



Photo-Sonics is under contract to install an optical tracking system on the Navy's new Self Defense Test Ship (SDTS). The U.S.S Paul F. Foster, plays a significant role in the Navy's future. It is part of a program that has proven its efficiency by providing the most realistic combat scenarios for test events, while leaving ships and their Sailors available to the fleet to perform their normal duties. The remote-controlled ship provides a flexible test platform, free from the safety constraints and in-port problems associated with manned ships, and alleviates the impact that scheduling difficulties have on fleet assets.



Photo-Sonics is providing a turn-key solution to track the Navy's latest weapon systems. The tracking systems will be used to document and evaluate the effectiveness of the ship's self defense systems. During a typical live fire test, various threats are launched at the SDTS, and the installed combat or weapon system being tested responds to that threat in defense of the ship. While this predetermined attack is actually aimed at a decoy barge pulled 150 feet behind the unmanned SDTS, protecting the ship and its assets, it provides an opportunity to assess the responsiveness and success of onboard systems. Navigation is performed from Naval Air Systems Command's Weapons Division at Point Mugu, Calif., and combat systems are controlled from Port Hueneme Division's Surface Warfare Engineering Facility.



The tracking system will be mounted in a fixed position on the ship and includes high speed multispectral camera systems, automate tracking, stabilization, and remote control. The tracking system will use Photo-Sonics' ARGUS control software that provides complete integration of the systems sensors, optics, pedestal, remote console and the ships gyro system. Delivery is expected in September 2010.

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