
Naval Undersea Warfare Center
Newport, RI USA

Naval Undersea Warfare Center
AUTEC Detachment
Andros Island, Bahamas

Naval Undersea Warfare Center
AUTEC Detachment
West Palm Beach, FL USA

Status. In operational use, with continuous facility modifications in progress.

Application. AUTEC provides complete facilities for testing underwater weaponry and acoustic and sonar systems.

AUTEC

Contractors

Prime

Amentum Services Inc	http://www.amentum.com, 4800 Westfields Blvd, Suite 400, Chantilly, VA 20151 United States, Tel: + 1 (301) 944-3100, Program Participant (Operation & Maintenance)
DXC Technology	http://www.dxc.technology, 1775 Tysons Blvd, Tysons, VA 22102 United States, Tel: + 1 (703) 876-1000, Email: generalinformation@csc.com, Program Participant (Operation & Maintenance)
Lockheed Martin Corp	http://www.lockheedmartin.com, 6801 Rockledge Dr, Bethesda, MD 20817 United States, Tel: + 1 (301) 897-6000, Fax: + 1 (301) 897-6704, Program Participant (Multimission Surveillance Radar (MMSR))
PAE Applied Technologies LLC	http://www.pae.com, 100 Energy Way, Ste 150, Fort Worth, TX 76102 United States, Tel: + 1 (888) 526-5416, Program Participant (Operation & Maintenance)

Contractors are invited to submit updated information to Editor, International Contractors, Forecast International, 75 Glen Road, Suite 302, Sandy Hook, CT 06482, USA; rich.pettibone@forecast1.com

Technical Data

Operational Characteristics. As a detachment of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport division, the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) provides the U.S. Navy with an underwater range facility for full-spectrum test and evaluation of undersea warfare systems and for fleet training and readiness assessment. The AUTEC Program Office is headquartered at Newport, Rhode Island. AUTEC's administrative offices are located at West Palm Beach, Florida. Test facilities are located at Andros Island, Sites 1 through 4, and the Berry Islands in the Bahamas. AUTEC aircraft make scheduled daily flights between West Palm Beach and Andros Town Airport.

AUTEC manages and, under contract, maintains and operates a 500-square-nautical-mile deepwater and 100-square-nautical-mile shallow-water range; air target tracking capabilities; sonobuoy simulation systems; electronic warfare threat simulation systems; rotary-wing aircraft; aircraft ground support facilities; acoustic targets; torpedo retrieval and flushing capabilities; open-ocean range craft; marine support facilities; and data processing and analysis capabilities. Major test facilities on Andros Island are located at Site 1.

Also at Site 1, six Range User Buildings are maintained for assembling test equipment and equipment check-out during test mobilization or dockside periods. These staging areas are equipped with gantry cranes, compressed air, security features, and a variety of power sources.

The Command Control Building houses the range tracking displays and replay centers, the computer center, operations support functions, the communications center, and the central timing system. The Range Support Facility houses a torpedo post-run workshop, Mk 46/Mk 50 lightweight torpedo intermediate maintenance activity, Mk 30 undersea target IMA, a Mk 48 heavyweight torpedo Research and Development Turnaround facility, and related technical facilities. The complex includes electrical and physical calibration labs, a complete electronics maintenance shop, a dive locker, a precision machine shop, and logistics support areas.

AUTEC has a 285-foot concrete pier with a controlling depth of 17 feet (5.2 m) at mean low tide. An adjacent wharf is approximately 240 feet in length (72 m), with a controlling depth of 15 feet at mean low tide. Power is available at both locations. Facilities at the pier/marine area include fully equipped machine/fabrication and marine overhaul shops. A fully equipped hangar for ground maintenance and storage of helicopters is located at AUTEC.

Variants/Upgrades

The test range is in continuous operational maintenance and modification, coinciding with the tests being conducted at any given time.

