

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT 1 MARCH 2021

UNITED STATES NAVY AWARDS AUSTAL USA CONTRACT FOR 15TH EXPEDITIONARY FAST TRANSPORT (EPF)

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Austal USA has been awarded a US\$235 million (approximately A\$295 million) undefinitised contract by the United States Navy (USN) for the detailed design and construction of the 15th Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) vessel.

Austal USA has delivered twelve EPFs to the US Navy since 2012, on schedule and under budget, from the company's Mobile, Alabama, shipyard.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the new contract was a clear demonstration of confidence by the US Navy in the versatile EPF platform, designed by Austal Australia and manufactured by Austal USA.

"The EPF has become a real success story, delivering a fast, flexible and versatile capability to the US Navy. The EPF has made a real difference to military operations and other humanitarian and disaster relief missions over many years now, and this additional vessel contract reflects the continuing confidence in the unique high-speed platform," Mr Gregg said.

"This latest EPF will expand the medical facilities available on-board, further enhancing the proven operational capabilities of the ship, which has been used for various medical missions in the Pacific, South East Asia and Western Africa.

"Austal USA is understandably proud of its record of success with the EPF, which has been deployed and operated by US Military Sealift Command (USMSC) for the US Navy, in theatres around the world."

The *Spearhead*-class EPF is a 103-metre high-speed aluminium catamaran with a large, 1800 square metre cargo deck, medium-lift helicopter deck and seating for 300+ embarked troops; providing a fast, high-payload transport capability to combatant commanders around the world.

The Austal-designed and built EPFs support a wide range of missions – from maritime security operations to humanitarian aid and disaster relief. An EPF's flexibility also allows it to support

potential future missions; such as special operations, command and control, and primary medical operations.

One *Spearhead*-class EPF, the future USNS Apalachicola (EPF 13), is currently under construction at Austal USA's shipyard, while the future USNS *Cody* (EPF 14) is scheduled to commence construction in the second half of FY2021.

In addition to the EPF program, Austal USA is contracted to deliver 19 *Independence*-class Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) for the U.S. Navy. Thirteen *Independence*-class LCS' have been delivered, with an additional five ships in various stages of construction and one contracted but yet to commence construction.



The future USNS Newport (EPF 12) was constructed by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama (Images: Austal)

This ASX announcement has been approved and authorised for release by Paddy Gregg, Austal Limited's Chief Executive Officer.

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Media Contact:

Cameron Morse +61 433 886 871

cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com

About Austal:

Austal is Australia's global shipbuilder and defence prime contractor designing, constructing and

sustaining some of the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

For more than 30 years Austal has contracted more than 300 vessels for over 100 commercial

and defence operators in 54 countries, worldwide.

Austal is Australia's largest defence exporter and first ASX-listed shipbuilder. Austal has industry-

leading shipyards in Australia, the United States of America, Philippines and Vietnam with service

centres worldwide, including the Middle East.

Austal delivers iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial vessel platforms – including

the world's largest trimaran ferry and multiple defence programs such as the Littoral Combat Ship

(LCS) and Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) for the United States Navy.

Austal has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder and is Australia's largest

defence exporter.

Austal Limited ACN 009 250 266

100 Clarence Beach Road

Henderson, Western Australia 6166