



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
16 DECEMBER 2016**

AUSTAL WINS 56 METRE COMMERCIAL FERRY CONTRACT

Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce the company's sixth new commercial vessel order for 2016, with the award of a €15.47 million (circa A\$22million) contract for a high-speed passenger ferry from Förde Reederei Seetouristik (FRS Group) of Germany.

The 56 metre catamaran is a new design from Austal's Australian based design team, adding to their successful portfolio of designs that has seen more than 22 similar-sized vessels constructed for commercial ferry operators around the world since 2002.

Announcing the contract, Austal Chief Executive Officer David Singleton highlighted Austal's successful strategy to pursue export opportunities that are strengthening Australia's shipbuilding capability.

"Export contracts such as this are integral to the ongoing development of our Australian-based design, procurement and engineering teams and provide terrific opportunities for them to share their skills and expertise in shipbuilding with our Philippines shipyard. This not only strengthens our local and overseas capabilities, but ultimately delivers great value to our customers," Singleton said.

Austal's new design encompasses several key innovations including an optimised hull form that will minimise both fuel consumption and wake wash when operating on the River Elbe between Helgoland and the Port of Hamburg. The environmentally friendly ship has been designed with several features to improve the passenger experience with the use of energy efficient LED lighting technologies internally and externally to create mood, ambient and decorative lighting. Large windows in the superstructure and two open deck areas will offer passengers expansive views from throughout the vessel.

The 35 knot, all-aluminium catamaran also features silicon type anti-fouling (with no biocides that can harm waterways), a sewage treatment plant and an engine exhaust arrangement that will allow catalytic converters to remove nitrous oxides from the main engine exhaust.

The contract from FRS Group represents Austal's 6th commercial ferry order in 2016 and follows orders received from;

- 2Go of the Philippines (2 x 30 metre passenger ferries),
- Seasprovill of South Korea (1 x 50 metre passenger ferry),
- Mols Linien of Denmark (1 x 109 metre vehicle passenger ferry), and
- Blue Sea Jet of China (1 x 42 metre passenger ferry, to be constructed by Aulong, Austal's joint venture with Jianglong Shipbuilding).

Construction will commence at Austal Philippines' Cebu shipyard early in 2017, with delivery to FRS Group scheduled for March 2018.



The 56m high speed catamaran to be built by Austal Philippines for FRS Group is an all new Austal design from the Australian based design team responsible for developing a portfolio of 22 similar-sized vessels, delivered worldwide since 2002. (Image: Austal)

- ENDS -

About Austal

Austal is a global defence prime contractor and a designer and manufacturer of defence and commercial ships. For more than 28 years Austal has been a leader in the design, construction and maintenance of revolutionary ships for governments, navies and ferry operators around the world. More than 255 vessels have been delivered in that time.

Ships

Defence vessels designed and built by Austal include multi-mission combatants, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the United States Navy and military high speed vessels for transport and humanitarian relief, such as the Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) ships for the U.S. Navy and High Speed Support Vessel (HSSV) for the Royal Navy of Oman. Austal also designs, constructs, integrates and maintains an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for government agencies globally, including the Cape Class Patrol Boat Program for Australian Border Force. Defence vessels are designed and constructed in Mobile, Alabama and in Henderson, Western Australia.

Austal has been at the forefront of the high speed ferry market since the early days of the industry. Our market leading designs of high performance aluminium vessels have long been at the heart of Austal's research and development. Today, commercial ship construction is centred on our shipyard in Balamban, Philippines.

Systems

Austal has expertise in integrating complex systems into its ships, including ride control, ship management, and communication, sensors and weapon systems.

Support

Austal provides a wide range of support services, including through life support, integrated logistics support, vessel sustainment and systems support. These services are delivered through our global support network in the USA, Australia, Asia, and the Middle East together with partner shipyards worldwide.

Further Information:

Austal Marketing and Communications

Tel: +61 8 9410 1111

Fax: +61 8 9410 2564

Email: media@austal.com

Website: www.austal.com