AUTEC

AUTEC consists of deepwater test ranges and RDT&E support facilities located at Andros Island; Newport, Rhode Island; and West Palm Beach, Florida. AUTEC facilities are available for use by both government organizations and private industry.

Source: U.S. Navy

U.S. Navy's AUTEC, for ASW Applications

Source: U.S. Navy

U.S. Naval Underwater Systems Center - AUTEC

Source: U.S. Navy

AUTEC

Program Review

In what many consider to be the U.S. Navy's equivalent to "Area 51," AUTEC provides an undersea range facility for the full-spectrum testing and evaluation of undersea warfare systems and for fleet training and readiness assessment. AUTEC manages, maintains, and operates a 500-square-nautical-mile deepwater acoustic tracking range and a 100-square-nautical-mile shallow-water acoustic tracking range.

Covered under the parameters of AUTEC are air target tracking capabilities, sonobuoy simulation systems, electronic warfare threat simulation systems, fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, aircraft ground support facilities, acoustic targets, torpedo retrieval and flushing capabilities, open-ocean range craft, marine support facilities, and data processing and analysis capabilities.

Although support for AUTEC had declined in favor of higher land-based priorities such as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Navy has never been one to be pushed aside for long. AUTEC funding can be expected to increase given China's buildup in submarines and undersea warfare as that nation looks to strengthen its position in the South China Sea, especially around the Spratly Islands.

During the early 1980s, AUTEC activity was centered on the improvement and modernization of an underwater acoustic array to measure Trident missile signature noise and update the central data-processing system. Communication modernization and weapons improvement programs were funded in FY85-FY86. In FY87, the focus was on the improvement and modernization of operations security, and the procurement of a new weapons processing system and sonobuoy tracking system.

In FY89, steps were to taken to acquire a distributed data/communication system and to design the configuration for a deepwater torpedo noise measurement system. By FY90, development of the deepwater torpedo noise measurement system had begun, along with planning for the Torpedo Launch Tube.

FY91-FY92 plans called for installation of a torpedo launch tube aboard an AUTEC vessel. In other work, operational security improvements were initiated and work on Site 1 expansion at Andros Island, Bahamas, was begun.

Work on the interface with remote ranges and facilities was initiated in FY93, as was work on a countermeasures-resistant tracking system. At the same time, improvement and upgrade efforts were transferred and consolidated under the U.S. Navy's PE#0604759N.

The computer and display system of the distributed data processing and communications system was completed in FY94. Also, work on an Advanced Weapon Noise Measurement System was begun.

The capability to utilize the AUTEC computer and display system in support of the GPS and remote ranges and facilities was developed in FY95. Also, an accelerated effort was made to launch the cost-saving Downrange Site Reduction program by the end of FY96.

Undersea Hydrophone System Replaced

A new effort begun in FY97 was the Replace In-Water Hydrophones project. At the time, the existing tracking hydrophones were 34 years old. This effort was made possible by the development of new cost-effective, in-water tracking technology. The U.S. Navy hoped to avoid catastrophic failure of the old hydrophones by replacing them as soon as possible. Not doing so would have resulted in the loss of in-water tracking ability. The hydrophone replacement effort was completed by the end of FY99.

In FY00, AUTEC's fuel tank was closed and a remediation was begun, and the Radar Systems Improvement project, the Off-Board Advanced Systems Stimulator project, and the Underwater Range Data Communication project were completed.

AUTEC Faces Funding Issues

Plans for FY00 to FY02 called for continued operation and maintenance of the core test support assets, instrumentation systems, and marine craft required to perform AUTEC's mission. But as a result of reduced funding and inflationary increases in the cost of contract labor and materials, only priority maintenance and repair efforts were carried out. However, plans for FY07-FY16 again called for maintaining and operating the core test support resources and the other efforts originally planned to occur earlier in the decade.

From FY03-FY06, efforts were made to replenish spares inventory to minimum levels.

