



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
5 MARCH 2024

AUSTAL USA DELIVERS FUTURE USS KINGSVILLE [LCS 36] TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that the future USS *Kingsville* (LCS 36) has been delivered to the United States Navy. LCS 36 is the 18th *Independence*-variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) built by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said *Kingsville* was the penultimate delivery for the *Independence*-variant Littoral Combat Ship program.

“With the delivery of LCS 36, and as we approach the end of the *Independence*-variant LCS program, it’s timely to reflect on the success of the program and the platform, especially recent milestones that clearly demonstrate the United States Navy’s confidence in the vessel and its capability.

“In November 2023 the United States Navy announced they had deployed six *Independence*-variant LCS in the Pacific during 2023, including a record-breaking 26-month overseas deployment by USS *Charleston* (LCS 18).

“The Austal USA built LCS has proven to be a valuable addition to the fleet, with the capability to support a variety of missions in any littoral environment, and I have no doubt *Kingsville* will continue to deliver that capability,” Mr Gregg added.

The *Independence*-variant LCS is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. The Austal USA-built LCS also provides support to the Navy’s unmanned programs with USS *Oakland* (LCS 24) operating as a mothership for the Unmanned Surface Division 1 vessels *Ranger*, *Mariner*, *Seahawk* and *Sea Hunter*; and the large flight decks support unmanned drones, like the MQ-8C Fire Scout. Integration of the mine countermeasures (MCM) mission package placed aboard USS *Canberra* (LCS 30) signifies additional capabilities planned for *Independence*-variant LCS.

While Austal USA's *Independence*-variant LCS program is nearing completion, with just the future USS *Pierre* (LCS 38) to be delivered, the company is under contract for several additional shipbuilding programs, including the United States Coast Guard's Heritage-class Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), and the TAGOS-25 Ocean Surveillance ship, 1700-class Landing Craft Utility (LCU), Spearhead-class Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF), Navajo-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue ship (T-ATS), Expeditionary Medical Ship (EMS), and Auxiliary Floating Dry Dock Medium (AFDM) for the United States Navy.

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



Independence-class Littoral Combat Ship, the future USS Kingsville (LCS 36) has been delivered to the U.S Navy (Image: Austal USA)

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Media Contact:

Cameron Morse
+61 433 886 871
cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com

About Austal:

Austal Limited (ASX: ASB) is an Australian-based global shipbuilder with industry-leading capabilities, expertise and experience in steel and aluminium vessel design, manufacturing and sustainment.

Through the development of innovative vessel designs and value-adding technologies such as MOTION CONTROL, MARINELINK and DEEPMORPHER™, advanced modular manufacturing processes and an ongoing commitment to in-service support, Austal has become a shipbuilding partner of choice to defence and commercial operators, throughout the world.

Employing approximately 5,000 people, Austal owns and operates safe, modern and efficient shipyards in Australia, the United States of America, the Philippines and Vietnam; and provides in-service support to customers from service centres located in these locations and Singapore.

Since establishment in Henderson, Western Australia in 1988, Austal has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder, delivering the *Independence*-variant Littoral Combat Ship and *Spearhead*-class Expeditionary Fast Transport programs for the United States Navy, and the benchmark *Cape* and *Evolved Cape*-class Patrol Boats for the Australian Border Force, Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and Royal Australian Navy.

With the addition of steel shipbuilding facilities and capability in both the Australian and United States shipyards, Austal is currently delivering several steel naval vessels programs for the Commonwealth of Australia, the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard; including:

- 22 x *Guardian*-class Patrol Boats
- 5 x *Navajo*-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue (T-ATS) ships,
- Up to 7 x Ocean Surveillance (T-AGOS) ships,
- Up to 12 x Landing Craft Utility (LCU-1700) vessels
- an Auxiliary Floating Dock (Medium)
- Up to 11 x Heritage-class Offshore Patrol Cutters

Further supporting the United States defence industrial base, and aligned with the AUKUS partnership, Austal USA is constructing command modules for *Virginia* and *Columbia*-class nuclear powered submarines; and aircraft elevators for two nuclear-powered *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carriers for the United States Navy.

Austal Australia has signed a Heads of Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia to establish a Strategic Shipbuilding Agreement, that will see the company become the Commonwealth's strategic shipbuilder in Western Australia; partnering with defence industry to further develop sovereign shipbuilding capability and naval assets for the Australian Defence Force, including new landing craft (medium and heavy) for the Australian Army.

Austal Limited ACN 009 250 266
100 Clarence Beach Road
Henderson, Western Australia 6166