

Topic: Airtanker Outlook for 2013

Background: With the beginning of another fire season the outlook for Large Airtanker availability in 2013 is still forming. The 2008-2012 Large Airtanker (LAT) contract has been extended thru 22 April 2013 with the potential to further extend by modification thru June 2013. Initially, three line items from the existing LAT contract are funded and will begin performance on or about Feb 20th, March 5th, and March 20th.

Key Points:

- The existing LAT contract can be extended thru the end of June 2013 with Minden providing one line item and Neptune providing up to 8 line items (9 total). Currently a request for contract action and funds are set aside for 3 line items total (1 Minden and 2 Neptune) thru 22 April 2013. Inspections are planned for aircraft and crews of these three aircraft to meet the February and March start dates. Should aircraft under the existing contract be awarded under the Legacy contract, they will be moved to this new contract.
- The Legacy contract continues to move forward and has the potential to award up to 8 line items. This contract targets Type 2 Large Airtankers for a period up to 5 years.
- The Next Generation contract continues to move forward and has the potential for up to 7 line items. This contract targets Type 1 Large Airtankers, requires 3000 gallons of dispensing capacity, 300 knots speed, and turbine engines. This contract has a 5 year award period with an additional 5 years optional. Contractors who receive one of the 7 primary awards may be task ordered to provide additional platforms in 2014 thru 2018 period.
- In addition to the contract aircraft, cooperator aircraft from State of Alaska (up to 3) and State of California (S-2s) may be made available if not in use by the state.
- Under the CIFFC/NIFC agreement, Convair 580 LATs (2100 gallons) with bird dog supervision aircraft may be ordered on an "as available" basis. Department of Interior inspectors are schedule to review these aircraft and issue a cooperator letter of approval this spring.
- MAFFS continue to be a call-when-needed Large Airtanker resource for surge capability. Eight systems are available, two each from California, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Carolina. Recertification for the flight crews and support personnel is planned for April and May 2013 however callout before this training is an option.
- The VLAT contract for two (2) DC-10 aircraft has been extended and may be made available thru June 2013. VLAT aircraft carry 8,000 gallons or more of retardant and in the case of the DC-10 may be loaded with 11,600 gallons of retardant. These aircraft are not able to operate from all of our existing bases and in many cases will require a portable retardant facility be set up or be restricted to flying out of designated locations.
- Tanked Helicopters, Waterscooping Aircraft, and SEATs will also be available in 2013.

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