Lockheed Martin Delivers Multimission Radar for AUTEC

In March 2006, Lockheed Martin delivered its Multimission Surveillance Radar (MMSR) system to the U.S. Navy for use at AUTEC facilities. The MMSR system measures the location of aircraft and surface

ships in support of submarine testing at the AUTEC test range. This single MMSR replaced radars that were distributed along the test range coast. The MMSR was produced at Lockheed Martin's facility in Syracuse, New York, following the award of a $5.5 million contract from the U.S. Naval Underwater Warfare Center in 2002.

Northrop Grumman Selected for AUTEC EWSE Program

In October 2010, Northrop Grumman was selected as the preferred supplier for the U.S. Navy's AUTEC Electronic Warfare Simulator Enhancement (EWSE) program. Under the terms of the contract, Northrop Grumman's Buffalo, New York-based Amherst Systems business unit upgraded the Electronic Warfare Threat Simulator (EWTS) located at Andros Island.

AUTEC's EWTS is capable of illuminating air, surface, and submarine platforms in complex scenarios on the instrumented tracking range at Andros Island. EWTS is a real-time system that generates complex electromagnetic signal environments at the radio frequency (RF) level. With this system, AUTEC can test different platform receivers in an open-air, over-the-water range environment.

The EWTS consists of a radar simulator, a pedestal and controller, antennas, high-power amplifiers, calibration equipment, and an operator workstation, and is housed in an air-conditioned radome located at the top of a testing tower.

AUTEC provides instrumented operational areas in a real-world environment to satisfy RDT&E requirements. The center also assesses the readiness of the warfighter to operate in the full spectrum of maritime warfare.

From FY13-FY15, the focus of AUTEC work was on various range enhancements and service life extensions. In FY15, in-water sensors were replaced.

In FY16, the program continued to fund civilian labor and cover the costs of managing and sustaining Major Range Test Facility Base operations.

U.S. NOAA Seeks Comment on Regulations to Protect Marine Mammals

In January 2013, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service sought comments on a proposed rule requiring the U.S. Navy to implement protective measures during training and testing activities in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to reduce any effects on marine mammals.

The Navy had requested an authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act in response to allegations that the mid-frequency sound generated by active sonar, the sound and pressure generated by detonating explosives, and associated activities may affect the behavior of some marine mammals or cause a temporary loss of their hearing or other injury.

The NOAA's Fisheries Service made a preliminary determination that all of this would have a negligible effect on the species or stocks involved. Based on that determination, the NOAA did not necessarily expect the exercises to result in serious injury or death to marine mammals and proposed that the Navy use mitigation measures to avoid injury or death.

However, exposure to sonar in certain circumstances has been associated with the stranding of some marine mammals, and some injury or death may occur despite the efforts of the Navy. Therefore, the proposed authorization allowed for a small number of incidental injuries to marine mammals from sonar and from vessel strikes and explosions.

U.S. Navy Awards Contract to Monitor Marine Species

In April 2015, the U.S. Navy awarded HDR Environmental, Operations and Construction Inc of Norfolk, Virginia, an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract with a maximum value of $75 million for implementation and management of the Navy's marine species monitoring program in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic and Pacific areas of responsibility. Monitoring studies could include aerial and shipboard surveys, passive acoustics efforts using autonomous devices and towed arrays, tagging, photo identification, biopsy sampling, and behavioral studies. Additionally, monitoring activities could be implemented in coordination with Navy training and testing activities, as stand-alone scientific studies, or as ongoing baseline data collection.

Contract tasks involved species and habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable laws, regulations and executive orders involving marine mammals, sea turtles, essential fish habitat, coral reefs, and other marine resources. No task orders were issued at time of contract award. Work was performed primarily in marine areas in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean where Navy training and testing occurs. Additionally, tasks associated with this contract could be assigned anywhere in the world. The term of the contract was not to exceed 60 months, with an expected completion date of April 2020.

Fiscal 2015 Operation and Maintenance (Navy) contract funds in the amount of $5,000 were obligated on this

award and expired at the end of the fiscal year. This contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website, with three proposals received.

