



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
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## AUSTAL USA DELIVERS USNS PUERTO RICO (EPF 11) TO U.S. NAVY

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Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Austal USA has delivered the Expeditionary Fast Transport ship USNS *Puerto Rico* (EPF 11) to the U.S. Navy during a ceremony aboard the ship at the shipyard in Mobile, Alabama, yesterday.

In August this year *Puerto Rico* was the first EPF to perform and successfully complete integrated sea trials – combining builder’s trials and acceptance trials into one at-sea event – returning to port flying a broom at her mast indicating a “clean sweep” of the tests the ship and her crew performed in the Gulf of Mexico.

Austal Chief Executive David Singleton said the EPF continues to impress stakeholders, with a flexible platform that is delivering multi-mission capability to the U.S. Navy’s global operations.

“*Puerto Rico* joins the growing fleet of EPFs constructed by Austal USA and proudly serving with the U.S. Navy in locations as diverse as the USA, Middle East and South East Asia,” he said.

“The EPF continues to impress the U.S. Navy and indeed many other navies around the world with the genuine flexibility and operability of the platform.”

The *Spearhead*-class EPF, a 103 metre high-speed aluminium catamaran, provides high-payload transport capability to U.S. combatant commanders around the world and has quickly become known as ‘the pickup truck’ of the fleet; with 10 EPFs in service, including seven deployed internationally.

The Austal-designed EPF’s large flight deck, open mission bay and habitability spaces provide an opportunity to conduct a wide range of missions – from maritime security operations to humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions. The ship’s flexibility also allows it to support potential future missions such as special operations, command and control, and primary medical operations. With its ability to access small, austere and degraded ports with minimal external support, the EPF provides unique options to fleet and combatant commanders.

Two additional *Spearhead*-class EPFs remain under construction at Austal USA's shipyard. *Newport* (EPF 12) is in final assembly, while construction recently began on the future USNS *Apalachicola* (EPF 13) at Austal USA's state-of-the-art module manufacturing facility (MMF).

In addition to the EPF program, Austal is under contract to build *Independence*-class Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) for the U.S. Navy. Ten LCSs have been delivered, while an additional six are in various stages of construction.



*USNS Puerto Rico (EPF11) was the first EPF to perform and successfully complete integrated sea trials – combining builder's trials and acceptance trials into one at-sea event. (Image: Austal USA)*

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**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 is the only foreign-owned prime contractor designing, constructing and sustaining ships for the US Navy.

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