The U.S. Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia, was the contracting activity. The contract award number was N62470-15-D-8006.

Upgrades and Modernization Continue

Facility plans for FY18-FY25 call for minor upgrade and modernization of test capabilities at AUTEC, along with the replacement of in-water sensors and range tracking radar. In additional work, repair of the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 was finally completed.

Base Operation and Maintenance

In April 2018, the U.S. government issued a competitive Request for Proposals for procurement of AUTEC test and base operation services on Andros Island, Bahamas. The operations contract was held by L3 Technologies (now L3Harris Technologies) and expired in May 2019. In September 2019, PAE Applied Technologies was awarded a contract giving it responsibility for a good portion of AUTEC operation and maintenance.

U.S. Navy AUTEC Team Saves Drowning Sea Turtle

The U.S. Navy is often chastised for allegedly harming sea creatures; this time they were praised for saving one. In July 2020, a large green sea turtle was found entangled by fishing lines, nets and ropes in the harbor at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport's AUTEC, on Andros Island. Members of the AUTEC Fire and Emergency Services Water Rescue Team located the endangered turtle and cut away the ensnarled life-threatening debris.

Coral Mitigation Team Keeps AUTEC Pier Construction on Schedule by Relocating Rare Coral

In 2022, when it was determined that sections of a pier at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport's AUTEC on Andros Island in the Bahamas needed to be replaced and repaired, the project wasn't as simple as it seemed on the surface.

Coral colonies that grew on the underwater pier structures over decades included species of coral that were designated as rare or threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and therefore required protection in accordance with the Environmental Final Governing Standards (FGS) for the Bahamas.

Following the field work, data was compiled and analyzed, and a technical report was generated, describing the mitigation efforts, and providing an initial assessment of the translocated coral species and relocation sites.

Multiple locations along the Andros Barrier Reef, the third longest fringing barrier reef in the world, were evaluated by the team to select one or more sites for coral translocation. Based on the selection criteria and the time allotted, two sites that were less than three miles from the pier were selected as the most suitable. More than one site was used to reduce risk in case one site becomes heavily impacted by a weather event or more susceptible to a hazard, such as a pollutant discharge. Also, if one site proves to be more successful for coral survival and growth, that site may be selected for future mitigation efforts.

At their new sites, the coral colonies were placed at similar depths as their origination. The three protected species identified to be present on the pier structures were mountainous star coral, lobed star coral, and elliptical star coral.

U.S. Navy AUTEC Range Updates and Repairs Several Facilities

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the reopening of a pier at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC), a detachment of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport located on Andros Island in the Bahamas, was held on May 8, 2024.

In recent years, Pier 1902 had sustained advanced structural deterioration, resulting in live load reductions that severely impacted the ability for AUTEC personnel to carry out daily operations. Upgrades to the small-craft pier include shore power, potable water, a fire protection system, lighting, mooring hardware and a foam-filled fender system.

This enhances the ability of AUTEC personnel to perform essential research, development and test and evaluation of war-fighting technology, which strengthen the undersea capabilities of the U.S. Navy. The $28.7 million project was completed largely on budget and well ahead of schedule. It was originally slated to be finished in July 2024, but work was completed in February.

In addition to the reopening of Pier 1902, AUTEC recently completed two other projects high-profile projects. The first were upgrades to the Entry Control Facility at the main gate to enhance Antiterrorism Force Protection and physical security measures, a

$5.5 million project. The second was the construction of a $30.2 million two-story housing complex for 174 military personnel.

Funding

U.S. FUNDING

	FY23 QTY	FY23 AMT	FY24 QTY	FY24 AMT	FY25 QTY	FY25 AMT	FY26 QTY	FY26 AMT
RDT&E (U.S. Navy)								
PE#0605864N								
T&E Support:								
Project W0541								
AUTEC (a)	-	62.6	-	62.9	-	79.6	-	104.8
Project W0566								
NAVAIR Environmental								
Compliance (b)	-	4.7	-	5.1	-	5.8	-	5.6

	FY27 QTY	FY27 AMT	FY28 QTY	FY28 AMT	FY29 QTY	FY29 AMT	FY30 QTY	FY30 AMT
RDT&E (U.S. Navy)								
PE#0605864N								
T&E Support:								
Project W0541								
AUTEC (a)	-	78.9	-	67.6	-	69.1	-	N/A
Project W0566								
NAVAIR Environmental								
Compliance (b)	-	5.5	-	5.6	-	5.7	-	N/A

All $ are in millions.

N/A = Not Available

(a) Project W0541 provides AUTEC with institutional maintenance and operations support. Specific AUTEC funding is not broken out within this project.

(b) Project W0566 provides partial funding for AUTEC environmental compliance and pollution prevention support. Specific AUTEC funding is not broken out within this project.

Source: U.S. Department of the Navy FY25 RDT&E Budget Item Justification (R-2)

Contracts/Orders & Options

Contractor	Award ($ millions)	Date/Description
PAE Applied Technologies	24.2	Oct 2018 – A cost-plus-award-fee modification to previously awarded contract N66604-05-C-1277, increasing the cumulative value of the contract for operation and maintenance services for AUTEC. The contractor would perform AUTEC range operations and maintain facilities and range systems. In addition, the contractor would operate a self-sufficient, 1-square-mile Navy outpost. This modification increased the value of the contract to $788,075,722. Work was performed on Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (82 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (18 percent), and was expected to be completed by Sep 2019. No contract funds were obligated. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity.

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Contractor	Award ($ millions)	Date/Description
PAE Applied Technologies	12.4	Nov 2018 – A cost modification to previously awarded contract N66604-05-C-1277 to repair the damage at AUTEC caused by Hurricane Matthew. This modification increased the total value of the contract to $800,549,247. Work was performed on Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and completed by Sep 2019. No funding was obligated at time of award, as work was incrementally funded with fiscal 2017 RDT&E (Navy) funding. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity.
L3 Technologies (now L3Harris Technologies)	41.4	Jun 2019 – A cost-plus-fixed-fee, IDIQ, sole-source contract to provide support services to sustain U.S. and allied navy training and test and evaluation ranges around the world. L3 will repair or replace OEM systems. Services and associated deliverables include the design, production and installation of both shore electronic systems and ocean sensor system hardware assemblies; operation and maintenance of the delivered hardware to support operational tests of the delivered systems; and provision of the products identified in the contract data requirements lists. Work was performed at various locations throughout the world and completed by Jun 2024. Fiscal 2019 Operation and Maintenance (Navy) funding in the amount of $245,477 was obligated at time of award. This contract was not competitively procured, in accordance with 10 U.S. Code 2304(c)(1) – there was only one responsible source, and no other supplies or services would satisfy agency requirements. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity. (N66604-19-D-A900)
PAE Applied Technologies	52.2	Sep 2019 – A cost modification to previously awarded contract N66604-05-C-1277 to reinstate six-month periods of performance and increase the target cost for AUTEC. The contractor performed AUTEC range operations and maintained facilities and range systems. The contractor was also responsible for operating a self-sufficient 1-square-mile Navy outpost. This modification increased the value of the basic contract by $52,268,318. The new value is $853,017,162. Work was performed in Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (80 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (20 percent), and completed by Mar 2020. No funding was obligated at time of award. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity.
Haskell Co	27.3	Sep 2019 – A firm-fixed-price task order (N6945019F0874) under a multiple-award contract for the design and construction of P720 AUTEC Austere Quarters at Andros Islands, Bahamas. The contract provided for the design and construction of a new two-story austere housing facility for temporary-duty personnel. The project included a reinforced concrete foundation, precast concrete panel walls, and a built-up roof. The task order also contained three unexercised options which, if exercised, would increase the cumulative task order value to $30,111,210. Work was performed at Andros Islands, Bahamas, and completed by Jan 2021. Fiscal 2019 Military Construction (Navy) funds in the amount of $27,321,470 were obligated on this award. One proposal was received for this task order. The U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast, Jacksonville, FL, was the contracting activity. (N69450-19-D-090)

Contractor	Award ($ millions)	Date/Description
PE Applied Technologies	32.9	Jan 2020 – A modification (P00342) to a previously awarded contract (N66604-05-C-1277) to extend the period of performance for six months and increase the target cost for AUTEC. The contractor performed AUTEC range operation support services and maintained facilities and range systems. In addition, the contractor was responsible for operating a self-sufficient 1-square-mile Navy outpost. This modification increased the value of the basic contract by $32,967,099. The new total value is $885,984,261. Work was performed in Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (80 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (20 percent), and completed in Sep 2020. No funding was obligated at time of this award. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity.
Amentum Services	430.0	Aug 2020 – A cost-plus-award-fee, cost-reimbursement and firm-fixed-price contract for the operation and maintenance of AUTEC. The contractor performs AUTEC range operations support services and maintains facilities and range systems. In addition, the contractor is responsible for operating a self-sufficient 1-square-mile U.S. Navy outpost. Work is being performed on Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (64 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (36 percent), and is expected to be completed by Aug 2025. With all options exercised, work will continue through August 2030. Fiscal 2020 RDT&E (Navy) funding in the amount of $1,000,000 would be obligated at time of award. This contract was competitively procured under a full and open competition via the Federal Business Opportunities website, with six offers received. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, is the contracting activity. (N66604-20-C-0881)
Leebcor Services	9.4	Mar 2021 – A firm-fixed-price task order (N69450-21-F-0112) under a multiple-award contract for bulkhead repair and restoration at AUTEC, Bahamas. Work was performed on Andros Island and completed Aug 2022. Work included the removal of existing hardware and extruded fenders in assigned areas, installation of new arch fenders in assigned areas, repair of concrete facing and deck slab, cleaning and recoating of eight cleats and one mooring bollard, installation of approximately 264 feet of combi-wall, and construction of a concrete cap. Fiscal 2021 Navy working capital funds in the amount of $9,428,335 were obligated on this award and did not expire at the end of the fiscal year. Three proposals were received for this task order. The U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Southeast, Jacksonville, FL, was the contracting activity. (N69450-16-D-1113)
PAE Applied Technologies	37.3	May 2021 – A cost-plus-award-fee, cost-plus-fixed-fee and cost-reimbursement modification to contract N66604-05-C-1277 for the operation and maintenance of AUTEC. This action increased the contract ceiling to $958,963,111. Work was performed on Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (64 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (36 percent). No contract funding was obligated on this modification. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, was the contracting activity.
AMENTUM Services	461.7	Dec 2021 – A cost-plus-award-fee, cost-reimbursement and firm-fixed-price contract for operation and maintenance of AUTEC. Work will be performed on Andros Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas (64 percent) and West Palm Beach, FL (36 percent), and will continue through December 2031 with all options exercised. Fiscal 2022 RDT&E (Navy) funds in the amount of $50,000 would be obligated at time of award. This contract was competitively procured using full and open competition via the Federal Business Opportunities website (solicitation number N66604-18-R-0881), with six offers received. The U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI, is the contracting activity. (N66604-22-C-0102)

AUTEC

Contractor	Award ($ millions)	Date/Description
Orion Government Services	28.2	Dec 2021 – A firm-fixed-price contract for the repair of AUTEC Facility 1902 pier at Andros Island, Bahamas. Work was performed in Andros Island and completed by Jul 2024. Fiscal 2022 RDT&E (Navy) funds in the amount of $28,293,111 were obligated at time of award and did not expire at the end of the fiscal year. This contract was competitively procured via the beta.sam.gov website, with three proposals received. The U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southeast, Jacksonville, FL, was the contracting activity. (N69450-22-C-0006)
L3Harris Technologies	14.9	Jul 2022 – A firm-fixed-price modification (P00003) to a previously awarded contract (N6134021C0023) to exercise options to procure 180 kilometers of Barking Sands Tactical Underwater Range internode cable and 608 kilometers of AUTEC cable in support of the undersea warfare training ranges that are being developed off the shores of Hawaii, California, and the Bahamas for the U.S. Navy. These ranges will be used for the training of air, surface, and subsurface forces in both shallow and deep water under adverse conditions. Work will be performed in Tanner Bank, CA (30 percent); San Clemente Island, CA (23 percent); Goleta, CA (21 percent); Kauai, HI (14 percent); and Andros Island, Bahamas (12 percent), and is expected to be completed in Jun 2032. Fiscal 2022 RDT&E (Navy) funds in the amount of $9,973,451 and fiscal 2022 Other Procurement (Navy) funds in the amount of $4,518,689 would be obligated at time of award, none of which would expire at the end of the fiscal year. The U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, Orlando, FL, is the contracting activity.
L3Harris Technologies	59.0	Dec 2022 – A modification (P00008) to a previously awarded firm-fixed-price, cost-plus-fixed-fee contract (N61340-21-C-0023) to exercise options to provide for installation and testing of the Barking Sands Tactical Underwater Range, Barking Sands Underwater Range Expansion, and Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) ranges, as well as associated training events in support of Undersea Warfare Training Range Increment II and III requirements. Increment II requirements include two shallow-water training ranges and Increment III requirements include three deep-water training ranges in support of the Navy's air, surface, and subsurface forces training and assessment in shallow and deep water under adverse conditions. Work will be performed in Tanner Bank, California (30%); San Clemente Island, California (23%); Goleta, California (21%); Kauai, Hawaii (14%); and Andros Island, Bahamas (12%), and is expected to be completed in May 2026. Fiscal 2024 other procurement (Navy) funds in the amount of $49,371,766; and fiscal 2024 research, development, test and evaluation (Navy) funds in the amount of $9,671,804, will be obligated at time of award, none of which will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The U.S. Navy Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, Orlando, Florida, is the contracting activity.

Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

The **U.S. Navy** AUTEC range and processing center is located on Andros Island in the Bahamas. AUTEC also leases facilities in West Palm Beach, Florida. Although AUTEC is a U.S. Navy program, AUTEC facilities are used by foreign governments for the testing of various weapons systems.

Forecast Rationale

Considered a naval equivalent to the famous "Area 51," the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) provides an undersea range facility for the full-spectrum testing and evaluation of undersea warfare systems and for fleet training and readiness assessment. AUTEC manages, maintains, and operates a 500-square-nautical-mile deepwater acoustic tracking range and a 100-square-nautical-mile shallow-water acoustic tracking range. Within the parameters of AUTEC are air target tracking capabilities, sonobuoy simulation systems, electronic warfare threat simulation systems, fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, aircraft ground support facilities, acoustic targets, torpedo retrieval and flushing capabilities, open-ocean range craft, marine support facilities, and data processing and analysis capabilities.

Not too long ago support for AUTEC had declined in favor of higher land-based priorities such as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Navy has never been one to be pushed aside for long. AUTEC funding can be expected to increase given China's buildup in submarines and undersea warfare as that nation looks to strengthen its position in the South China Sea, especially around the Spratly Islands, and Russia's resurgence in the Arctic.

Ten-Year Outlook

ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR RDT&E FUNDING (in millions US$)												
Designation or Program		High Confidence				Good Confidence			Speculative			
	Thru 2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
MFR Varies												
AUTEC <> United States <> Navy												
	1834.50	62.90	77.60	101.80	75.90	65.30	69.10	69.30	69.70	69.90	70.00	731.50
Total	1,834.50	62.90	77.60	101.80	75.90	65.30	69.10	69.30	69.70	69.90	70.00	731.50